

Strengthening
Godly Order
In The
Church's Structure

by

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Call To Worship

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.

(1 Corinthians 12:28 RSV)

Prayer of Approach

Eternal God, who orders all things in accordance with your Word, be the God who establishes what you desire for the church through my presence in it. Draw near to me now in this moment as I seek you out for strength to serve in the church.

Let your Holy Spirit be my constant companion as I go about doing the work entrusted to the offices into which you have placed me.

Receive this prayer for the blessing of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and

all therein, saying, "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!"

(Revelation 5:13 RSV)

And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles.

(Ephesians 4:11-14 RSV)

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your

progress. Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

(1 Timothy 4:11-16 RSV)

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

(2 Timothy 2:15 RSV)

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

(John 15:4-5 RSV)

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be

able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

(Ephesians 6:11-18 RSV)

Prayer Of Confession

You, O God, are not the author of confusion. You bring order out of chaos.

Forgive me when I have allowed meetings in your church to descend into chaos. Forgive me when I have failed to correct opponents of your truth in their quest to lead the church into paths of unrighteousness for their own gain. Forgive me for not insisting sufficiently on the right thing being done where I have served in the structure of the church. Forgive me for allowing evil to

prosper in various expressions of the church's life.

Pour out the blood of Jesus upon me and cleanse me from the sins in which I have participated as I have served in the meetings of the church at various levels.

Receive this prayer through the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

Amen.

Prayer of Supplication

Lord God Almighty who reigns over all that exists, draw near now and hear my prayer.

You have not left your church without leadership. You have provided those who belong to you with the ability to perform the duties of various offices in the church. Your Name is to be glorified. You defend your church from what can corrupt its ability to achieve your objectives for it.

You know where you require that your presence be made known. You know where your Word must be upheld.

Equip me in the various places of your appointment to function in such a manner as to indicate that I am one approved for the assignment given by you.

Teach me your way Lord that I may walk in it among your people and prove your good and acceptable and perfect will. Out of my efforts let there come forth that which is pleasing in your sight for your honour, your glory and your praise.

You know the snares that the Enemy has planted in the life of the church for its destruction. You have provided your people with what is required for one's protection in going about your work. In the Name of Jesus I do now take this armour that I must have on as I do the work that is required of me. In the Name of Jesus, I put on the girdle of truth. In the Name of Jesus, I put on the breastplate of righteousness. In the Name of Jesus, I put on the equipment of the gospel of peace for my feet. In the Name of Jesus I take the shield of faith. In the Name of Jesus, I take and put on the helmet of salvation. In the Name of Jesus, I take the sword of the Spirit.

Fill me with your Spirit that I may be fully equipped in every way to exercise your influence where you have placed me. Lead me in prayer that shall be effective concerning the matters that I must address.

Hear and receive this prayer for it is offered through the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the King and Head of the Church.

Amen.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip me with everything good that I may do his will, working in me that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.