

National Day of Prayer 2025: Praying for Unity

This year on the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1, we are asking for prayers for Christian Unity.

Jesus himself started the Christian Unity Prayer Movement when He prayed that the believers would be united in Him and united with each other so the world would know that God sent Him (John 17:20-23).

Almost since the beginning of Christianity, believers have quarreled about Christian doctrine and church government. The first Jerusalem Council served as an example of a favorably resolved dispute (Acts 15). However, other disputes resulted in division and treatment of opponents as non-Christians. For example, some Protestants who believe in salvation only through faith will recite many doctrinal differences with Catholics, claiming those make them un-Christian although Catholics do share their belief in salvation only through faith. The critics have forgotten the words of the apostle Paul, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you" (Rom. 15:7).

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Instead of myriad doctrinal tests, the apostle Paul tells how to know if we are in Christ:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. –Romans 10:9–10

In other words, those who are justified by faith and say so are in Christ. If you are in Christ and those with whom you disagree are in Christ, you are united with them in Christ whether you admit it or not.

Although our unity comes through Christ, many denominations and doctrines create a great diversity within the body of Christ. Protestant Lutheran theologian Oscar Cullman said, "Unity in the church . . . is unity in diversity . . . recognizing others in all their variety as true Christians." Catholic Pope Francis has said, "Unity brought by the Spirit can harmonize every diversity." Unity in diversity recognizes the contributions of other streams of Christianity and blends them together in a symphony of harmony. It is a unity of the Spirit, not in doctrine or church government.

The church has come a long way since the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when being a Protestant in France or a Catholic in England could be a death sentence. The French Edict of Nantes, in effect for less than a century, and the English Act of Tolerance were important steps toward Paul's admonition to accept brother Christians. The revivalists of the Great Awakening and the second Great Awakening made appeals which transcended their denominations, achieving a forerunner of unity in diversity. The Charismatic movement brought about spiritual unity, as Christians across many denominations shared in the same experiences and often worshiped together.

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Even so, much remains to be done to bring together the body of

Christ. Today one of the worst schisms in the American church has arisen between the social gospel and the evangelical gospel, and the accompanying politicization of faith. We must come together to care for the poor and needy while reaching the lost with the love of Jesus. We must also transcend politics, guiding both of our political parties to embrace Christian policies.

After the Pope sent a historic video of reconciliation to Kenneth Copeland Ministries in 2014 many national and international church leaders have joined together in Christian unity. However, the urgent need to unite the body of Christ now must be communicated from the national leadership of movements and denominations to the local churches. The city fathers must become champions of unity, bringing the body of Christ together to impact their communities.

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The prayer of Jesus in John 17 is not only about unity. It is for unity with a purpose, "So that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

Let us join with Jesus in His prayer for unity on this National Day of Prayer.

Together we can bring Christian transformation to our nation.

Ron Allen is a Christian businessman who is active in ministries spreading a message of reconciliation to God, to men and between believers. He is the founder of American Wake Up Call.

Most Christians Get This One Thing Wrong About Their Purpose—Do You?

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see,” (Heb. 11:1).

God calls us all to have faith, and to have it to experience His blessings and gifts. However, we are not called to passivity, but rather toward action.

In a message to his Beth-Israel congregation, Jonathan Cahn delivered a stirring challenge to “receive the promises of God for real” and press in with everything they have.

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Cahn emphasizes God’s blessings are free, but they must still be pursued with perseverance and faith. “The Joshua generation... had the promised land... Was it given to them freely? Yes. Could they just say okay it’s ours? No. They had [to] fight.” He adds, “Wherever you walk, I’m going to give it to you... but you got to step out.”

Faith, Cahn explains, is not passive. “It’s faith that allows you to do more than you ever did.” Even though salvation is free, it’s not because it’s “worthless but because it’s priceless.” That value demands a response: “If it’s worth something, put something into it.”

Drawing from the story of Jacob and Esau, Cahn notes that “a

blessing has two parts—one is the one who gives it, but the other is the one who receives it... because he valued the blessing... he did everything he could to receive the blessing.”

He encourages believers: “You don’t have to disguise yourself... God has a blessing for you... but you have to value that blessing and do whatever you can to receive that blessing.”

Cahn urges listeners to fully believe and act on the Word of God. “The Bible says give and it shall be given—I’m going to give and I’m going to trust God... The Bible says I’m a beloved child—I’m going to receive that... The more I receive it, the more blessed I’m going to be.”

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Using examples from Scripture—Abraham, Joseph, Joshua, Elijah, David and Paul—Cahn points to a common theme: perseverance. “Paul said... I’ve been beaten... I’ve been in jail... but I press on. He kept going.”

Finally, Cahn made a sharp contrast between worldly and eternal pursuits: “Look at what people sacrifice for money... but we have an imperishable wreath... Run in a way that you’re going to win... because the treasure you have is so much greater.”

This is the moment to rise with purpose, to pursue God’s calling with unwavering passion. The blessings of heaven are not for the complacent, but for those who are willing to lay everything down for the sake of Christ.

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Now is the time to press beyond comfort, to cast off distractions and to run with endurance toward the prize. Every

act of faith, every sacrifice, every moment spent in the presence of God builds a life that brings glory to His name. Don't hold back. The crown is imperishable, the calling eternal and the reward beyond measure. Give Him everything—and watch your life become a vessel for His glory.

Abby Trivett is content development editor for *Charisma Media*.

'You're Going to Need This Fire': Jentezen Franklin Calling for Fresh Holy Spirit Fire

As global headlines continue to read like pages torn from the book of Revelation, many are asking the same urgent question: How do we prepare for the end times? On a recent episode of "The End Time Show," hosts Vince Stegall and Doug Norvell tackled this very question, diving headfirst into Bible prophecy, digital surveillance and the coming world system.

Their warning was clear: the groundwork for the mark of the beast is being laid, and now more than ever, believers must be spiritually equipped. "We can help you get through the apocalypse," Vince said. "And all... obviously, we can describe what the apocalypse is prophetically, but a lot of people don't realize how practical preparation starts spiritually."

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To help viewers prepare, the hosts shared nine crucial

keys—straight from Scripture and spiritual experience—to surviving the end times.

9 Crucial Keys to Surviving the End Times

1. Seek a Relationship with God

“We’ve got to engage in prayer and studying of God’s word,” Doug said. “That’s different levels. I mean, that’s like the levels that we want to get on where we shine with that Shekinah glory.”

2. Repent and Confess Regularly

“We’ve got to have that spirit of repentance and confess those things to God,” Vince emphasized. “The Bible says that if we will ask God for forgiveness, that he’s faithful to forgive us of those sins.”

3. Be Spirit-led

“Our flesh is weak,” Doug said. “But in our weakness, God’s made strong through His Spirit, you know, that fills us up.”

4. Practice Self-Honesty

“We have to be self-honest,” Vince noted. “Because the Lord can talk to us about stuff... but if we’re not self-honest about it, we’re not going to see some areas that we need to improve in.”

5. Guard Your Thoughts

“If we train our mind to think on the lovely, good, wonderful things of God,” Doug said, referencing Philippians 4:8, “we don’t get caught up in the terrible things that are going on in the world.”

6. Exercise Spiritual Gifts

“We need to operate in those gifts of the spirit,” Vince explained. “But we also need to be praying and asking the Lord to use us in the gifts of the spirit.”

7. Live a Spirit-filled Life

“If the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwelleth in you, that your body will too be quickened,” Doug quoted from Romans 8. “That’s our resurrection power... that’s our rapture power.”

8. Encourage Others

“We help strengthen one another,” Doug added, reminding listeners of the importance of community and shared faith.

9. Rely on God’s Daily Provision

Quoting Exodus 16:4, Vince reminded viewers: “The Lord is telling Moses, I’m going to provide for the people daily... He wants us to rely on him.”

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With spiritual deception rising and digital control systems looming, the urgency to draw near to God has never been greater. “We know that if your name is found written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, you’re not going to take the mark of the beast,” Vince declared. “And you’re not going to worship the beast.”

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Whether you’re a seasoned believer or just beginning your walk, these keys offer more than survival—they offer hope. “You can survive the end times,” Doug said. “Absolutely. Great news.”

James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.

You've Been Given an Unstoppable Power—Find Out How to Tap Into It!

Initially stunned, Mullins soon realized the grace in God's words. "The Holy Spirit said, 'But I am enough. You don't have what it takes, but I have what you need.'"

This pivotal moment shaped what would later become a life message, encapsulated in his book, *Don't Let Doubt Take You Out*.

"If we learn to leverage that self-doubt and that question that comes up, it can actually be the benefit of doubt—it keeps us dependent... the benefit of doubt is that it keeps us desperate for God," Mullins says.

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Although he grew up in a supportive, faith-filled home, Mullins says certain experiences left scars that triggered long-standing insecurities. "There were things that happened to me when I was a kid—not from home but from school... things that were said over me that I just carried with me my whole life."

He explains how moments of uncertainty can lead to “lifelong insecurity if we’re not careful to deal with those situations.”

Mullins now counsels high-level leaders, many of whom are wildly successful yet still plagued by doubt. “They still struggle with, ‘Am I good enough as a father? I don’t know that I’m doing right for my marriage. I don’t know that I’m living up to the expectations.’” The point, he says, is universal: “All of us deal with self-doubt at some stage.”

Instead of allowing that doubt to disqualify us, Mullins encourages believers to see it as a signal—a spiritual dashboard warning light. “If you actually pay attention to it, you can actually deal with it before it takes you out.”

Leadership for Mullins has also meant cultivating emotional discipline. “I’ve had to learn how to take control of that and not let that control me... not let my fears or my worries or my anxiety... control who I talk to myself a lot... just telling my soul what to think, reminding my soul of the Scriptures.”

Ultimately, Todd Mullins believes overcoming doubt isn’t about developing more confidence in ourselves, but in God. “We walk through life with a sense of ‘Godfidence’—not a confidence in me but a God-confidence... The truest thing about you is what God said about you.”

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Abby Trivett is content development editor for Charisma Media.

Beware of Hyper-Spiritual Narcissists—They Will Split Your Church

A few years ago a prominent evangelist gained a wide following when he said an angel was visiting him regularly during his televised revival meetings. This angel was supposedly dispatched to unleash the next great healing revival in the United States. One big problem: The revival wasn't real. It was all hype.

Yet month after month, the tales of this evangelist's wild spiritual adventures grew more and more incredible. At one point he claimed to have met the apostle Paul in heaven—and then said that Paul told him he was the author of the book of Hebrews. Looking back on these events now, it's hard to believe so many people fell for this man's wild claims.

Anyone with the most basic level of discernment knows God doesn't allow us to talk to dead people to get spiritual information. So why are some of us so gullible?

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In some Spirit-filled church circles, there are super-spiritual people who know how to impress others with their revelations and experiences. In some cases these people are sincere but may have emotional problems or even mental illness. In other cases they are classic narcissists who are full of spiritual pride.

I believe all the gifts of the Holy Spirit are valid today. But we need to clean up our act and stop allowing fringe elements to discredit the power of God. Nothing is more dangerous to a genuine revival than a hyper-spiritual

attention-seeker who lacks character but flaunts his gifts.

Below are seven indicators of a hyper-spiritual person. If you see this type of fraud on display, use discernment and warn others.

1. Their feet rarely touch the earth. Super-spiritual people aren't in touch with normal life. They live in the ozone layer. They may spend a lot of time in prayer and fasting (or claim to), but their relationships are dysfunctional. Jesus didn't live like a guru, floating around while dispensing ethereal wisdom. He lived in the real world and interacted in a healthy way with people. So should we.

2. They place too much emphasis on dreams, visions and spiritual manifestations. God speaks to us through His Spirit, and He can use dreams, visions or prophetic words. Yet His message always flows with love and brings peace. Paul warned the Colossians about people like this when he said: "Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen..." (Col. 2:18). A spirit of weirdness always follows hyper-spiritual people who claim to receive constant revelations.

3. They don't submit to authority. Hyper-spiritual people believe they are more gifted than pastors or other spiritual leaders. They love to criticize pastors, and they find it impossible to receive correction from anyone. They become renegades, and they separate themselves from the body of Christ; meanwhile they cultivate a "ministry" on social media that focuses on finding fault with churches.

4. They crave attention. A super-spiritual person often lacks

affirmation and love. Their emotional deficit pushes them to seek attention from people, and they find it by impressing others. Some people who seek to serve as intercessors or counselors, or even as members of the worship team, may actually need inner healing before they can be effective in these roles. If you give unhealthy people a microphone before they are healed, they will misuse their platform.

5. They develop a victim mentality. Hyper-spiritual people believe they are constantly being attacked by the devil—as if they are his biggest threat. The slightest problem—from a traffic ticket to a hangnail—becomes evidence of a demonic conspiracy against them. We need to help people realize that Satan actually has a lot more important things to do than stop Brother Jimmy or Sister Karen from singing a song in church on Sunday.

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6. They become harsh and judgmental. People with narcissistic tendencies can become bitter and resentful if they don't find an audience for their visions and prophecies. They may even condemn everyone to hell for rejecting them. I know of some angry Christians who ended up splitting a church because they became convinced the pastor was evil or the whole congregation was in sin. Bitter people eventually become destructive. Don't let them hurt others.

7. They often end up in serious deception. Super-spiritual people who reject correction or accountability are headed toward disaster. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, started his cult after he declared that all Christian denominations were false churches. He cut himself off from the body of Christ and started the biggest heresy of the 19th century—claiming that an angel gave him secret information.

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People who become so focused on their spiritual superiority end up denying Jesus and justifying their own sinful behavior. Don't let hyper-spiritual narcissists take your congregation down the wrong road. Let's cultivate humility, promote healthy character and guard the flock from dangerous wolves.

**The Antichrist System Is
Being Built Right Now—Are You
Ready?**