

WORD

“And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to serve him, to love the name of the Lord, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.”
Isaiah 56:6,7

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

God wanted His temple—His house—to not just be a place where the Jews would gather and worship at that time but to be a house of prayer for all nations. Since the Old Testament, God’s heart has been to reach not just one nation but all peoples of the earth and His followers take part in that by committing themselves to pray. What happens when God’s people pray?

- **We are able to serve God’s will when we pray.**
... your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10

When we pray, we make ourselves available to minister, worship, and wait on God. We serve His purposes by claiming His Word as we pray it in so it is fulfilled in people’s lives (Psalm 33:10-12). What specific part in God’s Word are you praying in right now?

- **We get to enjoy God’s presence when we pray.**
But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Matthew 6:6
(Also read Matthew 6:5,7-15)

When Nehemiah learned about the distressing condition of the Jews, his heart was burdened and this led him to a period of prayer and fasting. Nehemiah knows only God can bring deliverance and protection to

his countrymen. There are instances in the Bible that shows that God listens when His people intercede for their nation (Ezekiel 22:30-31; Psalm 106:23; Jeremiah 12:11). What are we commanded to do (1 Timothy 2:1-3)?

- **We intercede for the salvation of nations when we pray.**
Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.
Psalm 2:8

God desires for all people to be saved and know the truth (2 Peter 3:9, 1 Timothy 2:4) and as His church, we are called to be His hands and feet to the world including being a house of prayer for all nations. This verse also implies that the church should be known as a place where all nations may pray, where all races are welcome to worship God together. What can we pray for the nations?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- What do the following Scriptures say about God’s plan for the nations (Psalm 22:27,28; 67:1,2; 98:2,3; Isaiah 11:9; Revelation 5:9)?
- Which nation are you praying for? What specific concerns are you lifting up in prayer?
- Do you have a desire to go to a short-term (or long-term) missions trip? Which nation and why?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- How can we be part of reaching the nations through the ministry of prayer?
- What nation/s do you have a desire or burden to pray for?
- How can you participate in reaching the nations in this season (pray, give, go)?