

## **ICC Church Prayer Guide January 23 - 29, 2012**

During the past few months, I have thought a lot about our worship as a church. We are blessed by worship leaders and musicians who love the Lord and love to share their gifts with ICC. I love the praise songs and the hymns. I love preparing my heart for an encounter with the living God. Worship, of course, is more than singing songs.... much more. As we pray this week, let's ask ourselves the question: How can we strengthen our worship to God? The underlying question is more personal. How can I strengthen my worship to God? True worship starts with each of us.

### **Monday: 1 Chronicles 16:23-36**

In Genesis, God called for a people that would revere His name. The Israelites so revered the name of God, that they would not speak the name of God but once per year. Do we revere God, the creator of the universe? Do we worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness and tremble before Him? Pray today that when we come before the Lord and call on His name, whether in corporate worship or in our prayer closet, that it would be with reverence to who He is. Pray that we would be called a people that reveres God, and it would be a fragrant aroma to Him.

### **Tuesday: 1 Corinthians 11:17-18**

Did you know that we could gather together on Sunday morning, smile and greet each other, sing wonderful songs, hear an inspiring message, and walk out of the church worse off than when we entered? Is that possible? This is exactly what happened to the church in Corinth. The believers at Corinth were filled with all kinds of divisions and problems internally and it was bleeding into their worship services. When any part of our church body has unresolved issues in their lives, the body suffers. Pray today for those who have unresolved conflicts in their relationships ... particularly in their families that they would seek to make amends. Pray that God would lay on our hearts people that we need to make amends with. This will honor God and strengthen our worship.

### **Wednesday: Colossians 3:12-17**

Paul calls for the church body to worship together in unity of mind and spirit. How do we do that? This scripture gives us some ideas. Put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Forgive as Christ has forgiven you. Let the peace of Christ control your hearts. Be thankful. Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. As you pray today, ponder each of the attributes and ask Jesus to help you demonstrate these behaviors. When we worship in this kind of selfless unity, God's glory will surely fall down on us.

### **Thursday: 1 Samuel 12:24**

God is honored when we worship Him faithfully. We worship God faithfully when we are consistent with our worship. We need to be faithful in our daily quiet time with the Lord, and faithful to worship Him with our body of believers. Pray today that we would all strive to be more faithful in our worship of our Lord and Savior, who gave His life for us.

### **Friday: Matthew 4:1-11**

God only honors our worship if we worship only Him. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus told him, "It is written: You must worship the Lord your God and you must serve Him only." Do we worship other gods? Do we compromise our relationship with God for instant gratification? Do we expect God to bail us out when we do something wrong? Do we seek after the treasures of this world instead of things eternal? Pray today that we would keep our eyes on Jesus and those things of eternal significance.

### **Saturday: John 4:23-24**

Jesus said that those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth. These are the worshipers God seeks. To strengthen our worship, we need to seek truth. We do this through studying God's Word. Pray that more in our church body would feel the need to be in God's Word daily. Pray that more people would want to join us on Sunday mornings to study together in Reach Groups, or join a Bible study. Pray that we would truly seek God's truth through our worship. Pray that Pastor Brad would boldly proclaim God's truths to us.

### **Sunday: Romans 12:1-2**

Paul is telling us in this passage that our spiritual worship is giving our lives as a living sacrifice to God. There is nothing that can bring our joy to the Lord to overflowing better than service to God. Pray that we would be a church on mission for God. Pray that God would provide a place of service for every person in our church, and a person for every place of service. Pray that we would strive to turn over every aspect of our lives to the One who gives life abundantly.