

I. A prayer for forgiveness (v. 1-4)

A. We must appeal to the mercy of God

“He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy.” (Titus 3:5)

B. We must confess our sins

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

C. We must ask for God’s forgiveness

II. A prayer for holiness (v. 5-10)

A. We must recognize our sinful nature

“For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other.” (Galatians 5:17)

B. We must be filled with the truth of God

“When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.” (John 16:13)

“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:17)

C. We must be cleansed from the control of sin

“In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11)

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.” (Galatians 5:24)

“For when we were controlled by the sinful nature, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death. But now, dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old ways of the written code.” (Romans 7:5-6)

D. We must be created pure in heart

“I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all impurities.” (Ezekiel 36:25)

“God purified their hearts by faith.” (Acts 15:9)

E. We must be renewed in obedience to God

III. A prayer for the life of holiness (v. 11-13)

A. A life filled with the presence of God

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:17)

B. A life filled with the joy of salvation

“You became imitators of us and of the Lord, in spite of severe suffering, you welcome the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.” (I Thessalonians 1:6)

C. A life filled with a willing spirit

D. A life filled with a fruitful ministry

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.” (Ephesians 3:20)