



Prayer Focus by Christianna Schreifels
January 1st - January 7th, 2024

Happy, blessed new year! Praying about what to pray for, I received two words- **perseverance and unity**. We are going to accomplish a great deal so long as we do it with each other. We have entered a time of refreshing and miracles amidst the body of Christ in this new year. We are going to pray for each other's battles and carry one another in a way that will be different as before. How? We are letting go of performance and recognizing how deep we really are. We will learn to sacrifice time and our convenience for one another. The walls of the church are coming down not because it is being destroyed- it is really being rebuilt- in some places, the foundation is being replaced. This is taking time

Our joy is being renewed as we learn to stand in the gap on a level of commitment reflecting the love of the first church apostles. We have a ways to go yet we are embracing a love that moves us more readily towards the purpose we've been created for- to know Jesus and make Him known. It's like a finely tuned watch as in the olden days- the watch keeps time well when all its parts are in working order. Each part works in sync as a unit. Pray for the parts that are misfiring. These parts are being exposed corporately. This process is also exposing our hearts and how we respond to one another. We see these exposures creating a stir in the body as a whole- some religious minded members are offended but this exposure is actually a very good thing. Why? These parts still have time to be sorted out, possibly fixed, possibly removed, and hopefully restored to the unit - that unit is the body of Christ, which is the ultimate goal.

God is so wise and good to give us the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of His grace and compassion for another. I would never be here if I did not experience His mercies that are new, every morning. The compassion of Christ is not fluffy as the world conveys it to be. We know His compassion moves us to repentance and it breaks even the hardest parts of us so He can rebuild us if we let Him. It's going to get crazier before it gets better.

Prayer points-

1 Pray for the Lord gives us His perspective from the Word, when we hear about a brother being exposed. Pray that they are made whole in Jesus Name and so are those that were victims.

2 Ask the Lord for wisdom in our responses to criticism directed at any brother that has fallen. Opinions do not matter but what the Holy Spirit is saying through the Word.

3. Pray we cover one another in a deeper way so that we may have a listening ear even if we differ in opinion. We should direct one another according to scripture. The truth is when any of us goes awry - it is a reflection of a wound within that soul that was never addressed or exposed before.

Scriptures-

Galatians 6:1

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.

Matthew 18 15 "If your brother or sister [b] sins, [c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. **16** But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses. **17** If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18 6 "If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. **7** Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come!

Philippians 4:12–13 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. **13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Ephesians 5:19-21 Speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music in your hearts to the Lord. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yield to obey each other as you would to Christ.

Song:

[Chris Tomlin - Good Good Father \(Audio\)](#)