

Prayer Topic #9:

A Prayer of Celebration for the Men of Our Windsor Village Church Family

Light the Feast of Tabernacles Candle: Gather around your family/group altar around sundown, and have the eldest woman present light the candle (if you are a single male, you may, of course, light the candle yourself) and all say this brief invocation: *Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and has commanded us to light the candle of the Holiday; and blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this festive occasion.*

Read the Scriptures: Now, please have two different people, if possible, read aloud the Scriptures listed below:

Scripture Reading:

Daniel 6:26-27, Psalm 128

Pray Aloud Together with Passion and Joy...

Triumphant Father, we thank You for the men of our Church Family. Thank You for reminding them daily that they are created in Your image. Thank You for crowning each of them with glory and honor. Thank You for helping them to take their rightful place in the church, in their homes and in society. We, Your servants, give praise to You, Lord. Blessed be Your Name now and forever! Everywhere from east to west, Your Name shall be praised. Lord, You are high above the nations; Your glory is higher than the heavens. No one can be compared with You! Not to us, O Lord, but all glory will go to Your Name for your unfailing love and Your faithfulness.

Majestic Father, by faith, we declare that the men in our Church Family are saved, sanctified, and filled with Your Holy Spirit. We declare that they are priestly providers and protectors of their families. They are men who will not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but they allow You, Lord, to transform them into new men by changing the way they think. Our men will daily confess that they are the head and not the tail; they are always on top and never at the bottom. They are not victims of society, but they are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. We decree that the men in our Church Family delight in Your law and meditate on it day and night, so they are trees planted along the riverbank—they bear fruit each season; their leaves never wither and they prosper in all that they do.

Holy Spirit, please rebuild our men where society has torn them down. Encourage our men to get the help they need and to learn how to support and encourage each other. Instruct and teach our women how to encourage and pray for the men in their lives. Help our men to be powerful, loving and effective husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, uncles and nephews. Help our men to fight against the circumstances that have resulted in the absence of a father in African-American families. Please empower our men to become sons, husbands and fathers who are respected and embraced in their public and private lives.

Faithful Father, forgive our men for sins of disobedience, selfishness, lying, pornography, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, and for not accepting the responsibility for leadership within their families and the church. Forgive our wives and mothers for taking on the roles You have ordained for husbands and fathers and for not allowing them to be the men You have created them to be. Lord, please help the men, women, boys and girls in our congregation to forgive past hurts caused by their sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, and other men, so that You can heal them. Father, forgive me for **(list any sins that you have committed)**. Holy Spirit, remind our men of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. ***(Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal names or faces of people that you may need to forgive. As He reveals them, say "I forgive name of person(s)."*** Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in your soul caused by unforgiveness.)

Holy Spirit, help our men not to yield to temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Exalted Lord, we praise Your Name. Your Name is great; Your glory towers over the earth and heaven. You are worthy, Lord, to receive glory, honor and power. You created all things, by your will they exist and were created. You are Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: Genesis 1:26, Psalm 8:5, Psalm 113:1-5, Psalm 115:1, Romans 12:2, Deuteronomy 28:13, Romans 8:37, Psalm 1:2-3, Ephesians 5:25, Matthew 6:13, Psalm 148:13, Revelation 4:11, Isaiah 9:6

Family/Group Celebration Activity:

Celebrate the Important Man in Your Life! Please pick at least one of the following activities to do:

- Wives, cook a special meal for your husband tonight.
- Children, pretend it is Father's Day. Make your dad a special card, or other home-made gift, and/or do something nice for your dad. Thank him for providing for you.
- Daughters and wives, put on some God-honoring music and dance with your dad or husband!
- If your father does not live with you, give him a call or send him an electronic card. Bless your dad with positive, life-affirming words.
- If the relationship with your earthly father is a challenge, then 1) talk to your Heavenly Father and thank Him for providing for you and for loving you unconditionally. Turn on some God-honoring music and dance with your Heavenly Father! 2) Think of a positive male role-model in your life. If possible, contact him and encourage him and bless him. Let him know how God has blessed you through his life.

