# PURSUING THE REDEEMER'S HEART

Prayers from In Christ's Image Training

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### THE VISION: BECOMING CHRISTLIKE

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

—2 Corinthians 3:18

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Lord, I set my heart to go the full distance, to walk close to You all my days, so that in all things I may become like You. Grant me access to Your heart; conform me to Your will. May the transformation of my life bring glory to You, Lord. Amen.

## ONE PURPOSE: REVEAL THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST

And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

—Ephesians 4:11–13

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Lord Jesus, forgive us for putting doctrines about worship style or church government ahead of our true purpose: to be conformed to You. Cleanse us, Master, of the effects of false religious traditions. Even at this moment, grant us unrestrained passion for You and You alone! Amen.

#### Humility: The Virtue That Attracts God's Transforming Grace

For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, and also with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite."

—Isaiah 57:15

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Master, how wonderful that, in spite of dwelling in a high and holy place, Your heart seeks to revive the lowly and the contrite. Yet even more wonderful is that You actually dwell with the lowly and Your heart abides in the dwelling of the contrite. Lord, dwell in me. Abide in Me. And stay with me, even as You revive me in Your love.

### HUMILITY: THE PATH TO CHRISTLIKENESS

"Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart."
—Matthew 11:29 KJV

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Lord Jesus, You have set before me a pattern of humility that is breathtaking. As Creator King, You emptied Yourself of Your privileges as God's form and chose the form of a bondservant. How vile and dark my pride appears in contrast to Your brightness. I am humbled by the sight of Your humility. Help me to truly learn of You, that You are "meek and gentle of heart."

### NATIONS SHALL COME TO OUR LIGHT

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth and deep darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising."

—Isaiah 60:1–3

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Lord, help me to keep my eyes on You as You reach to bring mercy to the nations. Master, I know I'm weak, but I also know that the greater my weakness, the greater access You have to move through me and be lifted up within me. I believe that in spite of hell's advances into our world, Your glory manifest through me especially in dark times can bring light and hope to the nations.

#### Ask of Me

"Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as Your possession."

—Psalm 2:8

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Lord Jesus, how blessed we are that as evil matures into full rebellion, Your people are maturing into full Christlikeness. In the name of Jesus, we ask You for our cities, our states and even our nations. Use us to stand in the gap until our people become Your people and Your Son is glorified throughout the world.

#### THE ROOTS OF DIVISION

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."

-Matthew 23:37

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Lord Jesus, I see Your heart to gather Your people, to shelter and care for us as a mother hen shelters her chicks from the storms of life. Forgive us for being unwilling. Forgive us for thinking the status quo is enough; worst, forgive us for our pride and self-righteousness that causes us to view other Christians with contempt. Deliver us from the evil of religious pride.

#### A War in Heaven

"Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand."

—Matthew 12:25

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Lord, forgive us for tolerating this terrible sin of division. Master, we know that our prideful, carnal divisions are a blight upon Your people. Cleanse us of the effects of division, and empower each of us with grace to bring unity to Your church. In Jesus' name. Amen.