



**RIDGEWAYS
BAPTIST CHURCH**



PRAYER WEEK

LORD LIFT ME UP

*I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out
of the depth...*

Psalms 30:1

28TH JAN. – 3RD FEB.

LORD LIFT ME UP

"I will exalt you O God for you lifted me out of the depths..."

Psalms 30:1a NIV



Welcome to the week of prayer, a time that we seek to be drawn close to God as is already his delight. Prayer is an essential discipline if one is going to be SOARING HIGH IN OUR LOVE FOR GOD. Prayer is a love language with God while obedience is the evidence of that love. Any believer who desires to be closer to God must seek him in prayer.

Through the ages past, many have complicated the issue of prayer. Some today think prayer is for certain warriors in God's house, some think prayer is for those who have mastered certain vocabulary or for those who can spend a lot of time in the prayer closet. While mastering certain vocabulary or being strong to be called a warrior and have the capacity to pray long prayers is okay, if truth is to be told, prayer is for everyone and that the measure of a meaningful prayer is not the vocabulary, the length of prayer or the warrior spirit in the prayer. The true measure of meaningful prayers is simply ones' faith. Jesus said in **Matthew 17:20**, *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move' and it will have to move."*

God wants to lift you up this week and throughout this year so that you will exalt him or praise him. He is stretching his hand towards you with the opportunity of this prayer week. I pray that you will make every effort to position yourself where he can take hold of you and lift you up.

Make it your daily song and prayer: Lord lift me up and let me stand by faith on heavens table land. A higher plane than I have found Lord plant my feet on higher ground.

Be blessed,
Pst. Wanje.

DAY 1

Sunday, 28TH January 2018

Lord lift me up that I may be close to you.

“Come near to God and he will come near to you.”

The greatest invitation and opportunity in life is that of drawing nearer to God. Our heavenly father has shown throughout scriptures that He is a God who delights and being known by his children and one that has already paid the ultimate price that he can be in fellowship with everyone who comes to him. The invitation to come or draw nearer to God is not just for those who look like they have perfected their ways and overcome all trials. In **Isaiah 1:18**, he says, *“Come now let us reason together,” says the LORD, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool’.* In **Matthew 11:28**, He says, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest.”*

When we come nearer to God, something in our lives must change. We get the privilege of reasoning with God. Our reasoning is equal to our fellowship with Him. Imagine being able to stand in the presence of an almighty God.

When we come to Him, our sins are forgiven and washed away that we become pure. Coming near to God will also usher us to a life of rest. Our burdens he takes them and our weariness he renews and refreshes us.

Today, pray that you will be drawn close to God in every way and situation of life. Join the hymn writer – Fanny J. Crosby and sing or pray:

“I Am Thine, O Lord, I Have Heard Thy Voice, And It Told Thy Love To Me; But I Long To Rise In The Arms Of Faith, And Be Closer Drawn To Thee. Draw Me Nearer, Nearer Blessed Lord, To The Cross Where Thou Hast Died; Draw Me Nearer, Nearer, Nearer, Blessed Lord, To Thy Precious Bleeding Side.”

PRAYER POINTS:

- Lord lift me up that I may know you personally and intimately.
- That being close to you be a priority in my life
- Fill me with your holy spirit that I may have the grace and strength to be closer to you.
- Forgive me for anything in my life that separates me from intimacy with you.
- Restore the joy of salvation and revival in my life.

DAY 2

Monday, 29th January 2018

Lord lift me up that I may know and live in your will.

"I desire to do your will O my God, your law is within my heart."

Psalms 40:8.

Knowing and doing the will of God or the purpose of God in one's life is the most critical thing that can determine fulfilment, usefulness and effectiveness. Everything that God created was created with a purpose. Man is no exception to this. Scripture affirms that it is God who formed each one of us and knitted us together in our mothers' womb. Each one of us is unique and has a God ordained purpose. Until one discovers God's purpose or His will for life, they will have an emptiness that cannot be filled by positions, possessions or even power.

As God said to the Israelites, he also says to his children today. "I alone know the plans that I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. It is only in the plan of God or in his purpose for your life that you will prosper, be protected, be filled with hope and find meaning and fulfilment in each day of life. God wants you to know his will or his purpose for your life and in every situation. Spending time in God's rod is a sure way of discovering God's will and purpose for you.

It's the reason the Psalmist records and says, "Your law is within my heart; many years back the Lord put a little song in my heart that says:

*Lord I know you have a will for me, Lord I believe you have a will for me
And I pray to live in that will, Lord I know you have a will for me.
Whatever it is, it's so good, pleasing for me, Whatever it is, it's so perfect for
me And I pray to live in that will, Lord I know you have a will for me*

PRAYER POINTS:

- That I may believe and discover God's will and purpose in my life
- That I may spend quality time in prayer and fellowship with God
- That I may totally be committed to obeying and living in the will and plan of God in my life.

DAY 3

Tuesday, 30th January 2018

Lord lift me up that I may overcome strongholds in my life.

“The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.”
2nd Corinthians 10:4.

A stronghold is any persistent behavior or a thing that binds a believer from fully experiencing God's purpose in their life. Strongholds are a work of Satan through people and things that seek to deny and refuse man from experiencing all that God is and what he desires to do through them. Some of the strongholds in most people tend to be from a physical presence when he was there. The other source of strongholds is spiritual in nature. Strongholds may be things from within such as greed, fear, lust, anger, laziness, addictions etc. A person that is bound by strongholds may try to reach higher heights in various endeavors in life but will always find themselves unable to free themselves. Such may not easily experience God's lifting up and may not soar high in love and be drawn close to God. Strongholds must be defeated and broken in Jesus' name.

2nd Corinthians 10:4 assures the believer of our weapon of our warfare and the power of it. Our weapon is powerful to destroy any stronghold. The weapon we have is our right relationship with God, our prayer and our lifestyle. Regardless of the size of the thing that keeps us from being lifted higher, however strong it appears, the believer must always remind himself/herself that greater is he that is in them than that stronghold that comes against them. Yes, and in all things the believer is more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS:

- God to reveal any strongholds in your life
- God to set you free from any stronghold
- God to protect your life from any scheme of the enemy
- God to help you keep the weapon of our warfare ready at all time.

DAY 4

Wednesday, 31st January 2018

Lord lift me up that I may fulfill my role in my church.

“Now to each one of the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good”. **1st Corinthians 12:7**

The church is described in **1st Timothy 3:14** as the household of God. This description given identity of ownership and membership. The Church belongs to God. Jesus in **Matthew 16:18** said he would build his church. The membership who are the household is made up then by those who are his. Men and women, young and old who are born again, surrendered to the Lordship of Christ and led by the Spirit of God make up the membership of the Church.

Paul in **1 Corinthians 12:7** teaches us that each member in the body of Christ is uniquely gifted for service. The gifting Paul talks about is the gift of Spiritual gifts which scriptures teaches that they are given by the Holy Spirit as he sees fit. **1st Corinthians 12:7-11, Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11** provides the listing of the various gifts. Please note, they are not given for personal enjoyment, personal glorification. They are given for the common good of others or as Paul says in Ephesians for the purpose of preparing or equipping others for Gods work. Spiritual gifts are given so that each member can make a contribution in the work of the Church.

As God lifts you up in 2018, pray that you will fulfill your role in your church. God placed you here as a member not only for what you will receive e but also for what you can give. When each one of us fulfills their role in the Church, only then can Ridgeways Baptist Church be everything God has ordained for it to be.

PRAYER POINTS:

- That you will know your spiritual gifts and what area of ministry you can serve.
- That you will be filled, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit in your service.
- That Ridgeways Baptist Church will be a place where people experience God in knowledge and power.
- That the prayer week and the anniversary revival will be successful.

DAY 5

Thursday, 1st February 2018

Lord lift me up in the flourishing of my career/business.

In **1st Chronicles 4:10** we find the famous prayer of Jabez, *"Oh, that you would bless me and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do..."* The Bible records that God granted Jabez's request, and we want to pray this very prayer over our careers and businesses. However it is important to note what the Bible records about Jabez before this prayer, the scriptures tells us that Jabez was "more honorable than his brethren." There's thus a call to be honorable in our stewardship of work-time, work-resources, work-relations and work-opportunities even as we wait upon the Lord for His blessing and enlarging of our territory. Lord this year lift me up in my.

- **Opportunities** - bless me with a job/ to launch a business/ to expand my company in new ways/to get a promotion
- **Stewardship** - to wisely steward my time/finances/investments/infrastructure
- **Relationships** - grant me favor with colleagues/bosses/employees/clients/government authorities

Further reading: **Deuteronomy 28:12** and **1st Thessalonians 4:11-12**.

DAY 6

Friday, 2nd February 2018

Lord lift me up from tribal prejudice.

When I as a believer fail to extend love to those who are different from me, in their customs, beliefs and practices, then I miss out on a great opportunity to show the radical love which should mark us out as Christians. Jesus challenged the “super believers” of his time in **Luke Chapter 6** *“if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that...”* If I love only members of my tribe what credit is that to me, and if I work with only those from my village what credit is that to me as a believer? Lord lift me up from tribal prejudice that I may be part of the brethren you use to unify our great land Kenya.

- Lift me up to faithfully pray for this nation
- Lift me up to obey the laws of the land
- Lift me up to reject negative tribalism and nepotism
- Lift me up to walk in integrity rejecting all forms of corruption and selfish citizenship

Further reading: 1st Timothy 2:1-2, 1 Peter 2:17, Romans 13:1, Jeremiah 29:7 and 2nd Chronicles 7:14

DAY 7

Saturday, 3rd February 2018

Lord Lift Me Up to Honor you in my Family.

There is no doubt, as you read through the scriptures, that God places great value on the family institution; in fact it is in connection with the family that God gives the first commandment with a promise (**Ephesians 6:2**). **Colossians 3:18-21** and **Ephesians 6:1-4** highlight the various roles we are meant to play in the family setting, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Thus each family member is to honor God by playing their role in the family without looking around to see who else is doing so but to focus on doing their part.

Exercise:

Study **Colossians 3:18-21** and **Ephesians 5:21-6:4** as a family with everyone sharing, at the end, what roles and responsibilities God has impressed upon them to play or improve on. (At the end of the exercise close by together reflecting on the below devotion)

Reflection:

What is at Stake?

In **Genesis 1:26-28** one can quickly identify **three purposes** for which God established the family:

- 1. To reflect the image of God** - "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." A family that is unified and exercising sacrificial love towards each other shines a great light on the attributes of God.
- 2. To raise godly offspring:** "And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring." (**Malachi 2:15**) It is God's desire that the family be a place where children are nurtured in His ways and set up to walk the path of faith.
- 3. Reign in spiritual warfare:** "And what does the one God seek? Godly offspring." (**Genesis 1:28**) "We are to be stewards of the physical resources entrusted to us and we must do our share in the spiritual realm.' Families are to use their resources and relational opportunities to spread the glory of Christ in our fallen world.

Inventory:

Take time now to take a spiritual inventory of your family, in which area/s do you need **God to Lift You Up?** (Close your time together as a family by praying together to honor God as individuals and as a family).

