

Jerry Bridges: "Prayer assumes the sovereignty of God. If God is not sovereign, we have no assurance that He is able to answer our prayers. Our prayers would become nothing more than wishes. And so having trust in God's sovereignty is our foundation, and prayer is our expression of that trust."

Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen, as King David said, "Blessed are you, O Lord, for yours is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all." And O God, there are times when we need to remind ourselves that you are sovereign. That you are powerful. And that you do care. Recently we have seen so much destruction and devastation, so much loss, so much senseless violence, disturbing accusations, continued threats, and it seems like the bad news is never ending. And we sometimes wonder where to turn. What's going on? And yet, Lord, in our better moments, we know that we must turn to you. Because you have shown us that the ultimate victory and glory is yours. When evil and injustice and violence was perpetrated on your son, Jesus Christ, even the earth shook so hard a wall in the temple was torn in two. And yet, you turned the tables – you brought about resurrection. And death became life, despair became hope, fear became confidence and grief became joy. And only you, our sovereign God can do that. And so help us not to be afraid, not to despair. But rather help us use these times of difficulty to examine our own lives. Help us to be more aware that life is fragile, to be aware of what is truly most important, of our relationships, of our call as Christians living in this world. May we be less prone to talk about others, to judge their words and actions, and be more diligent to look within.

And certainly Lord, we pray for so many who have affected by the recent tragedies. For those in California, as so many have lost homes, property and lives. We pray that the winds would subside, and that the firefighters could find the strength and energy to continue to battle the blazes. We pray for the ongoing relief efforts in Puerto Rico, for the forgotten in Mexico, and those whose lives are forever changed by the hurricanes that have hit. And we pray for those near and dear to us.

Silence

Lord's Prayer