

Andy Stanley: “God, I want what you want, more than I want what I want.”

O Everlasting God who was and is and is to come, we bring to you our worship, our praise, our love. This is a time we specifically set aside for you – to honor you, to show you our dedication, our commitment, our desire to be faithful Christians. As the psalmist said, “May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you.” And not just today, but every day. For indeed our lives should reflect your will. Our desire should be to want what you want. We should want every person to feel loved, to feel accepted, to feel their life matters – that’s what you want. We should want to have hearts that are compassionate, even to those who are difficult, wallets that are generous, that build treasures in heaven not on earth, and attitudes of joy, contentment, hope and trust in you – that’s what you want. We should want the unchurched, the never churched to know you and to feel your love and guidance. That’s what you want. Lord, even though your ways are not our ways, and your thoughts are greater than our thoughts, yet you sent Jesus Christ to give us a glimpse of the divine way. He showed us what we as human beings need to do to live into the divine image in which we were made. And Lord we try, and sometimes we succeed. But other times we fail. Forgive us when we see with blinders on, when we have soft hearts toward some and hardened hearts toward others. Forgive us when our words are less than holy and our thoughts are less than heavenly. May we pray as Jesus did, “May thy will be done” in us and in our lives.

Lord, there are those we specifically wish to lift up to you today. We think of those adversely affected by the wildfires in California, for the family of Mollie Tibbets, and others whose children are lost, either physically or emotionally, for Police, Fire departments and first responders both here and throughout the country who are so often taken for granted. For the continuing ups and downs we hear about in politics around the world. And for those close to us who are in need. Lord, you have heard us mention those on our prayer list, but there are others, and so hear us now, as we lift aloud so all can share in praying together, the names of those for whom we ask your blessing.

Lord’s Prayer