

Dundonald Church Day of Prayer and Fasting

Use this in the prayer times together, and whenever you think of it. If you are fasting today, being hungry might remind you to pull this out and pray a bit more!

Building for the Future is providing us with a great opportunity to reassess our attitude to money. For this we need God's help!

The Bible addresses money at length because what we actually do with our money reflects our hearts so plainly – **for or against God**. In this prayer time we'll let the Bible shape our thinking and guide our requests. Our prayer is in five sections – you don't need to finish them all! The first three headings are adapted from those used by Richard in his sermon to our church in November.

Dear Father,

1. Please help us see you have been so generous to us!

*...for you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich...
(2 Cor 8:9)*

- a. Without Jesus, even millionaires are not rich, but desperately poor. God has not been kind to us because of what we do for him, but because he loves us.
 - **Praise God** for choosing to love spiritually poor people like us.
 - **Confess** that we are not rich, we do not have anything to offer him that he needs, and we have no right to his love and care.

- b. Jesus Christ was incredibly rich, and gave it all up for us.
 - **Praise God** for his eternal glory, for his awesomely great power and might, his majesty, his infinite resources and ability. All this belonged eternally to God the Son
 - **Praise God** that the Son laid all this aside and came to earth to be our Saviour Jesus in poverty and weakness and the dependency of a baby, in a poor family, and with the certainty of condemnation and crucifixion to endure.
 - **Pour out** whatever gratitude is in your heart to acknowledge his total self-giving love.

c. Because of him, we who are terribly poor have been made wonderfully rich!

- **Praise God** for the rich blessings we have in Christ (e.g. from Eph 1) chosen to be holy and blameless, predestined for adoption, redemption through his blood, forgiveness, God's rich grace lavished on us, his will to make Christ Lord of all made known to us.
- **Pray** we will feel this generosity poured on us, and we will be eternally and increasingly grateful.
- **Pray against** taking his grace for granted.
- **Pray** we can be constantly praising him!

2. Please help us not to love money which is so dangerous!

"6...godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 8 But if we have food and clothing we will be content with that. 9 People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil ...command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment" (1 Tim 6:6-18)

a. People who want to get rich, fall into temptation and a trap!

- **Pray for God** to sensitise us to the dangers of wanting to be rich.
- **Ask him** to have mercy on us and change our hearts towards money.
- **Ask him** to help us be content when we have food and clothing.
- **Ask him** to show us now if we are discontent when we have all we need, and ask his help to repent of this dangerous silliness.

b. the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil

- **Ask God's help** not to love money, but to love him and to trust his provision.
- **Pray** we can feel secure because He is our God, not because of the money we have.
- **Pray that our decisions** are not about getting richer but about loving and serving him and **pray we can use our money** to help other people, not merely to help ourselves.
- **Pray for opportunities** to share what we have rather than to increase what we have.

c. we must *hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment*

- **Thank God** for making us to enjoy everything he gives.

- **Thank him** that we don't have to be miserable and poor because we are Christian, but are blessed by him.
- **Thank him** for the many material blessings he gives – food, clothing, shelter, sofas, cushions, curtains, warmth and heating, transport ...
- **Ask God** to help us look to him for things we need, not just to money.

3. Please help us to find more blessing in giving than receiving!

³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said, **“It is more blessed to give than to receive”** (Acts 20:34-35)

a. “It more blessed to give than to receive”!

- **Ask God** for help to see that putting others first with our resources is beautiful and Christ-like.
- **Pray** we pursue the blessing of giving more than the blessing of receiving.
- Realising the revolution our hearts need, **cry out to God** for the freedom of generosity.
- **Ask God** to help us see those he would have us give to.
- **Pray** we could feel more excited by a big request for help than a big cheque in the post, since giving is more of a blessing!

b. Paul worked hard to be able to help others

- **Ask God to help us** live and work not just for ourselves but for others.
- **Pray God** would help us enjoy hard work for what we can give, not to make ourselves richer.
- **Praise God** that he knows our hearts and is at work to change us in ways we can't change ourselves.
- **Pray our church** can resist the pressure to get richer and more comfortable and **give itself** for the benefit of those who are still weak without Christ.

4. Please help us give what this project needs!

The elders of our church are leading us to invest in a building in which more people can hear the gospel and grow as Christians for years to come. Jesus builds his church out of people, and if this building would help in that then he will help us to pay for it!

- **Praise God for the building we already have**, and for the fruitful work already done here.

- **Pray** for wisdom as the experts continue to hone our understanding of costs and funding options with possible developer partners.
- **Pray** that God who knows everything would help each of us to give what he is giving us to give.
- **Pray that the total by 31st January would be enough!**
- **Pray** for our Treasurer who will handle the gifts and pledges for accuracy and diligence in processing our responses, and **for wisdom** as the total is considered against the funding need.
- **Pray that God will give us the building for the glory of Jesus, the salvation of the lost, and for the joy and blessing in giving to him and the community.**

5. Please guide all future steps for this project

If the building is able to proceed,

- **Pray** we will be thankful to God always for all that he enables.
- **Pray for wisdom** for those who will handle the final design, funding, tendering, contracting, and project management processes.
- **Pray for the plans** to find alternative accommodation for the many ministries the church will need during the demolition and rebuild.
- **Pray for the conversion** of those non-Christians who work on the project in any way e.g. contractors, builders, decorators, contacts at our temporary accommodation etc...Pray we can share Christ with them.
- **Pray for positive engagement from the local community** – ask that we would be good neighbours during the building works, mainly by sharing the gospel with them.
- **Pray the building is filled** with the sound of the gospel. **Pray we will “proclaim it clearly, as we should.”** (Col 4) And the **pray the building fills** with lost sheep who can find their loving shepherd who loves them with such great compassion that he gave his life for them.
- **Pray that in the praying and the giving and the thinking and the planning and the building and the opening and all that then happens here, there will be glory for Jesus Christ:**

Finish by saying together:

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever, Amen (Eph 3:20-21)