

## **Praying Through Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11**

Sovereign Lord, Your Spirit rested on the prophets of the Old Testament. Your Spirit filled John the Baptist before he was born. Your Spirit anointed Your Son when John baptized Him, and He manifested that fact throughout His servant ministry and preaching. As believers in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we praise You and thank You that this same Holy Spirit indwells us and enables us to do many of the things Jesus did. Empower us, guide us, and help us meet the needs of others as Jesus showed us how when He blessed and taught Your people on earth.

Sovereign Lord, Supreme Ruler over all creation, many of Your people are mourning today because of abuse and affliction, disease and death, unjust punishments and evil persecutions. Comfort all who mourn and make us instruments of Your peace. Lord Jesus, come again quickly and make all things right in Your sight.

Sovereign Lord, we have seen many of Isaiah's prophecies fulfilled in history. Through Your Son, establish justice on earth according to the Scriptures. Inspire us to love justice as You do and also hate all unrighteousness. May we see many of the fruits of the new covenant that Jesus Christ established through His blood, and may many people turn to Him in faith and repentance in order to live a new life in Your presence forever.

Sovereign Lord, King of the universe, we delight and rejoice in You and Your salvation, even as we continue to

struggle in this broken world. Thank You for clothing us in the righteousness of Jesus Christ so we can stand unashamed in Your presence before a watching world ever ready to condemn us for the slightest failings. We pray that through our faithfulness and Your gracious work through us that Your righteousness will spring up before all nations and justice will prevail in all human endeavors and relationships. Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray](#): Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer, Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.