

## **Praying Through Joel 2:12-13, 18-19, 28-32**

### **International Bible Lesson**

#### **L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.**

Dear God, we praise and glorify Your Name for You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Throughout eternity past, present, and future You have and will abound in love and be gracious and compassionate. You are slow to anger and always just and merciful. In righteous judgment, You may bring calamity as punishment for sin. Yet, you invite us with an honest invitation to return to You with all our heart in sincere repentance for our sins. You are ever ready to forgive us and willing to relent from sending calamity.

Lord Jesus, we do not deserve Your pity, but You came into the world and gave Your life to save us from our sins. You know us better than we know ourselves; still, You graciously call us to come to You so You can bless us more than enough to satisfy us fully. We praise and thank You Lord Jesus for being our Savior, and for pouring out Your Spirit upon us so we can be Your good and faithful servants and friends. Help us better use Your gifts to us. Enable us to warn the negligent and rebellious of a promised coming day of the Lord, a day of final judgment, a day marked with wonders in the heavens and on the earth. Prepare us and lead us to those You have prepared so we can share with them the good news of Your coming and saving work. Help us proclaim the good news to them with confidence, and may they have the assurance that everyone who calls on the Name of the Lord will be saved; so by Your grace they will come to saving faith in You. With full trust in Your Name, we pray. 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.