Praying Through 2 Chronicles 7:1-10

International Bible Lesson

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Lord God, thank You for revealing yourself in creation and in history in a variety of ways. Thank You for explaining in the Bible Your decisions when You have acted in the lives of Abraham, Moses, the prophets, some of the kings of Israel, and supremely in Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose again to save us from our sins. Thank You for showing Moses and the Hebrews with fire that You dwelt with them in the tabernacle. Thank You for showing King Solomon and the Israelites with fire that You dwelt with them in the temple that King Solomon consecrated and dedicated for worshiping You. Thank You for dwelling with Jesus' disciples when Jesus the Messiah walked upon the earth and thank You for coming to dwell within Jesus' disciples when flames of fire appeared above their heads on the Day of Pentecost. Lord, we praise, thank, and honor You for You are good and Your love endures forever. We love You more each day because You dwell within us as followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We pray that Your love and truth would burn within our hearts in a way that would inspire us to obey the Scriptures and trust in Your Holy Spirit as Your faithful servants.

O God, when the feast days ended, the Israelites returned to their homes with glad and joyful hearts. But even as King Solomon and the Israelites began well with the assurance of Your goodness, enduring love, and presence with them, they did not end well. They fell into idolatry and refusing to repent suffered Your discipline. O God, we do not want to follow in their footsteps; and if we sin, we do not want to remain unrepentant. If we need Your discipline to repent, we pray that You will help us repent quickly and bring glory to Your Name. Grant us a deeper love for You, for Your Word of Truth, and for the Holy Spirit who indwells us; so if we sin, we will immediately acknowledge our sin, confess our sin, repent of our sin, turn back to Jesus Christ and with sorrowful hearts ask Him to save us from sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Lord Jesus, You alone can save us from sinning, and we humbly ask for Your help so we can grow closer, more obedient, more loving, and more faithful to You each day. 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.