



More Than *Conquerors*

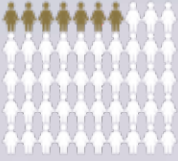
**Six Weeks of Prayer for Ohio,
the Unborn, and Women**

Foreword by Alistair Begg



Abortion by the Numbers

In Ohio in 2021...

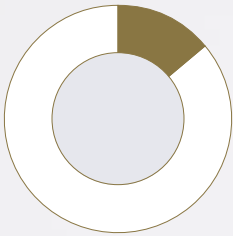


21,813 abortions were performed, which equals **13.7%** of all pregnancies¹

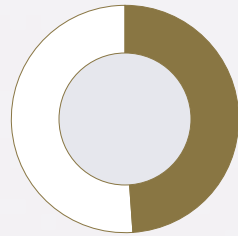


An abortion occurred every **24 minutes**

57 abortions were performed on girls **15 years old or younger**²



12.4% of Ohio's Population is African American³



49% of abortions were performed on African American women²

1. Johnston, W. R. (2023, January 15). *Historical Abortion Statistics, Ohio (USA)*. Retrieved April 11, 2023, from <http://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/usa/ab-usa-OH.html>
2. Ohio Department of Health (2022). *Induced Abortions in Ohio, 2021*.
3. Staff, A. C. (2022, March 7). *Ohio population climbs 2.3% from 2010 to 2020*. Census.gov. Retrieved April 14, 2023, from <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/state-by-state/ohio-population-change-between-census-decade.html>

More Than Conquerors

Six Weeks of Prayer for Ohio, the Unborn, and Women

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Contributors: Mike and Lindsay Andrews, Aaron and Maria Baer,
Claire Dyson, Nilani Jawahar, and Grace Rose.

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Introduction

Aaron Baer, President,
Center for Christian Virtue

History was made on June 24, 2022, when the United States Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 court case that allowed for upwards of 60 million unborn children to lose their lives at the hands of the abortion industry.

After nearly 50 years of prayer, activism, and litigation, God moved mightily to deliver this victory.

But following the ruling, the abortion industry began a well-funded, nationwide political campaign to put legal abortion up until birth, without parental consent, in state constitutions through ballot initiatives.

Their campaign has been lethally effective. And they're coming to Ohio next. They plan to put abortion on our ballot on November 7, 2023.

The stakes couldn't be higher. If this constitutional amendment passes, upwards of 30,000 unborn children could lose their lives every year, and untold numbers of young girls and women will be harmed by the abortion industry.

Throughout time, in moments of crisis, God uses a chosen generation of Christians to push back against the darkness and overcome grave injustices. **You and I are a part of the generation He has placed in Ohio today to fight this dangerous and deadly abortion amendment.**

I've seen the polling, and the hard political reality is that defeating this initiative will be incredibly difficult due to the abortion industry's financial advantage. Practically speaking, the only way we can hope to win is if Ohio Christians rise up to take action like never before.

This starts in prayer.

Some believe prayer is a passive thing. But you can only think this if you don't believe we serve an all-powerful God who is alive and moving in our lives. Prayer **is** action. Furthermore, rightly understood, prayer should **lead** us to further powerful and strategic action.

As CCV organizes and empowers Ohio Christians to speak out against this abortion initiative, we wanted to start by calling the Church to pray.

That's why we composed this prayer devotional. The six-week structure honors Ohio's Heartbeat Law, which prohibits abortion at the moment an unborn child's heartbeat can be detected—generally around the sixth week of pregnancy.

Our hope is that you, your family, your small group, and your church would join us in kicking off this campaign to protect the innocent by earnestly seeking the Lord in prayer.

A note on praying:

For years, I struggled to get into a consistent rhythm of daily prayer. But over time, the Holy Spirit revealed it was because I fundamentally misunderstood prayer as transactional—a spiritual ATM by which I made deposits and withdrawals—rather than a gift of communion with God.

Prayer is an invitational interaction with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to transform and renew our hearts and minds through reflection, glorification, and engagement with Jesus Christ, and with His commandments, beauty, and sacrifice.

It's why I believe so deeply in praying Scripture, and why for each week in this book, we provided one short devotional per week, with Bible verses on the theme to guide our prayers each day. When you read the daily scripture, I encourage you to reflect not only on the promise or commandment in the passage, but primarily on what the passage teaches you about the heart of God, especially in the light that He choose to communicate this specific thought to you through the Bible.

Every morning when I pray, I find it helpful to structure my prayer time around the acronym ACTS. I start with Adoration, then Confession, then Thanksgiving, and Supplication (prayer requests). I encourage you to resist the temptation to jump straight into supplication, or even confession. Start with basking in the glory of God and adoring Him, and allowing this light to lead you into what you should be offering to the Lord in prayer.

My friends, let us not become discouraged by the perilous state of our culture. Instead, let's be encouraged that God has called you and me to Ohio *for such a time as this*. What's more let's trust the promise that although the mountain we have to climb to defeat this abortion amendment and save 30,000 lives every year is massive, *with God, all things are possible*.

Foreword

Alistair Begg, Senior Pastor,
Parkside Church

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. — Luke 18:1 (NIV)

The widow in the parable who represents the poor, needy, and oppressed kept coming to the judge who neither respected God or man. Although he is reluctant to grant her justice, he eventually accedes to her request so that she won't come back. Persistence is her only asset, and she makes full use of it.

Jesus then makes his point. If an unjust judge finally grants the woman's request, how much more will God hear the prayers of his people. The comparison is between the reluctance of the unjust judge and the willing generosity of God our heavenly father. Instead of losing heart Jesus encourages us to pray persistently for justice. He closes the parable with a question: "When the Son of man returns, will he find faith on the earth?" The kind of faith that **asks** in the confidence that we will receive, **seeks** believing we will find, and **knocks** expecting the door will be opened.

Jesus then argues from the lesser to the greater. If your son asked for bread, you would not give him a stone. So, if you know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven, give good things to those who ask him.

When we pray, we place matters in God's hands, we express our dependence upon Him and we say: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We can do more than pray, but only after we have prayed and not until! We have yet to see what God will do in response to the six weeks of prayer that are about to begin. It is imperative that we exhort and encourage each other so that we do not miss this opportunity.

In Shakespeare's Julius Caesar, Brutus says to Cassius:

*There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which taken at the flood leads on to fortune.
Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and miseries.*

He is urging action fearing that to delay may end in defeat.

The history of the 20th century would have been vastly different were it not for the call to prayer that was issued in the face of tyranny. In May 1940, when France had fallen and the British army was trapped at Dunkirk, King George VI called for a National Day of Prayer to plead for divine intervention. In response, people flocked to churches in their thousands to pray. At the end of the war when Field Marshall Montgomery thanked his troops, he ended his remarks by quoting Psalm 118:23: “This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.”

I do not mean to suggest that there is an equivalence between that battle in Britain and the fight to save the lives of women and children in Ohio, except in this respect: that in both cases, as Paul reminds us, “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Spiritual warfare calls for spiritual weaponry and in Scripture and prayer we are given divine power to tear down strongholds. William Cowper, the 18th century English poet and hymn writer, reminds us:

*Restraining prayer we cease to fight
Prayer makes the Christian’s armor bright
And Satan trembles when he sees
The weakest saint upon their knees.*

Prayer is the frontline of the battle, and the trenches need to be filled by the brave and the faithful. I have found that if I wait until I “feel like praying,” I don’t pray very much. I am also tempted to assume that others are taking up the challenge and my absence won’t be missed. That is never the case.

In the book of Esther, we find that she was tempted to keep silent in the face of injustice and was stirred to action by the thought-provoking word from Mordecai: “Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” Esther committed herself and enlisted “all the Jews in Susa” to stand with her in prayer. I have been enlisted in this venture by the encouragement of others, and now I write to encourage you.

I hope we are agreed that, as we have acknowledged, this battle is not ultimately political but spiritual. It is between light and darkness, truth and lies, heaven and hell. *In Jesus, we are more than conquerors.* John the apostle writes, “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.”

In the Bible, the devil is the instigator of sin and sorrow. In fact, the word “devil” comes from a Greek root word which means “to throw,” as in the sense of throwing out slanderous statements. The word “satan,” meanwhile can be translated as “adversary” and can convey the sense of someone lying in ambush. He is the deceiver, the accuser, the liar, and the hinderer. He is a powerful foe—but he is also a defeated one.

The very real power of the Evil One should only ever be considered in light of the victory of the Lord Jesus. The devil has been chained to the cross of Christ. On that chain he snarls and roars and grabs for us, but nevertheless, his works will be destroyed by Christ.

In this battle for the lives of mothers and the unborn, we need to take courage from the fact that Satan does not have the final say. He plays his moves upon the board, but he cannot escape the fact that checkmate has been settled at the cross of Christ. We must let that fact enable us to stand firm against the devil’s schemes and run to Christ for forgiveness when we have succumbed to his lies.

At the end of the day, ***we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*** So let’s end where we began, heeding the words of Jesus, by praying instead of fainting, and by taking hold of his promises rather than losing heart, remembering:

*We are to pray in times of adversity,
lest we become faithless and unbelieving.
We are to pray in times of prosperity,
lest we become boastful and proud.
We are to pray in times of danger,
lest we become fearful and doubting.
We are to pray in times of security,
lest we become self-sufficient.*

Week 1

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made

For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. — Psalm 139:13-15

Before the invention of Sonar during World War I, scientists believed the ocean floor was flat and featureless. It wasn't until the 1920s that oceanographers had collected enough evidence forcing them to admit there was more to the sea floor's story—there were canyons, cliffs, mountain ranges, and deep trenches.

Many thousands of years prior, King David wrote a Psalm, praising the Lord for protecting him from his pursuer, Saul. Psalm 18 raises passionate worship to a Mighty Protector, a “rock” and “fortress” whose very breath made the earth “tremble and shake.” In fact, in the smoke of this Protector's wrath,

the channels of the sea were seen, and the foundations of the world were laid bare at your rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of your nostrils. (Psalm 18:15)

How could King David know, thousands of years before sonar and deep-sea mapping technology, that there were “valleys” under the sea? The Holy Spirit, who inspired this Psalm, knew. Because the Lord knows the world He made.

That means He knows you. He doesn't just know about you—the color of your eyes, your quirky sense of humor, your small inner anxieties and hopes. Just like He knew about the extravagant topography of the ocean floor long before we did, He knows you better than you might even know yourself. He knows how you are made and why you are made. He knows the hairs on your head, the number of your days, and the purpose for which He made you.

The same is true for every human being. That's the thing about Psalm 139—it is not an exclusive Psalm. The story it tells is not contingent on who is telling it. Just as sure as we can know that every human person comes from a mother's womb, we can know that it is the Lord alone who knits every person together. It is only the Lord's care, His attention, His creativity and artistry, and deep love that could make something like us, with our impossibly intricate biological processes and our billions of different faces and thought patterns and personalities that never repeat.

But we aren't only known by Him. In being known, we are also loved.

If God knows and loves everything He makes, we are wrapped into the love of God even while we are in our mother's womb, where He knits us together. Jesus died for those who are even today in their mother's womb. Each of us has inherent dignity and purpose from that moment onward; and though we can be physically killed, the love He has for us from that moment never can.

Let us pray for God to be a "rock," a "fortress," a "Mighty Protector" over the children He is knitting together, even this very moment, in their mothers' wombs. Let us thank Him for His deep love for us, and His awe-inspiring creativity with which He brings more people into the world.

Sunday ~ Psalm 8:1-4

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

Monday ~ Matthew 21:16

And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise'?"

Tuesday ~ Psalm 127:3-5

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

Wednesday ~ Mark 10:15-16

“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Thursday ~ Matthew 18:3-5

“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me...”

Friday ~ Ecclesiastes 11:5

As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

Saturday ~ Psalm 82:3-4

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Week 2

Refuge and Strength

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. — Psalm 46:1-3

Motherhood is something of a paradox: in a strictly literal sense, it's quite ordinary. But when we get to see it up close—when our spouses or friends or neighbors or even we ourselves bear children—it feels like nothing less than a miracle.

This paradox hints at the weight of motherhood. It is incredibly beautiful. It can also be deeply frightening.

Experiencing pregnancy is a gift and a challenge as women must confront the physical changes of their bodies at the same time as they realize the emotional weight of caring for and nurturing a new baby.

The love often experienced by a mother for her child is so powerful that God uses it as an analogy to describe His heart toward His people in Scripture: “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you,” (Isaiah 49:15) and, “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you” (Isaiah 66:13).

Unfortunately, decades of legalized abortion have implicitly magnified the fears many women face upon becoming pregnant. By suggesting they *must* have the “right” to kill their unborn children, legalized abortion sends a deeply disempowering message: that for some women, pregnancy really *is* too scary. That caring for our children really *is* too hard. That some women are just *too weak* to do it.

And legal abortion gives cover to the countless boyfriends, husbands, or abusers who have pressured, coerced, or even threatened mothers into having an abortion.

The fruit of all these lies is death. Jesus tells a different story:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28–30).

As a Savior who knows our sufferings, Jesus knows the conflicted emotions that often follow a woman into motherhood. He also knows that each woman to whom He gifts a child is strong enough to care for her children, because *He made her strong enough*. He also doesn't ask her to do it alone: He also made *fathers*. And He calls His Church to “bear one another's burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

Pray this week that the Lord would strengthen every new mom, from the moment her pregnancy begins and throughout her children's lives. Pray that He would convict fathers to love, support, and take responsibility for the children they have helped create. Pray that His Church would heed the call to bear one another's burdens, in love and unity, from that first ultrasound onward through the laughs, tears, pains, and every conflicting emotion that accompanies the miracle of motherhood.

Sunday ~ Psalm 37:39–40

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. The LORD helps them and delivers them; he delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they take refuge in him.

Monday ~ Psalm 91:1–2

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

Tuesday ~ Isaiah 25:4

For you have been a stronghold to the poor, a stronghold to the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat...

Wednesday ~ Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

Thursday ~ Isaiah 41:13

For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Friday ~ Isaiah 40:28-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Saturday ~ John 16:33

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Week 3

Hear from Heaven

Then the LORD said, “I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey...” – Exodus 3:7-8

American culture is captivated by instant gratification. As our attention spans have waned, so has our ability to *wait*; to endure moments of discomfort and distress; even to understand why sometimes we *shouldn't* get everything we want the moment we want it.

In such a culture, patient and persistent prayer to the God of the Universe is a radical idea. Prayer is stillness. Prayer takes time. Prayer requires honesty and, even sometimes, discomfort. Prayer acknowledges that we are not in control.

Through prayer, Christians are invited to “humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Not only is prayer counter-cultural to those outside the Church; often it's misunderstood inside. Prayer is not a *moment* that we decide to spend in God's presence, as if He lives in *our* world. Rather, prayer is a moment in which we discipline our hearts to focus on God's constant presence.

Through prayer, we worship Him. Through that worship, we tune our hearts to His goodness. We remind ourselves of who He is, and of the gift of knowing and trusting Him. And yes, we bring him our supplications—because that is what Jesus told us to do when He said to pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done (Matthew 6:10).

When our hearts are attuned to the goodness of God through prayer, we should have confidence that His will can become our will, too. When, in

our prayers, we “agree” with God’s will, the Bible offers reason for great confidence that He will answer, because “The LORD is near to all who call on Him” (Psalm 145:18).

Praying for the protection of preborn babies in a culture captivated by instant gratification, the worship of “individualism” and a growing disdain for the value of human life can feel like a futile endeavor. But let us remember, again, how God delivered his people from slavery in Egypt. Exodus 3 contains five of the most radical words in all of Scripture: “I have heard their cries.” And because He heard those cries, with a “mighty hand and an outstretched arm” (Deuteronomy 26:8), He brought justice.

Pray this week, with confidence in His goodness and His deliverance, that God would hear the cries of His people for the protection of new life. Pray that He would turn the hearts of mothers toward their children and away from fear, and that He would thwart all plans of the Enemy to persist in building a culture of death. Pray that His justice would “roll down like waters” (Amos 5:24). Pray that His kingdom would come, where every human life, no matter how new or small or “planned,” is valued and protected. Pray that His will would be done.

Sunday ~ 2 Kings 6:15-17

When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?” He said, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire...

Monday ~ Psalm 20:6-7

Now I know that the LORD saves his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with the saving might of his right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

Tuesday ~ Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Wednesday ~ 1 Chronicles 16:10-12

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice! Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles and the judgments he uttered...

Thursday ~ Psalm 37:4-7

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him...

Friday ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Saturday ~ 1 John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Week 4

Chief Among Sinners

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. – 1 Timothy 1:15

It's easy to underestimate the corrupting force of sin in our own lives. Sin warps the way we think and react moment by moment, and it blinds us to the reality of the world around us.

It's the reason Christ didn't merely call his followers to change their behavior or try to think differently. He called them to *crucify* their old lives.

"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matthew 16:24–25)

"Dying to self" is a complete transformation. While we are washed clean and made blameless the moment we profess faith in Christ as Lord, the process of purging the sin from our life is lifelong.

This process should also lead us to reflect on how our own sin has been shaped by and contributed to the brokenness of our culture. As people devoted to the Kingdom of God and immersed in His Word, Christians are often uniquely attuned to notice and condemn the evil and brokenness in the world around us.

But we're not innocent bystanders. Our guilt is ever before us (Psalm 51), and it's only by the grace of God that we have been made clean.

As we pray for God to protect Ohio from a dangerous and deadly abortion constitutional amendment, it's important we step back and reflect on why it's even a risk that our state would pass an amendment to legalize the taking of unborn life up until birth.

Take time this week to first and foremost meditate on the goodness of the Lord, His perfect commandments, and the mercy poured out on us sinners through Christ's death and resurrection. In the piercing light of God's holiness, pray for God to reveal the sin in your own life that may contribute to the sin in our culture.

Maybe you've not participated in abortion, or maybe you don't struggle with sexual sin, but as we rise to oppose this ballot issue, we should pursue being holy and pure vessels for the Holy Spirit to move mightily through us to save lives in our state and nation.

Because of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and ascension, this week, "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Pray for the Holy Spirit's help to set your iniquities before God and reveal any secret sins in the light of His presence (Psalm 90:8).

Sunday ~ James 4:4-8

You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

Monday ~ Psalm 38:18

I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

Tuesday ~ Isaiah 44:22

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you.

Wednesday ~ Proverbs 28:9

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

Thursday ~ 2 Corinthians 7:10

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

Friday ~ Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

Saturday ~ Ezekiel 18:21-23

But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Week 5

Blessed is the Nation

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! — Psalm 33:12

A day is coming when believers “from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages” (Revelation 7:9) will stand before the throne of Heaven worshiping God in perfect unity. Our voices will join with others in unceasing praise: “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,” (Revelation 7:10) and “Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen” (Revelation 7:12).

Through the Holy Spirit, Christians live out the reality that currently “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28). However, we long for Christ to return and completely and eternally establish the New Jerusalem with no divisions among His chosen people.

In the waiting, our present reality is lived out within the geographic boundaries and time periods that God has sovereignly ordained for us. “And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” (Acts 17:26).

That we are in the state of Ohio in the United States of America in 2023 is not a coincidence or an accident. God has placed us in this unique place at this unique time for a unique purpose.

While our ultimate citizenship is in Heaven (Philippians 3:20), we are called to “seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare” (Jeremiah 29:7).

Our nation today is plagued by all manner of wickedness—including abortion. Standing against the prevailing cultural headwinds in defense

of the unborn and their mothers is never easy. But the resulting slander and hatred are not new for Christ and His followers (John 15:18-19).

Instead of reacting in kind, Christians “do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing” (1 Peter 3:9).

Even while contending with our ideological opponents about the reality and dignity of life in the womb and the many ways abortion harms and endangers women, we must show and share the love of Jesus. To know Him and to be known by Him is the greatest blessing anyone could ever receive.

This week, pray for revival in our land. Ask God to soften hearts that have been hardened against Him. Pray that He would bless our nation and make America a country where people willfully choose to do what is right.

Sunday ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

...if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Monday ~ 1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Tuesday ~ Galatians 5:14

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Wednesday ~ Leviticus 18:3-5

You shall not do as they do in the land of Egypt, where you lived, and you shall not do as they do in the land of Canaan, to which I am bringing you. You shall not walk in their statutes. You shall follow my rules and keep my statutes and walk in them. I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD.

Thursday ~ 1 Peter 2:11-12

Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Friday ~ Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Saturday ~ Psalm 67:1-3

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

Week 6

With God All Things Are
Possible

But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” – Matthew 19:26

The disciple Peter witnessed first-hand many of Jesus’ most incredible miracles during his earthly ministry. He saw Him cast out demons (Mark 1:21-27). He saw Him feed five thousand families with only five loaves of bread and two fish (Matthew 14:16-21). He even watched as Jesus, in His physical body, walked on water (Matthew 14:25).

Surely witnessing such power gave Peter a strong faith, as evidenced in Peter’s actions immediately after seeing Jesus walk on water: he asked for the invitation to do the same:

And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” (Matthew 14:28-29)

So Peter took a step, then another. His faith buoyed him—he had already seen Jesus intervene upon the laws of nature for good ends; and after all, doesn’t it make perfect sense that the One who made the laws of nature can do with them what He wills?

But a few steps later, Peter began doubt that Jesus could sustain him. He believed more in the likelihood that he would flail beneath the waves than the assurance from Christ that he could walk on top of them.

Too often, we, like Peter, succumb to the fear of what we can see instead of responding with faith—which by definition is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Our default seems to be to trust what is visible before us rather than to fix our eyes on the truth that “[God] can do all things, and that no purpose of [His] can be thwarted” (Job 42:2).

Jesus told his followers—that includes us!—to pray for the Father’s will to be done. We know that His will for every human being that He creates in their mothers’ wombs is for that human being to be protected, to be

treated with the dignity their personhood demands, and to come to know and worship Him. But the political battle to continue our nation's bloody legacy of legalized abortion seems daunting.

However, just as Jesus' words had the power to command even the storm-tossed seas, God "is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power that is at work in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Overcoming a powerful, multimillion-dollar political campaign is impossible by our strength alone. Yet, with God all things are possible.

This week, pray boldly knowing that we worship the one true God of the Universe, a good, kind God who is able to do anything He wills. Pray that the abortion ballot initiative is resoundingly defeated in Ohio and serves as a springboard to topple similar initiatives nationwide. Pray also that the Lord will soften hearts to see the deadly reality of abortion and cause a culture of life, in which abortion is not only illegal but unthinkable, to spread throughout our country.

Sunday ~ Jeremiah 32:17

Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

Monday ~ Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear...

Tuesday ~ Mark 9:23-24

And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Wednesday ~ Proverbs 19:21

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

Thursday ~ Hebrews 6:17-20

So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf...

Friday ~ Colossians 1:10-11

...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy...

Saturday ~ Romans 8:31-32

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

BE A **VOTE** FOR THE VOICELESS

Ohio's 2023 elections will have a generational impact on how we value and protect life in our state. Following the landmark decision last summer that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the radical abortion industry led by Planned Parenthood is attempting to get voters to approve an amendment in the Ohio Constitution that would legalize abortion up to birth.

A special election in August will allow Ohioans to vote on elevating the threshold to amend our state Constitution from a simple majority (50 percent plus one vote) to 60 percent of the vote. The higher threshold would safeguard Ohio's governing document from outside influences, including the abortion industry.

Center for Christian Virtue is leading the drive to make sure Christians are registered, ready, and informed to vote. But we need your pledge to reach our goals: **a turnout of 500,000 Christian voters at the polls and 50,000 new Christian voters registered for the election on Tuesday, August 8.**

Take the pledge at **CCV.org/Pledge** then tell your friends, family, and church members to do the same!

I PLEDGE to not be silenced.

I PLEDGE to stand up for unborn children and their mothers.

I PLEDGE to vote.

CCV.org/Pledge

In all these
things we are
more than
CONQUERORS
through Him
who loved us.

Romans 8:37

Center FOR
Christian
Virtue



Public Policy. Engagement. Education.

To learn more about how you can get involved, visit CCV.org