



Advent 2017

Prayers of Confession for Advent

by Scotty Smith

I.

Dear heavenly Father, as we begin the season of Advent, we rejoice in the gift of Your Son, Jesus–Immanuel, God with us and God for us. Even as we trust in His finished work, we long for the fullness of Jesus’ kingdom. Until that Day...

Grant us power to grow in the love of Christ. For we are weak, and foolishly prone to look to people, places and things to fill us up. Grant us grace to mature in the likeness of Jesus. For we are broken, and we cannot change our hearts, left to our own resources. Grant us joy in living to the praise of Your glory. For we are deceived, and we spend too much energy living for comfort and the approval of people. Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on me. In Jesus’ loving and trustworthy name we pray. Amen

II.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we begin the season of Advent with the brokenness of the world in our eyes, the cries of our neighbors in our ears, and the reality of our sin in our hearts. Thus, we look to Jesus–the author and perfecter of our faith; sacrifice and priest of our salvation; Lord and restorer of all things. By Your grace, and for Your glory, forgive our sins and renew our hearts. Help us to move through a worldly holiday of excess unto a worshipful Advent and Christmas. Help us to love as You love us, forgive as we’ve been forgiven, and freely give as we have freely received. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



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A Prayer for Orienting Our Hearts During Advent (Cont.)

III.

Dear heavenly Father, with the angels, we shout loud praises over the birth of Jesus; with the shepherds, we respond with joy for the gift of a Savior; with Mary, we treasure and ponder this good news in our hearts. You have been faithful to fulfill ancient prophecies and Your covenant promises. Because of Jesus' finished work, we now live in Your perpetual favor; and because of Spirit's ongoing work, we now humble ourselves before You.

We confess our sins to You: Forgive us for attitudes and actions that misrepresent You, contradict Your grace, and sabotage love. Forgive us speaking words that brought harm and shame, and for withholding words that bring healing and hope. Forgive us for spending so much time and energy on ourselves and trifles, and so little time with You and on the things that matter the most. We offer our prayer, humbly, in Jesus' name. Amen