

## Prayer Guide: First Friday Fast 2020 December 4



### *So That... Two Words That Will Revolutionize Your Praying*

As we come to our final First Friday Fast of 2020, a fair question: **Why** have we been fasting and praying in 2020? We know by now **what**, our five prayer prompts for the year:

- **Denominee Process and Future Team** — *Seeking His future for Ohio Baptists*
- **Church Revitalization** — *Seeking His plan for the church*
- **Church Planting** — *Seeking His places for church plants*
- **Pastors and Leaders** — *Seeking His favor for pastors, leaders, and their families*
- **Awakening** — *Seeking supernatural gospel impact in Ohio and beyond*

Today, we remind ourselves of the **why**. In his longest recorded prayer (**John 17**) Jesus uses “so that” or variations of it at least nine times. You can find the phrase frequently in Paul’s prayers. **So that** causes us to ask, why am I asking for this in prayer? We pause to examine the desires and motivations for our requests. Phil Miglioratti states, “The “so that” of prayer must eventually get to bring God glory, or I have no right to ask for it in prayer.”

Does that mean that any personal prayer request is selfish and shouldn’t be asked? Certainly not, we are taught to ask, “for our daily bread.” However, **so that** praying expresses our motivation.

When you ask that you, your child, or grandchild do well, is it **so that** everything I/he/she does will glorify Jesus... **so that** however it goes, well or poorly in my sight, I/he/she may become all He made me/him/her to be?

When you ask for a person to be healed, is it **so that** he/she might continue to walk with Jesus, **so that** he/she might continue to share the gospel for His name’s sake, **so that** the doctors, nurses, and caregivers would see Jesus’ hand at work, **so that** He will receive all the glory?

**So that** is not a trick to get Jesus to answer our prayer, but a desire to see Jesus move in such a way that His kingdom, power, and glory are made known, from our neighbors to the nations. It is a Biblical way to make my prayer and focus on Jesus and His purposes. As you pray today, try adding **so that** to every request and see how it revolutionizes your prayer!

Because our First Friday Fast for December comes during the [Week of Prayer for International Missions](#) and the [Lottie Moon Christmas Offering](#), our focus will be on the IMB vision statement, **Revelation 7:9-10**, we pray *so that there will be*:

*...a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ... And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb.*

### Read **Revelation 5:8-14**

List all the reasons you see that **Jesus is worthy**

Here are two to get you started:

*Because Jesus went to the cross*

*...Jesus purchased us with His blood*

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*“The only enduring motive for prayer is that God is worthy to be sought.”*

— Daniel Henderson

### **So that...**

Read **Isaiah 56:7-8** *“I will bring them to my holy mountain and let them rejoice in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for **my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations**. This is the declaration of the Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel: **I will gather to them still others besides those already gathered.**”*  
(Emphasis added)

Spend time praising Jesus for His love for all people, that all might be saved, including **you!**

List those you are praying for by name for salvation:

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**1 Timothy 2:3-4** *“This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

**So that...**

The IMB celebrates this year 175 years of **uninterrupted** gospel witness among the nations. This witness that continues today even in a pandemic. Since 1845 the SBC has had an **uninterrupted** witness among the nations! But the “every” and the “all” of **Revelation 7:9-10** are not yet complete. Find out if your church has adopted an unreached people group and pray for them. (For more information about identifying and praying for unreached people groups, go to: [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org)) Are there those for whom you are “wrestling for in your prayers?” (**Colossians 4:12-13**) “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, **plead** with the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” **Luke 10:2** (NASB)

The unreached people group I will pray for today is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
For more information about adopting a people group, contact Eleanor Witcher, IMB Prayer Office [EWitcher@imb.org](mailto:EWitcher@imb.org)

**So that... we may attempt still larger things**

Dr. Paul Chitwood shared at our annual meeting:

*From the years 1918-1920, a global pandemic, known as the Spanish Flu, infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide (about 1/3 of the world’s population at the time), killing at least 50 million.*

*In his annual report in 1919, the Foreign Mission Board president, J.F. Love, penned these words to the SBC constituents:*

*“Never in the seventy-four years of this Convention’s history has the Foreign Mission Board offered a report of its work for a year which was more eventful than that which has just closed. The public mind has rarely, if ever, been more distracted, the work of the churches more interrupted, the demands upon the benevolent more numerous or insistent than during the Convention year 1918-19.”*

Sound familiar? Love went on to say:

*“That Southern Baptists have under the conditions responded so nobly to the needs of those whom they have never seen is an encouraging sign of a growing conscience among Southern Baptists for Foreign Missions; AND that amidst all the unwelcome circumstances of the year, with inadequate forces and equipment, the missionaries report a truly successful year’s work accomplished is a token of God’s will that we should, with expectation, **attempt still larger things.**”*

Pray for your family, your church, your association, the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, the North America Mission Board, the International Mission Board and the Southern Baptist Convention — that in **2021** we will **attempt still larger things so that** there will be ...*a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.*



The IMB vision statement, from **Revelation 7:9-10**, describes a multitude from all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages, exuberantly worshiping God together. This is God's call for His church and the missionaries they send. The Cooperative Program is a wonderful way in which churches financially support their state convention and Southern Baptist ministries. Much can be done when churches pool their resources. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO), started in 1918, is unique in that 100% of it goes to support IMB missionaries and their work, not to administrative support. Because of the faithful giving of individuals and churches, missionaries can focus on reaching the lost, ministering to physical needs, discipling young believers, and helping to plant healthy churches. Daily expenses like housing, transportation, and schooling resources are all provided through abundant giving. We are grateful to you for your faithful participation in this vision. Please pray for God's provision and for His wisdom as every dollar given to LMCO is carefully allocated and used in spreading His Word and love. Ask God to inspire churches to engage in God's call through praying, giving, going, and sending.

From the IMB app accessed at [imb.org/pray](http://imb.org/pray) See also the Pray Daily newsletter, and IMB social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#)).

For more information about the [Week of Prayer for International Missions](#) go to [imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering-week-prayer/](http://imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering-week-prayer/)

You can find this and past prayer guides for First Friday Fast 2020 in our Dropbox Showcase (<https://shwca.se/FirstFridayFast2020>). Please note, all the resources in the Showcase will be available for download until January 31, 2021.

For further study in *so that* praying see these resources:

Phil Miglioratti speaks on prayer from John 17 to a pastor's conference  
<https://archive.org/details/PhilMigliorattiSpeaksAtPastorsConferenceNov2009>

*Help from So That Prayers* by David Butts  
<https://www.harvestprayer.com/prayer-faq/help-from-so-that-prayers/>

*Two Words That'll Revolutionize Your Prayer Life* by Amy Groeschel  
<https://finds.life.church/two-words-thatll-revolutionize-prayers/>

Go [HERE](#) to read about our [Challenge '21](#) prayer initiative, praying 21 minutes more daily in 2021. Watch SCBO website and social media for more information.

You also may contact Steve Hopkins  
[SteveHopkins@scbo.org](mailto:SteveHopkins@scbo.org) or 614.601.6820

