



**Canaan Prayer Points
September—November 2022**

The Holy Remnant

Every time Israel was threatened with a major judgement, which would wipe out the greater part of the people, a remnant was to be left – a company of holy, sanctified souls (cf. Isaiah 4:3; 6:13; 10:20ff.; Zephaniah 3:12f.; Romans 11:5). The name “holy remnant” is expressive of the great love of God, who caused a holy remnant to remain every time His judgement descended upon the earth or upon Israel. During the Great Flood He spared Noah and at the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah He spared Lot. The holy remnant is the special object of God’s love.

In the coming judgement everything depends on our belonging to the holy remnant. The sins prior to the Great Flood cannot compare with the sins covering the earth today. Blasphemy, now so rife, probably did not even exist then; nor was sexual perversion so widespread as today.

Unparalleled will be the coming judgement that will overtake the earth. Unless the Lord extends the time of grace a little longer, we have to reckon with it coming soon, when we look and see the laws that go straight against God’s commandments. It is therefore of utmost importance that the Lord can achieve His objective with us so that we might belong to the holy remnant. It is decisive whether we are one of those who battle against their sins in faith and increasingly gain victory in the power of Jesus’ blood, or whether we belong to the many Christians who go on living in bondage to sin.

Therefore, may the Lord place a great burden on our hearts, that the Lord will awaken in each one of us the fervent plea, “Lord, let me belong to the holy remnant. They are the ones who love You. “

To belong to the holy remnant should be our desire – not just for our own sakes, that we might be spared, but for the sake of our heavenly Father so that in the midst of divine judgement He might have the joy of being able to show mercy. What a relief that would be for Him, whose one desire is to show us kindness, help us, protect us, and overwhelm us with love!

Now what are the characteristics of those who belong to the holy remnant? There are three characteristics that are particularly important: firstly *repentance*, secondly *fighting the battle of faith*, and thirdly *total surrender of the will*.

First Characteristic of the Holy Remnant

The first characteristic of the holy remnant is something that we know very well but practise too little, and that is *repentance* – *a contrite and broken heart*. "For this is what the high and majestic One says, the One who fills the eternal realm with glory, whose name is Holy: "I 'dwell in high and holy places but also with the bruised and lowly in spirit, those who are humble and quick to repent. I dwell with them to revive the spirit of the humble, to revive the heart of those who are broken over their sin.'" Isaiah 57:15 TPT

Here we have the bringing together of opposites. The thrice holy God, who dwells in an unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16), comes down and unites Himself with the contrite and humble, who take the lowest place before Him. He even makes His dwelling with them – God with man. Those with a contrite heart and humble spirit belong to the holy remnant. They have no more demands on either God or man. Knowing well what great sinners they are, they have but one desire; that the Lord will grant them grace and forgiveness.

If we are in a state of genuine repentance, the wonderful thing is that Jesus will draw near to us, envelop us in His love, cause His blood to flow over us and gradually change us into His likeness. Every new act of repentance brings us one step closer to God's goal for us.

If we look into our own hearts is this something we want? Do we want others to point out to us what we are like or where we have sinned in our actions, behaviour or words? If we want to belong to the holy remnant, we have to ask ourselves this. The holy remnant consists of sinners. They are willing to be convicted of their sins and to accept judgement. Only if we are willing to accept the fact that we are sinners, can the Lord lead us further towards the goal of spiritual completeness.

Jesus can demonstrate His power most effectively in those with a weak or difficult personality, for then the glory goes to Him when He sets such a person free. Therefore, the most difficult ones have the greatest chance! The Lord will make it a point of honour to demonstrate that He can accomplish His purposes in their lives, too. All things are possible, including the transformation of our personalities. If this were not so, Jesus' act of redemption would be incomplete. In fact, it is complete and eternally valid.

The Second Characteristic

The second characteristic of those who belong to the holy remnant is that *they fight the battle of faith*. This second characteristic also has something to do with sin. They who belong to the holy remnant hate sin. Those who love Jesus will therefore hate sin and battle in faith against it.

There is power in fighting the battle of faith. "Fight the good fight of the faith" (1 Timothy 6:12 NKJV) – that is, divine life, which is stronger than all dejection and these forces that constantly try to get us down.

The battle of faith is imperative for everyone who wants to belong to the holy remnant. We are living in an age when light and darkness are warring against each other, and a great judgement is impending. Only in a state of combat are we able to withstand the attacks of Satan and the forces of death. How are we to experience miracles of God in the midst of judgement if we are utterly dejected and lying defeated on the ground? We can experience miracles only if we have faith. And a sign that our faith is genuine is that we “fight the good fight of faith.”

We must not tire of battling. We need to make a new start continually. And that requires determination. For very often when we fall into a state of dejection, we feel paralysed. But even if we do feel crippled, we can still declare in faith who Jesus is and how great His power is; we can praise Him as the Victor, who has overcome Satan and crushed him beneath His feet.

What a wonderful thing it is that through the battle of faith the dark forces are really overthrown! The power of sin is broken, and Satan is actually forced to yield! We can never praise the love of God enough. It is true that we were born into an age of darkness, and we have to suffer and endure a great deal, but the Lord always provides us with the necessary help.

In His goodness He shows us how to overcome. The Lord Himself suffers immeasurably because of the sins, blasphemies and evil forces rampant in the world today. But in His infinite love He constantly thinks of us - of how to help us through and to prepare us for the hour of judgement that is coming upon all mankind. What a loving Father is our God! We are never forsaken, never abandoned. He has done all He can to help us, and He will continue to do so. He completes all He begins.

The Third Characteristic

The third characteristic of the holy remnant is the *total surrender of the will*. This is something very decisive, perhaps more so than we realise. If we do not submerge our will in the will of God, a barrier is erected between God and us. The will of God reveals the heart of God. And so we cannot belong to the holy remnant if we are always finding objections to this and that, as if nothing ever suits us. For instance, we may find it hard to come to terms with our position in life, family troubles, illness, the fact that we have to live or work with a particular person, or the way God is leading us at the moment. We keep turning the problem over and over in our minds; we cannot sleep at night and we have no peace.

And so you can say that a dividing line runs through the ranks of the believers. There are two groups among them; those who maintain peace in their hearts, and those who don't. The latter are restless, full of anxiety and troubled within themselves. They quickly become over-wrought and embittered. They even rebel against God for allowing things to happen in a certain way, and for supposedly not helping in certain situations, or for placing burdens on them. But only those who have surrendered their will to God are true believers and have peace in their hearts.

A sign that I am truly at one with God is that I can surrender my will unreservedly to Him. Then I am in complete agreement with whatever He does with me, regardless of how He does it and how long it takes. Then my response is always a Yes, even if I have to struggle at first. The decisive factor is that I emerge from my prayers and struggles each time with a Yes. Otherwise, I cannot belong to the holy remnant, for these are souls who are one with Jesus and very close to Him.

And He in turn draws near to them in every distress, for they are the special object of His love.

If we belong to the holy remnant, we are fully surrendered to the will of God, come what may, and no matter how He leads us and deals with us. Then our watchwords are; “Not as I will, but as You will” – “My will belongs to my God.” That is to say, my will is joined closely to the will of God. In whatever form God’s will may come to me, I have but one response; “It is Your will, and because it is Your will it is always good. I love Your will. I don’t really mind if it brings me suffering or joy. I love Your will, for it is a part of You – and You always have the very best intentions concerning me, even if I cannot understand Your leadings straight away. I know for sure that Your will is goodness and loving-kindness. Good are the ways You lead Your own.” What a joy and blessing that we may cling to this assurance in the midst of trouble and grief!

If we are at one with God’s will, we have the peace of God in our hearts, and no one can rob us of that. What a wonderful thing this is in our times when so many people are afflicted with worries and suffering! We have the promise that the peace of God will dwell in us if we love His will.

Yes, we know that what God does is always good, for He is the God who completes the work that He has begun. He brings into our lives only that which will lead us to His goal for us – to be with Him one day above as overcomers, changed into the likeness of the Son. The Lord leads us through troubles and hardships in order to refine us.

Of course, sanctification is a gradual process. It is the end of the pathway paved with the three characteristics of the holy remnant.

Whoever treads this pathway will undergo a transformation and be changed, step by step, into the image of Jesus. This is what God has promised, and so it cannot be otherwise.

Looking unto Jesus

After hearing all this, we might ask, as the disciples once asked the Lord, “Who then can be saved?” (Matthew 19:25 NIV). Who can belong to the holy remnant if such prerequisites are necessary? Everyone can belong; no one is excluded. For whoever has not been treading the pathway marked by these characteristics can begin today. It is not too late. The Lord is still giving us a chance. Today the Lord is inviting us to turn to Him and look unto Him, as it says in Hebrews 12:2,3 (ESV). “...Looking unto Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Jesus is the Author and the Finisher. He accomplishes His purposes in us; He is the One – and not we. He can work this miracle in the lives of each one of us if we are willing. Therefore, let us look away from what seems impossible to us, from our sins and shortcomings, from all that hinders us from belonging to the holy remnant; and let us look unto Jesus, who is intent on completing His work in us.

The wonderful thing is that we can indeed reach the goal of spiritual maturity and gain the victory over all the enemy's attacks. Nothing is impossible, for we have Jesus as a guarantor.

He is the Author and the Finisher. We for our part have only to co-operate and follow the path along which He leads us. It does not matter that we are great sinners. If, before God and man we are willing to acknowledge ourselves as sinners, we shall find that He will lift us out of the depths and draw us to His heart, and in heaven above we shall be close to Him.

As God pursues His goal of spiritual completeness for us, He has in mind not only the coming great judgement when He wants to grant us protection, but also our eternal destiny. What will it be like when we enter the heavenly glory one day and Jesus can say when He receives us, "You have been changed into My image. Now you may behold Me face to face!" (cf 1 John 3:2) Just think what it will be like to have reached the heavenly goal, the City of God with its myriads of angels in joyful assembly, and Mount Zion where "the spirits of the righteous who have been made perfect in His eyes" dwell. (Hebrews 12:23 TPT)

What festive celebrations there will be, what victory songs, what jubilant praise and adoration in honour of our Lord Jesus Christ; "You have led us to the goal! You have completed the work You began in us! Now we may dwell with You for evermore in joy and gladness, seated at Your side in Your kingdom of glory!" Oh, may this come true for all of us!

Adapted from God's Holy Remnant - M. Basilea Schlink

Meditation

Lord, amid a world of widespread devastation, You are raising up even now a holy remnant, dear to Your heart, created and sustained by You.

O King of love, even now I hear You calling. "Come, My child, frail and sinful though you be. Consecrate yourself to Me, your Lord and Saviour, the Bridegroom of your soul.

As holy seeds of My kingdom you will diffuse light. Love will shine forth from you wherever you go."

Lord, while all around the old order is crumbling, You are giving us a foretaste of a new world You are creating. Before our very eyes we see the holy remnant blossoming. In every nation souls are being drawn to You, who saved us on the cross with Your life-blood. What glorious privilege to belong to Your holy remnant. Nothing more fulfilling, nothing more rewarding. What inexpressible grace. Upon us Your royal gaze has fallen.

Lord, wherever You have planted us as Your holy seed, may the message of Your saving love sound forth far and wide in every land. Lord Jesus, may one and all hear You died to save all. Make us ambassadors, reflecting something of Your love in its beauty and power. Myriads upon myriads drawn as if by a magnet to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb - that is the desire of our hearts.

Father in heaven, as Your heart grieves over this world of sin, what a comfort to Your broken heart to see Your own features in those who love You.

In a ravaged world, what is it that people are privileged to see? Even the eyes of those in despair will behold the King. Having turned from blasphemy, they now acclaim You. In reverence they bow down, offering ceaseless praise. Oh, how they love and adore You.

Miracle of miracles for the end times, born of the suffering heart of God, born too of the sufferings of Your bride, whom You have prepared as Your holy remnant.

What grace, Lord, to belong to Your holy remnant. How I yearn to belong. "And so you shall," I hear You say. So, Lord, I pray: Give me a humble, contrite heart, where You are pleased to dwell. Give me a warrior heart, combatting sin in my life. Give me a yielded heart, utterly committed to Your will. **Amen.**

THANK POINTS

Chapel Restoration - External

Father we Thank You! For providing the finances and the right company that were able to undertake the external restoration work of our chapel!



Please pray with us in faith that the internal restoration work can now be undertaken. It is in great need, as it was last renovated almost 30 years ago! It has lasted well, but with the very wet summer we had, then the floods - it now needs to be restored.

THANK POINTS

Bell Tower Restoration

Father we Thank You! For providing the finances and the right company that was able to create a new metal bell post and restore our bell. It now honours the restoration work completed on the chapel.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Main Kitchen Renovation

- Please pray that we can find the right “affordable” company to work with, for the renovation of our main kitchen benches that require replacement.

Maintenance - Guest Accommodation Areas

- Please pray for the maintenance work required on some of our guest accommodation areas, and that this work can be completed before we open up again.

Guest Kitchen and Prayer Room

- Please pray for the right company that can reclad one of our guest buildings so that it can continue to be used for visitors during the day.



From all the Sisters we would like to thank everyone for their generosity and faithfulness in supporting the Canaan ministry. We recognise that your giving is an act of worship, and we remain diligent stewards of all that has been entrusted to us, towards our continued commission to reach people and make disciples together.

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary

Faith into Practice

- Please pray that when we open up, the Lord will call those He wants to participate in the “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme at Canaan.
- Please pray for volunteers from a variety of countries, so that there is a good multicultural balance in the group.
- We are happy that many young people from overseas have previously taken part in our “Faith into Practice” volunteer programme. Please pray for the former participants, that the Lord would continue to bless them in their spiritual walk and make them a blessing for many others.
- For those former helpers who are praying about their future pathways, please pray that they will discern God’s guidance.

Outreach

- Please pray that the Lord continues to provide innovative ideas for outreach in the wider community during these Covid-19 times.
- Please pray that the Lord would continue to show us new ideas for outreach through our website and other social media avenues.
- We would be grateful if you would support us in prayer for our ongoing ministry of love and reconciliation—especially to the Jewish community, Aboriginals, and the various ethnic communities in the Sydney area.
- Please pray for the e-mailings, literature and DVDs being sent out from Canaan, that God will use them to bring much blessing to people.

- Pray that people will ask for the Canaan publications at their local Christian bookshops, as this helps to make the literature more widely known. Some of the things that Mother Basilea wrote prophetically more than 50 years ago have been dramatically fulfilled in the meantime, and friends are often “re-discovering” the books and finding them so relevant for today. Pray that God will continue to use Canaan’s legacy to change lives, and to help prepare the Bride of Christ.
- Please remember our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many of the countries we serve. We thank the Lord that our internet ministry enables us to have contact with many of them. They are so grateful for the contact, prayer support and literature when it can be sent safely or read online.
- Pray for all of us here at Canaan as we seek to put the Lord first and to be obedient to His leadings. Since our time and strength are limited, pray that we will always know what God wants us to take on and what He would have us say no to, especially moving forward when restrictions lift.
- Pray for continuing protection, strength, wisdom, and unity for everyone at Canaan, and also for the wider fellowship groups of Canaan.
- Please continue to pray for Sister Theophania, who is living in residential care off Canaan.
- Most of all, we pray that as Sisters and Friends of Canaan we will all love our Lord Jesus more day by day, helping to extend His kingdom and prepare His Bride.



Are you troubled
about the path
you have to follow?

Remember, God your
Father is leading you
in love. The path He
has chosen for you is
the best one of all.

Otherwise He would
have led you along a
different one.

MB