

# APRIL

## P R A Y E R   G U I D E

A KINGDOM SEEKER-

*lives by the bible / **prays continually** / meets together / shares  
joyfully / serves others / worships God / makes Jesus known*







## PSALM 77: 11-14

*But then I recall all you have done, O Lord;  
I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago.  
They are constantly in my thoughts.  
I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works.  
O God, your ways are holy.  
Is there any god as mighty as you?  
You are the God of great wonders!  
You demonstrate your awesome power among the nations.*

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# INTRODUCTION

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*FROM THE EDITOR*



Temple Church Family,

In Psalm 77, the psalmist begins by crying out to the Lord. He grieves the loss of his former joy, and questions the differences he now feels internally. He honestly processes with the Lord, and wonders if God had abandoned and forgotten him.

It is easy to feel similarly when we find ourselves in extended in-betweens. If we're honest, many of us can see ourselves in the Israelites of the Old Testament who witnessed God moving in miraculous ways one day and then found themselves complaining about their perceived lack the next.

Psalm 77 shifts at the verse found on the previous page- "But then I recall all you have done... I remember your wonderful deeds." The psalmist takes heart after remembering all of the ways that God had proved himself faithful, and his soul takes comfort in remembering that God's character does not change.

As we head into this new month, let us receive an invitation to remember our God. To recall his unchanging nature, remember His mighty works within our own lives and the life of the church, and respond with faith, trust, and thanksgiving, knowing that He who began a good work within us will bring it through to completion in Christ Jesus.



# HOW TO USE

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*A KINGDOM SEEKER PRAYS CONTINUALLY.*



In this season, we want to structure this prayer guide in a way that makes it simple and easy to use as a **daily tool** to help you grow in the Kingdom Virtue of *praying continually*.

Each week, we will focus intentionally on a category of our church body. You'll be led through prayers of praise, thanksgiving, and confession/repentance.

These sections will then be followed by prayer requests from specific ministries of the week's category within our church. We've also included a specific section of space for you to pray over the people in your life that the Lord may lay on your heart.

We encourage you to use this guide daily, working through each of the sections for each 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*

*\*\*\*Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture quoted throughout this guide will be the English Standard Version [ESV].*





# PURSUING THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS PART II

*“By His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God,  
and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.” -1 Corinthians 1:30 [NASB 1995]*

We love rejoicing in the glory of the risen Savior Who became our Righteousness! These powerful words, sung around the world each Easter Sunday, remind us of His magnificent victory and power.

*Up from the grave He arose with a mighty triumph o'er His foes  
He arose a Victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign.[i]*

As was mentioned in the March Prayer Guide, the only place “glory” comes before “suffering” is in the dictionary.”[ii] Without love, there is fear. Fear leads to hardness of heart, which leads to sin. Without righteousness, there is lust, greed, and every evil work. Without suffering, there is no glory.



Before the cross, Jesus explained this truth to the twelve, “But they did not understand...and were afraid to ask Him.” [iii]

Jesus knew they were arguing over who would be the greatest. He gave them the opportunity to talk to Him, but they didn't want to explain. So, they redirected the conversation away from themselves toward someone else. It became an “us and them” mentality. There was this other guy who had been casting out demons in the name of Jesus, while they themselves had not been able to do it. The disciples asked Jesus why they could not, and Jesus told it could only be done through prayer.[iv]

But the disciples didn't want to think about that. Noticing the success of the other guy, they were afraid he was going to get all the glory instead of them. This guy was not in their “in-group”, and he was making them look bad!

Even after the resurrection, Jesus addressed his disciples' heart issue. In Mark 16:14, Jesus was having a meal with the eleven. Even after finding the empty tomb and being told by the women that Jesus was alive, they did not yet believe. They did not respect or honor the messengers that God had sent to them with the truth of His resurrection. Jesus “reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.”

Before and after the resurrection, the disciples' fear led to hardness of heart resulting in unrighteousness - selfishness, jealousy, lack of love, and faithlessness.

We may find ourselves fearful during this “in-between” season of waiting for a new pastor. We don't know what to expect. We don't like not knowing the details or the future. What are we supposed to do now? Who will be the new pastor? Will we like his preaching style? How will his personality and ideas affect my ministry? Will I like him? Will he change everything?

Instead of focusing on Jesus, we may be thinking like Peter. After the resurrection, Jesus served breakfast to His disciples by the Sea of Galilee. He had a very intimate conversation with Peter by the fire, asking him, “Do you love Me?” Three times Jesus asked, and three times Peter responded, “Yes Lord, You know I love You.” Jesus says to Peter, it's time now to move beyond your past failures and “Follow Me.” But Peter almost immediately shifts his attention from the conversation at hand to John, asking, “Lord, what about him?” Jesus says, “What is that to you? You follow Me!” [v]







What is it to us as to who God is calling to Temple Church? We do not need to worry about these things. God has this in control! In fact, the Bible is clear. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” [vi]

Jesus showed His disciples the Way to glory. It was not to worry about anything or anyone else. All they needed to do was to follow Him. He has shown us the Way to glory. He is the only Way. We are to follow Him and walk in His ways. “Righteousness will go before Him and shall make His footsteps our pathway.” [vii]

Danger comes when fear takes over. Hearts become hard. Prayer is neglected. Conversations turn from Jesus. Personal agendas dominate. Human reasoning leads to pride. Sin reigns. Jesus reminds His disciples of these dangers and how to avoid them.

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” [viii] “For everyone will be salted with fire.... Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.” [ix] “The distinctive mark of discipleship typified by salt is allegiance to Jesus and the gospel...Strife is resolved, and peace is restored when we recognize in one another a common commitment to Jesus and the gospel.” [x]

As we continue faithfully following Jesus, we need to continue to pursue righteousness, pray fervently, guard our conversations, set aside personal agendas, follow Jesus, and love others. God will take care of everything else!

Please continue to commit to pray daily for our church, our faithful church staff, the pastor search team, and for the new pastor and his family this month as we get closer to the day when God brings us the man HE has chosen for Temple Church.



**Pray specifically:**

- That each one of us will focus will be on “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”. (Jeremiah 23:6)
- That we will remember that it is Jesus who “became wisdom for us and is our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.” (I Corinthians 1:30)
- That we will guard our hearts and minds from being controlled by fear and our words to be acceptable and pleasing to Him. (Psalm 19:14)
- That we will pray about everything, remembering WHO IS in control. (Philippians 4:6-7)
- That we will “pursue love” (I Corinthians 14:1), remembering that God’s “perfect love that casts out fear.” (I John 4:18)
- That we will “hear His voice...and not harden” our hearts. (Hebrews 4:7)
- That we will “pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.” (I Thessalonians 5:15).
- That we will “pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness.” (I Timothy 6:11)
- That we will “pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled. (Hebrews 12:14-15)
- That we will “turn away from evil and do good...seek peace and pursue it.” (I Peter 3:11)
- That our unified purpose as a church will be to follow Jesus. “Righteousness will go before Him and shall make His footsteps our pathway.” (Psalm 85:13)
- That we will be faithful to endure hardship and suffering as God allows “so that the proof of (our) faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” (I Peter 1:7)

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[i] Hymnary.org. Retrieved from [https://hymnary.org/text/low\\_in\\_the\\_grave\\_he\\_lay\\_jesus\\_my\\_savior](https://hymnary.org/text/low_in_the_grave_he_lay_jesus_my_savior) March 16, 2024.

[ii] Olachea, Joe. Sermon at First Baptist Church, Washington, NC. February 11, 2024.

[iii] Mark 9:32, NASB 1995

[iv] Mark 9:28-29, NASB 1995

[v] John 21:12-23, NIV and NASB 1995

[vi] Philippians 4:6-7, NIV

[vii] Psalm 85:13, NKJV

[viii] John 16:33 NASB 1995

[ix] Mark 9:49-50, NASB 1995

[x] The Zondervan NASB Study Bible. 1999. P. 1438. Note on Mark 9:49-50. Zondervan. Grand Rapids, MI 49530.





# WEEK ONE

## MISSIONS/EVANGELISM



### **PRAISE:**

**How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” -Romans 10:14-15**

We praise you that you have designed it that we be your mouthpieces to spread the good news. Help us as we move into the Easter season to keep our eyes fixed on the good news of the resurrection of Christ. We praise you for this salvation that you have worked for us through the cross.

### **CONFESSION/REPENTANCE**

**...Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”**

**-John 20:20b-23**

Lord, We ask that you forgive us for operating in fear in this area of evangelism. We ask that you would continue to grow us in evangelism and discipleship. That you would help us to find our uniqueness in this area and reach those that others cannot reach.





# INTERCEDE: MISSIONS & EVANGELISM



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

*-Acts 1:8*

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**Please take time this week to specifically pray over our Student Spring Break Mission Trip team, who will be serving with Appalachian Ministry of the Smokies in Tennessee April 1-5th.**

## **Spring Break Mission Trip Team Members:**

### **LEADERS-**

Alex & Jess Hinson  
Dan & Aimee Martin  
Daniel Rhyne  
Josh Lilly  
Tony Benda  
Liesel Caten  
Kellie Anderson  
Courtney Stokes

### **GUYS-**

Andrew Connolly  
Isaac Sartin  
Kaden Daniels  
Jackson Dill  
Titus Rhyne  
Eli Stevenson  
Erich Mullin  
Tyler Mullin  
Caleb Watson  
Bryce Sartin  
Jacob Rhyne  
Nick Lewis

### **GIRLS-**

Addyson Acree  
Hope Daniel  
Katelyn Stokes  
Leah Ford  
Kennedy Jones  
Sandy Watson  
Lily Canady  
Heather Cox  
Rilie Anderson  
Emma Bowen  
Kalayah Sampson  
Liberty Canady

## **Prayer Requests for our team-**

- that our leaders would be equipped to do ministry and that they would experience God working through them in a powerful way
- that the Lord would spiritually prepare our students for this trip
- that God would cultivate a genuine love for each other within our entire team
- that our team would learn in a deeper way God's heart for the whole world to know and worship Him, while also experiencing God's personal love for them



# INTERCEDE: MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

## **Prayer Requests for the families we'll serve:**

-that God would open up opportunities to share the Gospel and that they would experience the love of Christ through our team

## **For the ministry of AMOS:**

-that God would bless them and their ministry in mighty ways as they continue to serve their community

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**And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." -Matthew 28:18-20**

## **PRAY:**

- That the Holy Spirit would mobilize our members to be active in evangelistic prayer and outreach after March's evangelism training.
- That the lost who attend Easter service would be saved, follow through with believer's baptism, and get plugged into discipleship with the church.
- That our team of students and adult leaders who go on the Tennessee missions trip would be safe in their travels, confident in sharing the Gospel, and return with exciting stories to tell of how God used them.

*Each week, we encourage you to return to the Pastor Search Team's opening article and spend an hour in prayer over our church, the Search Team, leadership & staff, and the new pastor and his family in the specific ways listed.*

*Feel free to use the categories below to help you in your **daily prayers** for those specific groups.*

The Lost-

My Family-

My Community-

My Ministry, sphere of influence, or vocation

the Persecuted Church-



# WEEK TWO

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## CHILDREN



### **PRAISE:**

**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! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. -Psalm 127:3-5**

Lord, we praise you for the blessing of having so many children at our church. We see the blessing that they are to this local body and we know that you are raising up leaders in our midst. You are so gracious to us and for that we praise you.

### **CONFESSION/REPENTANCE:**

**“And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God, but the one who denies me before men will be denied before the angels of God.” -Luke 12:8-9**

Lord, we lift up our students. Please forgive us for not seeing them as the young adults of tomorrow. Help us to support and teach them how to be amazing representatives of you and your love.





# INTERCEDE: CHILDREN



*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. -Proverbs 22:6*

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## **Temple Weekday Preschool-**

### Thanksgiving:

- For the 185 children who registered for preschool on Open Registration in February, and for their families that we'll have the opportunity to minister to in a special way

### Requests:

- Please pray for all of our 36 staff members, that the Lord would fill them up to overflow as they serve our preschoolers.
- That the Lord would water the seeds that were planted at our family chapel on March 27th. Pray that families would come to know Christ as their Savior and be planted in a church.

## **Temple Sunday Preschool-**

### Thanksgiving:

- For our growing numbers and children speaking out about their understanding of Jesus' love for them as individuals.

### Requests:

- For the Lord to help all of our teachers and volunteers in areas they are struggling right now.
- For God to bless our upcoming Child Dedication.
- For God to provide more members and growth for MOPS program and more volunteers to help MOPS Leadership team.



# INTERCEDE: CHILDREN

## **Temple Kids-**

**“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” -Matthew 5:16**

### Thanksgiving:

- For the kids that were baptized at Easter.
- For our wonderful leaders that continue to share His word and love each week.

### Requests:

- That God gives kids opportunities to share His love and for them to be His light in the darkness
- That God continues to work on the hearts of kids and their families that don't know Him.
- For the VBS planning team as they begin preparations for VBS this year (July 22nd-28th)

## **Temple Christian Academy-**

**Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. -Ephesians 4:2-3 [NIV]**

- For stamina and health for our teachers and students to get a quality start on our last marking period in order to be able to finish the year strongly.
- That God would work in the hearts of the new families who will be joining our TCA family as they are hearing about their accepted applications for this fall.
- That God would help continue to unify the weekday education ministries and the church toward a shared vision.

## **AWANA-**

- continue to lift up the kids as they work through their handbooks and that the scriptures they are learning will forever be on their hearts.
- Praising God for our leaders that help kids work through their handbooks and Bible lesson each week. They share His love and give encouragement as kids study.
- Pray that God continues to give leaders and kids strength and good health, refresh them with His joy and love, and take away all worries and stress that they may have during their week.



# INTERCEDE: CHILDREN

## Temple Sports-

### Praise:

- For the 51 kids representing Temple Church for t-ball and rookie ball.
- For the coaches that are offering their time and giftings to lead our kids in Christ likeness and sportsmanship as they learn and grow in the game of baseball.

### Requests:

- For the Holy Spirit to seek the hearts of each child represented at practice each week over the next several weeks.
- For the Coaches to be equipped to have conversations with children and their families about who Jesus is and why they would want a relationship with Him as their Savior and Lord of their life.

## Temple Students-

### Praise:

For the new leaders that God has provided for us.

For the salvation of one of our students, and the baptism of three on Easter!!

### Requests:

- that students' friends who have been present at our events would find a church home in Temple if they don't already have one
- that our students would take personal ownership of their faith
- for enough leaders to be able to split up our Small Groups in order to accomodate the growth that God is blessing us with

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*Feel free to use the categories below to help you in your **daily prayers** for those specific groups.*

*The Lost-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Family-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Community-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Ministry, sphere of influence, or vocation* \_\_\_\_\_

*the Persecuted Church-* \_\_\_\_\_



# WEEK THREE

ADULTS



## **PRAISE:**

**He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD. -Psalm 40:3**

We praise you for the way that you have helped us to set up the adult ministries at this church. You have made the Christian life a thing of community and then provided us opportunities to put that into practice. Lord, you are so gracious to us. Help us to see your love for us through these ministries and draw people close to yourself so they too can praise you.

## **CONFESSION/REPENTANCE:**

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9 [NIV]**

Lord we lift up our OASIS Ministry- we ask that you would encourage and strengthen them as they impact our congregation. Forgive us for not hearing the wisdom of this group. Help us to do a better job of hearing the wisdom they have for us.





# INTERCEDE: ADULTS



*Praise be to the God of our Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly  
realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.  
-Ephesians 1: 3 [NIV]*

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## **Small Groups-**

**PRAY:** Father, we thank you for the blessing of being allowed to come together in Jesus' name and study your word, to have fellowship with fellow believers, and to encourage and edify our brothers and sisters in Christ. We ask that you will provide every resource we need to be allowed to meet together. We pray for more able-bodied and Spirit-led men and women of God to help facilitate small groups. Father, we ask that we will grow closer together in fellowship and brotherly love through the laying on of holy hands as well as prayer for one another and our families. Empower us to lift you up on all occasions.

## **OASIS-**

During this pause, help us to be able to think, pray, and reflect how the Senior ministry will help to engage others in knowing Christ while having fun doing it.

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My Ministry, sphere of influence, or vocation \_\_\_\_\_

the Persecuted Church- \_\_\_\_\_



**Worship Ministry-**

We pray the Lord helps to keep us humble in this season of growth. As we develop worship leaders to help lead and guide the next level of worship at Temple, we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom in our lives and ministry.

**NOTES/PRAYER-**

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# WEEK FOUR

## CARE MINISTRIES



### **PRAISE:**

**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. -2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

Prayer: We praise you because you are the God that cares for your people. You will never leave or forsake us. We know that one way that you choose to do that is through your people. We praise you for your love for us shown through the care ministries of our church. Open up the doors for many more to be cared for as we continue on this path you have set us on.

### **CONFESSION/REPENTANCE:**

**For the Lord your God is gracious and compassionate. He will not turn his face from you if you return to him.**

**-2 Chronicles 30:9b NIV**

Forgive us Lord when we turn our face from you. Help us to seek you in all that we do. Help us to know you are the one who can keep us on the right path with you.





# INTERCEDE: CARE



*For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*  
-2 Corinthians 12:10

## **Temple Recovery-**

### Thanksgiving:

- For the unity and growth we have seen over the past couple months.

### Requests:

- For Temple Recovery to reach more people in need of Recovery, through our connections with local recovery houses, and a fresh awareness amongst our congregation to be aware of this resource, for all who are struggling not only with an addiction, but any life hurt, habit, or life issue such as anxiety, depression, anger, or resentment that interferes with the plan and purpose that God has placed on our lives today.
- For opportunities to see people receive Christ as their Lord and Savior through the teaching and encouragement of our leaders.
- For the technical difficulties we have faced each week to be met with peace and discernment as we work toward an answer.

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*The Lost-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Family-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Community-* \_\_\_\_\_

*My Ministry, sphere of influence, or vocation* \_\_\_\_\_

*the Persecuted Church-* \_\_\_\_\_



**HOPE Center-**

- We pray that lay counselors would be attentive to those who don't have a personal relationship with you.
- We lift up marriages to be restored and hearts to be changed.
- We pray for clear direction for those at the center.

**Deacon Ministry-**

- Pray for the men who are being brought forward this month in deacon nominations.
- Pray for the men who are continuing to serve as Deacons at Temple.
- Pray for the ministry that is being birthed out of our Deacons.
- Pray for the marriages of our deacons.
- Pray for the opportunities for our Deacons to be clothed with the Armor of God as they serve our church in a way that irritates the enemy.
- Pray for the training of our deacons.
- Pray for the unity of our deacon ministry.





# INTERCEDE: STAFF & LEADERSHIP



*We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. -1 Thessalonians 5:12-13*

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## **Staff/Leadership-**

Dr. John and Mrs. Tresa Ewart

Bennett & Lauren Holloway

Darryl & Jenny Radford

Darryl & Cristina Vang

Kathy & Doug Reinhardt

Tony & Jaime Benda

Sally & Tom Gerrald

Dan & Aimee Martin

Tim & Karyn Lackey

Melody & Randy Davenport

Kim & Jerry Ramsey

Marion & Steve Dalrymple

Lisa & Davis Sugg

Jacqueline & Rob Coates

Donna & Rich Daniels

Brittany Hartsell

Claire and Thomas Mills

Nikki & Daniel Rhyne

Alex and Jessica Hinson

Cody & Leah Krieger

Bethany & Travis Kornegay

Heather Cox

Caleb Watson

## **Lay Teams:**

-Personel Team

-Stewardship Team

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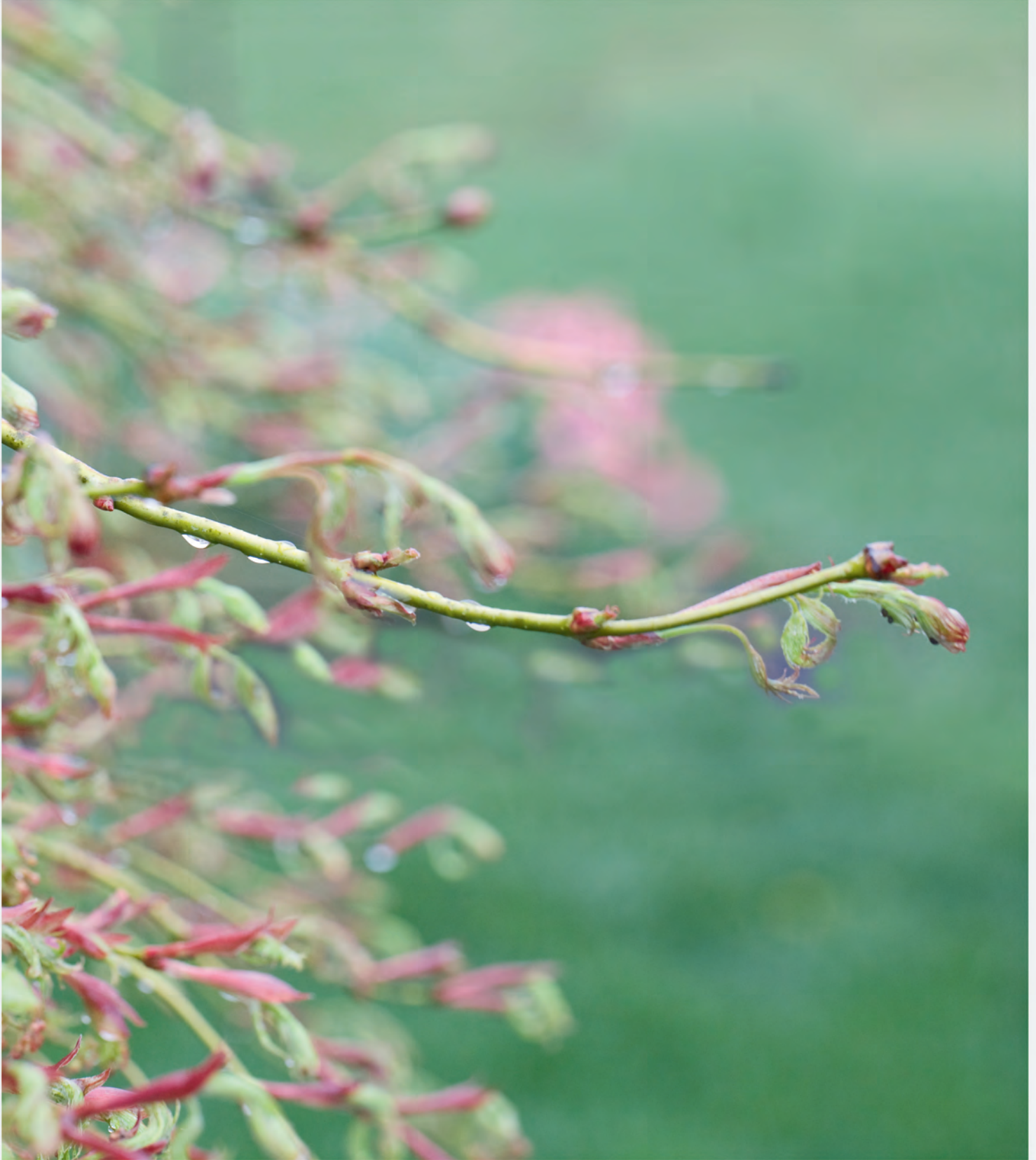
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*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. -Romans 15:13*