

# Psalm 67

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Psalm 67 has also been called “Israel’s Missionary Prayer”. The New Testament tone of it is unlike any Psalm we have studied thus far. The psalmist’s words are very evangelistic in nature and promote the expansion of God’s Kingdom. Let us compare this Missionary Prayer to The Great Commission of in Matthew 28:19-20,

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

It is easy to see the common themes of teaching God’s ways and God’s salvation. The difference is in how the commission is carried out. In The Great Commission, Jesus commands His disciples to carry it out. In the Missionary Prayer, the people pray and God carries it out.

## May God

The psalmist directs us to pray big picture other-centered prayers. He teaches to pray “us” prayers, and not just “me” prayers. Personally, I have found this challenging, not because I am unconcerned for “us”, but because I simply fail to remember to pray for “us.”

A few years ago, a visiting pastor made me face my big picture prayer life weaknesses as he taught from the gospel of Luke. Today’s lesson refreshed my memory of his teaching.

### Read Luke 10:1-2.

What problem does Jesus present to the disciples?

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What is Jesus’ solution to the problem?

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The same problem exists in our modern day. There is a huge harvest of people, far and wide, who need to hear the Good News of Jesus’ saving grace as well as the freedom found in His ways. The harvest is all around us, and we can be part of Jesus’ solution, by praying for workers.

It is easy to read this passage, however, and feel guilty for not having an overwhelming urge to fulfill the role of the worker. But we can rest in the fact that God’s gives different gifts to His children (Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-10). We may be gifted differently, but we can all pray—pray for the “us.”

The psalmist outlines our big picture prayer:

Be gracious to us~

Bless us~

Face shine upon us~

Your ways be known~

show your kindness and favor to

abundantly bless us all with divine favor

His Presence brightens us

may know and experience you

Take a few minutes to pray the big picture prayer.

### May The People

Our response to God's answer to our big picture prayer should always be praise. We may not see the answer to our prayer in even on this side of Heaven. It may be unseen, unknown here on this earth. But the answer to our big picture prayer may come when a young teenage girl in Zimbabwe receives Jesus as her Savior as she reads a Bible that has finally been translated in her native language. Or when a young man in Guatemala answers the call to ministry. Or perhaps when a boy hears the Gospel through a missionary in the Sudan desert All these and more may happen—because you prayed a big picture prayer and praised God for the answer. So whether we see the answer or not, we must keep on praying and praising.

#### Read John 5:17.

When is God working? When should offer praise?

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### May The Nations

What a day it would be if all the nations were glad in God and sang for joy! This thought is an awesome motivator for prayer, isn't it? My mind thinks of the countries ravaged by war—those millions who long for something, anything, to sing about, and who hope, for any reason, to be glad. My heart aches for those who are full of hate and for those whose stomachs are empty. Can you hear a faint song of joy and the hint of laughter with just the thought of our prayers causing nations to sing for joy?

#### Read Psalm 33:12.

What does the Psalmist call the nation whose God is the Lord?

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The good news is that, since Jesus has not yet returned to Earth, we have still have time to pray. We can start by personalizing and praying Proverbs 16:2 and Psalm 67:1. I have written the following prayer, personalizing Proverbs 16:2 and Psalm 67:1. Feel free to pray this prayer, or better yet, ask God to help you write your own prayer. Imagine what Heaven will be like when we see every nation, tribe, and tongue praising the Lord together.

*God, I confess that I have not been praying with a Kingdom focus. I pray that, when You weigh my motives, You will find my ways pure. May You, my God, be gracious and bless me. Will You, please, shine Your face upon me? It is my desire for Your ways to be known, and Your salvation to come to all the nations. I will be faithful to return all glory to You, praising You for the abundant ways You show Your kindness to me.  
In the name of Jesus, my Savior I pray.*