

Email

Dear Friend

This week we are praying that members of the Taliban will be transformed by His Spirit. We have read about Paul's radical transformation and have been praying that members of Taliban would have similar life-altering encounters with Jesus.

Let's pray with faith and expectation that this will happen and that as we are praying God would fill our hearts with love for those we might consider enemies and transform us too by His Spirit.

Like last week this content has been adapted from a prayer resource: prayforisis.com

For His Glory in the Nations

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Monday 30th May



The Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 2021 and although they promised to maintain many of the advances that had been made in terms of human rights over the previous 20 years, over recent months they have gradually been enforcing stricter rules. The Taliban's Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue have been patrolling streets and dress codes for women are gradually getting stricter. The latest rule has meant that female news presenters not only have to wear the hijab but also need to cover their faces. Many fear that gradually women's freedoms will be taken away and will lead to women being forced to remain at home.

This week we will be praying that God will soften the hearts of the Taliban just as he softened the heart of the apostle Paul and that the fruits of the Holy Spirit would become apparent in them.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppSvfOpwN5I&list=RDppSvfOpwN5I#t=0>

Watch the worship video, Mercy Mercy by Hillsong United, above

'I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people and I will be their God.' Ezekiel 11:19-20

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law.' Galatians 5:22

- **As we turn to Paul's teaching on the fruits of the Spirit, pray that God pours out His Spirit on members of the Taliban and blesses them as His people.**
- **Pray for hearts of stone to be softened and transformed. Pray for a revelation of God's grace and mercy.**
- **Pray that members of the Taliban would be led by the Holy Spirit and bear the fruit of a transformed heart.**

Tuesday 31st May

Paul went on to become a leader of the early church and a conduit for God's message of hope and salvation. His letter to the Galatian church describes what a life transformed by Jesus Christ should look like—a life that has been made new and is shaped by the fruit of the Spirit.

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love' Galatians 5:22

Muslims think of relationship with God as that between slaves and their master; they do not know Him to be loving and full of mercy. This causes them to live under an impossible burden as they seek to please God and earn His favour through good works. Until they discover the true nature of God, they will not be able to experience His boundless love and the incredible promises He has for them.

Paul preached on this very topic to his Jewish audience, urging them to understand that those who have been saved through Christ are no longer slaves to sin or living under the burden of the law, but they are beloved children of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Read the following Scriptures and pray out of them, if you can, read them out loud:

'But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out "Abba, Father." *So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*' Galatians 4:4-7

- **It is by God's grace that He fills our hearts with His love. All of us at some time or another feel inadequate, failing to measure up to what we think God requires of us. Pray that members of the Taliban may comprehend the extravagance of God's love filling their hearts, no matter how undeserving they may feel.**

'But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Romans 5:8

- **Pray that God would show His extravagant and personal love to each member of the Taliban.**

'That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.' Ephesians 3:16-19

- **Pray that members of the Taliban would be rooted and established in His love! If they were to truly experience God's love, think of the incredible change that would bring in the Muslim world.**

Wednesday 1st June



'But the fruit of the Spirit is ... joy' Galatians 5:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=arykF_blndI

Watch the worship video, Look How He Lifted Me by Elevation worship, above

A religious climate of fear, violence, and duty does not lead to the life God desires His children to experience. God made us to experience joy - a joy that surpasses all understanding and that flows from His mercy and goodness.

'To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.' Jude 1:24-25

'You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.' Psalm 16:11

- **Jesus is the ultimate source of our joy. Pray that members of the Taliban would find the Saviour, who is the source of joy for all peoples.**
- **Pray that members of the Taliban would know the presence of the Lord, and that they would take the path that leads to life. Pray that the delight that they have in the Lord would give them righteous desires.**
- **Pray that Taliban members experience the fullness of joy as they choose to walk with God.**

Thursday 2nd June

It had been weeks since our friend Tony had met with Husain, a Muslim in a region with some of the hardest spiritual ground in the world. Husain was deeply dissatisfied with Islam. When he saw a Christian programme on TV, he contacted the network for more information. His contact information was passed on to Tony, who called and scheduled a time to meet him.

Over the next weeks, they had several discussions about faith and religion. Husain knew that Islam couldn't provide all the answers. As Tony studied God's Word with him, explaining who Jesus was and answering his questions, Husain felt there must be truth in what the Bible said.

Now it had been weeks since Husain returned Tony's calls or texts. Feeling the need to continue persisting, Tony tried contacting Husain again and this time, he answered. They made plans to meet that night at Husain's home. Immediately, Husain dove into the questions that were really bothering him.

"I understand a lot of what the Bible says, but I really don't understand the Trinity," he said. ***"How can there be multiple gods?"***

Tony wasn't surprised that this was one of Husain's main stumbling blocks to faith in Jesus. They had already looked at several verses about the Trinity before, but Muslims often have great difficulty understanding how Jesus is God. As they discussed the concept of the Trinity again, something suddenly seemed to lift and Husain softened as truth sank into his heart.

"I think I understand! It is like my ceiling fan." Husain looked up at the three-bladed fan suspended above them. "There are three blades, but it is still only one fan. So Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God are all part of God." Husain's eyes started to fill with tears. He was ready to make a decision. ***"I want to be a disciple of Jesus,"*** he said to Tony. ***"That's really what I want."*** Big tears rolled down his cheeks as they talked about what it means to follow Jesus.

"This is so incredible, this peace inside me," Husain said. ***"It's like morphine all over my body or something! I have to tell my friends. What if I could just get 5 people to be as happy as I am right now?"***

When the two met again a few days later to study the Word, Husain exclaimed, ***"I am free! I have such peace inside! Let me tell you what happened..."***

He recounted to Tony how, just after their last meeting, he had a dream. He was in a room filled with his friends. Everyone was very sad. Many of the friends were so sad they had faces like animals. Suddenly, a man in white entered the room. He looked around, walked over to Husain, and took his hand. ***"He put his hand on me, and then touched my head, and peace filled my whole body. Suddenly, we were the only ones in the room. We just sat there together in silence, and I was so happy."***

Husain didn't quite understand the dream. Tony excitedly explained, "**Husain, that was Jesus!**" As they opened up their Bibles Husain said, "**I am so thirsty, I just want to know more.**"

God is moving in new ways in hard countries, drawing people - just like Husain - to Himself.

- **Let's pray that many Muslims, particularly members of the Taliban would encounter God's truth in Christian media – via the television, radio and internet.**
- **Pray that they would be open to studying scriptures and would find life through the words of Jesus.**
- **Pray that God would encounter them as they seek the truth through dreams and visions, and that He would flood them with peace like they have never experienced before.**

Friday 3rd June



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B-cCFIp0A4>

Watch the worship video above, Stay and wait by Hillsong United.

'But the fruit of the Spirit is ... patience' Galatians 5:22

'Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.' Psalm 37:7-9

Those who impatiently seek justice turn to anger and wrath. But a patient spirit waits on the Lord to act.

- **Pray that the Taliban would know the great patience God has demonstrated toward us, and from that knowledge they would be able to forbear with others.**

'Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!'

Psalm 27:14

'I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.' Psalm 130:5-6

- **Pray that God would give members of the Taliban a longing to "wait on the Lord" and to seek His face. As they wait on Him, may they rest in His strength and trust in His sovereignty.**

Saturday 4th June



This story is not from Afghanistan but is a great example of how God can reach even those that like Paul, have persecuted Christians.

Shuhul and Asad grew up doing everything together. Whenever they had the chance, the two brothers would slip away from their younger siblings who shadowed them and run off to fish together in the stream outside of town. Older brother Shuhul had little interest in school. But Asad loved learning. When he wasn't with Shuhul, he was often reading a book under his favorite tree.

At 18, Asad said goodbye to his family. He boarded a bus for a full day's journey to the capital city, where he had been accepted into a university. Shuhul embraced his brother and told Asad to come home as often as he could. In the city, Asad lived with a distant cousin. But he knew no one else, and he felt terribly lonely being away from his immediate family for the first time.

Then he met Mark, a Frontiers worker who taught Asad's English class at the university. Mark and his wife, Becky, invited groups of students into their home every week. The first time Asad visited their house, he felt overwhelmed by the couple's kindness and hospitality.

Something about Mark and Becky's home brought comfort to his homesick heart. So Asad began inviting himself over more often. Each time, he heard them share stories about Jesus. Mark suggested they start studying the Bible together. Eager to read a book he'd never had access to, Asad agreed. Some weeks later, he surrendered his life to Christ.

He still missed his family. But Asad's love for them was now infused with an urgent desire that they hear the Gospel. He prayed for them to embrace the joy he had found in Christ. But when Asad called his brother to share the Good News with him, Shuhul responded angrily.

"How could you betray our family and dishonor our prophet Muhammad?" Shuhul demanded. "Don't come back until you've renounced this false religion!"

Shuhul's words grieved the new believer. Asad continued praying for God to soften his brother's heart to the truth of Christ. But every time Asad called, Shuhul made it clear that the family wanted nothing to do with him until he denied that Jesus was the Way.

Then Mark and Becky told Asad they were planning a trip that would take them past his hometown. They asked the young believer if they could stop and visit his family. Asad agreed. Shuhul may have rejected him. But Asad knew that his brother, a devout man of

honor, wouldn't reject unannounced visitors. Before Mark and Becky left for their trip, Asad prayed with them and asked God to open the door for his family to hear the Gospel. Mark and Becky decided to drive through the night to time their arrival for early morning.

Meanwhile, God gave Shuhul an extraordinary dream. In this dream, Jesus appeared. He told Shuhul that two people would come in the morning to share a message of truth with his family—a message that would change their lives forever.

Shuhul woke up before dawn feeling unsettled by the dream. He had always believed that Islam was the full expression of God's message to the world. But if God were sending someone to bring his family a message of truth, then Shuhul would make sure they all embraced it.

Mark and Becky showed up shortly after the family finished eating breakfast. Unaware that Jesus had set the stage for their arrival, they knocked on the door.

"Are you here to tell us about the truth?" Shuhul asked as he opened the door to the two guests sent by Jesus.

Mark and Becky nodded mutely, shocked into silence. Shuhul welcomed them in. Then he announced to his family, "Jesus came to me in a dream last night telling me that two people would come and share His truth with us."

Everyone stared expectantly at the guests, and Mark and Becky began sharing from God's Word. By the end of the day, Shuhul and the entire family committed to following Christ. They were baptized the next day. When Shuhul called Asad to share the good news, the two brothers wept together.

After returning to the city, Mark and Becky started coaching Asad in ways to encourage his family's new faith, help them grow in the Word, and learn to share the Gospel with boldness. Shuhul has started several Bible studies, which have multiplied into even more groups. Hundreds of Muslims in the region have begun following Jesus through these studies.

Originally published on: <https://frontiersusa.org/blog/hard-hearted-brother>

- Pray for encounters with Jesus through dreams and visions that will lead members of the Taliban to Jesus.
- Pray for more opportunities for Frontiers teams that were in Afghanistan to return and continue reaching out to those around them.
- Ask the Lord to raise up more Frontiers workers who will bring the Word of God to Muslims in Afghanistan.