

Weekly Prayer Guide – Praying the Names of Jesus

Jesus: Author and Finisher

Week 1 – November 28, 2010

Prayer Focus: Personal Faith Stories

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

How strengthening and encouraging to know that Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of a Christian's faith. He is at the beginning and stays throughout the spectrum of a personal faith story. Whatever makes the story what it is, Christ is there to support, define, and refine it. Why? Love. Christ's excruciating sacrifice on Calvary more than 2000 years ago was fulfilled because of His love for you and for me. His death on Calvary was a monumental feat followed by great joy when He rose from the dead; a joy that belongs to those who believe in Him. Christ's death and resurrection was accomplished for the spiritual security and freedom of a soul, and for the certainty of an eternal resting place with Jesus. That eventual but unseen joy was costly for Jesus and imperative for our salvation. Christ endured physical pain, spiritual separation from God, isolation from human relationships, and temptation from Satan for the sake of that joy. He is the Authority—the only One—who said *It is finished* on the cross in order for others to know the depth of His love and to receive His righteousness and seal forever.

This week we ponder Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith stories and pray for these stories. We consider what Christ of Calvary endured for each person to make a way through life in this world; a world filled with jubilation, challenge, love, temptation, strife, beauty, and uncertainty. It is a week to express praise for stories and to pray for an increase in them. This week we pray for persons who have not yet received Christ as the author and finisher of their faith. We are mindful to pray for the lost, and remain Christ's hands and feet in a needful world to act and serve as vessels He can use. We trust in the joy to come that Jesus promises for all who believe in Him as their Saviour, and submit ourselves as willing and able communicators because *we love to tell the story*.

Lord Jesus, You are the authority to look to for perfect peace and lasting purpose. You are the One who finished the course and revealed the outcome is victorious. Lord Jesus, for those of us who know You as Saviour, we embrace our salvation gift with love and gratitude. For those who have yet to receive this gift, we pray. We ask You to grant patience, stamina, health, sensitivity, and wisdom to believers so we might endure what we must so some will come to know You as the author and finisher of their faith story. We look with joyful anticipation to the times when we can rejoice with the angels for new relationships begun in and for Thee, Amen.

Weekly Faith Challenge. This week share your faith story with someone who has not yet heard it. Do so to remind yourself of where you have been. Do so to inspire someone else as to what is possible when Jesus is the author and finisher of a life. Someone needs to hear your story. Maybe you need to be reminded of how far you and Jesus have walked together, and that He is still the author and finisher of your faith story. Receive peace afresh.

Chris Ann Waters

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Jersey Shore Will Graham Celebration – May 20, 21, 22, 2011, Ocean Grove, NJ