Praying for God to increase our love for our neighbors.

He answered: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all our mind; and, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27

The second part of this scripture tells us to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Who are our neighbors and how does God want us to Love them?

Our neighbors are the people in our church, all Christians everywhere, those that do not know Christ and even our enemies. In other words everyone.

God created every person and loves them and expects us to love them also.

John 13:34“ A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

1 Corinthians 13:13And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

God calls us to show love by sharing and practicing hospitality. We need to show love to all people of all religions and races. We need to remember those that seem to have plenty and yet remain lost with out the hope of Jesus Christ in their lives. Our love for Christ should be apparent to everyone we meet.

Romans 12:9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

God is calling us to unity through love. We should always lift our brothers and sisters up in love. Never tearing them down with words or actions. This will destroy a church, a family a community. We should forgive others when they hurt us and strive to live together in peace and unity.

Galatians 5: 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

Ephesians 4: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
We should love others because God loves us. God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross for us. We need to share this love with others.

If we love others we are showing them that God lives in us and God’s love will make us complete.

1 John 4:7 \textit{Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.}

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

God calls us to not only love those that love us but also to love those that persecute us. It is hard to love someone that has done something to hurt us, but God calls us to love them.

Matthew 5:43 \textit{You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. 46 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? 48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.}

Proverbs 25:21 \textit{If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.}

God tells us to show our love by helping those in need. Luke 10:27 is a church called to reach out into our communities and help others who have lost hope and are caught in a generational curse of poverty. There is hope in Jesus Christ and as His disciples we are expected to help those in need. Deuteronomy 15:11 tells us that God’s word commands us be openhanded toward our brothers in Christ as well as the poor and needy in our community. His Word asks us the question. How can you love God and not help those in need? When others see us reaching out to help them in love we are bringing Glory to God and others will praise His name.

Deuteronomy 15:11 \textit{There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.}

Proverbs 14:21 \textit{He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.}

Matthew 10:42 \textit{And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.}

2 Corinthians 9:12 \textit{This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. 13 Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. 14 And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. 15 Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!}

1 John 3:16 \textit{This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? 18 Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.}

So let us enter into God’s presence and ask Him to help us to love others as He does; to forgive us for not loving our neighbors as we should, and to help us forgive those that have wounded us. In Jesus Name.