Prayer Warrior

Key References: 1 Kings 8:22-53; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Prophets and Kings, chap. 2, pp. 35-50; The Bible Story (1994), vol. 4, pp. 146-151; Our Beliefs nos. 14, 11, 17
King Solomon stood in front of the magnificent temple he had built for God. This permanent temple was much larger and more magnificent than the tent tabernacle created while Moses led the people through the wilderness.

Seven years had passed since Solomon had commanded that work begin on this temple. Finally it was the day of official dedication. The Israelite people were gathered in expectation. Leaders and kings from other nations were also present, wanting to know more about famous King Solomon and his God.

The seventh month was always a good time for celebrations. The harvest was finished, and the time for new planting had not begun. It was time for the Feast of Tabernacles, seven days set aside for thanking God for the harvest. Now the people would also celebrate God’s mercies by dedicating themselves and the new temple to Him.

A procession came into view. The ark of the covenant, which had been crafted by Bezalel for the original tabernacle in the wilderness, was being carried to take its place in this new temple. Every six steps the priests stopped and made sacrifices to God.
Finally the priests and singers had all taken their positions—Levites dressed in white linen and carrying cymbals and harps, 120 priests sounding trumpets. Suddenly the cloud of God’s presence filled the temple. Then King Solomon knelt on the five-foot-high platform he had prepared especially for this dedication around the altar of sacrifice in the temple courtyard. His voice could be heard by all the people as he addressed God in prayer.

“LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way” (1 Kings 8:23).

“O God, will You really dwell here on earth? The heavens and even the heaven
of heavens cannot contain all Your glory! How much smaller and more insignificant is this house I’ve built for You? Please listen to our prayers. When Your people pray to You, hear us from heaven.

“If Israel sins, and its people are given to their enemies, but are sorry and ask forgiveness, please hear and forgive their sins. When there is no rain because of their sins, and they ask Your forgiveness, hear the prayer and send rain on their land.

“If there is famine, or locusts, or enemies taking the city, or even sickness, hear the prayers of Your people and heal them, so they will trust You and know You and walk in Your ways.

“There are strangers here in Israel, and many have come here to learn of You. Listen to their prayers and help
them know You and love You as Israel does today. Let them know that this house I built is called by Your name.

“If Your people go to war, and ask for Your help, listen to their prayers and strengthen them. When they are taken captive because of their sins and they seek You sincerely in prayer, hear their prayers and forgive and restore them to their lands.

“Lord, please turn Your eyes favorably toward Your servant and answer this prayer that I've spoken today in Your holy temple. Bless Your priests and Your people with the desire to worship You with happy hearts. Remember David Your servant, and don’t turn away from me, Your anointed king over Your people” (see 1 Kings 8:27-61).

Suddenly, there was fire! It came down from heaven, and this holy fire consumed all the burnt offerings and sacrifices. Glory filled the temple. All of Israel bowed down before God.

Solomon had prayed for all the people, for Jews and foreign visitors alike. God had honored that prayer and made His presence seen, felt, and known.

There were sacrifices, there was music, there was singing and rejoicing. Solomon’s prayer at the dedication of the temple left a deep impression on the hearts of the listeners. That day many decided to worship the God of Israel sincerely and with undivided hearts. Just as in the days of Solomon, our prayers for others are an important part of worshiping God. Our prayers for others reflect our faithfulness to the Creator whose love we share with His children.
Instructions: This puzzle contains four-letter-word answers. Each is placed in the circled grid from the outside in. When they are in place, the letters on the outside starting with number 1 will form the two-word answer in each grid. All of the texts are found in 1 Kings 8, NIV.

First Grid:
1. Talk to God reverently (verse 30)
2. A public path for travelers, street
3. Requests (verse 43)
4. Belonging to you, ______ people (verse 35)
5. Not shut (verse 29)
6. To change, to _______ from their sin (verse 35)
7. What does God do from heaven? _______ (verse 34)
8. “May your _______ be open” (verse 29)
9. Stood up (verse 54)
10. Another word for “spoke” or “told” (verse 25)

Second Grid:
2. A promise to speak the truth (verse 31)
3. Water falling in drops (verse 36)
4. The spiritual element in human beings (verse 48)
5. To listen, _______ (verse 28)
6. Allow God _______ your heart
7. A request, a _______ (verse 38)
8. Another word for “offered” (verse 34)
9. Just one of, Jesus is God’s _______ Son
10. “As you have _______” (verse 25)

Puzzle Clue
To _______ for ________ is one way to ____________________  ____.