

Prayer for a Business Meeting

Tim Simpson is a member of the group that meets regularly to pray for Business in Bristol on the Upper Reaches barge in Temple Quay. Based on his many years of business experience he has compiled an extensive collection of prayers for workplace topics. Here is one that will strike a chord with many readers: *Here Comes That Meeting*.

Tim prefaces the prayer by saying that although most work and business meetings are routine, some are momentous, and the run-up to them can be stressful. The heart may sink or nerves may jangle at the prospects of a meeting. Will I get the job or promotion I have longed for? Will our firm win the contract? Will we get the grant funding, new equity or loan we need to keep the business afloat? Will a disciplinary matter be satisfactorily addressed and resolved? Will what's happened mean that someone is out of a job, maybe even by the end of the meeting? And so on.

Gracious Heavenly Father

May those who have an upcoming meeting that is causing them stress be enabled to take a step back, look calmly at the situation, and not fret about possibilities they can't control;

May they consider discussing their concerns with someone outside the circle of those immediately affected by the discussions that may be taken at the meeting;

May they do their best to prepare well for the meeting and to trust their preparations, recognising that no one can do better than their best, and that sometimes what seems like a negative outcome could be the best thing that has happened to them for a long time, for reasons they don't yet know;

May the meeting be chaired well by whoever is responsible; may there be no crossed wires and misunderstandings that might imperil relationships or impede progress;

May those who know the Lord Jesus remember his promise to never leave nor forsake us, and that (as David knew and reflected in Psalm 23) God is with us even in the darkest hours and gravest dangers as our protecting and guiding Shepherd. May they, after the meeting, talk it through with God, listen to anything he may wish to share with them, offer themselves to him afresh, thank him for their presence in his life and the certainty of his promises, and declare that they are going to trust him with the consequences of the meeting.

Amen.

This could well be a prayer not just to be used on behalf of others, but by you the reader – turning 'they', 'those' and 'them' into 'I' and 'me' as appropriate.

