

JESUS SAID

“When You Pray”

PRAYER IS THE HEARTBEAT OF COMMUNION WITH GOD
COMMUNION WITH GOD IS THE HEARTBEAT
OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

A Handbook To Prayer

By: Hollis McGehee

(title page)

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How To Use This Book

We pray this simple tool will encourage you to grow your prayer life – and for all of us to see prayer as not so much something we ‘do’ as a way of life – a life pattern of loving, trusting and relying on God in our waking – rising – breathing – living – and all of which life consists. Prayer is the heartbeat of our communion with God and communion with God is the heartbeat of the Christian life.

The printed prayers and other prayer aids are intended as encouragement – not to be prayed like reciting a promise or a creed but to be used as a starting point, a primer, an encouragement and a ‘booster shot’ for our lives in prayer as we seek a deeper and more intimate love relationship with the one true living God through a Christ centered walk in our pilgrimage here below.

This book is intended to be used in conjunction with your daily scripture reading and prayer – it is filled with scripture based prayers and suggestions for prayer with the sole purpose being for each of us to pray more and pray more effectively as we live the life God has called us to live – ever drawing closer to Jesus – thereby honoring God.

We should by no means use this book or any other book authored by a human in place of personal, Holy Spirit inspired and led listening to God in his Word in prayer. We fervently pray this simple tool, by God’s grace, may help give new flavor and intensity to your experience of the one true living God in prayer. We give him all thanks and praise now and forever. Amen

Why, When, Where, What, How Of Prayer

Why: Why is a question we normally address from our intellect but the ‘why’ here is of the heart far more than the mind; the very essence of prayer is of the heart – it is not that our heads are left behind but the compelling motive for prayer and in prayer is heart communication with a loving God. Prayer issues forth from a heart that hungers and thirsts after God. Mrs. Flossie Bateman, a dear ninety-five-year-old friend says, “she is hungry for God” – real prayer is being hungry for God! Communication means God with us and us with God. Guess which conversation should be more prominent – yes – of course we need to listen to God more than we talk to God – we listen primarily by reading what God has said. “Reading” is not strong enough – we need to take in the Word of God with our eyes, our mouth, our ears, our heart and our mind. It must be consumed with slow deliberate “bites”. We need to be more careful and deliberate in this process than anything else we do – listening to God – thinking on his Word – speaking to God from our hearts. The why of prayer is a hunger and thirst for God – for his heart:

Acts 13:22 (ESV)

²²And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’

Psalms 42:1 (ESV)

¹As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

God said we should pray, and we want to be obedient but our heart hungers and thirsts for God and that is the real basis for prayer – hungering after God.

When: “I am not a morning person”! Ok, are you a ‘morning person’ when there is something you really have to get up early for? Of course! We are what we want to be – we are what is needed. It is important that God has our best – our first – he is a priority worth changing out schedule and even our life habits for. Now, am I saying God doesn’t hear prayer after a certain hour – no, of course not – but early allows us to be prepared for everything coming our way today – the battle

may be over if we wait to pray later in the day! Pray – all the time – we need to pray as often as we breathe – breathe in Holy Spirit breathe out prayer. Prayer is a life-style that is always, however it is imperative that we set aside committed specific times to pray. So, you might consider those thoughts but ultimately we each have to figure this out on our own, but we have to set aside a time (and times is even much better). One last thing on time(s) – set prayer alarms on your cell phone to remind you to pray at various times – it will be a blessing to you and God will be honored and pleased.

Where: Jesus said

⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Think this is important – well Jesus thought enough about it to include in his greatest sermon ever and said ‘when you pray’ ‘go into your room’ ‘pray to your Father’ (who is in secret) ‘your Father’ ‘will reward you’. Why? The same reason your wife or husband / boyfriend or girlfriend / want you alone away from your cell phone... Special – private – time – alone – a love relationship! Now he doesn’t give any specifications other than ‘shut the door’ so a place where you can get alone with God. Yes, it’s important. A place where you can sit, stand and kneel; a light; a writing surface; pad, pen, Bible, hymn book(s); you can be alone without interruption if at all possible. I think it is great if you can have an area that you can put up things like prayer lists, scriptures, maps... for me these are invaluable aids to my prayer life but you can do the same thing in a loose leaf notebook and keep it with your Bible.

What: The Bible(s), Prayer notes, Hymnal(s) – I would suggest (as was suggested to me many years ago) following, at a minimum, this reading plan:

Psalms: Read one a day that matches the day of the month (next month same thing you just move up to the ‘thirties’ and so forth. The very best plan for Psalms is to read the following i.e. May 1 (Psalms 1, 31, 61, 91, 121) May 2 (Psalms 2, 32, 62, 92, 122) and so forth and that takes you all the way through the book of Psalms every month.

Proverbs: Read the chapter that matches the day of the month – May 1 read Proverbs 1, May 2 Proverbs 2 and so forth. Thus, you will read through the Proverbs every month.

You will not live long enough to ‘wear them out’ – ever!

Gospels: Read through the four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John at least 2 – 3 times a year – set up your own quarterly schedule of covering the four every 3 months and then repeat...

Old Testament: Try to make it through the Old Testament at least once a year – read 3 books a month – set a schedule of every 10 days covering one book – some will take much longer – This has to be a priority to us but if we have to leave some wiggle room leave it here and make it through at least all the way over two year period.

New Testament: Read it through at least once a year – having already taken out the 4 Gospels it amounts to about 2 books per month and most of them can be read in an hour or less.

How: Pray with our hearts – with our whole heart we seek after God in prayer and as the most vital part of prayer we listen to God in his Word. It is absolutely impossible to read scripture and pray to God too much – pray as often as you can – as long as you can – about anything / anyone you can – for as long as ever you can. When you finish – pray and read some more. The “how” to pray is to frame our prayer in and from our heart, not our intellect – we pray because we have hearts after God.

We don’t pray nearly as much about trying to get something from God, we pray to give ourselves more completely to God – not my will on earth – but His will in me / you! Prayer is not a “thing we do” it is the life we are called to live. We should forget to pray just like we abandon breathing – never as long as there is breath left – breath in the Holy Spirit and Oxygen – breath out prayer to the God who gives us the breath.

We read with our minds but our hearts long for the words of God – like John Wesley said “Oh give me that book – the book of God.” He was speaking from his heart – his love of God born out of God’s first loving him !

Matthew 4:4 (ESV)

⁴But he answered, “It is written, “ ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

2 Timothy 3:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

¹⁶All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

¹⁷that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Matthew 6:6 (ESV)

⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 26:41 (ESV)

⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Philippians 4:6 (ESV)

⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

We don't read to get information, we read to come face to face with God. Do not fall into the trap of just 'reading' God's Word – we need to see it as an encounter with the living God and His goal for each of us is Christlikeness – we become less, and Christ becomes more.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the glory of God and the increase of his kingdom in each heart as we yield ourselves to him in a loving communion.

Acknowledgements

With love to my wife Elaine G. McGehee who is ever and always ready to pray and to encourage me in prayer and helping others to pray and draw ever closer to Christ. Oh, that we all had her heart for Jesus. I want to thank my supportive and blessed Pastor Eric McNeil, and my friends Elmo P. 'Bo' Gabbert, M.D., Pastor Nick Greco, Steve Hudson, Bob Kimbrough, Shane O'Hara, Roy Pendergraft, Pastor Bobby Thornhill for their help.

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COME BACK AND LIST ITEMS TO GO HERE

Introduction

How important is prayer? The disciples only asked Jesus to teach them one thing: **TEACH US TO PRAY!** Jesus said: “When you pray....” If you get nothing else from this book then get this “When you pray” and then go and do it – **PRAY!** Pray about all things at all times at all locations – pray without ceasing.

When you pray never forget what is actually happening: you are not speaking words into empty air; when a born-again child of God prays you are heard by the Creator who is always listening. God is exceedingly glad to hear from His children; He knows exactly what is needed and He is willing and ready to not just hear our prayers but to answer our prayers – perfectly every time all the time for all time. God our Father is more ready to hear and answer us than we are ready to call upon Him. You can do more after praying but you can never ever do more than pray until you have first prayed.

What I don’t know about prayer greatly exceeds what I do know – yet God teaches us and ours is to trust God and pray. No prayer plan or written prayer or ‘how to book’ is the final word on prayer. Everything I write here is simply an effort to get me and you to pray more, pray more effectively, pray Christ centered and Holy Spirit led prayer – and

above all to pray. God alone is our ultimate guide and the only true and complete handbook on prayer is His all-time best seller: The Holy Bible.

“The job of every Christian is to pray. Plain and simple. yet we want to do more than simply pray. We want to do something important for God...we want to be someone important to Him; we want to show our strength and exert our influence. Prayer seems like such a small thing to do—next to nothing at all in fact... Prayer is not just an exercise routine God has us on; it’s our business, our only business. prayer is our holy occupation. Plain and simple. “
(pages 7-8)

(Prayer A Holy Occupation” by Oswald Chambers)

The most important thought we will ever think:

Having right thoughts about who God is – the critical point of praying ‘right’. If God is not who he says he is then nothing else really matters. However, God is precisely who he says he is, and he always does what he says he will do:

God is eternal – He is the uncreated Creator

God is infinite – He is limitless in every way

God is holy – He is perfect, without darkness or even shadow

God is love – Love is not something that God does – he is love

God is faithful – He always is and does just what he says

God is unchanging – nothing in time or eternity will ever change God

God is gracious – He is gracious in all his ways

God is all powerful – God can do all things – there is no power like God

God knows everything – He knows everything – absolutely everything

God is all this and infinitely more – when we pray He is on the other end of our ‘call’ – the one and only God. We listen he speaks – he listens, we speak. For every single born again Christians, God always hears our prayer, he cares, he answers and his answers are always perfect – that is to say his answers are completely consistent with who he is: love, holy, all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging... When you pray in the name of Christ Jesus (not as a magical name but praying through the person and power of Christ) we can know that this God who is the uncreated Creator is listening and loving and answering – perfectly in every way every time – and so we pray “your kingdom come, and your will be done through Christ our Lord - Amen

(PUBLISHER NOTE: The quotes will precede each title with the quote being about 1/3 of way down page and then the section and title spaced a little below that)

“He who has learned to pray has learned the greatest secret of a holy and happy life.” William Law

Section 1

“The Unexamined Life Is Not Worth Living” Socrates

(if you missed the why, what, when... above – go back now before reading any further)

A very dear and respected friend told me a story about ‘four dots’ – like four ink dots on a page say in the shape of a rectangle. : : the upper left dot is my friend and the upper right dot is God. The friend travels from his corner across to God and each time God checks his heart (heart is in the middle of the four dots) and reveals spiritual truths and spiritual failures to him. Then comes what I call a crisis of belief – what is he going to do with what God showed him? There are only two real responses – ‘yes Lord’ and he makes a course correction in accordance with God’s examination (or reject God and his Word – never a good move). When my friend trusts and obeys what God reveals that is faith (the dot in the lower right hand corner). Then God is honored and glorified by my friend’s response to God – the fourth dot – bottom left.

Socrates said “the unexamined life is not worth living” – so are we willing to have our hearts examined by God? Are we trusting God so that when we face the crisis of belief (will we go with what God is showing us from his examination) we go on in faith, trusting God and thus growing us up into Christlikeness and honoring God? Or, do we shrink back to a safe place where we don’t have to look at ourselves too closely.

A life well lived is one that recognizes the ultimate importance of having your heart examined by the Word of God. We will never engage with God in prayer – us listening to him and maybe speaking back – unless we are willing to have God show us what is broken and how God would have us correct our course. The very purpose of our lives is to love and honor God and that can only happen under two conditions: (a) we are born again by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10); and, (b) we are willing to have God ‘prune’ us by showing us what must go and what must be changed and then submit to God – trusting God.

Trusting God as the un-created Creator of all things, who has always been and shall ever be, who knows all things and loves us beyond our imagination – is the key to living an examined life that is committed to one true God who shall be forever praised.

He said God also brought to mind something he read by Thomas Blancard, the inventor of the profile machine. His invention is the forerunner of the simple machine we see used in hardware stores to cut keys. The profile machine is built on two parallel lines with one of those lines being a blank and one being a pattern. There is a ‘cutter’ that trims the blank to match the pattern. Each one of us is a blank, Jesus is the pattern and God is the cutter! A life well lived in God’s economy is one that is being continually offered for shaping and conforming conformed to the likeness of Jesus Christ.

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also **predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”* (Romans 8:28–29 ESV)

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
Psalm 139:23 (ESV)

Somewhat off topic but more than worth mentioning: you and I can draw our ‘four dots’ on a sheet of paper and use them to examine our lives. With a searching and fearless inventory we can use these four simple dots to look at your life – see where you are and where you are going. God has a specific plan for your life and his plan is always for the very best. We accept or reject his correction. Prayer which involves God’s divine inspection (holy cat scan) of our hearts (he already knows what is there but our invitation for him to inspect is our prayer love language saying God you know, you love me and I trust you) always leads us to the place where we either accept or reject God’s love and direction – the crisis of belief. God knows what lies ahead and we can always trust him to rightly direct us; or, we go back down the same old path with the same old problems.

Here in this writing, I am presenting myself for a close examination by God and I invite you to boldly go where you may not have traveled before or to return to the destination you previously sought and now are encouraged to submit yourself once again.

This process is life – over and over and over. The truth is that every moment of our lives we are looking at the four dots : : and deciding to submit to examination or to reject examination – the examination reveals the need for change (always and for all of us) and we either submit to God and pass through the crisis of belief in faith for God’s honor or we reject the truth of God and turn back to our old tired position – on a path parallel to God but not willing that the twain should ever engage.

The decision of whether we are willing to submit to God leads me to the final words my friend shared with me: “Constructive Discontent”. If you give this some

thought it is a beautiful phrase that says the only way to progress on our vertical journey is to not look for complacency but rather to ever and always seek to make the journey God's way – not our own – Jesus said I only do what my Father tells me – good sound example and advice – may we ever draw closer to the likeness of Christ. The examined life is a life of constructive discontent – a life of prayer. ⁱ

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts." ~ Mother Teresa

Section 2

What Is Prayer

A love relationship with the Creator. Listening to and speaking with one who knows you completely and loves you beyond ability to understand. Prayer is communion with God. A trust relationship where there is no doubt – God knows all and he wants the very best for you – trusting God to lead us where we would never reach on our own. To understand communication with God we must understand, as best we can just who God is --- there is only one God, He is love, He is God our Creator, our Sustainer, our Savior, our Guide, our Hope, our Door, our Way, the Truth, the Life... The one true God exists in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God the Son – Jesus Christ – said “When you pray...” (Luke 11:5). He is God he invented prayer and he tells us ‘when you pray’!

“...at that time people began to call on the name of the Lord.” (Genesis 4:26). This is the first reference to prayer in the Bible. To “call on the name of the Lord” - what does that mean? It is, in my understanding the ultimate definition of prayer. Prayer is not an activity nearly so much as it is a relationship. I am blessed to have a relationship with my wife Elaine such that just being in the same location we are communing – sometimes we even use words. This communion is because we know experientially what we mean to each other and that while far from perfect – our only intention for one another is God's highest good. To “call upon the name of the Lord” is to be in a love relationship with God (Creator of all things) where you know God is all you need --- you know when you call on God there is no greater communication --- to call upon the “name” of the Lord is to place your trust in, to get your rest from, to find your peace through, and to be

strengthened and encouraged by God himself who loves you and me with an everlasting love. Knowing God always always always has the very best for you.

It is wonderful to pray out loud with words but it is even greater when your heart is singing and crying out in love for and faith in the God of all creation – to have your eyes rejoice in prayer as they see God’s creation, knowing the Creator and all that means. To know assuredly as you reach out your hand in prayer to one who cannot be seen or touched but who you know is more real, more able, more powerful than anything you can see or touch in this world – to call upon the name of the Lord is to recognize in your spirit that there is one true God, who is without beginning or end, bigger than any problem that exists in this world, is in ultimate control, is sovereign over all people, things and events, knows and wants the very best for all, is completely loving and completely just in every way. Calling upon the name of the Lord is engaging in prayer and there is no better, higher, more glorious, more effective of communication that could ever exist --- to call upon the name of the Lord is to pray to the one true God and rest in the sure knowledge God hears and answers our prayers perfectly in Christ Jesus.ⁱⁱ

Prayer is kneeling and speaking to God with your mouth --- prayer is listening to God speaking to you through the Holy Scripture (not old words long ago recorded but the living Word of God speaking fresh to you in this very moment) – prayer is joining with others to lift up needs and requests in concert with one another – prayer is knowing God by being born again in Christ Jesus – born of the Spirit by grace (gift from God) alone through faith alone in Christ Jesus alone—prayer is fully, completely, utterly trusting God and knowing, being God, that in leaning on God it is well with your soul – no need to be anxious about anything --- prayer is the life of the created looking in full reliance to the Creator who loves you and me more than we love ourselves.

For a Christian to hear someone say, “let’s pray” might well be the same as hearing them say “let’s breathe now”. For a born-again Christian prayer is your very life. It is not something you ever cease to do because it is a constant looking to and depending upon God. To pray without ceasing is akin to walking with your feet on the ground – you don’t really know any other way – akin to how a little bird sits with its mouth wide open waiting for the worm to drop. Trusting God as he gives us life one breath at a time.

Describing prayer can be a never ending process but – for now – let us know this, praying is living in full reliance on your Creator – praying is trusting God even and especially when you don’t necessarily understand the circumstances – it is to join Job who said upon the occasion of the loss of almost all that was precious to him:

²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.” Job 1:21 (ESV)

I trust God not because of what he gives me but because of who he is – he is always more than enough.

We are speaking of experiencing God in the same way a child in the womb experiences the mother --- with an umbilical cord relationship between myself and God -- - knowing that all that is needed is provided in God's perfect timing, will and way. --- Prayer is infinitely more than 'doing something' – prayer is a life of love lived fully dependent upon God for breath, bread, light, life, strength, hope, peace, rest and courage - -- prayer is not a religious ritual --- prayer is life itself in a person looking to Almighty God--- the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

“I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach.” Charles Spurgeon

Section 3.

“TEACH US TO PRAY”

Nowhere in scripture do we see that Jesus taught his disciples to preach or teach but he taught them to pray and he said “When you pray...” So, we have a God given perfect outline for prayer in what we commonly refer to as “The Lord's Prayer”. It is not a form prayer for us to simply regurgitate but it is a method of praying – where Jesus responding to his disciples' request ‘teach us to pray’ (Luke 11:1) said pray like this.

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,

¹² and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6:5-13 ESV)

Jesus taught his disciples (and us) to pray. The prayer (that we so often call the Lord's Prayer - really the disciples' prayer) is not a few words we memorize but rather a method of living for God while loving and fully trusting him – in all things – at all times – for all time and eternity.

“When you pray” is what Jesus said – not an option but a necessity just as eating and drinking water and breathing – without prayer a Christian dishonors God and starves him / herself. We might well say we only feel led to pray when we feel led to breathe, right! It is settled, we must pray, and our prayer should be “without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). I purpose to pray with my eyes, with my ears, with my feet, with my lungs and even with my heart. In other words to remain in a spirit or state of prayer at all times because prayer is the “switch” which we, as born again Christians, flip from our rising in the morning till our laying down at night and through the night as well--- the switch that transfers us from our endless questions and doubt to fully trusting God himself who loves us and gave himself for us. Now, let me quickly add that I often fail / forget to flip the switch – yet this is my goal.

St. John Chrysostom said it like this:

“Prayer is an all-efficient panoply, a treasure undiminished, a mine which is never exhausted, a sky unobscured by the clouds, a heaven unruffled by the storm. It is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings... The potency of prayer that subdued the strength of fire, it hath bridled the rage of lions, hushed anarchy to rest; extinguished wars, appeased the elements, expelled demons, burst the chains of death, expanded the gates of heaven, assuaged diseases, repelled frauds, rescued cities from destruction, stayed the sun in its course, and arrested the progress of the thunderbolt.”

And so Jesus taught us like this:

- “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

This is not a warning against public prayer, but it is a warning against praying for the sake of being noticed by the public or, for that matter, anyone other than God. Praying to people is a waste of time so far as prayer goes. People do not and cannot answer prayers. Praying for the sake of being noticed is pure pridefulness – not only do those prayers go unanswered, they are horribly offensive to God (pride is the ultimate sin – to draw attention to ourselves rather than God)! ⁱⁱⁱ

So, we might say that our attitude of prayer must be framed by these scriptural mandates: Always pray in faith:

²³ But whoever has doubts is condemned if he eats, because the eating is not from faith. For whatever does not proceed from faith is sin. Romans 14:23 (ESV)

Always pray to the glory (honor and respect) of God:

³¹ So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)

My understanding here is simply this: we should all spend and want to spend much time in personal private prayer alone with God who loves us more than we love ourselves. Jesus, who was as to his divine nature God himself, but was also, as to his human nature, man – regularly got alone with God for hours of one on one communication.

What is clearly not found here is any prohibition against praying in public but rather against praying in public for the sake of impressing others or making statements to convince others of our own righteousness / holiness. All prayer must be offered with humility – in total dependence on almighty God.

When Jesus said (v. 6 above) that my Father will reward you, he was not speaking of rewards in the sense we normally think of but rather that God meets us in our prayer time and blesses us with His presence and regardless of whether God changes anything outside of us in response to our prayers, he will always change things inside us as we pray and that is the best of rewards – his presence and his provision. We must think not of prayer as a goal of getting God to do our will but rather that his will is accomplished in us – that we become more Christ-like.

- ⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

God is not needful of our prayers, yet he calls on us to pray. God knows all things and so he knows what we will pray about before we pray. God is the giver of all good gifts and so beautiful phrases we might like to invoke in prayer (not by any means wrong in and of themselves since they come from God in the first place) are not “wrong” but our motives for employing these words / phrases has to be to honor and bless God himself

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. Psalm 19:14 (ESV)

Never think or say “I don’t know how to pray” – praying with and to God is just communication of the heart and often it comes out the mouth. God is looking at the heart – none of us knows what we should pray for so God’s Holy Spirit prays for us in accordance with the perfect will of God.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Romans 8:26–27 (ESV)

Pray sincerely, seeking to honor God in humble obedience to the Word of God being led by the Holy Spirit – and your prayer will always be effective.

- **Pray then like this: “our Father in heaven,...**

All born again Christians together make up the “Body of Christ” and we all have a common Father and he is Almighty God – Yahweh -- he is “our” Father not just “my” Father. He is our Father and so he has complete authority over us. Because he is our Father and because He has complete authority over us, He is also responsible for us. God is our provider in all things – everything we have comes from God and through God – every single breath I / you draw is a gift from God --- God is providing everything needed for life – here and hereafter.

When we bow to pray to “our Father in heaven...” we are praying to one who can and does hear us, care for us, provide for us, and love us with an everlasting love. “In heaven” is God’s position of both authority and power – “our Father in heaven” has the absolute authority to direct all things and the power to carry out his direction – nothing consistent with God’s ‘person’ is beyond his authority and power (God does nothing inconsistent with his person – holy, perfect, loving, all knowing...). God is spirit -- he is never confined to a “place” because he exists outside of space and time ---but as the Creator of space and time he is able to enter into our space and time to accomplish all his purposes. God is everywhere and so H\he is with us in prayer. But God is God and so we must esteem him above all else and all others – he is “our Father in heaven!”

When we pray we need to get in our minds that we are participating in the most exciting – rich – rewarding – rejuvenating – powerful love activity that a human will ever experience – to speak with God who created the world and everything in it – the One who loves us and is always ready and waiting to hear from us in prayer. When we pray we are praying to God and there is none like him.

- **“hallowed be your name.”**

God is God and so we must in all things and at all times -- without exception for any reason -- honor the name and person of God. To “hallow” God’s name is to honor him -- to revere him -- to have the highest of respect for him -- to know that God has always been and shall ever be -- God is without equal -- God who created all things -- God who is very God of God is the one to whom we pray -- he is to be honored above all -- before all -- for all time. Prayer should be as common as breathing yet there is nothing ‘common’ about praying to almighty God – we hallow God in our thoughts and words and actions. Conversely, we should never do anything that in any way disrespects God – ever.

- **“Thy kingdom come...”**

The “kingdom” we are praying to come is multi-faceted --- (a) the return of Christ Jesus to rule and reign forever:

Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV)

- ⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the ultimate fulfillment of “Thy kingdom come” and it is what we should all long for and pray for – “come Lord Jesus come” – sooner than later – when there will be no more sorrow and no more sickness – when we shall see God how he really is – when the enemy’s already accomplished defeat comes to fully pass....

But there is another aspect of “Thy kingdom come” we are praying for and seeking the coming of God’s kingdom now into the lives of unbelievers – that God’s earthly kingdom here and now would greatly increase as we obey Jesus’ commands:

Acts 1:7–8 (ESV)

- ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,

and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

“Thy kingdom come” also involves the kingdom of God coming to full realization in the individual members of the Body of Christ – that Christians would mature in their faith so that the kingdom of God would be more fully active and alive in each individual believer and thus also in the whole of the Body of Christ (all born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ worldwide):

Colossians 1(ESV)

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The kingdom of God comes in each of us when we grow up in our Christian faith – becoming Christlike and the earth starts to look more like heaven!

- **“Thy will be done...”**

Jesus Himself, fully God but fully man, prayed “not my will but Thy will be done.” When we pray “Thy will be done” we are acknowledging that God is God – we are not – that God is all knowing and all powerful – more than able to reach a result that is infinitely better than our best thoughts – we are praying for God to do as He pleases; that we want things to be his will, his way, his time, his order.... We are praying the scripture that teaches us:

²⁸ for

“ ‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’ Acts 17:28 (ESV)

God knows the beginning from the end, he created us, he knows all our days before the first comes to be; everything belongs to him; he knows all people; he knows all circumstances; he is more powerful than anyone or anything; and so it should be crystal clear that what he wants is going to be light years ahead of whatever might occur in my mind to pray.

We might even pray the other side of it like this: Lord, may I have no will but yours and may I now and ever pray Lord your will be done in all things, in my life, in the matters I bring before you today – in all things for all time – may your kingdom come and your will be done --- soon Lord Jesus – soon!

- **“on earth as it is in heaven.”**

What do we want done ‘on earth as it is in heaven’? All of the three prayers we prayed just before “on earth as it is in heaven”:

- Hallowed be your name – on earth as it is in heaven
- Your kingdom come – on earth as it is in heaven
- Your will be done – on earth as it is in heaven

Then how are things done in heaven? If heaven were in space and time and physical instead of spiritual then a walk-through heaven would be a walk through a place perfectly ordered; a place where literally everything is in its place and everything honored God in every way. God says that:

“You shall be holy for I am holy” 1 Peter 1:16 ESV

God calls us to live holy (set apart from / distinguished from) lives that are Godly and fully in order. So our prayer is “Lord may it be in my life just like it is in heaven, completely orderly and completely God honoring in every way.” – may your name be hallowed – your kingdom come – your will be done on earth just like it is in heaven – Amen

- **“Give us this day our daily bread...”**

God is our provider. God is the source of all things needed for life now and life eternal. To ask for our “daily bread” is to acknowledge that we are, like little birds looking up to and fully dependent on their Maker, looking up to God for all that is needed. God is faithful in every way – always.

Matthew 6:25–33 (ESV)

Do Not Be Anxious

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not

arrayed like one of these.³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

“Heavenly Father give us what we need as we need it. Give us strength and energy to go about our daily tasks and may we know that as we keep our eyes on you, you will provide for us.” We don’t need to worry or be anxious about our needs, simply do what You have put in front of us (job, family, home..) and that is our part – Your part is doing everything else (but even “our part” we only are able to do in His strength and by His grace).

God I trust you to meet my needs today. We are praying and telling God that His plan is perfect in every way and we are, like the birds, trusting him for His daily filling – ‘our daily bread.’

John 6:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

- **and forgive us our debts,**

We have all sinned, there is not one of us who has not sinned.

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

In fact, here is what God says about any thoughts to the contrary:

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8 (ESV)

Clearly we all have sinned, and we know God is holy and He can have nothing to do with sin. One might be heard to argue “why should I confess my sin, Jesus paid for my sin in full and so there is no need for me to ask for further forgiveness....” What of such an argument, Jesus has paid in full: “It is finished” (John 19:30) signifying He had paid our sin debt in full – so why do we still have “debts” or sin to be forgiven?

Let me give a simplistic but I hope pointed answer by way of example: If a child violates his parents’ rules does he cease to be in the family? No! Does he have to be forgiven and restored to fellowship? Yes! I am speaking to born again Christians and reviewing what God says about our relationship to Him:

God has said to us that whoever believes in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior **has** eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16–18 (ESV)

For all who have been born again there is no condemnation.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:1 (ESV)

He has promised that nothing, including our sin, can separate us from His love for us in (through) Christ Jesus.

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38–39 (ESV)

He has plainly told us that we all sin but if we confess our sins he will forgive us and cleanse us.

⁸ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8–9 (ESV)

We are not made right before God by what we do or do not do but only by our trust / faith (also a gift from God) in the finished work of Jesus Christ, fully trusting / believing in Christ Jesus.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, Romans 3:21–23 (ESV)

He tells us we are declared just (free from sin) not by our actions but by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1 (ESV)

It is absolutely true that all our sins are paid for in full but likewise true that God has said we should confess our sin and repent of it. This is an ongoing process because we all fall short daily. Yet the sole and only basis of our right standing with God is only from and through the finished work of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

So, we, in response to the Word of God confess our sins and ask for forgiveness on a daily basis – not to get into the family but because we are in the family. We don't confess our sins to be made right before God, we already are right before God in Christ Jesus, but rather to experience the daily cleansing and restoration of the enjoyment of our fellowship in / with God.

Someone has explained it like this: forgiveness on the cross is full and final and might be considered as a judicial forgiveness. It is the forgiveness purchased for us by the atonement (payment in full) by the death of Christ. It is the basis for Romans 8:1 “therefore no condemnation” for those who are in Christ Jesus. But the second aspect is more like a parental forgiveness that deals with our cleansing and God's displeasure over our sin (See Hebrews 12:5-11) I have seen it expressed like this:

- Judicial forgiveness deals with sin's penalty
- Parental forgiveness deals with sin's consequences.
- Judicial forgiveness frees us from the condemnation of the righteous, omniscient Judge whom we have wronged
- Parental forgiveness sets things right with a grieving and displeased but loving Father.
- Judicial forgiveness provides an unshakeable standing before the throne of divine judgment
- Parental forgiveness deals with the state of our sanctification at any given moment and is dispensed from a throne of divine grace.

So the forgiveness Christians are supposed to seek in their daily walk is not pardon from an angry Judge, but mercy from a grieved Father.

- **as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

This phrase is sometimes misunderstood and / or misconstrued. Our forgiveness by God is not conditional – we do not perform certain things in order that we get forgiveness – when Jesus said “it is finished” he spoke deep and eternal unchangeable truth.

However, in the same sense that God has said:

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.” (1 John 4:20–21, ESV)

When Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment in the law is, he could have just answered and given the one (Love God with all your heart, soul and mind Matthew 22:36-40) but he didn't do that. He went on to say:

“And a second is like it: “you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”
(Matthew 22:39 ESV)

When we fail / refuse to forgive others we are not determining our true spiritual condition (by our actions / omissions) but rather we are revealing the true condition of our heart. If we, having been forgiven much, cannot forgive others for the offenses they have done against us we are really revealing that we were never in the family in the first place. Now, we know there are times of stubbornness in every life and forgiveness must be ‘squeezed out’ of our own hearts – this is not of what we speak as revealing the true condition of our heart – that is revealed if we cannot bring ourselves beyond our pettiness to forgiveness that we show we were never in the family to begin with – we were just religious impostors.

Nowhere in all of scripture is there a better explanation of our responsibility to forgive than we find here in Matthew:

“Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So, the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So, his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.’”
(Matthew 18:21–35, ESV)

So, a heart that has been born again is a forgiving heart. We have been forgiven much and so we must forgive all those, without exception, who have done even vile things against us. It is Christ like to be forgiving under all circumstances:

“Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments.” (Luke 23:32–34, ESV)

- **¹³ And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

We live in a fallen world. There is temptation everywhere. Even if there were not temptations all around us, we would be tempted from within:

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.” (James 1:12–15, ESV)

We are in a battle with a mighty enemy – Satan who is just as real as God. Satan is defeated, he lost his battle at the cross when Jesus was crucified and paid for our sins and was dead and buried and raised from the dead. However, Satan is alive, and he constantly attacks and accuses all who are in Christ Jesus. So, we have to ask God to protect us from the evil one. He has given us the perfect tools to ward off the enemy and one of the places we find those tools laid out for us to take up and put into use is here:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:10–20, ESV)

God has provided for us a model for our prayers and the model is:
We offer praise and honor to God.

We offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God.
We want what he wants and that is for his kingdom to come – soon Lord Jesus.
We agree with God and we always pray in agreement with God – His will be done.
We agree that God is perfect in all ways and He has a perfect plan.
We are asking God to intercede on behalf of people here in order that His perfect will would be carried out in their lives and on earth.
We are recognizing our daily dependence on God and that He is our ultimate provider.
We are confessing our sins and asking for God’s forgiveness and cleansing – restoration to our fellowship.
We are to forgive those who have done anything to us / against us.
We are asking for God’s protection.

“No matter our need, God-Centered prayer is never out-flanked.”
Bob Kimbrough

Section 4

Praising and Thanking God

To know God is to know he is completely worthy of all the praise we could ever give to him. In fact, to know God is to be compelled from one’s innermost being to forever declare and proclaim the goodness of God, the beauty of God, the perfection of God, the holiness of God, the love of God, the order of God, the wisdom of God, power of God ... To see God is to know God and to know God is to praise God. The only right ‘formula’ for praising God is to recognize that at your best you fall far short in giving God the honor that is due him – so we can and must open our hearts and livestream our deepest love and blessings from our deepest soul to flow up to God in never ending praise and thanksgiving.

The Bible is filled with great scriptures of praise and thanksgiving – none any better than the Psalms. Here are just a couple of the great praise Psalms for us to use in honoring God immediately followed by various verses that refer to giving praise and honor to God.

Psalms 100 (ESV)

A Psalm for giving thanks.

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

²Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

³Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 103 (ESV)

Of David.

¹Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

²Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

³who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

⁴who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

⁵who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

⁶The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.

⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

¹³As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

¹⁴For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field;

¹⁶for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

¹⁷But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children,

¹⁸to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

¹⁹The Lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

²⁰Bless the Lord, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

²¹Bless the Lord, all his hosts, his ministers, who do his will!

²²Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!

We proclaim how great you are
and tell of the wonderful things you have done. (*Psalms 75:1*)

Praise the Lord, all people on earth,
praise his glory and might. (*1 Chronicles 16:28*)

God is wise and powerful! Praise him forever and ever. (*Daniel 2:20*)

Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD! He rescues the oppressed from the power of evil
people. (*Jeremiah 20:13*)

Let us praise God for his glorious grace, for the free gift he gave us in his dear
Son! (*Ephesians 1:6*)

Praise him—he is your God, and you have seen with your own eyes the great and
astounding things that he has done for you. (*Deuteronomy 10:21*)

Praise the LORD who has given his people peace, as he promised he would. (*1
Kings 8:56*)

The LORD is my strong defender; he is the one who has saved me. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will sing about his greatness. (*Exodus 15:2*)

I will tell of the LORD's unfailing love; I praise him for all he has done for us. He has richly blessed the people of Israel because of his mercy and constant love. (*Isaiah 63:7*)

Those who preach must preach God's messages; those who serve must serve with the strength that God gives them, so that in all things praise may be given to God through Jesus Christ, to whom belong glory and power forever and ever. Amen. (*1 Peter 4:11*)

Finally – not that there ever can be a finality to praise for God – here are some 'bits and pieces' I use personally to help me in my worship:

Thank God and praise him ever and always for all things:

God Father, Son, Holy Spirit Creation

Heavens mountains valleys lakes rivers oceans sunsets

Ants birds bees flowers trees grass leaves frogs elephants

Break of day end of day quiet of night sound of friends

Songs music instruments voices smiles eyes people

Love challenges blessings lessons chance to serve

Rocks joy peace patience learning memories family

Enemies obstacles grace mercy salvation Word of God

Holy Spirit clouds sun on clouds things that are big

Things that are tiny each second each minute each hour
Each day each week each month each year each decade
Every waking moment sleep God's promises God's commands
Every breath you take every beat of your heart every person you know giraffes tigers
bears whales seals fish cows
Sweet smells good food cool water babies children
Parents grandparents sisters brothers wives husbands
Way every person is different all people created in God's image
All people Jesus died to save different cultures one God
All different colors people are – only God could create
God's holiness, beauty, eternity, infinitude, power, presence
Mercy, grace, love, fairness, justice, never changes,
Ever present help, strong tower, righteous judge,
Fortress, a bulwark never failing, hedge of protection,
Joy of the Lord, blessed Redeemer, Living Word, Shepherd,
Bread of life, the Door, Bright Morning Star, Emmanuel – God with us,
Friend, Eternal Home, Way, Truth, Life, only Name given,
Man of sorrows, Son of God, what can wash away my sin – nothing
But the blood of Jesus – nothing in my hand I bring, simply to cross I cling

First, Last, Alpha and Omega, Name above all names, beautiful Savior,
Glorious Lord, the sweetest name on earth,
His willingness to hear you and speak to you 24/7 forever
Just to name a few!

NOW AND ALWAYS
LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH
GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE AND HONOR TO THE LORD GOD

“Is prayer your spare tire or your steering wheel?” Corrie ten Boom

Section 5

Examination and Confession

Are we ready and willing to have our hearts examined for ‘faults’ – to invite God to look on a deeper level than we can even imagine – to the very depths of our souls? David expressed it thus:

Psalm 139 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

¹O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

²You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.

⁵You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.

⁷Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
⁸If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
⁹If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
¹⁰even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
¹¹If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,”
¹²even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
¹³For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb.
¹⁴I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.
¹⁵My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
¹⁷How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with you.
¹⁹Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me!
²⁰They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain.
²¹Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
²²I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies.
²³Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
²⁴And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

David acknowledged how well the Lord knew him – more than he knew himself, and in honesty before God, so must we – God knows us far better than we know ourselves – he

created us, and all of our life was before him before our beings came into this present world. The point is that an examination has already occurred but are we willing to come to God at “the second dot” and face our crisis of belief in a Christ centered way where we acknowledge our sin and repent and turn to a place of hope and faith; or, are we condemning ourselves to ever return to the old way and continue to wrestle with ourselves in our old way of doing things. This “crisis of belief” can occur in two different scenarios:

- (1) It can be that we have never been born again and we need to reach that point where we admit / confess that we cannot successfully negotiate through our sin on our own and we repent (have a change of mind) and put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and receive, by gift from God through faith and even that his gift to us, eternal life in Christ Jesus;
Or,
- (2) We are already born-again Christians, but we have sin that we keep failing / refusing to deal with and we are left in this ‘Groundhog Day’ cycle of repetition. The most miserable place for a Christian to be is outside of the will of God – it is as close as he / she will ever get to Hell.

What will we do? Will we reject the Fathers’ loving invitation to move to a better place or will we trust God, invite the examination, face our crisis of belief (our way vs. God’s way) and see God’s grace lead us through to God’s glory.

I call this a ‘holy cat scan’ – search me O Lord and know me and show me all the nasty defects and unholy thoughts, words and actions and then lead me in the way that is everlasting – Jesus Christ. This seems to be hard but it is the easiest thing in the world to do once we realize that the exam has already taken place since God would never ever have sent Jesus to become sin so that we who are sin might become God’s righteousness in Jesus Christ if there was any other way. So, all we are doing in the examination is revealing to us what God already knows: we have all sinned and fallen short (Romans 3:23) and he can see this clearly from his holy perspective and he not only is willing he is pleading with us to come and lay down our lives – come to him and He will give us rest in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord, I have never received the gift of salvation and right now I transfer my trust from myself to the finished work of Jesus – by grace (your gift) alone through faith (trust in Christ and his finished work) in the Lord Jesus Christ I have a change of mind and I am born again into Christ and my life will never be the same again. Praise God. Amen.

OR

Prayer: Lord, I know I am a sinner saved by grace; help me Lord to move in the direction you show me toward your holiness – by your grace lead me in the way that is everlasting for the sake of Christ and your glory. Amen.

David was called, by God, a man after my own heart. Yet, we know David had a man killed and committed adultery with that man's wife and had a child outside of wedlock. How did David wind up being one of the heroes of the faith with that kind of history? Because David faced up to the examination of his conscience and his life and he acknowledged it freely to the Lord who long before knew David's sin.

Psalm 51 (ESV)

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem;

¹⁹then will you delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Lord, help us to be men, women, boys and girls after your own heart – that we would arrive there by wanting and seeking what you want ahead of what we want – that our desires in life would be your kingdom come and your will be done in all things always forever and ever. Amen

"Each time, before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in His glory. Think of what He can do, and how He delights to hear the prayers of His redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ and expect great things!" ~ Andrew Murray

Section 6

Daily Prayer Guide

(A Week of Prayers Modeled After Jesus' Prayer)

This section gives you seven prayers to help us each stay on the model Jesus has given us to pray – following his model prayer. These prayers, just as the Lord's Prayer, are offered for a way to help get you started and / or to help keep you and me on track in our daily prayers. Prayer is a function of God's love for us and the love in our heart for God – use these prayers for God's honor.

Sunday Prayers

Praising God

O Lord it is you that I adore and give glory to you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. (Psalm 115)

To you O Lord is all thanks given
For you alone are the Giver of all
Good gifts and to you is due thanks
For everything good in life and most
Of all thanks to you for Jesus Christ.
1 Chronicles 16:8)

How great are you O God
For you have created all things
All of the beauty that exists is from you
And through you has everything been
Created and through you all things
Are sustained. (Genesis 1, John 1,
Hebrews 1:3)
Give God praise and honor for all the
Things he has done for you

Confession

O Lord you oppose the proud but give
Grace to the humble – grant that I may
Humble myself before you and before
Others for the sake of Christ (James 4:6)

O Lord the sacrifices that you require
Are a broken and contrite heart
For this you will not despise so grant
That this day I may come before you
In the brokenness that is real
(Psalm 51:17)

O Lord if I claim to be without sin I
Am a liar and the truth is not in me
But if I confess my sin you O Lord
Are faithful and just to forgive my
Sin and cleanse me of all
Unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-9)

Renewal

Create in me a clean heart O Lord
And renew a right spirit within me
And lead me O Lord in the way that
Is everlasting helping me in all things
To look to you and to rely on you
For all things in life and eternity.
(Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 51:10)

I offer myself to you as a living
Sacrifice – I am not my own but
I have been bought with a price
So I give myself to you for I was
Never my own (Romans 12:1,
1 Corinthians 6:20)

Prayer of Commitment

Come to me all you who are weary
And heavily burdened and I will give
You rest (Matthew 11:28)

In view of your mercy O Lord May

I present my body as a living sacrifice
Which is my reasonable act of worship
And may I no longer be conformed
Or shaped by the world around me
But be transformed by the renewal
Of my mind (Romans 12:1-2)

Lord show me the path that you would
Have me to travel – help me to see
The way and know that you are
In yourself as Christ Jesus the Way,
The Truth and the Life – help me to
Ever and always look to and keep
My eyes upon Jesus who is the
Author and Finisher of my faith.
(John 14:6, Hebrews 12:2)

Lord, I want to grow in likeness to
Christ thinking like Him in all
Things (Philippians 2:5) May I
Become less and you become
More (John 3:30)

This day may all that I am and all
That I have be fully yielded to
And led by you O Lord my God.

Intercession

On this Lord's day I pray for the
Growth and maturing of all local
Fellowships

May we each bear one another's
Burdens and so fulfill the law of
The Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 6:2)

May the local Body be faithful to

Confess our sins to one another and
To pray for one another for healing
At every level – knowing the prayer
Of the righteous, and we are the
Righteousness of God in Christ
Jesus accomplishes much (James
5:16)

Praying for my local church and all local
Fellowships where the name of Jesus is
Lifted up in Spirit and in truth
For souls to be saved
For Christians to mature in Christ
For the Body of Christ to be edified

Prayer Acknowledging Who You Are O Lord

You are the one and only true God and there is
No other – may I always keep you in the
Forefront of my thoughts and prayers
(Deuteronomy 6:4)

I was alienated from you by my sin and the
Wages of my sin is death; but you O Lord
While I was still dead in sin – sent your Son
That I might be saved by grace alone through
Faith alone in Christ alone (Romans 3:23, 6:23
5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9)

I no longer stand condemned and nothing can
Separate me from your love in Christ Jesus
And so I rest and trust in you O Lord the
One true eternal God knowing you will ever
And always be with me and never leave me
(Romans 8:1, 8:38-39, Hebrews 13:5)

Rejoicing In Lord

Lord on this day and every day may I recall
And never forget that your joy is my strength
And in you I live and move and have my being
And so, no matter what is going on I yet can
Rejoice and give thanks and know that you are
At work in me and my circumstance and I can
Go forward being anxious for nothing but in
All things giving thanks to you O Lord our God
(Nehemiah 8:10, Acts 17:28, Romans 8:28-29,
Philippians 4:4-6, James 1:2-4)

Closing

Lord you are more than sufficient – you are God
And there is none like you – all of our needs are
Met in you – we are satisfied in your love and
Your presence (Deuteronomy 6:4, Exodus 20:3-5
John 1:14)

Now to you who are more than able to keep me
And sustain me now and forever more be all
Praise and honor and glory forever and ever
Amen. (Jude 24-25)

PRAYER FOR MONDAY

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Father, I come before you this day desiring to honor You as holy. You, God, are the Creator of the universe. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the King of Kings, and You alone God are the Almighty. Father, as I enter into Your presence, I know You are here. I know that I am only able to come before you because of Your grace and the saving work of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and it is through His righteousness that I bow before You. May all glory, honor, and praise be given unto You. *“I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1* | Father, I truly desire that my relationship with You will grow and that I might go deeper and deeper into knowing you and that your ways will become my desire. I am fully aware of Your presence when I come to you in prayer, and I acknowledge You as my

Father in Heaven. I come before you in reverence and awe, knowing that as powerful as You are, I also know that You are a loving and tender Father that loves me deeply. You are my Heavenly Father. *“One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Ephesians 4:6*

GOD’S WILL BE DONE

Father, I pray that Your will would be made clear and that I might cast my own will aside. I do not want to come before You with a heart that would desire my will over Your perfect will. Father, please help me to align my heart with Your heart so that Your agenda will surely come before my own agenda.

You, Father, know the desires of my heart before I even say a word, but I want to surrender my heart’s desires and ask that You would create within me a surrendered heart. I pray that Your perfect will shall prevail and that Your will shall be done without disobedience or obstacle or hinderance of human sin. Use me God to do Your will and the work of Your kingdom.

Help me Father to be obedient to you, and to deny my sinful nature that is present on this earth. Help me Father to be a tool for accomplishing Your will through obedience and a desire to give You honor and glory. *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*

PRAY FOR NEEDS

Father, I trust You for the provision of my needs, no matter how insignificant or mundane. You Father are the Great Provider. Just as You have provided for Your people through the ages, I trust that You will dwell with me and guide me daily. I pray Father for Your provision of physical and spiritual provision in my life and in the lives of those that I love.

God, you created me with a body and a soul, and I pray for the things to sustain both. Thank You for your provision that You have blessed me with and thank You for what you will bless me with in the days to come. My Heavenly Father is able to be trusted. *“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:19*

CONFESS SIN AND ASK FOR FORGIVENESS

Father, if I truly desire to walk with You, I cannot neglect my sin. Father, I ask that you search my heart and reveal my sin. Father, I confess before you, with great sorrow, that I am a sinner and that I have sin in my life. I come before You now, asking that you forgive me. I am sorry that I have sinned against You. If I am to have a pure and deep relationship with You, I need to confess my sins and stand on the promises that You give us. I know that You are faithful and just in forgiving my sin. Thank You.

Father, I truly desire a relationship with you through Jesus Christ. Help me to be genuine and to be an open book, give me a teachable heart, and teach me to apologize when I am wrong, and help me to be truly sorry for my sin. Father, I desire that nothing would hinder intimacy in our relationship. *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9*

FORGIVING OTHERS

Father help me to forgive others, and to love others. Father, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help me to develop a forgiving heart, helping me to be more sensitive in the choice and tone of spoken words. Help me to be aware of the needs of others, and to freely offer assistance and forgiveness. Help me to portray the love of Christ to the world. Not thinking as the world thinks, not seeking retribution for every wrong, but forgiving and loving as You have loved me...Unconditionally. This is not an easy task, but I know that through prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit I can have the strength to forgive others. *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32*

INTERCESSION FOR OTHERS

Father, I have been the recipient of other's prayers and I understand how powerful prayer can be in one's life. I come before you now, asking that you would cleanse my heart as I come before you to pray for others.

It is with confidence that I know you hear me. I want to lift before you those in my neighborhood, in my city, and in my Church that know you as Father. Help them to influence the people around them. Let them be the salt and light, let their love for You influence people around them.

I ask that leaders that love You will be raised up to serve you faithfully. I pray for Fathers and Mothers to have their hearts turned toward their children so that the hearts of families may be turned toward you.

Father, I pray for leaders in the Church to stand firm, to teach the truth, to bring the message of Jesus Christ to men, women, and children all across the world.

I lift up to you Lord, the lost, the hurting, the lonely, the sick, that they may come to hear and accept the Good News and to know the grace of the True Living God.

Father, would you help our love for You make a difference in this world.

“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else . . . May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.” 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

PROTECTION AND DELIVERANCE

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Though God allows us to be tempted and tested, He is never the tempter (James 1:13-14).

Father help me to avoid situations where I am tempted. I know that at times I am my own worst enemy and that the flesh is weak but that I can overcome these temptations through the strength of my Heavenly Father. *“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13*

I pray that I may not be a stumbling block and cause temptation for any other brothers or sisters in Christ.

Father, I pray for protection and safety against the enemy that lives to attack Your people. Please Father, “deliver me from evil”.

I pray all of these things to my Heavenly Father in the precious name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

AMEN...

(submitted by Roy Pendergraft)

Tuesday's Prayers

Praising God

Heavenly Father – you are more than
My mind can take in but what I know
Is that you are amazing and awesome in
All of your ways and right now I just bow
Before you and offer up my praise to
You as gift given by your grace.

How great are you O God
For you have created all things
All of the beauty that exists is from you
And through you has everything been
Created and through you all things
Are sustained. (Genesis 1, John 1,
Hebrews 1:3)
Give God praise and honor for all the
Things he has done for you

Confession

O Lord you oppose the proud but give
Grace to the humble – Lord help me to
Let go of pride and live in humility before
You acknowledging my sin and asking
You to forgive me and cleanse me of all
Unrighteousness and lead me in the way
That is everlasting.
O Lord the sacrifices that you require
Are a broken and contrite heart
For this you will not despise so grant
That this day I may come before you
In the brokenness that is real
(Psalm 51:17)

O Lord if I claim to be without sin I
Am a liar and the truth is not in me
But if I confess my sin you O Lord
Are faithful and just to forgive my
Sin and cleanse me of all
Unrighteousness (1 John 1:7-9)

Renewal

Create in me a clean heart O Lord
And renew a right spirit within me
And lead me O Lord in the way that
Is everlasting helping me in all things
To look to you and to rely on you
For all things in life and eternity.
(Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 51:10)

I offer myself to you as a living
Sacrifice – I am not my own but
I have been bought with a price
So I give myself to you for I was
Never my own (Romans 12:1,
1 Corinthians 6:20)

Prayer of Commitment

Come to me all you who are weary
And heavily burdened and I will give
You rest (Matthew 11:28)

In view of your mercy O Lord May
I present my body as a living sacrifice
Which is my reasonable act of worship
And may I no longer be conformed
Or shaped by the world around me
But be transformed by the renewal
Of my mind (Romans 12:1-2)

Lord show me the path that you would

Have me to travel – help me to see
The way and know that you are
In yourself as Christ Jesus the Way,
The Truth and the Life – help me to
Ever and always look to and keep
My eyes upon Jesus who is the
Author and Finisher of my faith.
(John 14:6, Hebrews 12:2)

Lord, I want to grow in likeness to
Christ thinking like Him in all
Things (Philippians 2:5) May I
Become less and you become
More (John 3:30)

This day may all that I am and all
That I have be fully yielded to
And led by you O Lord my God.

Intercession

I come and lift up to you the family –
Lord, you alone created the family – it
Is your plan and your will for how to
Be fruitful in this world – Lord the family
Has come under attack and is being destroyed.
It is my prayer O Lord that I would and
All the world would fall before you and
Know that you are God and that we would
Each individually and all collectively seek
For your kingdom to come and your will to
Be done in the family for your honor.

Lord I pray that I would and all of the Body
Of Christ would pray for the sanctity and
Preservation of the family – your creation
O Lord – that the
Husband will love the wife as Christ loves

The church – husband will be a covering for
His wife in every way and that he will assume
All the responsibilities that are his in Christ Jesus
Both as husband and, Lord willing, as the child of
The King.

May the husband guard and protect his children and
Lead them in the way that is everlasting – and he
Would not exasperate them in punishment or
Correction that is needful for them.

Lord help the wife and the children to do all
That you have called them to. That Jesus Christ
Will be the foundation for the marriage of the
Husband and the wife and children and their
Relationships with each other.

Prayer Acknowledging Who You Are O Lord

You are the one and only true God and there is
No other – may I always keep you in the
Forefront of my thoughts and prayers
(Deuteronomy 6:4)

I was alienated from you by my sin and the
Wages of my sin is death; but you O Lord
While I was still dead in sin – sent your Son
That I might be saved by grace alone through
Faith alone in Christ alone (Romans 3:23, 6:23
5:8, Ephesians 2:8-9)

I no longer stand condemned and nothing can
Separate me from your love in Christ Jesus
And so I rest and trust in you O Lord the
One true eternal God knowing you will ever
And always be with me and never leave me
(Romans 8:1, 8:38-39, Hebrews 13:5)

Rejoicing In Lord

Lord on this day and every day may I recall
And never forget that your joy is my strength
And in you I live and move and have my being
And so, no matter what is going on I yet can
Rejoice and give thanks and know that you are
At work in me and my circumstance and I can
Go forward being anxious for nothing but in
All things giving thanks to you O Lord our God
(Nehemiah 8:10, Acts 17:28, Romans 8:28-29,
Philippians 4:4-6, James 1:2-4)

Closing

Lord you are more than sufficient – you are God
And there is none like you – all of our needs are
Met in you – we are satisfied in your love and
Your presence (Deuteronomy 6:4, Exodus 20:3-5
John 1:14)

Now to you who are more than able to keep me
And sustain me now and forever more be all
Praise and honor and glory forever and ever
Amen. (Jude 24-25)

Prayer for Wednesday

Praise

I rise up today with praise on my lips for you, my savior and Lord. “My help comes from you my Lord, Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:2)
You are the creator of all things seen and unseen both physical and spiritual. By your perfect Word are all things made, and by your perfect Word all things are sustained.
(Colossians 1:17)
Thank you for all you have made, and for making me! You made me in your image.
(Genesis 1:27)

You knew me while I was in my mother's womb. (Jeremiah 1:5) and "I will praise thee; for I am **fearfully and** wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." (Psalm 139:14)

On the fourth day (Wednesday) you set the sun, the moon and the stars in their place. (Genesis 1:14-18) Today as I behold the lights in the heavens, I will give you praise, and glory, and honor. Let me always see your creation as you do "That it is good."

Confession

Lord, as I ponder your majesty who am that you are mindful of me? Psalm 8:4 I am a man of unclean lips, unclean thoughts, and unclean actions. (Isaiah 6:5, Matt 5: 21-30,)

¹⁸ And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.^[a] I want to do what is right, but I can't. ¹⁹ I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. (Romans 7:18,19)

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin. (Romans 7:24,25)

I confess all my sin Lord, both those known and those unknown, my sins of commission and my sins of omission.

Thank you, my King, for your mercy, your forgiveness, and your grace. Though my sins be as scarlet you have washed me white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18) You not only forgive me you cleanse me (1 John 1:9)

I will thank and praise your name forever

Renewal

Transform me Lord to become the man you created me to be. A man who reflects your image. (Genesis 1:26) Renew my mind, my heart, my spirit. (Ezekiel 36:25,26) Make me a new creation (2 Cor 5:17) I trust in you my God, And I am sure of this, that you who began a good work in me will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6) You restored all the fallen heroes of the faith, both the mighty and the meek, your covenants stand forever!

Prayer of commitment

You are always faithful, always true, can always be counted on, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever," ([Heb. 13:8](#)).

Lord I want to be faithful to you, loyal to you, one you can count on. Help me Lord! Help me run a good race. Help me fight a good fight, help me finish the course. (2 Timothy 4:7) Show me the way Jesus, strengthen me Holy Spirit. May my life be pleasing unto you. Oh God how I yearn to one day hear "well done my good and faithful servant!"
Matthew 25:23

Intercession

Today I lift up the Lost and pray for myself and all the church to honor your great commission to take the good news to every nation and to make them your disciples. You have called us to make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20) Guide us and strengthen us to take your Word to the world starting with our world. Give us fruit for you have called us to bear much fruit and that our fruit will remain (John 15:16 John) Oh Lord the fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. I beseech you, the Lord of the harvest to lift up laborers starting with me. (Luke 10:2)

In Jesus name I Pray

Amen

(Submitted by Shane O'Hara)

THURSDAY PRAYERS

COMING BEFORE THE THRONE

To come before Your throne, O LORD GOD, is an awful event. I am in awe of You! To think that someone, such as I, can have access to Your throne room is almost too much to comprehend. I hold You in awe, fearful of Your Presence, yet comforted by the Great Grace that You have shown me. I can approach your throne with confidence, because of my position with You. (Hebrews 4:16)

Your sinless creatures, the angelic Seraphim, fly around Your throne declaring that You are so Holy, so high above even Your sinless creation, that these spotless Seraphim must cover their eyes and their feet in deference to You. (Isaiah 6:1-5)

And I, tainted by sin, with dirty feet from walking in this world, am still invited to visit with You. With YOU, the Most Holy God! Because You want to hear from me. Because of You, I am called a righteous man; and You want me to offer my petitions to You because You want them to have an effect so that you may grant them. (James 5:16; 1John 5:14)

Hebrews 4:16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Isaiah 6:1-6 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. ² Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The [a]whole earth is full of His glory." ⁴ And the [b]foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the [c]temple was filling with smoke. ⁵ Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. ⁷ He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is [d]forgiven."

1John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

James 5:16 The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

THANKFULNESS

I know that I can come before You because of what my Lord has done for me. Your Son, my Lord, has turned me from being Your enemy in the past, to now being Your friend. He reconciled the difference between You and me. (2Cor 5:18)

Because of Him, because of what my Lord did for me, You are now my strength and my protection, my shield. (Ps 28:7)

And, if that's not wonderful enough, my Lord has brought me even closer to You. I am now His brother and Your child. I am now a part of Your Family! (Heb 2:11)

Because of what my Lord has done, I now have a share in His inheritance, a place reserved for me in heaven, with the right to call You my Dad (Abba), and my Father. (Gal 4:6)

Thank You, Father and Lord, for saving me, for removing the barrier between us that made me Your enemy. Now I have You as my Protector and my Shield, my Father, and my God.

2Cor 5:18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

Hebrews 2:11 Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

MY LOVE – FOR YOU, YOUR LIVING WORD, AND YOUR WRITTEN WORD

How can I approach You without telling You of my love for You – and the love that You have given me for Your Word.

Your prophet, Jeremiah, gave me this verse to cherish:

Thy Words were found, and I did eat them.

And Thy Word was, unto me, the Joy and Rejoicing of my heart.

For I am called by Thy Name, O Lord God of Hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

It is truth. You have given me a great love and insatiable desire for Your Word. No man could write the Book that You have given to us. These Words came from You. The Words (Thy Words... that I found and consumed) have changed me forever, transformed me for good, and have made me hungry for more.

Your Written Word told me of Your Living Word, Your Son. It is He that the pages reveal and explain to us Who You are and what You are like. Jesus *said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. John 14:9-11

Amen. Yes. I believe. You are the One that this Book, Thy Words, is all about. They testify all about You. Thy Words are the Joy and Rejoicing of my heart because they are all about You! And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. Luke 24:27

INTERCESSION

It is You, O GOD, who has determined the divisions of this world that we call, “countries.” It is You, our Lord, that has determined where each of us live, and it is to You, O GOD, that we turn as we pray for the country and the leaders of the land in which we live. ...and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation. (Acts 17:26)

I remember one of our leaders that has left this earth, President Reagan, urging us to pray to our God, asking You to heal our land. I remember that the President quoted Your Word when he read this verse on television: If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2Chron 7:14)

When Nehemiah prayed to you after hearing of some of the problems going on at Jerusalem, his homeland, the first thing that he did was to confess. Confess for the shortcomings of his people, of which he included himself. Nehemiah recognized your holiness. He recognized the sinfulness of his people, and he petitioned, “let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father’s house have sinned. We have acted very corruptly against You and have

not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. (Nehemiah 1:6-7)

I now come before you, also recognizing the sins of our land and our people. We are not a righteous nation, as many proclaim. We have moved away from you over the years. Our courts fail Your standard of righteousness. Our leaders fall short of Your desire that they lead our people away from the evil that the world systems offer. Our people have forgotten Who You are. When I see our sin, I pray that you do not abandon us to our evil. I ask that you discipline us. Correct us. Turn us toward the proper path – the path that is pleasing in Your Sight.

I pray for our President, Our Vice-President, and the entire administration. I pray for the leaders of the representative houses, The Senate, The House of Representatives, for The Justices on The Supreme Court, and all of the people who have influence over the direction of our country. Guide their thoughts, Lord. Without Your guidance, we will surely stray even further.

Lord, heal our land. Lord, guide our leaders in the path of righteousness. Lord, keep us in support of Your Land, Israel, that we may bless it, and in turn, be blessed by You.

Father, we ask that You guide our leaders, even those who don't know you, that it may be good for our land.

CLOSING

Thank You, O GOD, for our time together.

Another day is passing on this earth. Another day closer to the day when Your Son returns. The Day of the Lord. How we look forward to His return, when all countries and all leaders of all lands will bow down before Him. (Zechariah 14:16) He will rule with a righteous Scepter, and of His Kingdom there will be no end. (Isa 9:7 Luke 1:33). Perfect rule and perfect justice for a millennium, 1000 years of peace where the tools of war will be reshaped and used as tools to benefit the peoples of the earth. (Rev 20; Isaiah 2:4; Joel 3:12; Micah 4:3)

We wait for You, our Lord. We watch for You, Our Savior.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Rev 22:20)
(submitted by Steve Hudson)

Friday Prayers

PRAISE: Father in heaven I thank you for the gift of eternal life made possible only through the sacrifice of your Son-my Lord & Savior (John 3:16). This day, in your mercy, I stand offering all praise and glory and honor to you Lord...for who is worthy but you and you alone. (Rev. 4:11).

Father you are the God of grace and the all-powerful, all knowing & ever present eternal & faithful & infinite God. Your goodness no can measure. Your riches-who can fathom? I love you Lord and I thank you for loving me especially when I am not very lovable. (Jer. 32:17, Col. 3:10, Ps 139:6-10, Deut. 7:9, Rev. 1:8, James 1:17, Phil. 4:19, Romans 5:8).

CONFESSION: Oh Lord, I am unworthy servant. Your mercy and forgiveness I seek with humility and a contrite heart. May all in my total being (word, thought & deed) not pleasing to you be cast away as far as the east is from the west, never to be taken up again. Because you are a merciful & forgiving God & bigger than any sin, I rest in your loving presence. Receiving your forgiveness gives me the capacity to be forgiving of others. Lord I am thankful that you are not a tempting God. The sin nature is tempting within me & must be dealt with under your authority and power... for I have died to sin. Lord with your counsel & my obedience the enemy and the culture we live in can serve to strengthen my faith and my relationship with you through the work of your Holy Spirit. (Luke 17:7-10, Ps. 51:17, Ps, 103, Mark 11:25, James 1:13, Romans 6)

RENEWAL: Oh Lord, in all your goodness, lead me daily into a state of spiritual renewal by drawing me into a closer relationship with Jesus...to the end that the candle in my soul may burn brightly for all to see. Lord a personal cleansing from you makes me whiter than snow. Heavenly Father please give me a heart that is open that you may enter—quiet that I may hear you speak—at rest that you may work through me—empty that it may be filled to overflow with you. (John 15:4-5, Matthew 5:14-16, Isa. 1:18, Ps. 51:7, Ps. 23, I Peter 3:4, John 14:1, Matthew 5:8)

COMMITMENT: Father into thy hand I commit my total being. (Deut. 6:5). Heaven forbid that I should hold back from your plan...though lack of understanding may come up...may you have full sway. (Jer. 29:11, Isa. 55:8-9). Lord please help me to commit it all to you lest life be in vain (Mark 8:35-36). Heavenly Father you gave it all for me how in the world could I not do likewise. (Gal. 1:4). Lord in my humanness I plan but I trust in you to direct my steps. (Prov. 16:9). Lord in your mercy allow me to grow in the likeness of your son Jesus my Lord & Savior. (Phil. 2:5)

INTERCESSION: Oh Lord, you are the relational God and we do not live a life pleasing in your sight in isolation. May we forever stand in the gap on behalf of all our brothers and sisters in Christ. (Ezek. 22:30, Isa. 6). In the body of Christ—you designed—help us minister to each other in such a manner that we are exhorted to grow in our faith & trust becoming more in the likeness of Christ. Heavenly Father you have set forth a command for your servants to go and share the light of Jesus with a dark world. (Matt. 5:14, John 8:12, Matt. 28:19, Acts 1:8). You have revealed to us that if we are not in missions then we are someone's mission field. Lord I pray for your Holy Spirit power to precede us as we declare your glory in showing this world the face of Jesus. (Ps. 96, Matt. 25:40). Father we are distressed that there are Christian men & women that are persecuted for their faith. There are some who are brutally mistreated and pay the ultimate price for claiming Jesus as Lord & Savior. Father may we rest in confidence of your love and protection for the sufferings (Matt. 5:10-11, Romans 8:35) in revealing your presence amid the persecutions (I Peter 4:12-14). In all persecutions we pray courage will prevail and your witness dominates (I Peter 3:14). May the God who knows all about persecution reign victoriously. (Ps 23, Ps. 31:15). While some countries are closed to the Gospel...That closure doesn't include our prayer for each and every soul that claims Jesus as Savior and Lord.

ACKNOWLEDGING WHO YOU ARE O LORD: Gracious creator God-I joyfully acknowledge that my relationship with you is made possible only because of the finished work of Jesus.(John 19:30) Your standard is perfection.(Matt. 5:48) My absolute best is as filthy rags to you.(Isa. 64:6, Rom. 3:10) To even think of you and your attributes is humbling and drives me to tears as a form of worship in my finiteness.(Ps. 56:8, I Samuel 1:10, Luke 6:21). This is a *DAY* that you have made, may I rejoice & be glad in it.(Ps. 118:24). I am blessed because You are the holy, righteous, forgiving, merciful, loving, blessed, just, wise, omnipotent, majestic, transcendent, sovereign, omnipresent, omniscient, understanding, patient, compassionate, everlasting, eternal, faithful God of grace (Rom. 11:33, Ps. 147:5, II Peter 3:8, Exod 15:11, Job 11:7-9, Ps. 145:3, Hab. 1:12, Isa. 40)

REJOICING IN THE LORD: Heaven forbid Lord that I should ever fail to rejoice in you whatever my circumstances. (Phil 4:4, Romans 5:3). Oh Lord, may my thought, word & deed be saturated with Jesus (Deut. 12:7, Col. 3:17). Lord may I forever joyfully remember your faithfulness in saving my soul for eternity (Luke 10:20, Isa. 61:10).

CLOSING: God in heaven, I love you and I need you desperately (Phil. 4:19). Thank you for loving me and coming into my heart (Rom 8:38-39). I pray this prayer be received into your heart (John 17:26) ...made possible only because of the finished work of Jesus my LORD and my SAVIOR (John 19: 28-30)...increase my faith Lord! (Luke 17:5-6) In Jesus name I submit this prayer. May it be covered with the blood of JESUS (Heb. 9:22, I John 1:7), sealed with the HOLY SPIRIT (Eph. 1:13) & submitted unto you GOD THE FATHER (I Peter 1:4-5) for safekeeping...Amen!

(Submitted by Elmo P. “Bo” Gabbert M.D.)

Saturday Prayer

Adoration

The heavens declare the glory of God;

and the firmament shows His handiwork. (Psalm 19:1)

Loving and almighty Father, as I look up to the heavens on this day, which is both the end of one week and the beginning of another, I am in awe of Your majesty and presence in this world which You have given us. Along with all creation I declare Your glory and long for the completion of the great and wondrous things begun by You, Who alone is God, my God. (Psalm 86:10)

Petition

Precious Lord, giver of all good things, I come once again to seek your hand of mercy and grace for this new day. Knowing Father that your mercies are new every morning (Lamentations 3:23), it is for these new mercies that I offer my plea, and for which I am already grateful. Father may it always be so that I am aware of your faithfulness and mercy to me, and that I seek in return to live a life pleasing to You.

Renewal

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit working in me, may I come to see my sins and shortcomings as You do Lord. Having seen myself through Your eyes, by your grace working in me, may I also walk in holiness the path of sanctification that lies before me. Laying aside all pride and selfishness, may I consider the needs of others before my own (Philippians 2:3) and in so doing bring glory and honor to You Lord, for I am Yours, the work of Your hands.

Forgiveness

Precious Father, I come before You today in all humility with thanksgiving and praise for Your word that assures me that I am forgiven through your work on the cross. Lord, for whatever it's worth, such as I am, here I am. I come thanking You for that forgiveness which has enabled me to have hope for tomorrow and forever; forgiveness that has taken away the sins of my past and allows me the opportunity to be free from the root of bitterness (Hebrews 12:15) that so entangles the human race. Loving God, it is an amazing thought that You would turn the other cheek and forgive me for hurting You.

Intercession

Almighty and everlasting God, it is indeed an honor to be privileged as an intercessor on behalf of Your servants, the Pastors and Teachers of Your Church. Lord you know what an awesome responsibility these servants have and what burdens they bear for the flock of their charge. They must preach, teach, pray, and live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, often times to those who do not comprehend the enormity of their calling. God I pray that You will raise up from their flocks men and women of Godly integrity who will not fail to pray continually for these messengers whom You have called to stand before them. Lord, may they not be disheartened by lack of interest or by naysayers, indeed Lord, may they be emboldened to speak the Truth in love with an even greater commitment. Father please bless their families and their homes as often they are under duress while dealing with the cares of their congregations. Watch over them (Do not touch My anointed ones, and do My prophets no harm. 1Chronicles 16:22) and please Lord, continue to draw us to Yourself.

Acknowledgment of Sovereignty

O God, Your Holy word tells us, "I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me." Isaiah 45:5&6) It is clearly evident to all who will believe that You are indeed our rock and fortress and deliverer. (Psalm 18:2)

All who will hear know You as, "The King eternal, immortal, invisible, the God Who alone is wise..."(1 Timothy 1:17) and the God Who can do "exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think..."(Ephesians 3:20) To You O Lord we come, there is no other way.

Rejoicing

Because of all these things and more, we rejoice at Your name and glory in your nearness. O God You make our hearts glad and fill our cups to overflowing as we consider what it means to be loved by You. Words can not describe, nor fully relate how our spirits tremble and rejoice when we rest in you love, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!

Closing

Precious and loving Father, I thank You for loving me, for Your goodness, Your mercy, and Your grace. Continue please to watch over us and guide us to Your side, for we are but mortals and so prone to stumble and fall. Thank You too God for the unimaginable glory of the day when the mirror will vanish and at last we will see You face to face.(1 Corinthians 13:12) Amen

(submitted by Bro Bobby Thornhill)

Spiritual growth is impossible apart from the practice of prayer. Just as the key to quality relationships with other people is time spent in communication, so the key to a growing relationship with the personal God of heaven and earth is time invested in speaking to Him in prayer and listening to His voice in Scripture. Ken Boa

Section 7

Morning prayers

(31 morning prayers)

The following prayers were prayers I prayed and posted and shared with others in a variety of ways. I do not encourage anyone to ‘pray my prayers’ but maybe these can be a starting place for prayer for you on any particular day. When we pray we are speaking with God – He loves you and wants the best for you – He is glad to hear from you – so pray to the Lord our God with all your heart, soul and mind – pray with love. Amen

Day One

Morning Prayers

O Lord we awake to truth
you are God and it is you
who are sovereign over all
there is only one God and
you never change - we thank
you and give you honor for
who you are and we know that
in you all of our joy is found
and in you all of our peace
is reached and in you all of
of our love is activated and
given direction and meaning

Thank you O Lord for you
Help us Lord to bring ourselves
straight way before you this
morning for examination of
our hearts and souls and our
spirits - search us and know us
and show us any wrong way in
us and lead us O Lord our God
in the way everlasting - we repent
and turn to you O Lord - we too
knowing how great is your
forgiveness likewise forgive
those who have done anything
to us or against us and pray your
rich blessings upon their lives
Lead us to the Rock that is
higher than us - precious Lord

help us to be done with lower
things and to now set our minds
on Christ Jesus as the true north
in all of our thoughts and words
and deeds - to seek to live lives
pleasing to you and rejoicing
daily in your mercies that are
new each and every morning in
Christ Jesus

Father, for the Body of Christ we
pray for a unifying spirit to
permeate and lead in the way
that you have called us to go
For love to abound in us and
through us for you above all
and for others above self

O Lord our Lord lead us in the
way that is right before you
Lord, for the hurting, the sick,
the down and out, the least of
these, the defenseless and the
persecuted - we pray a hedge
of protection over and around
them - the healing presence and
the comforting presence of the
Lord in them and a provision of
things needed flow from our
hands which we open wide to
give as has been given to us

we pray

Lord to you be all glory and honor
and praise forever and ever through
Jesus Christ our Lord to whom
and from whom are all things unto
us.

Amen

Day 2

Morning Prayer

This is the day that you have made
I rejoice and I am glad in it
You are God and I rejoice in you
I want to bow at your feet and cry
now and forever Holy - Holy - Holy
are you O Lord God Almighty the
great uncreated Creator of all
blessed be your name in time and
in eternity past and eternity to come

I come before you in brokenness and
say Lord have mercy for I have sinned
against you and you alone - forgive me
in the name and through the blood of
Jesus Christ the Righteous One - cleanse
me of all unrighteousness and restore
to me the joy of your salvation - Lord,
as you have forgiven me so I also forgive
all who have done anything against me

Pour out your grace upon me that I may
walk in love today - that I may love you
above all else and with all that I have
and all that I am - that I may likewise love
my neighbor as myself - that I may humble
myself before you - to acknowledge you
O Lord as LORD and fear you as the one
true God and thus know that in all things
I may and must trust in you with all of my
heart - help me Lord not to lean upon my
own feeble understanding but in all my
ways acknowledge you - in my thinking,
in my speaking, in my doing, in my being -
to acknowledge you as my Lord and Master
and thus yield to you in all things and know
that you will direct my paths

Lord, for the needs of the Body of Christ I
intercede and plead - grant us O Lord that
we might, each and collectively, be in love
with you above all else- loving by trusting,
loving by obeying, loving by humbling
ourselves before you, loving by honoring
you in all our ways - grant us grace O Lord
that we may be led by you in our words that
we will only say those things that honor
you and are helpful to the hearer - help us
Lord in our weakness to seek first your
kingdom and your righteousness and know
that all else is in place when you are in your
place as first in each and all of our lives
that we are a body and as a Body we have
in mind the cares and needs of each and
all - seeking to outdo one another in showing
love and concern for the needs of others

that in all ways we would follow hard after
the Lord Jesus Christ

I thank you God for every single blessing
you have poured out upon my life - the greatest
of all blessings being reconciled to you and
made a part of your family through faith
in the Lord Jesus Christ - thanks for the grace
to stand in this very moment in prayer and
praise to you - thanks for placing me where
I am to live the life that you have given me
to live in honor and praise to you - thank you
Lord - I bless your name and may everything
in me now and ever sing praises and honor
and glory to you the one true God through
Jesus Christ my Lord and my Savior - my
Master and my King.

Amen

Day 3

Morning Prayer

O Lord we bow before you in praise
we fall in your presence out of awe
and we cry out to you in reverence
saying Holy Holy Holy are you O Lord
God almighty

I confess that I have sinned against you
by not loving you with all of my heart,
soul and mind - by not loving my
neighbor as myself - Lord forgive me
and cleanse me and lead me in the way

that is everlasting - I also forgive those
who have done anything against me

Father, help me to love you with all my
heart, soul and mind and help me to love
my neighbor as myself - to grow in
Christ-likeness and to shrink in self-centeredness

Lord for those who do not know Jesus
as Lord and Savior I pray for salvation today
by grace alone through faith alone in
Jesus Christ alone - I pray for those who
are in Christ but are not tethered to him
in their daily experiences - that they
would, by your grace, go all in for Jesus
and experience his peace and presence
as never before and be ever closer drawn
to you and may it begin with me

Lord for those who are hurting in their body,
family, finances, basic necessities - I pray
for healing and provision and restoration
and your kingdom come, and your will be
done in them and in me as it is in heaven
all to your honor and your glory

All praise and thanks be to you O Lord our
God who is forever praised through Jesus
Christ our Lord - Amen

Day 4

Morning Prayer

O Lord of the day and
of the night we turn to you
this morning and we lay
ourselves down in your
everlasting arms and we
pray - LORD HELP US
Amen

Day 5

Morning Prayer

O Lord as I begin this new day
a day that you have made and
given to me to live and love and
honor and obey you - may I see
you more clearly than ever
before and know that the better
my view of you the less I see of
the things that pull me away from
you - help me Lord to keep my
eyes on you - the true joy in my
life is you - the things of this world
grow strangely dim in the light of
your glory and grace - Lord I have
no desire for the distractions of the
enemy but he is devious and I need
your help - your grace - to look
beyond the snares of the world to
the true riches that are mine right
now in Christ Jesus - Lord I thank
you that you have given me and all

of us such a beautiful view of you
help each of us to turn our eyes upon
Jesus and know that He is truly
The Way, The Truth and the Life and
all that does not point to him is of
the enemy and only a snare and a
destroyer - Lord help me - help us
to fall in love again fresh and new
this morning with the Bright and
Morning Star - Jesus Christ who was
and is and is to be
Amen

Day 6

Morning Prayer

To you O Lord we give our praise
to you alone we give glory and honor
for you are the Lord and there is no
other - bless the Lord o my soul

O Lord upon us have mercy we pray
forgive us of our sins and cleanse us
and lead us to the way everlasting
we also forgive others whatever they
have done to us in any way

Lord help us to be your people - to
put you first in love - to trust and obey
you - to be one in Christ Jesus and to
live out the great commission going and
making disciples of all nations and
baptizing them in the name of the Father

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and
teaching them to trust and obey and to
seek you in prayer

There are many who are dead in trespasses
and sins - Lord help us to be a light - not a
light that blinds them but a light that you
would use to lead them to yourself - as we
remember how Jesus responded to people
may we do so likewise in love

For those who are sick and downhearted, for
the ones who are hungry - Lord help them
and help me / us to help them - to give of
ourselves to them - giving freely

Lord we lift your name on high - we love to
sing your praises - we are so glad you are
in our lives we are so glad we can praise you
through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior

Amen

Day 7

Morning Prayers

Good Morning Lord we thank you
for this new day - this is the day
that you O Lord have made and
we are rejoicing in it - we rejoice
regardless of our circumstances
because you O Lord are above our
circumstances - because you O
Lord will work through the ups
and downs to work in us the very

mind and character of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ - so we
give ourselves over to you and
say have Thine own way Lord
have Thine own way Thou art
the Potter - we are the clay -
mold us and make us after Thy
will - while we are waiting yielded
and still - Lord help us to be still
and trust you and know you are
God and you have all the answers
because Jesus himself is the one
true answer to every true question
and so we come to Jesus this
morning - on this day that you have
made and we all to Jesus we
surrender all to you we freely
give - we will ever love and worship
in your presence daily live and so
we surrender all - we surrender all
all to Thee our Blessed Savior
we surrender all - Amen

Day 8

Morning Prayers

Thank you Lord for who you are
for always being you and always
being present and always being
perfect in every way and so we
know that it is well when we are

yours regardless of what else is
going on around us at the moment
we know that it is well with our soul
when we are in Christ - Lord help
us to focus on you - to trust and
obey you - to listen to you in your
Word and in prayer - to give ourselves
to the things of the Spirit and not the
things of the flesh - help us along
the way today Lord to keep our
eyes on you - to look up rather than
down - to be still and know that you
are God

Amen

Day 9

Morning Prayer

Lord, we give you honor and praise and glory
you are worthy of our praise for you are God
you are over all things and above all things
and you are the Creator of all things
how can we not give you all of our praise
the smell of honey suckle is your creation
the budding of flowers also is from you alone
the sun that rises and gives light to the new day
this also is from you - you O Lord gave us
lips and teeth and face muscles to smile and
bring joy to one another and honor you as
your creation - Lord most of all while we
were yet sinners you gave your Son that we

might have life and we might be reconciled
to you and we may live forever and ever
in your presence in your New Jerusalem
coming down out of heaven - you O Lord are
worthy of our praise our thanksgiving and
our very lives - Lord to you we surrender all
through Jesus Christ our Lord - Amen

Day 10

Morning Prayer

Good morning Lord
thank you for Jesus
thank you for life
thank you my life is
in Jesus and him alone
Help me Lord to keep
my focus on Jesus
help me to not get
caught up in the things
of this world but to be
transformed / changed
molded by the things of
God - Lord, I don't know
what this day holds but
I am not afraid nor am i
anxious because I know
that you are in control and
in you it is well with my
soul - help me / help us
Lord to live in the joy and

peace that is ours for
the having in Christ Jesus
Amen

Day 11

Morning Prayer

Lord I am weak but you are strong
please keep me from all wrong
help me Lord to keep my eyes on
you and not lean on my own
understanding - to trust in you with
all my heart - count on your direction

Lord help us to love correctly
to love you above all else and
to love our neighbors as ourselves
Forgive us of our sin - cleanse us
of all unrighteousness and lead
us in the way that is everlasting
We too forgive those who have
done anything against us

We so need you Lord - help us to
know that you are with us - you
have promised not to leave us and
you always keep your promises - so
Lord help us and
heal us
direct us
fill us
use us
strengthen us

build us up in you
lead us
So that we can be the people you
have called us to be
So that we can surrender all to you
So that we might become less and
you become more

Lord for those we know and love
and for those who we don't know at all
Save
Heal
Encourage
Bless
Grant Wisdom
Lead
We pray for your great blessings to
be in and upon them through Christ

May we ever and always praise you
You alone are God and you alone
are worthy of all praise and honor
and glory now and forever

We pray in Christ Jesus
Amen

Day 12

Morning Prayers

O Lord we need you today
the world is so large
and our boat is so small
Lord help us today to know

you are in the boat and it
is well with our soul.

Amen

Day 13

Morning Prayer

O Lord thank you for this day
thank you for loving me and
keeping me through the night
you O Lord are my Strength and
my Resting Place - my ever
present Help and my one and
only Sure Hope - I love you Lord
and I come before you this
morning with joy and thanks
giving and say bless the Lord
o my soul and all that is within
me bless your holy and precious
name

May this day see me dying to
myself and living all in for you
O Lord - I acknowledge and
bewail my sin and ask you for
your forgiveness in Christ Jesus
and I have it through his finished
work - thank you Lord - I too
offer complete forgiveness of
those who may have done any
thing at all against me and pray

for your blessings on them most abundantly in Christ Jesus

Father, it is my prayer that you would do a mighty work in the Body of Christ today - may our praise be Christ centered and honoring to you - may our prayer be constant and centered in your will be done on earth and in each of our lives - may your glory be far ahead of our comfort may we be One in all things - may we live out the great commission and may we do so with joy and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ

All glory and honor and power now and forever more be unto you Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior - Amen

Day 14

Morning Prayer

Lord we are so happy to rejoice and say this is the day the Lord has made and has given to us may we live it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ ever and always giving thanks and honor to you O Lord our God - Amen

Day 15

Morning Prayer

You have promised that joy comes
In the morning and it is morning
And we rejoice in you O Lord our God
In you we find all reasons for joy
All glory and honor and power is yours
For you alone O Lord are worthy
For it is you who has created all
Things and by your will they exist
And were created

Lord, our goal today is you
To love you with all of our hearts,
Souls, and minds - and to love our
Neighbors as ourselves - to trust
In you with all of our heart and not
In any way lean on our faulty way
Of self-thinking - knowing as we
Lean on you we have the perfect
Foundation for love and life
Through Jesus Christ our Lord and
Savior

Amen

Day 16

Morning Prayer

O Lord our Lord how majestic
is your name in all the earth

the heavens and the earth
declare your glory - we too
join them in crying out Holy,
Holy, Holy are you O Lord our
God - you alone are worthy for
you have created all things and
by your will they exist and
were created -

We come and confess that we
have all sinned and fallen short
each of us individually acknowledge
our sin against you by thought and
word and deed - by our actions
and our omissions - Lord have
mercy - through the blood of
Jesus forgive us and cleanse us
of all unrighteousness and lead
us O Lord in the way that is
everlasting - we too forgive any
and all who have done anything
against us in any way and we pray
for you to bless them

Help us Lord - we need more of
you and less of me / each of us
we need to decrease and you
must increase - help us to be one
in the Body - to grow in Christ-likeness
to not be slothful in zeal, be fervent
in the spirit, serve the Lord - to
rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation
Constant in prayer - giving ourselves

over to you O Lord help us please
Sir

The needs are many but none greater
than for salvation to visit the souls
of the lost - we pray for salvation to
come to those who don't know you -
we pray for leaders in particular to
have the experience of the new birth
in Christ Jesus by grace alone through
faith alone in Christ alone - we pray for
wisdom in leaders in handling the various
crisis that face them today - especially
in the areas of health and economy -
for the sick to be comforted and healed
and to experience peace and the presence
of you O Lord in their loneliness - for those
who have loved ones they are separated
from assure them of your presence and
provision and peace - for those who have
been hurt, damaged, put in fear by the
forces of storms - to comfort and remind
them of your control over the wind and
the water and that you are sovereign
over all things and they can trust you
even though circumstances are not as
they might wish you are yet God

For all you are - for all you do - we give
you thanks and praise and honor and glory
forever and ever in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen

Day 17

Morning Prayer

As I awake to this new day there is
Laid before me your call to love you
O Lord with all my heart, soul and mind
And to love my neighbor as myself
Knowing that you have sent me and
Each of us to go and serve just as you
Sent your Son Jesus to serve and die to
Himself and live all in for you - Lord help
Me today to be guided by my life purpose
Of love - service - surrender - humility -
Think more highly of others - to know that
I am not my own but have been bought with
A price - the precious blood of Jesus and
May my every thought - word - deed flow
From my mission statement of following
After the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen

Day 18

Morning Prayer

Lord what a beautiful and amazing
God you are - you who have always
been - you who created everything
you who are all powerful, all knowing
always present, never changing,
gracious, loving, eternal God and so
much more - you are not busy and
you always take my call on the Jesus

line - you hear and you answer - you
don't hear reluctantly or resentfully
but with joy of the one true great Father
you hear and rejoice at triumphs and
you hear and respond with provision
for needs and comfort for hurts -
what a mighty God you are - what
a loving God you are - what a Savior
Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah!
Amen

Day 19

Morning Prayers

Dear Lord, as we begin this new day
we look up and know that you are God
You are waiting to hear from us and we
are amazed and blessed that You
God who created all, who is and
was and is to come - would care about me,
each of us personally and individually -
you and your love are really more than we can truly take in;
but moment by moment we see you are love
you are provider, you are strength,
you are the breath in our lungs and so
we pour out our praise - we pour out our praise right now
right now to the one and only true God
Father, Son and Holy Spirit who loves and
cares for us - we love you and pray
this morning for you to help us to love you
more and more - with all our heart, soul and mind -

to help us to walk in your grace and to trust you
more and more - to live this day and every day to
serve you and honor you with our lives and all
that we are and all that we have - that we offer
ourselves as living sacrifices to you O Lord
this morning and forever. We offer our prayers
in Jesus' name. Amen.

Day 20

Morning Prayer

Into this new day we come - only by your grace
Lord we thank you for bringing us here and being with us
We give you praise for who you are - you are God
You are holy, you are all powerful, all knowing
There is none like you O God
Bless your holy name

We come and acknowledge we have sinned
we have failed to love you with all our heart, soul and mind
we have failed to fully love our neighbors as ourselves
we have failed to do things you have commanded
we have done things you have prohibited
we confess our sin, turn from our sin, we look to you
we know and acknowledge that in Christ Jesus our sin has been fully paid for
we receive and acknowledge our forgiveness in full in Christ Jesus our Lord
we also forgive those who have done anything against us just as you forgive us

Father, we pray for

- those who have not been born again to be born again, to be saved by the gift of your grace through faith / trust in the finished work of Christ Jesus - knowing that even the faith is a gift from you
- those who have been born again to grow up into the fullness of Christ Jesus - living our lives fully for and in Christ Jesus
- those who are sick to be healed
- those who are addicted to be delivered

- those who are hurting in their hearts from the loss of loved ones to be comforted
- those who are lonely, hurting, afraid to be touched with your presence, your peace and your provision - to trust in you and know you have said I will never leave you
- to leaders to know they exist to serve you / you have given them their positions as your representatives
- families to be protected
- unborn children to be protected and to come to full term birth as the people they presently are
- for all things needed that we have overlooked in our prayers
- in all things for your kingdom to come and your will to be done
- our lives to be lived in the way that is most pleasing to you

We thank you God that you have heard and answered our prayers.
We bless you Lord for who you are
We praise you Lord for you

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Day 21

Morning Prayer

O God you have brought us into a new day and this day is a gift from you - may we live this day with our eyes on you;
may our lives be transformed by the renewing of our minds;
may our hearts be transformed by the presence and the power of your love and your peace; may the joy of the Lord be our strength today and may we in every way live today in love for you O Lord and all those you bring across our paths. Finally, may our day find the Word of God dwelling richly in our heart and may we pray and meditated / think on your Word through the hours of this day and the shifts of the night to come. God may you be glorified in our lives.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Day 22

Morning Prayer

God sometimes the world I live in seems too big
Sometimes the challenges of life feel bigger than life
Sometimes the length of life seems longer than our strength
Help us to remember Lord to wait on you and you will
Renew our strength moment by moment
Help us to cast our burden on you, know you will sustain us
Help us Lord to trust fully in you, know you will direct us
Help us Lord to rejoice always, pray without ceasing
Help us to give thanks in all circumstances
Help us Lord to love you with all our heart, soul and mind
Help us Lord to love our neighbors as ourselves
Help us to be quick to listen, slow to speak - slow to anger
Help us Lord to know knowledge begins in fearing You
Help us to humble ourselves and know when we do and
Help us to pray and seek your face, turn from our wicked ways
Help us to know you will then hear our prayers
Help us to know you will forgive our sin
You will heal our land
Lord help us to know that at the moment we see and recognize our weakness and
dependence on you You are there to sustain us – you will not abandon us
You will lift us up on wings like eagles
As we trust in you more and more and lean on you fully
You will renew our strength
We will run and not be weary, we will walk and not faint.
Lord help us to know Jesus is the answer to all of life
In Him we live and move and have our beginning
In Him all things hold together
In Him is all peace
In Him is all joy
In Christ alone our Cornerstone
We lift our eyes unto the Lord who is
Our everlasting Alpha and Omega
Our everything.
In Jesus name. Amen.

Day 23

Morning Prayer

Morning has broken
like the first morning
blackbird has spoken like
the first bird - O Lord
as you were on the first
day and even before there
was a day - so are you now
and so will you ever be
you are the LORD the Giver
of all good and yourself
you are completely good
perfect light and in you is
no shadow or turning - we
fall before you and cry out
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY are you
O LORD GOD almighty

I rejoice in you and in your
mercies that are new this morning
for I know that if it wasn't for
mercy and grace what a total
mess I / all would be - Lord
forgive me of my sin against
you - I confess and repent and
turn from my sin and set my
gaze on you - I pray also forgive
the sin of those who are in the
Body of Christ - I / we too forgive

those who have caused offense
to us in any way

Renew me / us by your Spirit
O Lord - create in us new hearts
hearts that seek you above all
else - hearts that seek a higher
walk that is to walk worthy of the
Lord by your grace

O Lord for the needs of the poor,
lonely, fearful, tired, weak, the ones
who feel hopelessness for themselves
and for their families - who wake to
another morning like the last and know
they do not have food to feed their
children, know they are under such
a threat that what food they do have
they cannot in peace and good
conscience sit to eat, who know that
there are others who are stronger
and more powerful who will come
and take what they do have - may they
have hope in you - may they know your
presence and your peace and your
provision of new mercies of grace
sufficient in supply to enable them to
place one foot in front of the other and
know that you are God and that you
always do what you say, that you are
interested in and care for their needs
even more than they and you have
promised not to leave nor forsake

them and so may they in faith and
in the sure hope of Jesus Christ raise
their eyes to you and know that the
answer to their prayer is yes and
amen in Christ Jesus

And we rejoice in you and we give you
thanks O precious Lord for
the new day
sunlit from heaven
for the birds
for the sunshine
for the sufficiency of your provision
for the love of Jesus that is ours forever and ever
for the people we love and those we struggle with
for every blessing large and small
for the struggles of life you use to shape us
most of all we give thanks for you O Lord our God
Amen

Day 24

Morning Prayers

Early I come to Thee

Early I seek Thee, O Lord

You are everything I need

You are everything I want

O Lord you are everything

And so much more for You

Are God the Creator

God the Eternal One

Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Worthy of all of our praise

Worthy of giving ourselves to you

Worthy, Worthy, Worthy

You are God and we fall down

on our faces and praise you

and yet you are still So Much More

than our voices can say

than our minds can comprehend

O Lord our Lord how majestic you are

God I come to you for help

Please help me / us to see you

More clearly and know you are

the answer to our hurts, our fears,

our desperate longing for more,

our uneasiness about the night and

about the day - help us to die to

ourselves and live for you - to let

go of the temporary that does no good

and lean on / build on / live on the

Eternal One that is you who is

Everything and know that in you

Life, Joy, Peace, Meaning, Direction,

Comprehension, Love is

God help me / us / others to come to you

to come to you and know that you are

Healing to the sick

Strength for the ones worn out

Joy to the downhearted

Direction to the ones lost / wandering

Love and fulfillment to the empty / brokenhearted

Peace to the anxious / hurting heart

Hope to the hopeless

Meaning to the ones whose life is without

Deliverance to the ones bound

The Rock of Ages to the ones without foundation

God help us to come to you and die to our little vision in our little world

God help us to live abundantly forever in you

Bless your name O God

Bless your name O God

bless your name O God

Let everything that has breath

Bless Praise Honor Worship

You O God most high

What Was and Is and Is to be

the Great I Am

Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

In the Lord Jesus Christ we come.

Amen.

Day 25

O Lord the ocean is so large

And my boat is so small

Help me Lord to sail through

Life today – may I lean fully on you

Trusting in you with all my heart

Through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior

Amen

Day 26

Morning Prayer

I greet you this morning
you are God and it is you
who has brought me
through the night, you
answered my prayer last
evening with rest and

restoration and you awoke
me with joy and gladness
of heart over you - in this
world I find challenge but
in you there is joy, delight,
peace, comfort and a true
resting place - thank you
Lord for the soul's rest
that you grant.

Lord, you are so good
and so great and I give
you thanks and I give you
praise - bless the Lord o
my soul and all that is in
me bless your holy and
precious name - you alone
are God. Beside you there
is no other.

I confess that I have had
wrong thoughts about others

and about me - I have said
things I wish I had not said,
I have done things that you
said do not do - I have failed
to do things you said I must
do - have mercy upon me
Lord, forgive my sin and
cleanse me of all unrighteousness
and lead me in the way you
want me to go. I forgive those
who have done anything
against me Lord - I forgive
them and I ask that you would
be generous to them and
bless them in their every need.

Lord, I thank you for those
who serve as Christian teachers,
professors, and workers in the
schools and local churches.
Help them to trust in you fully
and not to add to or take from

what you have said but to rely
fully on the Holy Spirit to guide
them rather than the ways of
man. Guard them against false
beliefs and false teaching and
lead them in the way you
would have them to go. Bless
them in their work that they
might reflect Christcenteredness
in all that they do to your
honor and glory.

Father, thank you for hearing
and answering my prayer and
I want to ask you to especially
minister to one or more people
whose hearts hurt so deeply
and profoundly that it truly
beyond my comprehension and
they just do not feel as if they
can take another step this
morning - they need a strong

and deep touch from you and
a reminder of your promise -
even as they pass through the
valley of the shadow of death,
even as they pass through the
fire of pain and suffering, even
as they go through the darkness
of loneliness and rejection, when
the physical pain of their present
suffering seems to be more than
is bearable even for another second
you remind them and show them
and touch them with your
presence that dispels darkness,
with your peace that overcomes
the deepest of anxiousness,
your perfect love that soothes
even the loneliest of human
thought and emotion - may your
promise and position as the
ultimate resting place and
fortress from the storms of life

minister deeply and give
comfort to the one(s) for
whom you prompt me to
pray - and may they know
your love that is beyond any
thing that any person could
ever offer - your will for them
that even in the midst of their
dark hour is to bless them in
ways that they cannot now
see but they may know is
sure, just as sure as night
follows day that the blessings
of the Lord for all who are
in Christ Jesus shall come
and never depart as long
as our eyes are focused unto
you - may we hear the wonderful
words of the psalmist who said:

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

2 My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

4 Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

6 The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

8 The LORD will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.(Ps 121)

Comfort and give rest and peace and
blessing in the midst of the challenge
I pray.

Thank you Lord that you have heard
and answered each of these prayers
and petitions.

Thank you Lord that I am able to open
my mouth and sing praises to you
o Lord, praises to you O Lord for your
name is great and greatly to be praised.

I sing glory to your name O Lord
glory to your name O Lord
for your name is great and greatly
to be praised. All of this prayer and
all that I am or ever hope to be is
in and through the name that is
above all names, the name of Jesus
Christ. Amen.

Day 27

Morning Prayers

We rejoice in your name O Lord our God
We rejoice that you are everlasting

without beginning and without end and
You are the Creator of all - You are our Creator
We give our lives to you - we surrender all
We draw close and say Lord have mercy
for we have sinned against You by our
thoughts, words and our deeds
by our actions and our omissions
Forgive us we pray and cleanse us of
all unrighteousness and lead us in the way
that is everlasting - we also forgive those
who have done anything against us
Father, create in us hearts that want
just what you want - hearts that have no
will apart from your own - hearts that say
not our will but your will be done and help
us to have hearts of love for You and for
our neighbors - to love them as ourselves
Lord we stand in the gap for those who are
sick with various diseases and illnesses
praying for healing - praying for strength
praying for peace in the midst of the storm
praying for those who are providing care
and watching over them
Lord we pray for those who do not know Jesus Christ
as Lord and Savior and we pray that today
will be the day of salvation and they will
by grace alone through faith alone in Christ
alone be born again - born from above
we pray this over our those in our own families who have
not received your gift of eternal life and we pray

this for all - near and far - who have never passed
from death to life by trusting in Jesus Christ
as Lord and Savior

We give you all of our thanksgiving and all
of our praise - you O Lord are worthy of all
praise and honor and glory for you have created
all things and by your will they exist and are created
You are God and we fall at your feet and cry out
Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty who
was and is and is to come

Amen

Day 28

Morning Prayer

Good Morning precious Lord
We greet you in Christ Jesus this day
We bring before you prayers of
Thanksgiving and prayers of praise
All honor and glory forever to you
Into this day we come and we say
Lord we lay down our lives and ask
You to receive us in Christ Jesus and
To transform us into the people you
Would have us to be - we would be
Christlike in our thinking and doing
And speaking - that the humility of
Christ Jesus would characterize our
Very lives - let this mind be in us that
Was also in Christ Jesus

We have been crucified with Christ and
It is no longer we who live but Christ who

Lives in us - help us not to take back up
The thoughts of the flesh but instead to
Set our minds on things above - on the
Things of God - things that are true, noble,
Pure, holy and praiseworthy - to be
Transformed by the renewal of our minds
And that we would know and live out
Your good, pleasing and perfect will

Lord may we rejoice always and in all
Circumstances - may we pray without
Ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances
Knowing that our hope is in you and that
You have said we will never leave you
Nor forsake you - so Lord we go forth in
Great courage - knowing that the Lord our
God is with us and sustains us

Forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all
Unrighteousness - create in us a clean heart
And renew a right spirit within us and lead
Us O Lord in the way that is everlasting
We too forgive anyone who has done anything
Against any of us in any way

Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord
May the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever
In Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior forever
Amen

Day 29

Morning Prayer

O God who gives us the day
O God who sustains us through
The night - You are the one
True God and to you we come
And offer ourselves as living
Sacrifices - take our lives O God
We are not our own - it is to you
We give ourselves and it is from
You that we have come and it is
From you that we are able to
Return to you through Jesus
Christ our Lord and in Him do
We place all our trust and all
Our care and all our hope -
God we give ourselves to you
We are yours - we are not our
Own - In you we live, in you we
Move, and in you we have our
Very being - yet without you
We can do nothing - Lord help
Us to come and die to ourselves
And to live this moment and
Every moment from now till
You call us home trusting
Fully in you and obeying you in
All things to the Glory of God
The Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit

Amen

Day 30

Morning Prayer

Good morning Lord

May I proclaim your excellent greatness

Today and all the days of my life

May I humbly bow in your presence

And recognize you as the one true God

Creator and Sustainer of life

Blessed be your name forever O Lord God

Into this day I come - only by your grace

This day is a gift and it is not mine to

Toss aside but for honoring you and

Loving you and those you bring to me

I rejoice in you in this day and I

Rest in the peace that passes all

Understanding that comes from you

O Lord - that peace that is mine as I

Submit myself - my life and all that I

Am and all that I have to you and say

Here I am Lord - I am yours, may I

Ever serve and honor you

Lord make me an instrument of your peace

Where there is hatred may I show love

Where there is disruption may I speak peace

Where there is chaos may your order prevail

Where there is fear may your presence be felt

Where there is doubt may your sure hope overcome it

Where there is sickness may there be healing

Body, soul and spirit

Where there is sin may there be forgiveness and
May there be repentance

O Lord our Lord how majestic,
How powerful, how beautiful ,
How all-consuming are you O Lord
There is none like you
Bless the Lord o my soul and
All that is within me bless your
Holy name forever and ever
Through Christ Jesus
Amen

Day 31

Morning Prayer

O Lord, you alone are God
You give life and breath
In you is our peace and our
Purpose - we come and lay
Our lives before you and we
Cry out and plead - Lord help
Us - Lord fill us - Lord guide us
Lord sustain us - Lord save us
We pray in Jesus name
Amen

“Prayer is not about words but rather the attitude of our hearts.”

Section ____

Insert this after the 31 days of prayer

Section ___ Three Word Prayers

I have heard it said that Billy Graham said the greatest prayer he ever prayed is "help me Lord" - as we noted from the beginning prayer is communion with God and communion with God is the center-piece of the Christian life.

Here are a few simple three word prayers that express a heart focused on and trusting in God our Creator - our Sustainer - our Savior and our eternal home - use these and many others that will come to your mind just to express in the simplest and most earnest way possible that you are looking to the Lord and fully trusting in him. (note that almost everyone of these has multiple counterparts by simply replacing "me" with "him" / "her" / "them" / "specific names"...- this can essentially be an unlimited list of 3 word prayers.

(double space between each one)

Love you Lord

Trust you Lord

Help me Lord

Fill me Lord

Guide me Lord

Forgive me Lord

Protect me Lord

Save me Lord

Bless me Lord

Honor you Lord

Bless you Lord
Help me Jesus
Guard me Jesus
Come Holy Spirit
Hide me Lord
Keep me Lord
Heal me Lord
Heal her Lord
Heal him Lord
Save him Lord
Save her Lord
Forgive him Lord
Forgive her Lord
Help him Lord
Help her Lord
Bless the Lord
Honor the Lord
Serve the Lord
Trust in Jesus
Come to Jesus
Rest in Jesus
Strength in Jesus
I surrender all
In your presence
Hope in Lord
Joy in Lord
Hide me Lord
Guide my steps

Direct my path
Lead me home
Help me love
Give me grace
Seek first God
Forgive my sin
Heal my friend
Come Lord Jesus
Clean my heart
Guide my thoughts
Cleanse my thoughts
Give me words
Give me refuge
Word as light
Keep me Lord
Arise O Lord
Answer me Lord
Hear me Lord
Hear my prayer
Answer please Lord
Make me humble
Give me patience
Deliver me Lord
Love me Lord
Comfort him Lord
Comfort them Lord
Lord my rock
Lord my strength

Lord my salvation
Lord my hope
Call upon Lord
Lord my help
Come swiftly Lord
Lord my peace
Lord my joy
Take me Lord
Shield me Lord
Teach me Lord
Strengthen me Lord
Hold me Lord
Praise you Lord
Revive me Lord
Accept me Lord
Lord my rock
Remember me Lord
Anoint me Lord
Praise the Lord
Praise you Lord
Exalt you Lord
Magnify you Lord
Oh my Lord
Rescue me Lord
Come close Lord
Lead me Lord
Comfort me Lord
Give me mercy

Give me grace
Cleanse me Lord

"Whether we think of, or speak to, God, whether we act or suffer for him, all is prayer, when we have no other object than his love, and the desire of pleasing him."
- John Wesley

Section 8

COMPREHENSIVE DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

The following two prayers are well written very comprehensive guides for times of deeper and lengthier prayer. These are words given as our guide, but the goal is not to read these words but to use them under the direction of the Holy Spirit for a deeper introspection, cleansing, worship, intercession and time of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Dear Lord, we come now into Your holy presence and say praise be to You, O Lord, praise be to God. This is a day that You have given us, a day You have made, may I rejoice, may all that is in me rejoice and be exceedingly glad because of You. No matter

what is going on around me or even in me, may I rejoice and give thanks for every blessing of life that is in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Father, I prayerfully lift up to You myself and my _____, _____, _____ and _____, _____, and _____. Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us of our sins which we have sinned against you and you only; Lord forgive us of the sins we have committed by doing, saying and thinking what we should not have done, said or thought; the sins we have sinned by not doing what we should do, by not saying what we should say, and not thinking as we should think; the sins we have sinned by omitting to do, say and think things which You have called on us to say, think and do. Lord, forgive us of the sins of not loving you with our whole heart, of not loving our neighbors (all people) as ourselves. Father, we know that you oppose the proud and give grace to the humble, grant that we may see ourselves as we truly are, sinners who all fall short, far short, and may we humble ourselves and seek You. Search our hearts O Lord and show us any hidden sins and may we faithfully confess all our sins, ask You to forgive each of us of all our sins, may I, we, all of us, repent of our sins. Cleanse us of all unrighteousness and lead us in the way everlasting. Create in us a clean heart, O Lord, and renew a right spirit within me. Lord have mercy and all in the name and through the blood of Christ Jesus, our Lord and our Saviour. Amen.

Lord, I am thankful for this day, thankful and completely grateful for the blood of Jesus, knowing Lord that You have made a way for us to be cleansed from all unrighteousness and to come boldly before Your throne; Lord, we thank You for the power and the promise to protect, cleanse, heal, deliver, sanctify, redeem, justify, and to make all things new in the precious name of Jesus. Amen. (1 John 1:19; Hebrews 4:16)

I apply the Blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth over our homes according to Exodus 12:7. I apply the Blood of Jesus over every door and window of our homes. I apply the Blood of Jesus over all the contents of our homes. I apply the Blood of Jesus over all who enter in and all who exit out of our homes. Thank You Lord; for our homes and the Blood of Jesus over them.

I apply the Blood of Jesus over us as witnesses for You wherever we go. A city on a hill that cannot be hid. We will not hide our light under a bushel, but we will let our light shine before men, and they may see our good works and glorify You Heavenly Father. We will give light to all those in our homes and our surroundings according to Matthew 5:14-16. Thank You Lord; for our ministries and the Blood of Jesus over them.

I apply the Blood of Jesus over our businesses and jobs. I apply the Blood of Jesus over our finances and possessions. I apply the Blood of Jesus over our bills, our checking accounts, and savings. I apply the Blood of Jesus over all of our possessions (list them) and everything we have and everything we will have. Thank You Lord; for our finances and possessions and the Blood of Jesus over them. I declare and decree that where the Blood of Jesus Christ is applied, Satan can't enter according to Hebrews 10:4-23 and I confess now that Jesus is Lord over our families, churches, finances, businesses, jobs, and possessions. Not sickness, not poverty, not death, not problems, but Jesus is Lord over our families and our lives and where the power and presence of Jesus is sickness, poverty, problems, and death can't remain.

Heavenly Father, I am thankful for so many things. I am thankful that Your Word is true and established in heaven according to Matthew 24:35; that Your mercy endures forever according to Psalms 118:1; that Your grace is sufficient for us according to 2 Corinthians 12:9; for Your angels and for Your protection according to Psalms 91; for Your salvation. That our names are written in the lamb's book of life according to Revelation 21:27; that everyone in our households are saved according to Acts 16:31; for Your righteousness that is imparted to us according to 1 Corinthians 5:21. I am thankful for Your Holy Spirit, the inward voice, the inward witness, the candle of the Lord according to Proverbs 20:27; that You sanctify us daily in Your Word according to John 17:17. Thank You for Your peace which passes all understanding according to Philippians 4:7. Thank You for every battle and every problem we face, knowing that the battle is an opportunity to cause our revelation knowledge parts (pebbles) to become one solid rock that the gates of hell can't prevail against us. Each and every battle is an opportunity for us to take root so we can bear fruit. We know that the trying of our faith turns into patience, causing us to form into perfect men and women, wanting nothing. Thank You that we can ask You for whatever we will and as long as we are connected to the vine, we have the petitions we ask for. Thank You for Your provisions as You supply all our needs according to Your riches in glory. Thank You for divine prosperity. Thank You for Your healing, past, present, and future as You are Jehovah Rophe. Thank You for divine health. Thank You for physical and spiritual hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, and tasting. Thank You for the sun, moon, stars, trees, grass, air, water, plants, flowers, animals, mountains, valleys and all the other wonderful things You created for us, yet we so often take for granted.

Thank You Heavenly Father for Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for being present with us always. Thank You for all of the gifts of the Spirit that you give and uniquely equip us each with in order that by your grace we can live out the path you have laid before us to love

and serve and honor you and be a blessing and help to others along the roads of our lives. Thank You for the fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control according to Galatians 5:22. Thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You for being the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace according to Isaiah 9:6; The Way, The Truth, The Life according to John 14:6; The Light according to John 8:12; The Door according to John 10:9; The Bread of Life according to John 6:35; The Good Shepherd according to John 10:11; The Redeemer according to Psalms 78:35; The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords according to Rev. 19:16. Heavenly Father, I praise and thank You for everything You have done, for everything You are doing, and for everything You are going to do. I bless You Lord.

Heavenly Father, I know that our battle is not with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places, therefore, I put on each of us the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. We will be strong in You, Lord, and in the power of Your might according to Ephesians 6:10-13. We have Christ in us, the hope of glory, according to Colossians 1:27, so we shall prevail because the battles are not ours, but Yours Lord according to 1 Samuel 17:47.

Heavenly Father, I now put on each of us the Breastplate of Righteousness according to Ephesians 6:14; and pray Your Word that we have hidden in our hearts, that we might not sin against You; because You made Christ who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of You, God, in Him. I acknowledge You God as our Jehovah Tsidkenu Your Word says it means our righteousness; (1st Corinthians 1:30) and Jehovah Mekaddishkem, our sanctifier.

Heavenly Father, I realize that our own self-righteousness is as filthy rags in Your eyes according to Isaiah 64:6; but Your Word says if we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness according to 1 John 1:9. Heavenly Father, please forgive us for our sins. We want to be Your loving and obedient child. We want to be Your spotless bride, presented unto You in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing according to Ephesians 5:27. We want to be holy and without blemish, through the washing of the water of Your Word according to Ephesians 5:26; and acknowledge You are our Jehovah Mekaddishkem, our sanctifier, and we want to be Your humble servant, to walk in love, forgiveness, and gentleness toward each other, showing the love of Christ as Your body according to Ephesians 5:2. Remind us that if we do this we will exit out from Your righteousness and enter back into our old self-righteous filthy rags. Help us to be a doer of Your Word, not just a hearer only, deceiving ourselves according to James 1:22, so we may act upon the revelation knowledge You gave us.

I crucify our flesh now according to Romans 8:13, as we die daily from self-desires and live to do Your desires according to 1 Corinthians 15:31. In the Name of Christ Jesus, I command the mind of our flesh to shut up: Don't talk to us about sin for we are dead to sin according to Romans 6:2; Don't talk to us about condemnation, for there is no condemnation to us because we are in Christ according Romans 8:1; We walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh according to Romans 8:4; We have been healed by the stripes of Jesus according to Isaiah 53:5. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law according to Galatians 3:13; We are blessed when we come in and blessed when we go out. We are blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Our fruits, seed, land and storehouse are blessed. Everything we touch is blessed and it prospers according to Deuteronomy 28:3-6. All these blessings shall come upon us and overtake us, because we

obey the Voice of the Lord our God. Thank You God that you did not give us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind according to 2 Timothy 1:7.

Heavenly Father, Your Word says we are not to be deceived, that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, according to 1 Corinthians 6:9-10. Your word continues to say; and such were some of us. But we were washed, but we were sanctified, but we were justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God according to 1 Corinthians 6:11.

Heavenly Father, I pray that our path is like the shining sun and not of darkness for Your Word says: But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know why they stumble according to Proverbs 4:18-19. Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path according to Psalms 119:105.

Lord, you have created a clean heart in us; You have renewed a right spirit within us. You have made old things passed away and all things new. You didn't cast us away from Your presence and You didn't take Your Holy Spirit away from us when we failed You for Your mercy endures forever. You restored us to the joy of Your salvation according to Psalms 51:10-13. Your joy is our strength according to Nehemiah 8:10.

Heavenly Father, I now put on each of us the Helmet of Salvation. I declare that we are spiritually minded according to Romans 8:6 and have the mind of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 2:16. I take off the carnal way of thinking according to Romans 12:2. Putting on this Helmet we no longer allow our five carnal senses to affect the way that we think. I

exercise our spiritual senses, spiritual hearing, spiritual sight, spiritual touch, spiritual taste, and spiritual smell according to Romans 8:14. I thank You for being our God of peace; Jehovah Shalom, according to Judges 6:24.

Heavenly Father, I ask that You give us knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding and the strength and might of You, to be involved in what you want us to be involved in, and not to be involved in the things You don't want us to be involved in according to Colossians 1:9. Your Word says if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of You, and he will receive wisdom according to James 1:5. I ask for wisdom in every decision we have to make today. Help us to remember that our mind is a judge according to 1 Corinthians 11:31 and we are always listening to fear or faith. Fear produces substances of things not hoped for, the evidence of this world's circumstances: evidence of things we can hear, see, smell, taste, and touch. These things are temporal according to 2 Corinthians 4:18. God did not give us a spirit of fear according to 2 Timothy 1:7. Faith produces substances of things hoped for, the evidence of things from the Word of God ("Thus saith the Lord.."): things we cannot hear, see, smell, touch or taste according to Hebrews 11:1. Now these things are eternal. From both of these reports, we choose to believe the report of the Lord according to 2 Timothy 1:12.

Heavenly Father, I ask that each of us will hear Your Voice today for our families according to John 10:16: That we will not be deceived in any area, that You will speak through us to our families, and that we will follow You and set a clear path for our families to follow according to John 16:13-15. Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, for You are our strength and our redeemer according to Psalms 19:14. Let our mouths speak wisdom and the meditation of our hearts be of understanding according to Psalms 19:3. Let our speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that we

will know how to answer every man according to Colossians 4:6. Give us the tongue of the learned and lead us to speak a word to him that is weary in season according to Isaiah 50:4. Teach us to exhort one another today, lest anyone of us be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin according to Hebrews 3:13. Help us to never criticize, condemn, or complain because these are destructive weapons that kill, steal, and destroy. They are weapons of the enemy according to John 10:10. Help us to abstain from all appearances of evil according to 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22.

Heavenly Father, implant in our hearts: We are doers of the Word according to James 1:22; We are in Jesus and Jesus is in us according to John 17:23; We are the body of Christ according to 1 Corinthians 12:27; We are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus according to Romans 8:37. We are overcomers. We overcome by the Blood of Jesus and the word of our testimony and we love not our life unto death according to Revelation 12:11; We are the head and not the tail according to Deuteronomy 28:13; We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us according to Philippians 4:13; As we speak Your Word, we know it won't return back to You void, but it will accomplish what it was sent to do according to Isaiah 55:11; If we ask anything according to Your will, You hear us, and because You hear us, we have whatsoever it is we ask for according to 1 John 5:14-15.

Heavenly Father, I thank You for it is written in Psalms 103 that we will not forget all of Your benefits. You forgave all our sins and have healed all our diseases, You redeemed our lives from destruction. You have crowned us with loving kindness and tender mercies; You satisfy our mouths with good things, so that our youth is renewed like the eagles; You are merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy; You have not dealt with us according to our iniquities; As far as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is Your

mercy toward us for we fear You; As far as the east is from the west, You have thrown our sins from us.

Heavenly Father, I now gird our loins with Your Belt of Truth. We are set free from bondages and strongholds according to II Corinthians 10:4. We operate in discernment according to Hebrews 5:14 that we may continue to be free. I take off all dependency of the flesh and dependency on anything in this world or this world system. We trust and depend completely on Jesus according to Psalms 31:1. I thank You that You are our Healer, Jehovah Rophe, and You are our Provider; Jehovah Jireh.

Heavenly Father, thank You for being our Healer, our Jehovah Rophe according to Exodus 15:26. I declare that You are our health, healing, and soundness in and over us. We have the healing of God, for by Your stripes, we were healed according to I Peter 2:24. We have spiritual healing, soulish healing, physical healing, healing in relationships for we have been redeemed from the curse of the law according to Galatians 3:13. We have been redeemed from sickness, poverty, and spiritual death according to Deuteronomy 28:2-13. We have the health of God. We have Your soundness in our spirits, souls, and bodies. We present our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to You, which is our reasonable service. We are not conformed to this world, but we are transformed by the renewing of our minds to Your Word according to Romans 12:1-2. Lord, You are on our side. We fear no man according to Psalms 118:6. We are overcomers. We overcome all strongholds and bondages by the Blood of the Lamb, which cleanses us from all unrighteousness according to 1 John 1:9 and the word of our testimony which is Your Word that we have hidden in our hearts to keep us from returning to those strongholds according to Psalms 119:11 and we love not our life unto death according to Revelation 12:11.

Heavenly Father, thank You that all of Your blessings will come on us because we hear and obey Your Voice. Thank You that: Blessed is the fruit of our bodies (our children); Blessed is the fruit of our ground (our possessions); Blessed is the fruit of our cattle (our businesses); Blessed is the increase of our kine (our prosperity); Blessed are the flocks of our sheep (those we have authority over); Blessed is our basket and our store (our finances). Lord, You have commanded blessings on us, our storehouse and in all we set our hands to. You have blessed us in the land that You gave us. You have established us as a holy people unto You as You promised us, as we keep Your commandments and walk in Your ways. We are blessed because we refuse to walk in the counsel of the ungodly, nor will we stand in the way of sinners, nor will we sit in the seat of the scornful. Our delight is in Your Word, and on Your Word do we meditate day and night. We are like a tree planted by rivers of water that bring forth its fruit in its season; our leaves shall not wither, and whatsoever we do shall prosper according to Psalms 1:1-3. We bring all our tithes into Your storehouse, that there may be meat in Your house, and I will prove You now that You will open the windows of heaven for us and pour out blessings that we won't have room to store it all so we will have to give most of it away. For as we have received; freely we shall give according to Matthew 10:8.

Lord, Your goodness and mercy shall follow us every day of our lives according to Psalms 23:6. In You, we will praise Your Word and put our trust according to Psalms 16:1. We will not fear what flesh and blood can do to us according to Ephesians 6:12. We know that all things work together for good because we love You and we were called according to Your purpose according to Romans 8:28. According to Romans 8:31, if You are for us; who can be against us? You are on our side; we will not fear what man can do to us, according to Psalms 118:6. Now Lord, I bring our requests to You according to Philippians 4:6: (Prayer List)

Heavenly Father, I now cover our feet with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace Sandals, enabling us to walk in the Spirit so we won't fulfill the lust of the flesh according to Galatians 5:16. Thank You that the Spirit leads us and we walk in the light, as Jesus is, the light according to 1 John 1:7. As we cover our feet with this preparation, we take off vanity, pride, darkness, and ignorance according to Colossians 3:8-10. I thank You for being: our EVER PRESENT GOD, our JEHOVAH SHAMMAH and our SHEPHERD, JEHOVAH ROHI.

Lord, Your Spirit is upon us. You have anointed us to preach the gospel to the poor; You have sent us to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim Your acceptable year, and Your day of vengeance; To comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, which is Your planting, that You may be glorified.

Heavenly Father, I ask that utterance be given to us, that we may open our mouths boldly to make known the mysteries of the Gospel, for which we are ambassadors in chains, that in it we may speak boldly, as we ought to speak according to Ephesians 6:19-20.

Heavenly Father, I ask that You order our steps according to Psalms 37:23. We acknowledge You Father, precious Jesus, and precious Holy Spirit in all our ways, according to Proverbs 3:6. I acknowledge You Jesus as Lord over all our ways and in everything we do, we will do it heartily according to Colossians 3:23, listening to Your Spirit and rejoicing as we do it for You. We have Your promise that You will direct our path according to Proverbs 4:18. We will not lean to our own understanding, go by what

we think is good, but we will trust Your Holy Spirit with all our heart and will believe our path is directed by You according to Proverbs 3:5-6.

Heavenly Father, I speak in Jesus' Name to every person and thing in our paths, that if it would not bring glory to You God, and if it would not be in Your will for our paths to cross, then in Jesus' Name, I forbid our paths to cross until, if ever, it would be in God's will. Also, I speak in Jesus' Name and believe for every person and things in our path that would be in God's will and for God's glory for our paths to cross, I speak and believe for our paths to cross in God's right timing. I declare KINGDOM OF GOD COME, WILL OF GOD BE DONE IN EVERY STEP WE TAKE AND WITH EVERY PERSON WE MEET. Truly all things work together for good for us because we love You Lord, and we are called according to Your purpose according to Romans 8:28.

Heavenly Father, we do not seek after the praises of men according to John 5:44, nor do we seek after our own glory according to John 7:18, but we seek first Your kingdom; we seek after Your righteousness according to Matthew 6:33. Your Spirit leads us, as You are Jehovah Rohi, our shepherd according to Psalms 23:1. Instruct us and teach us in the way we should go. Guide us with Your eye according to Psalms 32:8. Holy Spirit guide us into all truth, speak to us the words that you hear from our Heavenly Father and tell us the things to come. Glorify God in us by taking the things of God and declaring it to us according to John 16:13-14. We will keep Your word, Lord, make Your home in us. Teach us all things and help us to remember all things You have taught us according to John 14:26.

Heavenly Father, we want to be wise sons and daughters who gather the harvest instead of sons and daughters who cause You shame and sleep during the harvest according to Proverbs 10:5. Help us to keep a right heart and a hearing ear according to Proverbs 20:12.

Give us wisdom to use You to win Your people to Your kingdom. Lead us to them and tell us what to say that they may be saved according to Acts 1:8. We are not ashamed of Your Gospel for it is the power of You, God, unto salvation according to Romans 1:16. Give Your servants boldness to stand up for You and tell others what You have done for us according to Acts 4:29. Help us to make disciples for You, for where no counsel is, the people fall, but in a multitude of counselors, there is safety according to Proverbs 11:14. We want to be vehicles for Your Holy Spirit. Lead us into the north, south, east, and west. Help us to bring them and lead them out of darkness into Your light according to 1 Peter 2:9. I believe You are adding to Your church daily such as should be saved according to Acts 2:47. We go forth to do Your will. We go into the entire world that You have called us to and preach Your gospel according to Mark 16:15. We go rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instantly in prayer, and distributing to the necessity of the saints according to Romans 12:12-13. We will walk worthy of our calling with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, enduring to keep the unity of Your Spirit in the bond of peace according to Ephesians 4:1-3. We will not follow after signs to believe on Your Word, but rather signs will follow us because we believe on Your Word according to Mark 16:17.

Heavenly Father, I now put on each of us the Shield of Faith, which protects us from all fiery darts of the enemy according to Ephesians 6: As I put on each of us the Shield of Faith, we take off all fear, mistrust, unthankfulness, unfaithfulness, and disobedience. I thank You God that You are OUR BANNER, JEHOVAH NISSI and THE GOD WHO IS MORE THAN ENOUGH, EL SHADDAI.

Heavenly Father, I come boldly to the throne of grace according to Hebrews 4:16, praying for all men. I ask that every man, woman, boy, and girl will come to know You as their

Lord and Savior according to 1 Timothy 2:1. Let everything that has breath praise You according to Psalms 150:6.

Heavenly Father, I pray that Your Kingdom come, Your will be done over our families. I ask You to make Your Word stronger and greater than our wills. I ask You to make us hunger and thirst after Your righteousness according to Matthew 5:6. I stand on Your promises that (list children) will prophesy according to Acts 2:17. I intercede in the Spirit that our families are saved by faith. Help each of us to keep a pure heart according to 1 Peter 1:22. Keep us in remembrance of Your promise that You will never leave us or forsake us according to Hebrews 13:5. I take the Shield of Faith and cover our families, and churches: For You will bless the righteous with favor and protect us; surrounding us with a shield according to Psalms 5:12.

Heavenly Father, I declare that we dwell in Your secret place and we abide under Your shadow, I declare that You are our refuge and our fortress, You are our habitation, therefore no demon, devil, fallen angel, principalities, rulers of darkness, power, spiritual wickedness, Satan, or those under him shall befall us, neither shall any plague, flu, virus, cancer, disease, headache, cold or poverty come near our dwellings. A thousand may fall at our side, and ten thousand at our right hand, but it will not, shall not, and cannot come near our dwellings because I now apply the Blood of Jesus to the doorpost of our hearts. You have given Your angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways, lest we dash our foot against a stone, with long life You satisfy us and show us Your salvation, because we have set our love upon You according to Psalms 91:1-16.

Heavenly Father, I ask that (church) becomes a great soul winning church for You. I pray for Pastor _____ and ask You to bless him. Bless (church) financially to have and maintain

abundant provision, to fulfill Your mission for us. Help us to have Your abundance to give as we are led by Your Spirit in giving to others. Make our leaders sensitive to You and the needs of our children and our youth, making them grow mightily in the ways and things of God according to Ephesians 4:15, making them giants for You. Bring a great revival so we will be strong in You and in the power of Your might according to Ephesians 6:10. Let us recognize sin immediately and turn from it. Let us walk in love according to Ephesians 5:2 and desire spiritual things according to Colossians 3:2.

Heavenly Father, I now intercede for those You have called me to intercede for. I pray the will of God be done in and over me and everyone I have prayed for today. Strengthen us today and clothe us with Your glory. Let us hear Your Voice today and teach us in Your ways. Keep each of us covered in Your Blood and heal us of every sickness and disease that the devil tries to hit us with. I cover each of us with the Shield of Faith and declare that no weapon formed against us shall prosper, but everything we put our hands to shall prosper, for we are like a tree planted by rivers water according to Psalms 1:3.

Heavenly Father, I now put in each of our hands the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, which we choose to use against all forces of evil. I declare that we defeat the enemy with the Word of God as the Spirit of God leads us according to Revelation 19:11-16. I put away murmuring, complaining, condemning and criticizing from each of us. I thank You that You are OUR AUTHORITY, JESUS and THE LORD OF HOSTS, JEHOVAH SABBOATH. I now take the Sword of the Spirit and use the authority that God has ordained me with according to Luke 9:1, for we have been given power and authority over all the devils and demons, to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy according to Luke 10:19.

Heavenly Father, as we go out today, let us recognize You as Jehovah Sabaoth, we will not fear, for You have called us by name, we are Yours. When we pass through the waters, You will be with us, and through the rivers, they will not overtake us. When we walk through the fire, we will not be burned, neither will the flame kindle upon us according to Isaiah 43:1-2. We will not be dismayed, for You are our God according to Isaiah 41:10. We will wait upon You Lord and You will renew our strength. We will mount up with wings as eagles. We will run and not be weary. We will walk and not faint according to Isaiah 40:31. We will not be afraid or dismayed by reason of the great multitude. The battle is not ours but Yours according to II Chronicles 20:15. You are on our side; therefore we will fear no man according to Psalms 118:6. When the enemy comes in like a flood, Your Spirit will lift up a standard against him according to Isaiah 59:19. You did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind according to 2 Timothy 1:7. Greater is Jesus in us than any demon, devil, fallen angel, evil force, power, principality, and rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness, Satan, and those under him. Greater is Jesus in us than the devil is in the world according to I John 4:4. Greater is Jesus in us than all our circumstances and all our reasoning. Therefore, we follow You Jesus. We cry out to You Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come according to Revelation 4:8. You have created all things and for Your pleasure and by Your will, they are and were created and continue to exist. You are worthy to receive glory, honor, and power according to Revelation 4:11. To You belongs the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever according to Matthew 6:13. Amen.^{iv}

Second Comprehensive Daily Prayer Guide

O Lord may mouth be continually filled with praise and honor and thanksgiving for you
and to you all this day and coming night

I declare in your presence, that with your help and by your grace sovereign Lord – may I
love you with all of my heart, and with all my soul and with all my mind and strength

I thank you Lord Jesus that you have told to me in a promise that whatever I bind and
loose on earth will be bound and loosed in heaven – receiving your promise and by your
grace I act on your Word and pray – in the name of Jesus Christ I bind my body, soul and
spirit to your will O Lord my God and to your purposes – that I may have no purpose or
will be yours

--- I bind myself to your truth O God

---- I bind myself to the awareness of the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ
working in my life today and always

---- I bind myself to the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ that I may have the thoughts,
purposes and feelings of his mind in my mind and heart

--- I bind myself and the feet upon which I stand to the paths you sovereignly ordain for
me to walk

---- I bind myself to the work of the Gospel -- the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ with all
of the mercy, truth, love, power, forgiveness, and in this O Lord help me to die to myself
this day and every day

---- I bind myself to the attitude and patterns of the Lord Jesus Christ

---- I bind myself to the overcoming behavior and the spiritual desires that line up with the fruit of the Spirit – Love – Joy – Peace – Patience – Kindness – Goodness – Faithfulness – Gentleness – Self-Control – together being the fruit of the Spirit

I choose right now to forgive everyone who has ever hurt me in any way --- used me – abused me – I release them right now as an act of my own free will – I loose any desire for retaliation – Forgive me now Sovereign Lord as I have forgiven those who have done anything to me --- Lord have mercy – I repent of any and every wrong attitude – thought – word and action --- I renounce them and pray for your forgiveness and cleansing

I loose every wrong pattern of thinking, attitude, idea, desire, belief, habit and behavior that may still be at work in me and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I tear down – crush – smash and destroy every stronghold I have erected or permitted to be erected in my life

O Lord as I prepare to meet the new day
Help me to dress properly for this day
to put on the whole armor you have given me
so that - I may be able to stand against the
wiles of the devil, for I do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities,
powers, the rulers of the darkness of this world --- and against spiritual wickedness in
high places

--- I gird myself with the belt of truth -- Your Word, Lord, which is truth -- contains all the weapons of my warfare which are not carnal, but are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds

--- I cover my heart with the breastplate of righteousness -- my feet are shod with the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace

--- I place over my mind the helmet of salvation

--- I take up the shield of faith so that I may quench all the fiery darts of the enemy

--- I take up the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God

--- and just like Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior - I will in the face of every trial and tribulation and test and temptation declare to the enemy – “Devil, it is written”

thank you our Father for this armor you provide as I pray in the Holy Spirit and in and through the name of Jesus Christ -

Lord this morning I come against strongholds
in my life and the lives of others in my family
and in the Body of Christ and other friends
and those I don't know - praying against these
spiritual strongholds that tear down and hold
down - In this name of Jesus Christ I pray

Spirit of infirmity - Come Down!

Spirit of Sickness and disease - Come Down!

Spirit of Jealousy - Come Down!

Spirit of Anger - Come Down!
Spirit of Hatred - Come Down!
Spirit of Murder - Come Down!
Spirit of Alcohol - Come Down!
Spirit of Nicotine - Come Down!
Spirit of Heaviness - Come Down!
Spirit of Depression - Come Down!
Spirit of Suicide - Come Down!
Spirit of Self-Pity - Come Down!
Spirit of Perversion - Come Down!
Spirit of Adultery - Come Down!
Spirit of Fornication - Come Down!
Spirit of Pornography - Come Down!
Spirit of Rebellion - Come Down!
Spirit of Abuse - Come Down!
Spirit of Violence - Come Down!
Spirit of Pride - Come Down!
Spirit of Doubt and Unbelief - Come Down!
Spirit of Abandonment - Come Down!
Spirit of Illegitimacy - Come Down!
Spirit of Greed - Come Down!
Spirit of Covetousness - Come Down!
Spirit of Addiction - Come Down!
Spirit of Drugs - Come Down!
Spirit of Rejection- Come Down!

Spirit of Bitterness - Come Down!

Spirit of Unforgiveness - Come Down!

Spirit of Masturbation – Come Down!

Spirit of Incarceration – Come Down!

Spirit of Lust - Come Down!

Spirit of Stubbornness - Come Down!

Spirit of Idolatry - Come Down!

Spirit of Witchcraft - Come Down!

Spirit of Jezebel spirit - Come Down!

Spirit of Laziness - Come Down!

Spirit of Lying spirit - Come Down!

Spirit of Deceitfulness- Come Down!

Spirit of Manipulation - Come Down!

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray that these
lying, deceiving, destroying spirits would be
themselves destroyed and replace by the
Holy Spirit and joy and peace and contentment in the Lord Jesus Christ

O Lord I come to you and lay down my life
I give myself fully over to you - trusting in you

I cast down every argument, every theory,
every reasoning and every proud and lofty
thing that exalts itself against the true
knowledge of you O God

-- and I bring every
thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ

Today-- I will willingly submit myself to God
-- when I resist the devil he must flee from me

Today-- I trust in the Lord with all my heart
I do not lean on my own understanding and
I acknowledge the Lord in all of my ways and
I know as I do that you O Lord are directing
my paths

Today -- I present myself as a living sacrifice
holy and acceptable unto you O God which
is my reasonable act of worship unto you O God

In the name of Jesus Christ, I decide right now
to walk in JOY -- weeping may endure for the
night, but Joy comes in the morning and
IT IS MORNING TIME

-- the joy of the Lord is
my strength and from this point on I trouble
my trouble with JOY

In the name of Jesus Christ, I decide right now to walk in PEACE - My heart will not be troubled

---by holding to the Word of God - I hold on to the peace of God - I guard my heart and my mind with the peace of God in Jesus name and I declare right now in Jesus name

- in the midst of trouble- PEACE BE STILL
- in my finances - PEACE BE STILL
- in my relationships - PEACE BE STILL
- in my home - PEACE BE STILL
- in my family - PEACE BE STILL
- in my church family - PEACE BE STILL
- in my co-laborers in the Lord - PEACE BE STILL
- in my Pastor and his family – PEACE BE STILL
- in all of the elder and deacons here – PEACE BE STILL
- in the Body of Christ -- PEACE BE STILL
- in unity in the Body of Christ - PEACE BE STILL
- in every area of my life - PEACE BE STILL

And the peace of God that passes all understanding settles over my life and all I have prayed for in the name of Jesus Christ –

- Amen^v

“Reading the Word of God is prayer – God speaking and me listening. When I am praying the Word of God I know I am praying the will of God.”

Section 9

Praying Through Scripture

Have you ever had your children (anyone under your responsibility / direction) come to you and make a request / suggestion that is exactly what you taught them to do? Well, if that is exciting to an earthly parent – how pleased is our Heavenly Father when we say Lord I want to pray and the words that come out of our mouths are the words that first came from him! When we pray to God in accordance with the Word of God we know we are also praying to God according to the will of God and the will of God will be done!

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.” (1 John 5:14–15, ESV)

Praying the Word of God to God is God’s idea not mine!

So, here you will find some examples of how you might pray God’s Word to God. There are many ways and this way is not better it is just a way. In addition, there is an extensive list from Genesis to Revelation found in God’s all time best seller the Bible and it is an imminently and infinitely higher reference source than this writing.

???

Scripture (the words of the Holy Bible) are the words of God given to man by God through the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is true, and it never changes and never ends. Prayer is more than words but for the part of prayer that is words what better words could we use than the words of God. Praying scripture back to God. Also, scripture is God laying out his plan and will for each of us, so scripture is chock full of God’s directions and when we are praying God’s directions we are being transformed from the inside out by the Word of God led by the Spirit of God.

Praying Scripture is extremely effective way of hearing from and speaking to God. In essence, as you read the words of scripture you are hearing from God and as you pray them back to God you are speaking to God using his own words. Think of how rewarding

it is when we try to share lessons of life with our children and then one day they are echoing those positive words back to us. It is downright bliss because we know that our children are walking in truth. How much more is this true when God hears us speaking back to him his own words he has been encouraging us with.

Just to “say” the words of God with no thought of who the speaker is nor concern of what he is saying is not necessarily prayerful (but certainly far better than saying evil words). But when a born again child of God is reading the words of God she / he is praying: prayer is – transform my mind and my heart to your ways O Lord; help me Lord to do your will; help me Lord to die to my way of thinking and doing and being and be fully seeking after you and your ways. When we are “digesting” scripture it is a prayer honoring God for who he is, a prayer giving God the right place in our life, a prayer saying God help me because I cannot do this on my own. When we read the Word of God out loud – we are crying out to God – saying “God may your kingdom come, and your will be done in my life and in the lives of all. Amen”

Here are some examples of praying scripture:

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...” (Genesis 1:1)

O God I acknowledge you are God, that you have always been, you will always be, you are the Creator – I am your creation....”

John 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Thank you O Lord that my Savior Jesus Christ is God and has always been God and He is the Living Word and I pray that my life will be committed to and modeled after the life He lived.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Thank you Lord that you gave us your Son that we might have life and have it abundantly – Lord thank you that by your grace through faith I have been born again in Christ Jesus and I HAVE eternal life in Christ Jesus my Lord and Savior. Lord I pray that all others who are not in Christ would this day – by grace alone – through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Praying Scripture Back to God

John 14:1–6 (ESV)

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Lord, help me / us to hear and cling to the promise of our Savior – don't be worried – don't be anxious – know that Jesus is himself the answer – He is the WAY and the TRUTH and the LIFE.

John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Thank you Jesus that you humbled yourself and became a man and you were willing to come as an infant and live a perfect sinless life and then die on the cross to reconcile me to God the Father that I may live all of my life loving and honoring and serving Him.

Matthew 22:36–40 (ESV)

³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?”

³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

³⁸This is the great and first commandment.

³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Thank you Lord for my daily agenda and with only two items on the list I don't even have to write them down – Love you Lord with all I am – Love my neighbor as myself – Amen

Matthew 6:33 (ESV)

³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Lord, thank you for this straightforward and divine list of priorities and they are ONE – seek first your kingdom and your righteousness and all else will fall into place.

Psalm 23 (ESV)

A PSALM OF DAVID.

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

³He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“O Lord, I thank you that you are my Shepherd – you care for me wonderfully and faithfully, better than I could ever care for myself – Lord help me to be faithful to follow you and trust you as you bring me to places where I can lie down and rest – to know that just as Jesus rested so must I rest. Thank you Lord for restoring my soul in the quiet waters of your presence while the storms of life rage around and about me – so that even if I walk through the valley of death – I remember that in you I have life and in you I will never die and so I do not quake or tremble in the valley but I take comfort in your presence and your protection as you anoint my head with the oil of the presence of the Holy Spirit in me and I find my ‘cup’ overflowing with the peace of God and I know and declare to all that in Christ Jesus goodness and mercy follow me every day – no matter what and my Savior has gone to prepare a place for me and he is coming back to take me to my home with him where I shall, by God’s grace, live with the Lord forever and ever. Amen.

Proverbs 3:5–7 (ESV)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

Lord, I live in a world where everything is always changing and I have nothing to really count on in this world – but I do not despair because I know, O Lord, that I can / I must trust in you with all my heart – because you are God – you created all things – you know the beginning from the end and you love me with an immeasurable everlasting love and so I do rest and trust in you with all of my heart and I know that no matter what messages my flesh tries to get me to listen to – I reject those messages in Jesus’ name and fully rely on the Lord my God because you see all and you know all and you will always always direct me along the straight path – so I humble myself and acknowledge that I am a person of poor vision but you O Lord see all things and so I put my trust in you and you alone through Jesus Christ my Lord and my Savior. Amen

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Lord, by your grace I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord of all and I believe fully in my heart that you O Lord raised him from the dead following his crucifixion and I know that in Christ I am saved from eternal death and I am brought to life in Christ Jesus because it is with my heart that I believe and you make me right before you and with my mouth I confess and proclaim Jesus as Lord and so am saved. Amen

Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

¹¹“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Lord you and you alone are worthy O Lord our God to receive all of the glory that we can give you and infinitely more – to have all honor for all time be laid at your feet and the power O Lord is not mine but yours for you alone have all power as you have shown since all creation for by you all things were created and continue to exist – then and now in Jesus’ name. Amen.

This is a great method to listen to God and speak to God at the same time and to honor God with His own words lifted up to him as a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. You can follow this idea of praying scripture anywhere in the Bible you are reading. Remember the scriptures are (2 Timothy 3:16) the living Word of God and powerful.

Note: In His all time best seller – the Holy Bible – God has a lot more.

Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer. No continent – no nation – no organization – no city – no office. There is no power on earth that can keep intercession out. Richard Halverson

Section 10

Scriptures to Hide In Our Heart

We are encouraged to begin to just read through these several scriptures that contain many foundational truths from the Word of God – let us not hurry but let our hearts dwell on each word and phrase and sentence and invite God to open our hearts and minds to a deeper insight into his Word – then meditate on them much in the same way a cow “chews its cud” – pull them back up to memory and seek to get more and more ‘goody’ from each one and find your life in Christ greatly enriched thereby. Then may we begin to commit them to memory, and we can ‘chew’ on them any time and no matter what we are doing – and thus take a filling ‘snack’ from the Lord.

Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Lord, everything begins with you. You are the uncreated Creator / beginner of all things. May all of my thoughts and words and my actions – decisions start with you and stay with you throughout this day – and all of my days. Help me Lord to think on you. You

are God, you have always been, you will always be, you made all that I am looking at, standing on, and wanting. Lord, why would I ever let the things you created take the place in my heart that is reserved for you the Creator. Lord help me.

John 1:1 (ESV)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Jesus is ‘the Word’ and Jesus has been with God – forever and ever – Jesus is God. God died for my sin – whoa – Lord how can I not give myself fully to you. Lord help me.

John 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus – who is God – came down and became a baby – born in a poor family – he became a person while remaining fully God – how beautiful and how convicting is the presence of Christ among people – this is what it took for me to be brought back right with God. Thank you Lord. Lord help me.

John 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus you not only came as man – you died in a most cruel way – willingly – on purpose – by God’s perfect pre-planning so that we, sinners, can be reconciled to God and live forever in a love relationship with God. Lord help me.

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

On my very best day I am not worthy – I fall short. Lord help me.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I deserve death but instead God gives me life – a gift of my life to me – my life is not my own – God gave me this life to be in relationship with Him in Christ Jesus. Lord help me.

Romans 5:8 (ESV)

⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9–10 (ESV)

⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Colossians 3:15–17 (ESV)

¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 14:1–6 (ESV)

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

This list could be as long as the Bible but here are quite a few more that we should each read and meditate on and commit them to memory.

Psalms 56:3

Psalms 4:8

Romans 1:16-17

John 1:1-6

Romans 8:1

Romans 8:28-29

Romans 8:38-39

Romans 12:1-2

Romans 12:11-12

Romans 12:18

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Joshua 1:8

Psalms 119:11

Hebrews 4:12

Hebrews 4:16

1 John 5:14-15

Isaiah 40:31

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 3:5-6

2 Chronicles 7:14

Matthew 22:36-40

James 1:19-20

Psalms 55:22

1 John 5:11-12

Isaiah 26:3

Isaiah 53:5-6

1 Peter 1:3

Psalms 100

Revelation 4:11

Matthew 6:33

Romans 8:28-29

Jeremiah 29:11
1 John 1:7-9
1 Corinthians 10:13
1 Peter 5:7
2 Corinthians 9:7
Hebrews 10:25
Proverbs 15:1
Ephesians 5:18 – 21
Philippians 4:4-9
James 1:2-6
Hebrews 13:3-5
Matthew 28:18-20
Acts 1:8
Psalm 23
Isaiah 9:6
Luke 2:10-12
Acts 1:11
Revelation 21:1-2
Revelation 22:20

There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer. A. T. Pierson

Section 11

Scriptures For Growing in Christ Likeness

The only makeover that really matters is the one God is doing in every Christian. From who we were and are to the likeness of Christ. This is God's goal for you and for me. To shape us / form us into the image of Jesus – spiritually. Here is one place that God spells out his goal super clearly:

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Romans 8:28–29, ESV)

Christlikeness is God's plan for you and for me – so clearly this should be high on our list of things to pray about. Not just for ourselves, but for all who are in Christ and all who will come to Christ. Can you even begin to imagine the changes that take place in a person, a family, a business, a county, a state, a nation and yes, a world when the leaders are born again and God has them on the potter's wheel making them over into the likeness of Christ Jesus in their spirit!

“But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” (Isaiah 64:8, ESV)

The following are a number of key verses of scripture that can be immensely helpful in our daily walk. We might well pray a part of this list every day – I have taken the liberty of diving these up for us. You will see below how I am led to pray some of these but mine is just ‘a’ way and not ‘the’ way – ultimately we always listen and learn but we want to be led by Christ and not by other people.

Day 1

1. Abstain from all appearances of evil.

1 Thess. 5:22

Heavenly Father, you are holy in every way and you call me to be holy – help me Lord to not just abstain from evil but to flee from evil and seek the things that are above – pleasing to you.

2. Abstain from all fleshly lusts.

1 Pet. 2:11

Lord, this body of flesh is ever with me and always wanting – Lord help me to yield not to the flesh but to the Spirit.

3.Avoid troublemakers.

Rom. 16:17

Lord I want to go and make disciples of all nations and I don't want to look down on anyone, but I know there are just some people who are always stirring up trouble – help me to love them from afar.

4.Avoid profane and vain babblings.

1 Tim. 6:20

Lord help me to cling to what you have deposited in me by your Holy Spirit and to avoid the babbling discussions that do not promote your kingdom, your will or your way.

Day 2

5.Avoid false science.

1 Tim. 6:20

6.Avoid foolish questions.

Titus 3:9

7.Avoid arguments about the law.

Titus 3:9

8.Be reconciled to a brother.

Matt. 5:24

Day 3

9. Be wise as serpents.

Matt. 10:16

10. Be harmless as doves.

Matt. 10:16

11. Be thankful.

Col. 3:15

12. Be patient toward all men.

1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Tim. 2:24

Day 4

13. Be ready to give an answer of the hope that is in you.

1 Pet. 3:15

14. Be transformed.

Rom. 12:2

15. Be patient in tribulation.

Rom. 12:12

16. Be children in [avoiding] malice.

1 Cor. 14:20

17.Be men in understanding.

1 Cor. 14:20

Day 5

18.Be steadfast.

1 Cor. 15:58

19.Be unmovable.

1 Cor. 15:58

20.Be always abounding in God's work.

1 Cor. 15:58

21.Be of one mind.

Rom. 12:16

Day 6

22.Be separate from the unclean.

2 Cor. 6:17

23.Be angry and sin not.

Eph. 4:26

24.Be filled with the Spirit.

Eph. 5:18

25.Be anxious for nothing.

Phil. 4:6

26.Be an example to other believers.

1 Tim. 4:12

Day 7

27.Be gentle to all men.

2 Tim. 2:24

28.Be ready to teach.

2 Tim. 2:24

29.Be content with what you have.

Heb. 13:5

30.Be vigilant.

1 Pet. 5:8

Day 8

31.Do not be like the hypocrites in prayer.

Matt. 6:5

32.Do not be afraid of men.

Luke 12:4

33. Do not be conformed to this world.

Rom. 12:2

34. Do not be children in understanding.

1 Cor. 14:20

Day 9

35. Do not be deceived by evil companions.

1 Cor. 15:33

36. Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers.

2 Cor. 6:14–18

37. Do not be drunk with wine.

Eph. 5:18

38. Do not be weary in well-doing.

2 Thess. 3:13

39. Do not be slothful.

Heb. 6:12

Day 10

40. Do not be influenced by strange doctrines.

Heb. 13:9

41. Beware of false prophets.

Matt. 7:15; Phil. 3:2

42. Beware of [evil] men.

Matt. 10:17

43. Beware of covetousness.

Luke 12:15

44. Beware of backsliding.

2 Pet. 3:17

Day 11

45. Do not bid false teachers Godspeed.

2 John 10–11

46. Bring up children in the Lord.

Eph. 6:4

47. Cast your cares upon God.

1 Pet. 5:7

48. Have confidence in God.

Heb. 10:35

Day 12

49. Come out from among the world.

2 Cor. 6:17

50. Count it joy when you are tempted.

James 1:2

51. Treat others as you expect to be treated.

Matt. 7:12

52. Desire the milk of the Word.

1 Pet. 2:2

Day 13

53. Do all to God's glory.

1 Cor. 10:31; Col. 3:17, 23

54. Do all things without murmuring or disputing.

Phil. 2:14

55. Earnestly contend for the faith.

Jude 3

56. Give no place to Satan.

Eph. 4:27

Day 14

57. Give thanks.

Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6

58. Give time to reading.

1 Tim. 4:13

59. Give no offense.

1 Cor. 10:32

60. Give freely.

2 Cor. 9:6–7

Day 15

61. Give as God has prospered.

1 Cor. 16:2

62. Give willingly.

2 Cor. 8:12

63. Give purposely.

2 Cor. 9:7

64. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 4:30

65. Grow in grace.

2 Pet. 3:18

Day 16

66. Have no fellowship with darkness.

Eph. 5:11

67. Have compassion.

Jude 22

68. Have a good conscience.

1 Pet. 3:16

69. Hold forth the Word of life.

Phil. 2:16

Day 17

70. Hold fast sound words.

2 Tim. 1:13

71. Honor fathers.

Eph. 6:2

72. Honor mothers.

Matt. 19:19

73.Honor widows.

1 Tim. 5:3

74.Honor rulers.

1 Pet. 2:17

Day 18

75.Lay aside all envy.

1 Pet. 2:1

76.Lay aside all evil speaking.

1 Pet. 2:1

77.Do not lay-up treasures on earth.

Matt. 6:19

78.Let your light shine.

Matt. 5:16

Day 19

79.Let everyone deny himself.

Matt. 16:24

80.Let him share with the needy.

Luke 3:11

81.Let everyone obey civil laws.

Rom. 13:1

82.Let no man deceive himself.

1 Cor. 3:18

83.Let everyone examine himself at communion.

1 Cor. 11:28

Day 20

84.Let your requests be made known to God.

Phil. 4:6

85.Let your speech be with grace.

Col. 4:6

86.Do all things in decent order.

1 Cor. 14:40

87.Let those who are taught support the teacher.

Gal. 6:6

Day 21

88.Let wives be subject to their Husbands.

Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18

89.Let husbands love their wives.

Eph. 5:25

90.Let wives reverence their husbands.

Eph. 5:33

91.Let everyone be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.

James 1:19

Day 22

92.Let the afflicted pray.

James 5:13

93.Let the adorning of women be more inward than outward.

1 Pet. 3:3–4

94.Don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing.

Matt. 6:3

95.Do not let sin reign in the body.

Rom. 6:12

Day 23

96.Do not let the sun go down on your wrath.

Eph. 4:26

97. Follow things that edify.

Rom. 14:19

98. Walk in the Spirit.

Gal. 5:25

99. Do not provoke one another.

Gal. 5:26

Day 24

100. Do not be weary in well-doing.

Gal. 6:9

101. Come boldly to the throne of grace.

Heb. 4:16; 10:19–23

102. Do not forsake assembling together in worship.

Heb. 10:25

103. Exhort one another.

Heb. 10:25

Day 25

104. Lay aside every weight.

Heb. 12:1

105.Run with patience the race before us.

Heb. 12:1

106.Look to Jesus.

Heb. 12:2

Day 26

107.Offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.

Heb. 13:15

108.Do not judge one another in doubtful things.

Rom. 14:1

109.Do not cause others to stumble.

Rom. 14:13

Day 27

110.Mark troublemakers.

Rom. 16:17; Phil. 3:17

111.Pray for your persecutors.

Matt. 5:44; Luke 6:28

112.Pray for laborers.

Matt. 9:38; Luke 10:2

Day 28

113. Present your body to God.

Rom. 12:1

114. Put on the new man.

Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10

115. Put on the whole armor of God.

Eph. 6:11, 13

Day 29

116. Do not quench the Spirit.

1 Thess. 5:19

117. Consider yourself dead to sin.

Rom. 6:11

118. Redeem the time.

Eph. 5:16

119. Resist the devil.

James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:9

Day 30

120. Restore backsliders in meekness.

Gal. 6:1

121.Strengthen feeble knees.

Heb. 12:12

122.Study to show yourself approved to God.

2 Tim. 2:15

Day 31

123.Take no anxious thought of tomorrow.

Matt. 6:34

124.Take the Lord's Supper.

1 Cor. 11:24–26

125.Be careful not to despise little ones.

Matt. 18:10

126.Be aware of yourself and your doctrine.

1 Tim. 4:16

127.Withdraw from disorderly people.

2 Thess. 3:6, 14

“God created ‘promises’ and as the originator of promises he is also the only one who ever and always for ever and always keeps his promises.”

Section 11

Praying the Promises of God

It has been rightly said that God’ s promises are ours in Christ Jesus – all promises of God are “yes and amen” in Christ Jesus. This simply reveals this truth that Jesus has accomplished for us what we could never accomplish on our own – reconciling us to God and thereby making all of God’ s promises ours when we are born again (by grace alone through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ). God cannot change (he is perfect and has no room to go up and can’ t go down because he is perfect) and so his promises never fail and never go away – they are ours to receive. Praying over the treasure that is ours in Christ Jesus is a great way to create in ourselves the mind that Christ had (knowing His Father and His nature) and that God always always always does what He says He will do in all of time and throughout all of eternity.

- **You can count on God – Always!**

You can always always always count on God and he never changes.

God always does exactly what He says he will do every time for all time

and for eternity. Lord help me to trust you today and forever in all that you have said because you are always the same and you always keep your promises. I receive your promises now in Jesus' name. Amen

Numbers 23:19 (ESV)

¹⁹God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? (also look at Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:13-18)

- **God never ever changes – at all !**

It is so important to know that in a world that is constantly changing God never changes – he is the same today as he was yesterday and tomorrow and a million tomorrows God will never change. Lord, thank you that you never change, and I can't count on you to be who you are and to say and do what you have always said and done. Amen

Psalms 110:4 (ESV)

⁴The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek." (also look at Malachi 3:6-7 and James 1:17 – 18)

- **God's promises are all fulfilled in Jesus Christ**

Everything that God has promised are fulfilled in Christ Jesus and that is why it is said that all of God's promises (to you and to me) are "yes and amen" in Christ Jesus. Lord, thank you that the life of Christ did not 'just' reconcile me to you and save me from hell but also accomplished in Christ for me all of your wonderful promises. Lord help me to take that in and live in your promises today and forever. Amen.

2 Corinthians 1:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No.

¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

²⁰For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (also see Matthew 5:17, Luke 4:16 – 21, Romans 1:2-3 and many more)

- **The forgiveness of all our sin in Christ Jesus**

God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins – how is that just – we did what we are accused of – we have all sinned and fallen short of God's holiness – right! Yes, but God is just and faithful because (a) he gave his Son that we might have eternal life which requires exoneration or our

sin; and, (b) Jesus paid for our sin in full so it is just for God to forgive our sin because our sin debt has been paid in full by Jesus Christ at the cross. Lord, thank you that in Christ I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and I am cleansed from ALL unrighteousness. Amen

1 John 1:9 (ESV)

⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- **Promises of God are received by faith**

Through faith (trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ) we are saved (brought from death to life in our new birth); in the same manner, the promises of God are ours also in faith. Faith, it should be remembered, is something everyone has (even an atheist has faith in his belief there is no God) the only question is what / who you are putting your faith in. Lord help me to have faith in you through the Lord Jesus Christ and so receive every one of your promises as yes and amen in my life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Galatians 3:22 (ESV)

²²But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

John 1:12 (ESV)

¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Romans 4:16 (ESV)

¹⁶That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

- **The gift of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus promised the gift of the Holy Spirit – the presence and the power of God in all who are in Christ Jesus. Lord, help me to remember not to walk in my strength, not to count on my wisdom, but in all things to look to and rely on the blessed Holy Spirit who is the person of God in me and in Him I am clothed with power from on high! Amen

Luke 24:49 (ESV)

⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4 (ESV)

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;

Acts 2:33 (ESV)

³³Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

Ephesians 1:13 (ESV)

¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

- **Eternal life – life to the fullest in Christ Jesus**

God has not told us he thinks or hopes, or we might have eternal life he has given us a solid promise in Christ Jesus that we have eternal life – not someday but right now. Lord help me live with the sure knowledge

of my place in your family and in your kingdom – knowing that I have eternal life now and forever in Christ – help me live up to my ‘name’ in Christ Jesus. Amen.

2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Hebrews 12:26–28 (ESV)

²⁶At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”

²⁷This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

²⁸Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

James 1:12 (ESV)

¹²Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 John 2:25 (ESV)

²⁵And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

- The presence of God with us – always! Through all things !

The Lord has promised, and he always keeps his promise, that he is and always will be with us when we are born again into his family by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Lord, help me to grasp the full blessing of this promise of yours – You are with me – your very presence goes with me and you give me rest in the midst of life’s turbulence – that I must not be frightened or dismayed or fearful for you O Lord are with me and so I can and must be strong and courageous in you – Lord help me never to forget because you have also promised me that I only need to call and you will answer – and you will never ever ever leave me or forsake me or my position even to the end of this age – wow – thank you Lord for this great promise that is mine in Christ Jesus – Amen.

Exodus 3:12 (ESV)

¹²He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”

Exodus 33:14 (ESV)

¹⁴And he said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.”

Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

Isaiah 58:9 (ESV)

⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you take away the yoke from your midst, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

Matthew 28:20 (ESV)

²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Psalms 16:11 (ESV)

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

Psalm 132:16 (ESV)

¹⁶Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.

John 16:20–24 (ESV)

²⁰Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy.

²¹When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

²²So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.

²³In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- The joy of the Lord in me is an absolute promise to me in Christ Jesus

God has not promised some joy, but he is promising you and me
“fullness of joy” in his presence in Christ Jesus.

“Lord, help me to live this life in the joy that is mine in you through Jesus Christ – to not just feel ok but to be joyful at all times in all circumstances in Christ Jesus – I am not just getting by, victory is mine in Christ Jesus and in Him I have fullness of joy. Amen”

Psalm 16:11 (ESV)

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

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²³In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.

²⁴Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

- **All of my needs are met from the glorious riches of God in Christ Jesus**

ALL of our needs are met in Christ Jesus – from his glorious riches.

Lord, help me to remember, especially in my times of struggle, that every need I have is fully met – right now – in Christ Jesus – there is no need of mine that is not covered by this promise – the fear of life and its challenges goes away in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 (ESV)

¹⁹And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

- **Nothing in all creation can ever separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus !**

God has promised me that I am more than a conqueror but nothing in all creation can ever separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Lord, help me to know that no matter how dark the night or how fierce the storms of life are – that nothing in those and nothing in all of creation can separate me from you in Christ Jesus.

Lord, I thank you that all of my questions and all of my concerns and fears in life are fully met in you and that nothing that is now or that is to come will be able to separate me from your love O Lord in Christ Jesus.
Amen

Romans 8:37–39 (ESV)

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- I don' t have to worry about basics of life – if I put God first all my needs are met in Christ

When I quit worrying about how I will get this or that in life – instead I seek God rather than ‘stuff’ then I get God and everything else is added in – a part of trusting God is that my needs are fully met in Christ.

Lord, help me to quit worrying about my life, about clothes, about food, or a place to lay my head – instead may I put you first and know that when my priorities are right my needs are fully met in Christ Jesus. Amen.

- **When I trust God completely my path becomes clear and straight**

I will put my trust somewhere – it will either be in myself, someone else, some thing of this world or God. If I put my trust in the Lord, completely, and I don’ t even think about trying to do things my way – my path is straight, and my vision is clear – seeing the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord, help me to put my trust in you completely and never turn away – to know not to trust me over you – ever – but to lean fully on you and find in you my all in all as I trust and obey. Amen

"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer." ~ F.B. Meyer

Section 12

Praying the Commands of Christ Jesus

Jesus said, “if you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). In order to keep His commandments, we have to know them – to know them we have to spend time in them with Him. Read and pray over these words of Christ for us to live by.

I would suggest that we daily ask God to search us and know us and show us any wickedness in us (Psalm 139) – God knows us far better than we know ourselves – when God prompts us to know our sin we need to deal with it right then. But also we need to regularly review our lives and the Word of God and be alert to anywhere we fall short. So, a review of these commands is a good way to stay on top of our own failures.

Read these and pray through them one at a time.

- **Repent**

“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

Lord, help me to have a change of heart – to follow the ways of Christ and not the ways of the world. Lord help me I pray.

- **Follow Me**

¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

Jesus I want to follow you – help me in my weakness to be strong in you – to follow Jesus and go and ‘catch’ people for Christ. Lord help me I pray.

- **Rejoice**

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:11–12, ESV)

Jesus I want to be blessed by following you wherever you lead even and especially into persecution by others because I am, by your grace, following you. Lord help me I pray.

- **Let Your Light Shine**

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Lord I pray that the light of Christ in me will shine into the lives of others and we will all give glory and honor to you through Christ. Lord help me I pray.

- **Honor God’s Law**

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17, ESV)

Thank you Jesus that you fulfilled the commandments that I never have and never could – thank you for doing for me what I never could do for myself. Now, Lord I want to honor you and your law in my thinking, speaking and doing. Lord help me I pray.

- **Be Reconciled**

“So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.” (Matthew 5:23–25, ESV)

Lord, you have forgiven me so much – how can I not forgive others – you reconciled me to yourself through Jesus Christ and so now may I seek reconciliation with anyone who has offense against me. Lord help me I pray.

- **Do Not Lust**

“But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” (Matthew 5:28–30, ESV)

Lord, all I have needed your hand has provided – you have not provided for me to lust after a woman to whom I am not married – so Lord I confess any thoughts I have of lust toward another woman is not from you and I repent and reject those thoughts in Jesus’ name. Lord help me. (women should reverse the order of the prayer here to not lust for men)

- **Keep Your Word**

“Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.” (Matthew 5:37, ESV)

Lord, help me to live my life in such a way that my yes and my no is clear and rooted in Christ and nothing more need be said. Lord help me.

- **Love Your Enemies**

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the

evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Matthew 5:44–46, ESV)

Heavenly Father, it is easy to love those who pat me on the back and tell me what a good person I am – may I love them – but may I even more so follow the example of Christ Jesus in loving those who despise me and would just as soon see me dead as alive – that is true Christ centered love. Lord help me.

Be Perfect

“But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?” (Matthew 5:44–46, ESV)

Lord may I not just love those who pat me on the back and tell me what a good person I am – may I love them – but may I even more so follow the example of Christ Jesus in loving those who are not like me, who may have my destruction in mind rather than my good – let me love the unlovable / hard to love just as I love those who are easy to love. Lord help me.

Lay Up Treasures

““Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:19–21, ESV)

Lord, I know that the things I treasure most are the things I will set my heart on – Lord I don’t want to be weighed down in my heart by the things of this world but I want to value the Word of God, the Souls of people, things that are good and right and noble and lovely – help me to treasure the truly good stuff. Lord help me.

- **Seek God's Kingdom**

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

Father, in every second of every minute of every hour of every day of my life I am faced with the continual choice as to whether I will follow the ways of man or seek first your kingdom and your righteousness. Lord help me to once and always put you first.

- **Ask, Seek, Knock**

"Do not give dogs what is holy, and do not throw your pearls before pigs, lest they trample them underfoot and turn to attack you." (Matthew 7:6, ESV)

Help me to remember Lord that it is never a question of whether you will answer but always a question of will I ask – Lord may I never cease to seek and ask in Jesus' name. Lord help me.

- **Do Unto Others**

"So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12, ESV)

Help me to remember how much I love it when people are kind, patient, loving, gentle, fair, willing to gently but firmly reprove, and may I ever and always do unto them as I would have them do to me in Jesus' name. Lord help me.

- **Choose the Narrow Way**

"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the

way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Matthew 7:13–14, ESV)

Father help me put my blinders on that I would have eyes only for Jesus – to set my gaze on him and not turn aside to the right or the left. Lord help me.

- **Beware of False Prophets**

““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?” (Matthew 7:15–16, ESV)

May I not look at the outside of people but listen to the content of their words and their hearts and lives – to recognize false teaching when it comes and not embrace it. Lord help me.

Pray for Laborers

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”” (Matthew 9:37–38, ESV)

Father, the fields are ripe, here I am – send me – send us to go and serve you in the greatest enterprise on earth ever – Jesus saving the souls of men. Lord help me.

- **Fear Not**

“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28, ESV)

Nothing can separate me from your love in Christ Jesus – why should I ever fear a person – may I fear you only and then need not fear anything / anyone else – ever in Jesus’ name. Lord help me.

- **Hear God’s Voice**

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matthew 11:15, ESV)

Lord you said this for me – you know how hard it is for me to listen – Lord let me ever and always be listening for and be attentive to your precious voice. Lord help me.

- **Take My Yoke**

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
(Matthew 11:28–30, ESV)

Thank you Lord for the simplicity and the immensity of this call on me – come to you – not come to this group or that group but simply and plainly come to you – Lord help me.

- **Deny Yourself**

“And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?” (Luke 9:23–25, ESV)

The demands I make for myself are great – ‘I want this, I want that...” Lord help me to know that you are the Giver of all good gifts and I can and must look to you and know that all that is needed your hand has provided – Lord help me to be satisfied in Christ Jesus forever.

- **Forgive Offenders**

“Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin

against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.” (Matthew 18:21–22, ESV)

Father, I don't have a calculator sufficient to compute the offenses I have heaped on you – help me likewise not get such out to measure one who may have offended me. Lord help me.

- **Honor Marriage**

“He answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.”” (Matthew 19:4–6, ESV)

Lord, marriage is created by you for one man and one woman – it represents the relationship between Jesus and the Church – may I – may we all get it that marriage must be honored – Lord help us to also know that if we have sinned in regard to marriage but have since repented you would not have us to wallow in what you no longer hold and which Jesus paid for in full. Lord help me.

- **Be a Servant**

“It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”” (Matthew 20:26–28, ESV)

If Jesus Christ – who is God – came to serve may I clearly see that my life is one of service also – may I not seek my own acclaim but wholly lean on Jesus' name. Lord help me.

- **Be a House of Prayer**

“It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer . . . ” (Matthew 21:13).

Lord, you have not asked me to build a temporary shelter of ‘give mes’ but rather a ‘house of prayer’ which is primarily and mostly all about seeking more of you and less of me – to seek for others your best – Lord help me to pray always and pray right. Lord help me.

- **Love the Lord**

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:37–38).

I love you Lord but I want to love you more – I cherish you Lord but I want you to be the sole occupant on the throne of my heart – Lord help me to love you first and most in all things for all time through Christ my Lord. Lord help me.

- **Love Your Neighbor**

“And the second [commandment] is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:39–40).

Lord, the question is never who is my neighbor but who is my God – you O Lord are more than able to enable me to love those you call me to love and so I love my neighbor in the Lord Jesus Christ not based on merit but based on the love of Jesus for me while I was yet a sinner Christ died for me and because my neighbor was created in your image and Jesus died to save him- I will love my neighbor in Jesus’ name. Lord help me.

- **Await My Return**

“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Matthew 24:42–44).

Lord help me to watch now and always – to know that no one knows and when you come I want to be serving you – I want to be serving you regardless of when you will come – so Lord give me a heart of service and eyes to watch. Lord help me.

- **Take, Eat, and Drink**

“As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:26–28).

Thank you Lord for the Lord’s Supper that we remember what Jesus has done for us that we can / could never do for ourselves and may we partake in full remembrance of Jesus Christ. Lord help me.

- **Be Born Again**

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:5–7).

Nothing more important for a person Lord than to be born again in Christ Jesus – I pray for a new birth in all who I love and for those who I have never heard of and will never see – they are all alike created by you and for you and Jesus died for their salvation and it is your wish none would perish. Lord help me to pray and seek to share the Gospel for and with many.

- **Keep My Commandments**

“If ye love me, keep my commandments”(John 14:15).

Father, if I love you I will obey you – I do love you and so I want to obey you. There is no better place than to be in your will. Lord help me.

- **Watch and Pray**

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Matthew 26:41).

Lord help me to watch and pray – to watch and pray – to watch and pray – to watch and pray and then watch and pray even more. Lord help me.

- **Feed My Sheep**

“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jona, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep” (John 21:15–16).

Lord, there are many things for people to eat but none more important than to dine on your Word and your truth – to feast on the Lord Jesus Christ – Lord

may I be a faithful servant in sharing the great news of Jesus to all – near and far. Lord help me.

- **Baptize My Disciples**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”(Matthew 28:19).

You have ordained that all in Christ are to give the outward sign confirming the inward change of the new birth in Christ and so may we be the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ in baptizing believers, near and far, in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord help me.

- **Receive God’s Power**

“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

Lord, I need your help to do all things and I need the power and help and guidance and infilling of the blessed Holy Spirit so may I do all that I do in the power of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. Lord help me.

- **Make Disciples**

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:19–20).

Father, never have you said for me / us to make converts to a certain denomination or local fellowship but to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. May I ever and always be about this business you have given me. Lord help me.

“Praying for the lost is praying for new ‘babies’ to be born into your own growing family of believers”

Section 13

Prayers for Lost

It is God’s will that all people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There can be no more important prayer than to pray for the salvation of a person who is separated from God by his / her sin. Before the new birth a person is dead and they will / can never be reconciled to God and brought to life except by a new birth, a spiritual birth. This should be on our minds, hearts, and lips 24 / 7 because a person who dies separated from God by sin is doomed to eternal damnation / separation from God forever. We know the answer – Jesus – we pray the transformation by a new birth in Christ Jesus.

Our Father, I come to you now in the name and through the blood of Jesus Christ and lift up to you _____ (specific persons, group of persons, all who have never been born again) and bring _____ before your throne of grace and mercy and ask that you would save them – knowing that it is your will that none would perish but that all would come to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by grace alone, through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

I pray that the Holy Spirit would minister to them and draw them – convicting them of sin, judgment, death and the grave and their desperate need for a Savior.

I pray for _____ to be reminded by all of your creation that you are God and that you have made all that they see and that you have made them as well – that you have not made them by accident but purposefully to be in a love relationship with you and that there is only one way and His name is Jesus.

I pray that you reveal to _____ all that Jesus has done for them – how we all have sinned and fallen short of your glory / holy requirements – the result of our sin is death

and eternal separation from you the one true holy God who loves us – while we were still in our sinful state you yet so loved us that you sent your only Son that he should come to earth and appear as a baby and then a man and live a sinless life and die in my place / their place and pay the penalty – IN FULL – for our sin for all time – then was buried and raised from the dead – was seen by over 500 eyewitnesses after his resurrection from the dead – that he ascended to heaven and is our advocate before the Father and is pleading his perfect sacrifice over our sins for all who put their trust in Him as Lord and Savior. He is coming back to get his ‘church’ all believers and we will meet him in the air on the day of the rapture and we will be with God forever and ever.

Lord, whatever it takes to bring _____ to a realization of their true condition and your amazing holiness and what you have done for each of us and what a place you have made for us in your family and ultimately in your kingdom and that is ours as a gift from you to whosoever will simply receive the gift by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior – by repenting (having a change of mind) and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray that God would circumcise their hearts. Circumcision was the Old Testament sign of entering into God’s covenant, of being God’s people. To have a circumcised heart symbolizes having a heart that is fully joined to God, fully submissive to him. “And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live” (Deuteronomy 30:6).

Pray that God would give them a heart of flesh. The Bible contrasts a heart of flesh, a heart that is alive and responsive to God, to a heart of stone, a heart that is cold and unyielding. Pray that God would work within these unbelievers to change their hearts. “And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh...” (Ezekiel 11:19).

Pray that God would put his Spirit within them. The great joy of salvation is being indwelt by God himself. Pray that God would grant this honor to those unbelievers, that he would choose to take up residence within them. “And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules” (Ezekiel 36:27).

Pray that they would come to Christ. If unbelievers are to come to salvation, there is just one way. They must come through Christ and Christ alone. “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me’” (John 14:6). Remember, too, that he is the one who calls them to come and to be relieved of the burden of their sin (see Matthew 11:28-30).

Pray that God would draw them and their hearts be open to believe the gospel. Once more, God must initiate, and people must respond. So, pray that God would open the hearts of these unbelievers so they can in turn believe, just as Lydia did. “The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

Pray that God would free them from the slavery of sin. Unbelievers may believe they are free, but they are in fact enslaved. They are slaves of sin, bound by their sin and sinfulness. Pray that God would liberate them by his gospel. “But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed” (Romans 6:17).

Pray that God would remove Satan’s blinding influence . Unbelievers have been blinded by Satan and will only ever be able to see and appreciate the gospel if God works within them. So, pray that God would give them sight—spiritual sight. “In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Pray that God would grant them repentance. Unbelievers cannot repent without the enabling grace of God. So, pray that God would grant them repentance, that this repentance would lead them to a knowledge of the truth. Pray as well that *they would come to their senses* and that *they would escape from the devil’s snare*. “God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will” (2 Timothy 2:25-26).

You have prayed for unbelievers using different words and approaching from different angles. But you should also pray for yourself.

Pray that you will develop relationship with them. For people to be saved they must first hear the good news of the gospel (faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God). Pray for unbelievers to encounter believers and be born again. Pray that you would develop deeper, more significant relationship with them so you can, in turn, speak truth. “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Romans 10:14).

Pray for opportunities to minister to them (them is all of us before we, by God’s grace through faith and that also from God came to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ). Many people come to faith after seeing Christ’s love displayed through the ministry of Christians. Pray for opportunities to minister to unbelievers so that your ministry can have an evangelistic effect. “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

Pray for them faithfully and persistently. Our temptation is to grow discouraged in prayer, to pray for a while and, when we see no visible results, to give up. But God calls us to persevere in prayer. “Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2). (See also the parable of the persistent widow in Luke 18:1-8.)

Pray for a burden to plead for their souls. Paul was willing to tell the church at Rome of his great longing to see the salvation of the lost. Do you share this deep longing? Pray that God would give you a great burden for souls. “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved” (Romans 10:1).

Pray for boldness in generating and taking opportunities to speak the gospel. Even Paul longed for this boldness and for the confidence that he was speaking the right and best words. Pray that God would give you the boldness and, that when you take the opportunities, that he would then guide your words. “[Pray] also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel...” (Ephesians 6:19).

Pray for other believers to encounter them. God almost always uses a succession of people to share the gospel with people before they are saved. Pray, then, that God would lead other Christians into the lives of the unbelievers you love, that they too would provide an example of Christian living and that they too would speak the gospel. “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

Finally, pray with confidence. God expects we will pray, God invites us to pray, God commands us to pray. Why? Because God loves to hear us pray and God loves to respond to our prayers. So, as you pray for unbelievers, pray with confidence that God hears your prayers. “The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working” (James 5:16).

TEN MOST WANTED LIST – ten people you commit to pray for their salvation

#1 _____

#2 _____

#3 _____

#4 _____

#5 _____

#6 _____

#7 _____

#8 _____

#9 _____

#10 _____

You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed. A.J. Gordon

Section 14

Maturity in Body of Christ

God's goal for you and for me is that we become more and more like Jesus. We should, by God's love for us, our love for him and his command to us – desire that we would grow up into the fullness of Christ Jesus. So, here we pray for Christian maturity in the “Body of Christ” which means all living Christians. We want to be who God created us to be and to be all for Jesus.

Lord help me to know, help all who are in Christ Jesus to know that salvation is not primarily about keeping us out of hell but for us to live Christ centered lives here and now and do all that we do for your honor – so Lord, help me / us all to not just be ‘saved’ but to be all in for Jesus – for each one of us to take up our cross, deny ourselves and follow after you – following in your footsteps – valuing what you value and caring for people and especially for the least of these.

Lord help us each to know we are not ‘lone rangers’ but we are a part of a body and to mature in that body we need ‘exercise’ – to serve as a part of the Body of Christ where you have placed us – setting aside our own agenda and filling the role we each have as a part of the Body.

Lord, I have a selfish streak that encourages me to do what I want to do – sometime my ‘wanter’ is broken and I need my wantner fixed so that it is set on you and your way and broken in that position – that I may never turn aside again. Help me Lord to not settle to be a 30 fold or 60 fold Christian but to seek to be a 100 fold Christian – seeking always to say ‘Lord, not my will but your will be done’.

Help me to know and never forget Father that just as I know when any part of my body is hurting and I am quick to give attention to the hurting part – may I in that same way and even more so seek to help the parts of my local Body of Christ and the worldwide Body of Christ when they are hurting or in need.

Lord, may I affirm the following truths and pray through them one at a time –

A. Believers to know their identity in Christ Jesus

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

It is the righteousness of Christ that brought me into the presence of God and it is his righteousness that sustains my relationship in Christ.

I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 3:22

I am a new creation – I have been born again – this time I have been born from above – born of the Spirit and not of the flesh. 2 Corinthians 5:17

I am a member of God's family – one of his children. John 1:12

There is no condemnation in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

I have passed from death to life. John 5:24

Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:38-39

I am no longer my own – I have been bought with a price. 1 Corinthians 6:20

Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and so I too am here to serve God and others God brings to me. Matthew 10:28

I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who died and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

I have forgiveness from the penalty of sin because Christ died for me. (Romans 5:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3)

I have freedom from the power of sin because I died with Christ. (Colossians 2:11, 1 Peter 2:24)

I have fulfillment for this day because Christ lives in me. (Philippians 1:20-21)

By Faith, I will allow Christ to manifest His life through me. (2 Corinthians 2:14)

- B. God has called me to pray and as I pray and trust God I am growing in my relationship with God – He is growing me up in Christ Jesus – growing toward maturity in Christ Jesus.

Lord help me to be ever praying – constantly and consistently. Romans 12:12

I am called to pray at all times – praying in the Spirit – trusting in the Holy Spirit of Christ in me to help me pray to God the Father – bringing everything before the Father in prayer. Ephesians 6:18

- C. Maturing in the Lord is centered in loving God with all of my heart, soul and mind and loving my neighbors as myself. Matthew 22:36-40. Lord help me to live with this right orientation in my life – you first before and above ALL.
- D. God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble (James 4:6) He adorns the humble with salvation (Psalm 149:4). Lord help me to live with a gentle and humble heart seeking to serve rather than being served.
- E. Lord strengthen us in our inner being that we may grow up into the fullness of maturity in Christ Jesus that you call us to. (Ephesians 3:16)
- F. May I grow in the knowledge of and joy in the love of my Savior – Jesus Christ who came and laid down his life that I might have life and have it more abundantly in Him. (Ephesians 3:18-19, John 3:16, John 10:18)

G. Lord help me to fully surrender control to you – to be directed completely by you
O Lord in my thinking and speaking and doing. (Psalm 37:23, Romans 12:1-2)

H. Lord help me to grow in faith daily, knowing that I can trust you no matter what –
to know that nothing that happens in me, around me or anywhere else changes
your presence, your promises, and your purpose – that you will accomplish all
things – mine is to trust in you with all my heart – to be still and know that you
are God. (Romans 8:28-29, Hebrews 13:5, Malachi 3:6, Proverbs 3:5-6)

It is well said that “asking is the rule of the kingdom.” It is a rule that will never be
altered in anybody’s case. If the royal and divine Son of God cannot be exempted from
the rule of asking that He may have, you and I cannot expect the rule to be relaxed in our
favour. C. H. Spurgeon

Section 14

Prayers For The Family

God created the family to honor him, bless us and to be a symbol of our (Christians) union with
the Lord Jesus Christ as the Head. Of earthly institutions created by God none is more important and
none more under attack and desperately in need of prayer as is the Family: Husbands / Wives / Children
/ Family Unit.

Prayer for Husbands

Wife’s Prayer for Her Husband:

I praise You, the God of all wisdom for husbands. Thank You, God, for knowing the
longings of my husband’s heart far better than I do. You know that he has struggles with
issues of the flesh as all men experience but you O Lord know him better than he knows

himself. I pray Father that you would give him wisdom to make right choices and to seek after things that are from above and not the things of this earth. Lord, you and you only can satisfy the needs he and all of us have – so let him delight himself in your will and your ways and you give him the desires of his heart. I lift him up to You and ask You to fill him with the good You know He needs (Psalm 107:9; Matthew 6:8).

The world offers so many things to temporarily satisfy his needs. Temptations abound, but You are his shield and his defender. Please train him to resist the devil (Psalm 28:7; Psalm 59:9; James 4:7).

Lord, the enemy comes only to steal, kill and destroy but you have come that he might have life and have it abundantly and I so I pray that he would, in Christ, triumph over every one of Satan's schemes and any scars he has left on and / or strongholds he has attempted to establish in my husband's heart. You are Jehovah Rapha, his Healer. You are the restorer of his soul. Let the balm of Your perfect love and mercy touch the brokenness of his heart (Genesis 50:20; Exodus 15:26; Psalm 23:3; Jeremiah 17:14).

You joined Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace, and when they came out unharmed, they didn't even smell like smoke. Use their courage to inspire my husband to fear You only. I trust You to give him rest and satisfaction while protecting him from harm (Daniel 3:8–30; Proverbs 19:23).

A Man of Your Word

Father, Your Word amazes me. The world is looking for the next “perfect” solution to their problems, and You are always offering it through Your Word. You sent Your Word to deliver, nourish, and counsel us. My heart's desire is for him to feast on Your Word and find It immensely satisfying (Psalm 107:20; Proverbs 3:8; Psalm 119:24; 103).

With Your Word as His source of wisdom, I will rest secure in his leadership of our home. I trust Your Word to fill him with the insight he will need for our relationship, his work, and so much more (Ephesians 1:8,17; James 1:5).

Your Word will unite his heart to Yours. His oneness with You will lead his pursuit of oneness with me. Your ways will become His ways. Your faithfulness to me will become His faithfulness to me (1 Corinthians 6:17; Mark 10:8; Galatians 5:23).

Send him an abundance of confidants whose faith in You is bold and courageous. Let them be men who do not lean on their own understanding, but always acknowledge You and Your Word (Psalms 119:63; Proverbs 28:1; 3:5–6).

Humility: The Courage to Admit His Need of God

Thank You, Father for the gift of Jesus and His perfect example of humility. Jesus displayed His love for us with great humility and submissiveness to You. He denied Himself the comforts of heaven to save us. He chose to experience temptations, mockery, rejection, and even death. He rated our needs higher than His own.

You require my husband to love me as Christ loved the church and I pray that you will empower him to do this (Ephesians 5:25).

You know the pressures that my husband faces and how he is influenced to be self-reliant. You understand his fears and insecurities. He is simply human and at risk of denying his need for You, God. I do not want to see him destroy his life or our marriage because of pride (Proverbs 18:12). I bring him to You, the river of life, and ask You to anoint him with a supernatural portion of Christ's humility. With it he will be a ready recipient of Your grace. He will be free to boast about his weaknesses to You and wait for You to satisfy his needs with Your strength (Psalms 36:8; James 4:6; 2 Corinthians 11:30, 12:9–10).

You've promised that humility is rewarded with riches, honor, and life. Those are gifts I want for my husband, Lord. Help him to let go of any pride and false humility so that he can enjoy the abundant life Jesus died to give him (Proverbs 22:4; John 10:10).

Your Praise on His Lips

There is no one who compares to You, Lord. You are worthy of our spellbound attention (1 Samuel 2:2; Psalm 16:8).

Give him eyes to see that You deserve the highest praise. Let him personally experience Your grandeur and strength. Let him live with great conviction that Jesus has authority over all things on earth and in the spiritual realm (Psalm 145:3; Ephesians 1:22).

You inhabit the praises of Your people, and I want my husband to enjoy the comfort and power of Your presence every moment. So, Father, please grant him an irrevocable gift of praising You. Let Your Spirit continually offer up a sacrifice of praise through him so that his lips always acknowledge Your name (Psalm 22:3; Philippians 2:10; Hebrews 13:15)

Teach him to praise You in his lowest moments. Train him to exalt Your name during the trials and before the victories. Let his faith in You lead him courageously into our own promised land despite the ominous giants of fear and doubt. Use the psalmists to mentor him in lifting His head to praise Your faithfulness despite his present burdens (1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Chronicles 20; Numbers 13–14; Psalm 43:5).

Transform His Wife

You have promised my husband that a wife is a good gift from you. I want to be an excellent wife to my husband, one who consistently brings him honor (Proverbs 18:22, 12:4).

You know every one of my weaknesses and how they are impacting my role as his helpmate. Lead me, Lord, to recognize the ungodliness hiding in my will, my expectations, and how I express my emotions. I want to surrender them to You for healing. Show me where I am investing my attention in things that will deteriorate our relationship (2 Corinthians 12:9–10; Luke 12:2; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Ephesians 1:8,17).

Let the power of Your Word transform my motives. Coach me relentlessly to be a wife who respects her husband in word and deed. Cause Your tenderness, gentleness,

kindness, and humility to become my own (Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:22–24; Colossians 3:12).

I want to be a content wife who does not harass my husband with quarrels and fretfulness. Please use me to create a peaceful home for him. Use me to encourage him, bear his burdens, and reflect Your extravagant love for him (Hebrews 13:5; Philippians 4:11–12; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 3:18–19).

May our souls feast on only on You (Psalms 63:5).

I pray these things with complete confidence in Jesus and Your Spirit at work in our marriage. Amen.

(these prayers for husband came in part from biblestudytools.com)

Prayer for Wives

Husbands let these four prayers guide you as you cry out to God for her each day. You are her cover under Christ and you must ever and always lift her up for God's protection, blessing, direction, peace and wisdom.

Husband's Prayers for his wife

Protect Her Joy

- Thank you, Father, for the gift of my wife. You are the giver of all good and perfect blessings, and I'm amazed how You show Your love through her. Please help me to cherish such an amazing gift (James 1:17).

- Each day, circumstances and frustrations can easily steal the joy from my wife. Please keep her from letting these challenges turn her focus from You, the author of her faith. Give her the joy that Jesus had as He accomplished the Father's will on earth. May she consider each struggle as a reason to find hope in You (Hebrews 12:2–3; James 1:2–3).
 - When she feels tired, Lord, renew her strength. Surround her with friends who love You and will bear her burdens. Give her reason to feel refreshed by their encouragement (Isaiah 40:31; Galatians 6:2; Philemon 1:7).
 - May she know that the joy of the Lord is the source of her strength. Protect her from growing tired of doing what You've called her to do each day (Nehemiah 8:10; Galatians 6:9).
- Give Her a Growing Need for You
- Father, You supply all our needs according to Your riches in Christ. I'm amazed that you care about us enough to meet our daily concerns and to notice every detail of our lives. Even the hairs of our heads are numbered because You take care of Your children (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 7:11, 10:30).
 - I confess that I sometimes think of myself as being the one who takes care of my wife, but I know that I am not. Forgive me for taking to myself what truly belongs to you. Her help comes from You. If she depends on me, I know I'll disappoint her. But You never fail, and You make her like a garden that always has enough water. You're always faithful, always enough. Help her to know that You are all she needs (Psalms 121:2; Lamentations 3:22; Isaiah 58:11; >John 14:8–9).
 - If she is tempted to look for comfort in anything else, may she instead realize how the power of Your Holy Spirit allows her to overflow with hope and peace. Nothing on this earth compares to the greatness of knowing You (Romans 15:13; Philippians 3:8).

- Shield Her from Spiritual Attack

- You, God, are a shield around us. You protect us from the enemy who seeks to destroy, and you will not let us be put to shame. Your arm is mighty, and Your Word is powerful (Psalm 3:3, 12:7, 25:20; Exodus 15:9; Luke 1:51; Hebrews 1:3).
- When the enemy attacks her, let her faith in You protect her so that she may stand her ground. Bring your Word to her mind so that she may turn aside his assaults and fight the good fight. Help her to remember that You give us the victory through Christ (>Ephesians 6:10–18; 1 Timothy 6:12; 1 Corinthians 15:57).
- You have conquered and disarmed the spiritual powers, and everything is in complete submission to You. Because of the cross, she is a new creation, and nothing can separate her from Your amazing, unfailing love (Colossians 2:15; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17; >Romans 8:38–39).
- The enemy is defeated. You have crushed his head (Genesis 3:15).

- Build Her Love

- Father, You loved us first—so much so that You sent Your Son to take our place. How incredible it is to think that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Nothing we do could ever compare to the riches of Your grace (1 John 4:19; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:7).
- Help my wife to grow first in her love for You. May she be increasingly in awe of Your power, beauty, and grace. May she know more each day about the depth and width of Your love and respond with increasing love of her own (Psalm 27:4; Ephesians 3:18).

- Help her to love me through all my failures while I learn to love her as Christ loves the church. May we see each other as You see us, and may we enjoy fulfilling each other's desires in our marriage (Ephesians 5:25; >1 Corinthians 7:2–4).
- Please give her a growing love for others in all that she does. Show her how to be Christ's ambassador in the world and to be a woman defined by love so that others may glorify You. Because of that love, may she share the gospel with everyone (2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 5:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:8).

(these prayers also are adapted from biblestudytools.com)

In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God's work, especially the work of world evangelism, as in intercessory prayer. Dick Eastman

Prayer for Children

First and foremost, Lord, I pray for my child / children and their children and their grandchildren down to the 3rd generation to have a right standing with you through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that for each one who does not know Jesus as Lord and Savior that today would be the day of salvation – that by grace alone through faith alone – in Christ Jesus alone they would be born again – born not of the flesh but of the Spirit – born from above – and Lord I pray that you have already or you will hereafter receive them in Christ never to depart and that they will rise to meet you in the air at the rapture. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9- 10)

Protection: “Merciful Father, I ask that you command your angels concerning our child / children now born or hereafter to come even down to the third generation to guard him/her in all his/her ways.” (Psalm 91:11)

Growth in Faith: “Faithful Father, I pray that not one of them will waiver through unbelief regarding your promises, but will be strengthened in his/her faith and give you glory, being fully persuaded that you have the power to do what you have promised.” (Romans 4:20-21)

Integrity: Help each one to conduct himself/herself in the world, and especially in his/her relations with others, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God.” (2 Corinthians 1:12)

Discernment: “Wise Father, give each one a discerning heart so that he/she may be able to distinguish between right and wrong.” (1 Kings 3:9)

Moral Purity: “Sovereign God, help them flee from sexual immorality – to run as far from the lies of sex or the passion leading to it outside of the bonds of marriage. Give my children the understanding that his/her body is a temple of your Holy Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 6:18-19)

Perseverance: “My “Strong Tower”, please strengthen our children in Christ Jesus. Help each one to stand firm not moving to the right or the left. Let nothing move any one of them. I pray that each will always give himself/herself fully to the work of the Lord . . . knowing that his/her labor is not in vain.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Courage: “Father, I pray that they will each be strong and courageous . . . they will not be terrified and will not be discouraged. Please allow them to know assuredly that you are with him/her wherever he/she goes.” (Joshua 1:9)

A Loving heart: As God’s chosen son/daughter, holy and dearly loved, clothe each one with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)

A Grateful Heart: “Father, help to rejoice in you, you who are righteous, and praise your holy name. Let gratefulness become a state of heart and a way of life within the hearts and lives of each of our children and their children and their children’s children’s children.” (Psalm 97:12)

A Life of Excellence: “Whatever our children pursue it is my prayer they will work at it with all his/her heart, as unto the Lord and not unto men. (Colossians 3:23)

Protection From the Evil One: “My prayer is not that you would take them out of the world, but that you would protect each one of them from the evil one.” (John 17:15)

A Consistent Walk: My prayer is that they will not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. I pray that their highest delight will be in the law of the Lord, and on his law they will each meditate day and night. I pray that they would all be like trees planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf never withers.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

Faithfulness to God: I pray that they will never leave you and never will forget your teaching, but will keep your commands in his/her heart, and that those teachings will prolong each of their lives for many years and bring each of them prosperity in the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Proverbs 3:1-2)

Scripture to Mediate on: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NKJV)

Additional Scriptures to Pray Over Children

Acts 2:39 ESV

For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”

Romans 10:9 ESV

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Matthew 19:14 ESV

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

Romans 3:23 ESV

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

1 Corinthians 7:14 ESV

For the unbelieving husband is made holy because of his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy because of her husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

Proverbs 22:6 ESV

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Matthew 18:1-35 ESV

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ...

Acts 16:31 ESV

And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Prayer for Family

Heavenly Father we pray for every family and every member of each family to be in Christ – to have been born again or that in your perfect timing they will become Christians by grace (God's gift) alone through faith (trust for eternal life) alone in the Lord Jesus Christ – that if there be any who have rejected Christ we pray they will re-engage those thoughts and through all of life and all scriptures that have been spoken to them or for them and every prayer of every person for them – will repent – having a change of heart and mind and they will by grace (God's gift) alone through faith (trust for eternal life) alone in the Lord Jesus Christ

Lord, you have created the family and it is your plan and your will for the family to be the basic earthly unit. We pray that every family be protected from destruction from within and from without. It is our prayer that the attacks on the family in general which are from the enemy, Satan, would end – NOW! We pray that you would place an impenetrable shield around each family and the family protecting us / them / it from attacks of the enemy and giving safe haven to all inside the 'walls' of the family.

We pray that our family and all families would so order their lives that the husband / father would assume a position of servant leadership with gentleness but strong resolve to resist the attempts of anyone or anything to mess with or hinder his family. We pray that the husband would love his wife just as Christ loves the Church and give himself fully for her. That the husband would love and admonish his children but never exasperate them. That the wife / mother would respect her husband and submit to him in Christ Jesus. Lord we pray for the mother to be a woman of integrity putting things in order Jesus first, herself, husband and children as her next priority with her desire to be the meeting of their needs even ahead of her own but always maintaining good care of and respect for herself. Lord that the children will grow up in the admonition of the Lord and that they will learn and live out proper respect and honor to God, to their parents

and to one another. May the children, and indeed all of the family, walk today and always in truth.

For every family and every member of each family to be boys, girls, women and men of faith – trusting in the Lord with all of their hearts and not leaning on their own understanding – but that in all of their ways – thinking, speaking, doing, spending, going, coming, decisions – they will acknowledge you and we trust you to direct the paths of each of those families in Jesus’ name. Amen

We pray that every family and every member of each family will let the message of Christ dwell among them and each of them richly as they teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in their hearts. And whatever they do, whether in word or deed, they will do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Colossians 3:16-17

Lord may every family and every member of each family be thankful to you for every single blessing of life – for breath, bread, a home, Word of God, prayer, parents, children, extended family, jobs, education – and most of all for Jesus Christ. For the joy of the Lord to be their strength, for the Lord to be their resting place and the peace of God to be theirs ever and always in Christ Jesus. Amen

The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history. Andrew Murray

Section 15

Prayer for Pastors

Lord we pray that you would bless our pastor and his family with the fullness of the blessings that are theirs in Christ Jesus – bless them and keep them, make your face to shine upon them and be gracious unto them and grant them peace in Christ Jesus.
(Numbers 6:24-26)

We acknowledge and thank you for our pastor today and we pray for your abundant and sweet blessings to be with him and his family today and all the days of their lives and may we set our goal to be faithful to pray for our pastor and his family daily; to pray for their influence in the Body to be ever increasing – praying that they would stay solid on the foundation that is Christ Jesus and not blown about by the changing times.

Lord we pray that you would bless our pastor with strength and courage needed to stay the course and stand up under the attacks that are sure to come for the stance he is taking – standing on your Word and your Truth in Christ Jesus – may he be strong and courageous – not be frightened but know that you O Lord are with him wherever he goes in serving you in spirit and in truth – Holy Spirit empower our pastor to stand strong in the storms that seek to tear down and destroy. (Joshua 1:9) We pray for our pastor and his family that they would be dressed in full battle gear – belt of truth, shield of faith, the breastplate of righteousness, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit and for shoes they would put on the readiness given by the Gospel of peace and praying now and always in the Holy Spirit.

I pray that our pastor would have an ever growing faith and trust in you O Lord – knowing that trusting you leads to your fulfilling your promise to direct his paths and make them straight.
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

Help our pastor to wait upon you and rest in you and to be renewed daily in the strength and hope that are his in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. (Isaiah 40:31 and Galatians 6:9)

Help him Lord in his priorities to always put and keep you first in all of his thinking and doing and speaking and acting. (Matthew 6:33)

May he ever and always cry out to you for wisdom – his job is lonely, and it is bigger than he is / any of us are – grant him wisdom O Lord. (James 1:5-6)

Lord, I pray for the fruit of the Spirit – love joy peace patience kindness goodness faithfulness gentleness and self-control would fill him and abundantly work in and through him now and always in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 5:22-23)

It is our prayer that each member of our church will be faithful to pray for Pastor _____ every day. Praying for a hedge of safety and protection around him and his family; for our Pastor to stand strong and clear on the Word and never allow anything to cause him to pull back from or fear presenting the full truth of the Word of God to the people of God.

We pray every individual member and our congregation as a whole would be encouragers to our Pastor – ever looking for ways to love and bless him and help him in his work – if there are concerns may they be expressed in order and in love as provided for by scripture.

We pray for all of the earthly needs of our Pastor and his family to be fully met in what is provided for him; it is our desire to give amply and joyously to encourage and support our Pastor and his family.

We pray that nothing destructive or undermining would be allowed near our Pastor and that we would, individually and collectively, seek and pray for our Pastor to be ever covered by our prayer against any attacks of any kind by the enemy – praying in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. Amen

You do not test the resources of God until you attempt the impossible. F. B. Meyer

Section 16

Prayer for Local Churches

Lord, I thank you for my local church – thank you for leading me here and for blessing me with such a loving, Christ centered, humble group of believers in and followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Help me Lord to be an active part – giving of my heart, soul, time, efforts, talents and resources which are all gifted from you to me for good stewardship in seeking you and encouraging others to do the same by your grace.

Lord we know that it is your will that we each walk / live in a manner worthy of the calling you have placed upon our lives when you called us out of darkness into your marvelous light – thank you for my Christ centered brothers and sisters here – may we each and all be faithful to lift one another up individually in prayer and our local Body of Christ as a whole as well. Grant O Lord that by your grace we each have a spirit of unity to love and encourage and bear with and be unified as the local Body of Christ.
(Ephesians 4:1-3)

Lord, help us as your people who are called by your name to humble ourselves and pray and turn from our wicked ways that you may hear our prayer, forgive our sin, heal our land and draw us ever closer together in Christ Jesus. (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Lord we ask you to help us to speak only those things that are helpful for building one another and others up in Christ and call us together (Ephesians 4:29). May we all pursue peace and things which lead to peace and mutual encouragement in Him. (Romans 14:19)

More than anything, O Lord, it is our prayer and our plea that we would each one and all together as a local Body of Christ follow close after Jesus, trusting in Him in all of our ways – in our thinking, our being and our doing may we day by day become more like Christ to your glory O Lord our God. Lord, You have given us what seems like an impossible task with this passage. You have asked us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow You. Even when our spirits are willing, the flesh is weak. You know our hearts, Father. Help us, with Your Holy Spirit, to examine our hearts and hear from You. The longer we walk with you, the more we look like you. We desire to become more and

more like you, less selfish and more selfless, willing to deny ourselves in any and all situations. You have told us that when we lose our life for your sake, we will save it. Save us from ourselves, God. (Luke 9:23-24)

As we lift up these words for our churches, let us come before God with humility and a willingness to obey. Let us put others first and serve our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we seek God first, putting aside our own desires. May we become intercessors for our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we pray more – be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to become angry and may we criticize less. May we be encouragers and up lifters.

Lord, what the enemy means for evil against our church body, we believe you can use for good. Remind our hearts of this. When we are being attacked and crushed from all sides, remind us of your faithfulness to use everything for your good and your glory. May we not fear but trust in your provision for our church family. May we not only be readers of Your Word but believers and doers. Increase our faith, Lord. (Genesis 50:20)

A man is what he is on his knees – nothing more and nothing less. Robert Murray McCheyne

Section 17

Prayer for Missionaries & Ministries

Missionaries

Lord I come now and pray for my brothers and sisters and their families who are serving in the missionary fields near and far – Lord help them with your presence and your

peace – to know that you have promised them never to leave them nor forsake them – that in Christ your arm is with them always and forever – to remind them that you are on their side and greater is he in them than he in the world – what can man do to them. (Hebrews 13:5-6)

Lord we know they daily encounter doors of opportunity – some of those doors are your will – some are not – grant them to know those that are from you and may those doors be open at just the right time and in just the right way and may you be honored in all of it. Grant them wisdom to know and a check in their spirit to sense doors that are not for them. (Colossians 4:2-3a).

Lord many times it is our desire to duck our heads and slink away but remind them that they serve the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings and that greater is he who is in them than he that is in the world – to be bold and not be afraid for you O Lord are their shield, guide, comforter and sure hope. (Joshua 1:9, Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 John 4:4)

Pray with boldness that they will each share the Gospel fearlessly making known the truth without fear or favor – to not fear or turn from danger or harm but know that you are God and that you are more than able to keep them for the day you have planned for them. (Romans 8:28-29)

Pray that your blessed Holy Spirit will grant words of effective communication that will, in Christ, transcend the language barriers and bring honor and glory to you O Lord.

We pray for the power of the Gospel – presence of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the saints to bring about a great awakening – overcoming all obstacles in the flesh and in

the evil spirits that surely come out to oppose the good that you would do in each missionary family's work for you. (Ephesians 6)

I pray that the message of the Lord would go quickly and efficiently through these serving you and that that word / message would open the door for others to receive and believe.

I pray for strength and perseverance for the message and the messengers, these would humble themselves and resist the devil, God's Word would go forth and not return empty but accomplish the purposes for which it was sent. Pray for your presence and your protection over these your servants – keeping them safe in the Lord Jesus Christ now and always and that they will bear much fruit as they stay tied to the Vine! (John 15:5, 2 Thessalonians 3:2)

Ministries

Lord I lift up before you every Christian Ministry that is following after Christ Jesus – I join with you in supporting with prayer and with resources as you lead me – I pray for each ministry and the leaders and workers involved to be born again believers in the Lord Jesus Christ – that they would each and all build their lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ the Living Word and the written Word – trusting in you O Lord with all of their heart, soul and mind – and not leaning on their own understanding – that in all their ways – in their reading, praying, living, giving, serving they will acknowledge you and we know that in Christ Jesus you will direct their paths.

We pray Lord for patience in serving, wisdom in serving, humility in serving, the great commission to be in heart and mind in serving – that just as Christ did not come to be served but to serve others may they do so likewise and may we also ever and always seek to serve you O Lord and those you give to us to minister to and care for.

Prayer succeeds when all else fails. Prayer has won great victories and has rescued, with notable triumph, God's saints when every other hope is gone. E. M. Bounds

Section 18

Pray for Leaders

Lord we pray for our leaders, local, state, regional, federal and national – I thank you for our leaders and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness through Christ our Lord. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Lord we pray that all of us will show proper respect for others, to everyone and especially to the family of believers and that we all have proper respect and fear for God and honor for the authorities. (1 Peter 2:17)

Lord, I pray that today and always I will, we all will be under your authority and show proper respect for the authorities that you establish over us and that those same authorities will know that their existence is from you and through you and govern accordingly. (Romans 13:1)

Lord I pray that our leaders will be wise and understand their authority is from God and they will serve the Lord our God with fear and celebrate your ruling with trembling. (Psalms 2:10-11)

Lord, I pray that our leaders would humble themselves and seek much advice and may they seek advice through you and through those who love you and seek after you with all of their hearts. (Proverbs 11:14)

Lord may all of our leaders know that information is not knowledge – knowledge begins with the fear of you O Lord, but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

Lord, I thank you that you have shown me that no matter what a leader thinks or who he / she may be that the leader's heart is a 'stream of water' in your hand and we pray O Lord you turn the streams of our leaders to yourself. (Proverbs 21:1)

O Lord we know that there have been many nations throughout time – that they rise up and they fall down – it is the Godly leaders who yield to you whose nations are truly great in Christ Jesus. (Job 12:23-25)

Lord, I pray that our leaders would accept your words, would store up your commands within their hearts, turn their ears to wisdom and the applying of their hearts to understanding, that indeed they would cry out for insight and cry aloud for understanding—to look for it as for silver and for gold as if it were hidden treasure for their budgets then they will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God – for you O Lord give wisdom and from your mouth comes knowledge and understanding – you hold success in store for the upright and we pray O Lord – we pray our leaders would be upright leaders – for them you are a shield – to those whose walk is blameless – for you guard the course of the just and protect the way of your faithful ones. (Proverbs 2:1-8)

O Lord for our leaders who are in Christ we pray for a steady blessing of your presence, protection and provision be upon them and they would humble themselves before you and trust in you with all of their heart and not lean on their own understanding nor the understanding of those who seek to influence for ill-conceived purposes – but to acknowledge you in all their ways and trust you to direct their paths – their thoughts – their words and their actions through Jesus Christ our / their Lord and Savior.

O Lord for our leaders who are not saved we pray for salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone – come quickly Lord Jesus. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of God's willingness.
Unknown

Section 19

Spiritual Battles

Lord, it is not against flesh and blood that we struggle but against the evil powers of this present world and so we know the battle is spiritual and we dare not fight this battle in our own strength but in yours. Lord you have given us your Word and the tools to fight these battles in the power of the Holy Spirit and so may we get dressed for battle daily in the Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, help me to meditate upon and pray these scriptures over the battles I and those I know and love and those I don't know and yet love will experience in this world.

Lord, before I even get out of bed I get dressed in the outfit you have given me to wear ever and always – speaking to myself in the power of your word in praying

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.

¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Knowing that nothing in all creation can go beyond your will O Lord when I am dressed in this outfit you have given me for spiritual battle in Jesus' name. Amen

Now Lord I pray and claim the promises and commandments you have given me as I make personal each of these scriptures -

- 2 Thessalonians 3:3

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."

- 1 Peter 5:8-9

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know

that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."

- James 4:7

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

- Romans 8:37-39

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[a] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- John 10:10

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."

- Colossians 1:13-14

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."

- John 16:33

"I [Jesus] have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

- 1 Corinthians 10:13

"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."

Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work. Oswald Chambers

Section 20

Pray for Persecuted Christians

Lord we acknowledge that there are brothers and sisters around this earth who suffer greatly simply because they have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and have been born again – Lord help us to daily give thanks for these brothers and sisters and to pray prayers of intercession for them that they be protected from harm, be encouraged in their

spirits, that they know your peace that passes all understanding and that it would guard their hearts and their minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)

Lord help them, even in the midst of the ‘storm’, to boldly share the good news of the Gospel to those who seek their destruction. (Acts 4:29)

When they suffer persecution, may they each personally and individually experience the comfort that only you can give dear Lord in Christ Jesus. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Remain joyful in the midst of the persecution and forgive and love the very ones who seek their death and destruction. (Acts 5:41; Matthew 5:44)

I pray O Lord that those suffering persecution would be especially aware of your presence right now in the midst of their struggle and pain and fear and unrest – to know that you are God and that your peace passes all understanding and works most effectively in times of great turmoil and challenge – that they may learn to be content in all of their circumstances in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 4)

Lord as we lift up prayers for our persecuted brothers we pray they would feel and know assuredly that we are and we have and we will pray for them – ever lifting them up to you – and may I / we ever be faithful to do just that through the blessing and direction and prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Lord, in the strength of Christ, we pray that the persecuted Christians will allow you to use their ‘chains’ to further the good news of Jesus Christ and see persecutors, as Paul once was, to become great Christ centered Christian men and women following hard after the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 9)

Lord we pray for Gospel broadcasts to reach the persecuted Christians, and for their boldness in witnessing for the Gospel and that your hedge of safety and protection will be upon them as they go O Lord.

We pray against the evil intentions of AQAP, AQIM, MNLF, ISIS and any other people groups that seek to steal and kill and destroy the lives and joy of your children and that instead they would themselves be converted and come to a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Every great movement of God can be traced to a kneeling figure. D. L. Moody

Section 21

Pray for Unborn Babies

Lord I pray for unborn children – they are in the most dangerous of places that you created to be one of the safest of places – their mothers' womb – Lord I pray for your protection over and blessing on and in their tender lives. They are not accidents or things, or mistakes, or crimes – they are, no matter how the human side worked, created by you – knit together in their mothers' womb and they are each individually fiercely and wonderfully made by you O Lord – your eyes O Lord sees all of their days before the first one comes to be. Keep them safe and may they be born at the perfect time and in the natural way and pray for their safety and protection and your blessings upon them for the are consecrated O Lord to you.(Psalm 139:13 -16, Jeremiah 1:5)

O Lord children are a heritage from you and fruit of a womans' womb is a reward and should be highly cherished by the family and protected by you O Lord. Children are your creation; your plan is for them to populate the earth. (Psalm 127:3-5)

Lord may I, may we, may all of our mothers, fathers, family members, doctors – nurses and other health care providers, judges, legislators, and other elected officials wake to the horror of the killing of so many lives that were not theirs / ours in the first place – Lord have mercy – we clearly do not deserve your mercy but if we did it would not be mercy – so please sir – have mercy and lead us in the way everlasting or have your way and destroy this process – whatever best serves your will O Lord but let the sacrifice of infants be ended – now and forever – through Christ our Lord.

Lord, I pray that all people employed in the industry called abortion would seek and find employment in another industry where they can make a positive contribution to the people of the world. I pray that every abortion clinic would be transformed into places where life is honored and not destroyed. That as of the moment of this prayer that no further abortions would be performed in my city, my county / parish, my state, my country, your creation. In the mighty name of Jesus we claim for the kingdom the lives of

unborn children and pray for their protection until they are born in your perfect time and thereafter be protected and brought up in the admonition and training of the Lord. Amen

To confess your sins to God is not to tell [God] anything [God] doesn't already know. Until you confess them, however, they are the abyss between you. When you confess them, they become the bridge.

- Frederick Buechner

Prayer is weakness leaning on omnipotence. W. S. Bowd

Section 22

Praying To Tear Down Strongholds

Strongholds are places in our lives where we have so yielded to a particular sin or to Satan that they become like a fortified place that are not easily overcome. It is not that God's forgiveness does not cover them, but it is that we keep repeating the failure – a dog returning to his vomit – a pig returning to wallow in the mud and mire after having been first washed clean. These strongholds cannot take away the salvation of a born again Christian but until they are dealt with they can and do create all kinds of havoc and disarray and pain for the person being held and many others around him / her.

Strongholds must be taken down / torn out and not allowed to return. This is done by faith in the Lord which is lived out by trust and obey. Trust God to lead us in the right way and then obey God by not returning to the old way – again and again until the entire stronghold is destroyed in Jesus' name.

A few examples of strongholds:

1. Anger

Lord we know that you say let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger than that we should not sin in anger. So Lord, we know that many people are harmed and many die as a result of anger and resulting violence – so we come now and pray a prayer against anger – that people would / we would all be quick to listen, slow to answer and slow to anger – we pray we would let go of offenses as soon as they arise. We accept that anger is a part of the ‘normal’ human range of emotions, but it is our prayer for us and for all that we would not allow anger to control us but instead we would be controlled by the Holy Spirit. May we not, upon feeling anger, give ourselves over to it – nor allow it to exercise control over us or others in any way but instead we would recognize the end result of anger and turn from it to peace – seek first the kingdom of God and your righteousness and live out the great commandment to love you with all of our heart, soul and mind and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Ephesians 4:26-27, James 1:19-20)

Lord help us to keep a ‘short account’ with you over any anger in us and we would in Jesus’ name not allow anger to exert control in our lives nor make it our habit to associate with a person given to anger that we might learn the person’s ways. Instead we would be filled with the Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit would be exhibited in our lives – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Proverbs 22:23-24, Galatians 5:22-23)

Lord help me and help others to be aware of triggers for our anger and to avoid those and do our best to ‘root them out’ - *Lord, You are slow to anger and abounding in love. In the places in my heart where anger resides, grace me to become aware of them, to repent of the ways I have clung to anger, and grow Your love and patience there instead.*

2. Comparison

Lord, you have created me and I am fearfully and wonderfully made according to your own great plan and will – help me to know that it is not before man but before you I must ultimately stand and so may I not seek comparisons between myself and others or others and myself – Lord have mercy. May I not have jealousy or bitterness, nor arrogance nor low self-esteem but instead may I have Christ centered thoughts of love for you, for others and for myself in Christ Jesus. (James 3:14-16)

Lord, the temptation to compare and covet others' appearances, their resources, their gifts, or anything else and may we not do so – but instead may we rejoice with others as they are created by God and so are we and we have just what is needed in Christ for life here and life hereafter and in Christ do we rest and find out peace.

Lord, show me the earthly, natural, and demonic stronghold of comparing in my heart. Cleanse my perspective from anything that leads to jealousy or ambition. Grow me to look to you for all I need and to truly celebrate the blessings of others without the slightest twinge of impurity toward them. Change my heart so that I crave you, Lord, above all.

3. Unforgiveness and Bitterness

Lord, may we not have nor hold unforgiveness or bitterness but instead may we:

2 Corinthians 2:7–11 (ESV)

⁷so you should rather turn to forgive and comfort him, or he may be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything.

¹⁰Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ,

¹¹so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.

So, may we forgive and release anger and bitterness. Lord help us not to wait for the other persons / group to do what we think but may we keep a short account before you and be ever forgiving and releasing these feelings so that we will not be caught in a stronghold of bitterness or a stronghold of unforgiveness – let us reflect upon how you, while we were still sinners – enemies of yours because of our sin, died that we might have life. (Romans 5:8, 2 Corinthians 2:7-11)

Show each of us places in our hearts that need forgiveness and to forgive one another just as Christ has forgiven us reminding us of your boundless mercy (not giving us what we do deserve) and grace (giving us what we do not deserve) and remind us to be ever forgiving and releasing such feelings of anger that arise in us toward others in Jesus' name. Help us to know we don't control how others react and regardless of how anyone may feel toward us we will follow Jesus in loving them and forgiving them. *Lord, help me see the unhealed places in my soul that need forgiveness. Enlighten my perspective so I can see my unforgiveness the same way You do and to desire to give forgiveness with the same passion You do. Help me forgive others just like You have forgiven me!*

4. Pride / Worry / Anxiety

Lord you have come that we may have life and have it abundantly and to worry and be anxious is not abundant life – so help me / us Lord to be anxious for nothing but in all things with prayer make our requests known to you and trust that you always keep your promise to guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus as we look to you and trust in you completely – casting our cares on you. (“Proverbs 3:5-6, 1 Peter 5:7-9, Philippians 4:4-7)

Lord, help me to know / remember that to worry is to place my trust in myself and that is pride and pride is the most destructive of all sins – help me to know that you O Lord are always present and you are more than able to care for me as you always have and always will in Christ Jesus – so may I let go of my worries and my anxieties which only come from the enemy to kill, steal and destroy my joy and peace and rest in Christ Jesus. (James 4:6-8)

Lord, give me eyes to see the ways I am carrying my worries. Lead me into the trust and peace you have for me. Teach me how to cast my anxiety on You. Protect my heart from the enemy's entanglement where I have carried my anxieties. Give me grace and may I receive and walk in the grace that is mine in Christ Jesus not to walk in pride but to humble myself before you O Lord my God.

Note:

There are many other things we think of as strongholds, but a close inspection almost always reveals that there is an underlying spiritual problem addressed in these prayers which actually is the tipping point for the other behaviors / addictions we think of as the stronghold. They certainly can and do become strongholds, but it is on the back of these other failures that they grow and go and here we have a strategy to address them before our Father.

(thanks to the great ministry of God through Crosswalk.com for much of the content in this section – praise be to God)

Beware in your prayers, above everything else, of limiting God, not only by unbelief, but by fancying that you know what He can do. Expect unexpected things 'above all else that we ask or think.' Andrew Murray

First Appendix – Salvation – Being Saved – Born Again

- Adam / Eve sinned, and this created a separation of all people for all time from God our Creator.
- All have sinned and we all fall short (Romans 3:23)
- God is holy and he can have no contact with sin
- The result of our sinful nature is death / eternal separation from God (Romans 6:23)
- God's plan has always been that Jesus Christ, who is God, would appear as a person (when he came as a child he was a real person but also still fully God) and live a sinless life, die in our place on a cross, be buried, be raised from the dead by God the Father and ascend to heaven to be an intercessor for all of us and then to return one day to claim his bride "the body of Christ" (John 3:16) (Rapture)
- While we were still sinners Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)
- Jesus paid for our sin in full on cross (John 19:30)
- We are brought back to God – 'saved' – by new birth – spiritual birth because we are born dead in our sin and we pass from death to life when we are born again in Christ Jesus (John 3:3, 5; John 5:24; Romans 6:13)
- We receive this new birth / passage from death to life as a gift from God – not by anything we have done or could ever do but by God's gift (grace) through faith (trusting the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation – new birth – as a gift through faith trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior) and even that faith is also

a gift of God so that none of us may boast – salvation is all from God ‘by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone’ – (Ephesians 2: 8-9 and Romans 10:9-10)

- If you have never been born again – then please talk directly to God about that right now – don’t delay – none of us is guaranteed even the next minute – pray and receive Jesus as your Savior as a gift from God – by repenting (having a change of mind where you know you can’t save yourself and knowing that we all have sin that must be dealt with) and receiving God’s free gift of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. Amen

Second Appendix – World Prayer Calendar

(insert chart from separate document I have)

Third Appendix – -PRAYER SPACE – PRAYER ‘TOOLS’

Your place to meet the Lord:

- If possible a place you can be free from interruptions (if not possible then do best you can and maybe the time of the day can limit the distractions)
- Chair – sit in to read, kneel in front of to pray, stand up and worship
- Some type smooth surface to place and keep you Bible, hymnals, note pad and pens and other prayer aids
- Great if it’s a place you can post prayer lists, prayer reminders (use cork board, dry erase board, world map...)

When you sing – have to sing praises to God in old and new hymns and choruses

I suggest personalizing songs to the Lord i.e. “God is so good...” I sing God you are so good; instead of saying ‘he does this or that’ I sing “you”

Get use to knowing that God is not a thing but is a “person” in the sense that He, while being spirit, is an individual entity who as awesome as He is – loves having this conversation with me and the greatest topic is His praise.

Here are some words / phrases / bits from songs that I use to help me meditate and offer praise to God:

Jesus as my Faithful Guide

Ever present truest friend

Christ your King

Sweet Messenger of Rest

The Lamb

My Savior

My Sovereign

Christ the Mighty Maker

Truth Divine

Word of God
O King Eternal

Joy of Heaven

Alpha and Omega

“Lost in wonder love and praise”

“Lead on O King Eternal”

“Love and Adore”

“Incarnate Word”

“More Love to Thee, O Christ”

“Fount of Every Blessing”

“Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross”

“Near the Cross O Lamb of God”

“Take The Name of Jesus With You”

“Precious Name – O How Sweet”

“Hope of Earth”

“Joy of Heaven”

“Amazing Grace – How Sweet The Sound That Saved A Wretch Like Me”

“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose, He will not, He will not desert to his foes.”

“Take my life and let it be Consecrated Lord to Thee”

“Take my hands”

“Take my voice”

“Take my heart”

“Take time to be holy”

“Abide in Him always”

“Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone”

“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine”

“Savior, like a Shepherd lead us”

“Be the Guardian of our way”

“Have Thine own way Lord”

“In my hand no price I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling”

“Thou must save and Thou alone”

“Nearer my God to Thee”

“The Church’s One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord”

God is love

God is merciful

God is Holy

God is just

God is gracious

God is Eternal

God is infinite

God is fair

God is righteous

God is Almighty

God is all knowing

God is unchanged

Jesus is all the world to me

He is my Strength from day to day

ⁱ My dear friend Bob Kimbrough gave me this model. He went on to point out that we can take the four dots (: :) and use them to examine anything we read or listen to. We are at the upper left – the writing / talk has told us / showed us something – what will we do with it.

ⁱⁱ I want this to be a foot note that is an end note that is both referenced here and at the end of the book in an appendix which explains salvation in Christ Jesus in explicit simple detail. “We have all sinned (missed the mark with God) and none of us is worthy of a relationship with a holy God who can have nothing to do with sin. The wages or results of our sin nature is death – eternal separation from God. God so loved you that he gave his only son that whoever believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior shall not perish but have everlasting life.” Salvation is created by God and is a gift to all of us that we receive in only one way – faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that he is who he says – He is God who came to earth as a man and lived a sinless life – then died on a cross in our place – was buried and then rose from the grave and is alive forever more. Cry out to God in faith and receive the gift of eternal life – God reaching the hand of a King to the hand of a beggar giving to anyone who will the greatest gift ever given – the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus that is right now and for all eternity.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Clearly, there are times when we pray with and for the needs of others that our words grant consolation to them in their hour of need, but we don’t pray to them but to God alone.

^{iv} I wish I could tell you who gave me this comprehensive daily prayer guide – I have tried to recollect but can't determine who originated this, but I thank God and them for this prayer.

^v This prayer was adapted from one prayed over me and with me by Pastor Mel Jones of Bethel Colony in New Orleans, Louisiana.