

# 21 Days of Prayer | 2025

## Day 1

### The Priority of Jesus Each Day

*In the early morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and prayed there for a time. Mark 1:35 (NASB)*

Before the day began, Jesus prioritized fellowship with his Father in heaven. He disciplined himself to rise from sleep, leave the house, and go to a private and secluded place. It was in this place where Jesus prayed for a time. Each day, his relationship with his Father was his priority.

What is your priority each day? How do you begin each morning? Jesus, the Son of God, rose early in the morning, even before the dawning of the day, to pray. Shouldn't you, too, begin your day with God?

*Declare This Today: I will begin each day with God.*

Prayer is a conversation with God. Not only is it you talking to God, but it is also God talking to you through his Word, the Bible. Therefore, having the Bible with you is always best when you pray. Standing on God's Word elevates your prayer life, so stand upon his Word. When you pray like this, it changes you. When we pray, it shows we depend on God. When we do not pray, it shows we depend on ourselves. With confidence, please remember that you can go to God anywhere, anytime, about anything in your life.

*Prayer: Lord, help me prioritize each day by spending time in prayer. Amen.*

## **Day 2**

### **Examining Yourself Honestly Before God**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9 (NKJV)*

In these first few days of your fast, it is essential that you examine yourself honestly before God. Refuse to be deceived by yourself. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you any public or private areas of your life that are not pleasing to God. When you try to hide, ignore, or down-play any sin, especially secret sin, remember that God already knows all about them.

Therefore, I want to encourage you to find thirty minutes today with just you and God. Take your Bible with you and open to 1 John 1:9. This text tells us that we are to confess our sins to God. Confession means saying the same thing God says about your sin. What does God say about your sins? Your sin, my sin, and all the sins in the world deserve death, judgment, the grave, and hell. But God also says that he gave his one and only Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place for our sins. First John 1 also says God “is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Yes, our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus.

One of the significant verses in the life of all Jesus’ followers is 1 John 1:9. Therefore, stand upon this Word from God and dive into the challenging waters of evaluating yourself honestly before God.

Now that fasting is quickening your spirit, you will become much more aware of and alert to sinful practices in your life. The Holy Spirit will arrest, convict, and move you to repentance and forgiveness. You will deal with God honestly and perhaps become aware of the need to make things right with other people.

As God reveals your sin, confess it, turn from it, and receive God’s forgiveness. Then rejoice; you are forgiven!

*Prayer: Lord Jesus, wash me and cleanse me from all my sin. I want you to cleanse me of all sin and unrighteousness. I receive it now. Amen.*

### **Day 3**

#### **Being Led by the Spirit**

*All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Romans 8:14 (ESV)*

In Romans 8, there is a contrast between living in the flesh and living in the Spirit. While living in the flesh never pleases God, living in the Spirit always leads to life and peace. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is personal and powerful. We receive all the Holy Spirit when we place our faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. From that moment, the most critical issue is not about us receiving more of the Spirit. The question is how much of us the Holy Spirit is controlling and leading.

How much of you is the Holy Spirit controlling and leading?

*Declare This Today: I will surrender willingly to the Holy Spirit's leading.*

When we come to Christ, we experience spiritual life. The Holy Spirit comes to live in us and gives us life spiritually. The Spirit must lead us. Each day, we should willingly surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit is leading us, it becomes evident that we are the sons and daughters of God. We depend on the Holy Spirit to lead us through God's Word; sometimes the Spirit will even use our circumstances to lead us forward. Before you lead others, you need to be led by the Holy Spirit each day. Therefore, willingly surrender yourself to the Holy Spirit.

*Prayer: Holy Spirit, I willingly surrender myself fully to you. Lead me now. Amen.*

## Day 4

### Quenching the Holy Spirit

*Do not quench the Spirit.* 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV)

Wherever the Holy Spirit is, he is a holy fire. Quenching the Holy Spirit occurs when you are trying to put the Spirit out. It means you are extinguishing the Spirit, stifling the Spirit, or smothering the Spirit of God.

When you have a campfire, safety protocol is a must. A sudden, significant wind coming upon the fire can cause disaster. Unlike the campfire, the holy fire of God's Spirit does not want anyone to control him. Instead, he wants to do what he does: burn with fire and give life. Are you quenching the Holy Spirit or releasing the Holy Spirit?

*Declare This Today: I will not quench the Holy Spirit.*

How do you feel when someone seems to control you, ignores you, or withdraws from you? When we feel this way periodically, we know how the Holy Spirit feels when we do this to him.

When do we quench the Holy Spirit?

- When we do not rely on the Holy Spirit.
- When we attempt to legislate or restrict the Holy Spirit.
- When we refuse to let the Holy Spirit have complete liberty in our lives and our midst.

We must stop quenching the Holy Spirit before spiritual revival ever begins in our personal lives or in our local church.

*Prayer: Oh God, I want to see the Holy Spirit released through my life, not quenched because of my life. Amen.*

## Day 5

### Do Not Grieve the Spirit

*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*  
Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

Grieving the Holy Spirit makes him feel great sadness and sorrow. Ephesians 4:30 states emphatically: “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.”

There is a relationship between grief and love. The depth of our love determines the level of our grief. Because God loves us so much and has chosen to live within us, he becomes grieved when we

- do things that hurt ourselves,
- do things that hurt other people, and
- do things that hurt him and his work.

We should desire never to grieve, offend, or sadden the Holy Spirit.

*Declare This Today: I will not grieve the Holy Spirit.*

In this same verse, God instructs us that the Holy Spirit is the seal given to us that guarantees our future in heaven. Therefore, why would we ever want to offend the Spirit of God? We should not.

Before we can transfer money from a financial institution to pay for a home, we must sign documents and have them stamped with a seal to protect all parties from fraud and loss. Biblically and spiritually, a seal is a completed transaction that protects us from the loss of everything God has promised us to experience. Therefore, we should never want to offend the Holy Spirit of God, our guarantee.

*Prayer: Oh God, please help me never offend the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## Day 6

### Forgiving Others

*It keeps no record of wrongs.* 1 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

If you are like most people, you have had a time in your life when someone has taken advantage of you, abused you in some way, mistreated you, lied about you, dismissed you from your job, or hurt you deeply. Whatever may have happened to you, it left you with a deep hurt and wound in your heart. If you are honest with yourself, you are still angry, resentful, and bitter. Sometimes it still consumes you, and sometimes it is all you can think about.

The Scriptures say that love “keeps no record of wrongs.” There is no benefit to keeping a record of wrongs. Whether it is in your marriage, with your children, parents, pastor, supervisor, friend, or anyone else, God is serious about this and these powerful words: “Keep no record of wrongs.” This includes those who have hurt us deeply. God has not appointed you to be the judge of all the world. God’s Word says, “Keep no record of wrongs.”

In R. T. Kendall’s phenomenal book, *Total Forgiveness*, he writes: “Total forgiveness is a choice. It is not a feeling—at least at first—but is rather an act of the will.”<sup>27</sup> Therefore, it is not your role to punish someone or hurt someone back or retaliate against someone. Come to God, be honest with yourself, forgive, release the offense, and live out what R. T. calls total forgiveness. Release your hurt, anger, and bitterness to God. Let God clear the record in your heart. When you let go of the negative emotions and sins like unforgiveness, bitterness, and anger you have carried throughout your life, the Holy Spirit will come and anoint you again with a greater anointing. Just keep the record clear.

*Prayer: Lord, please help me to refuse to keep a record of wrongs done against me. Forgive me. Amen.*

## **Day 7**

### **Week 1 Recap**

As we conclude our first week of 21 Days of Prayer, we have spent time refocusing on our relationship with our Lord and Savior. Day 1, we looked at *The Priority of Jesus Each Day*. Day 2, *Examining Yourself Honestly Before God*. Day 3, *Being Led by the Spirit*. Day 4, *Quenching the Holy Spirit*. Day 5, *Do Not Grieve the Spirit*. Day 6, *Forgiving Others*.

The reality is, God is ready and waiting for us to seek Him and pursue a deeper relationship with Him. He is ready to fellowship with us if we are willing to spend time in prayer and in His word. It all begins here.

Just as in life, we have friendships and it's vitally important to spend time growing those relationships. If you haven't spent time this week reading these devotions, please go back and read each day. Then, continue with us as we move into week two where we will spend time *remembering who we are in Christ*. This will be a powerful time looking at everything God has done and where He has brought us to in our lives.

## Day 8

### Remember Our Salvation

This week during our *21 Days of Prayer*, we are focusing on remembering who we are in Christ. It is easy to remember the tough things we have experienced, but I challenge us to remember the most important thing this week...Jesus.

As we remember who we are as believers, we begin by reflecting on our transformative and forever decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior and to follow him for all eternity. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV) Reflect on the moment you accepted Christ into your life. Salvation is a gift we did not earn but received by grace through faith. "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Ephesians 2: 8 & 9 (ESV)

I can see in my mind's eye my mom and dad and Pastor Sam Mason sitting in our living room in Jackson, Mississippi when, as a young boy, I made the strong decision to follow Jesus and ask him to save me. Can you remember the place where you met Christ? Our Pastor Emeritus Ronnie Floyd often reminded us we may not know the date, but we will always remember the place we met Jesus, that transformative decision that shaped our destiny.

When we accept Christ, we become a new creation. This "new" signifies a clean slate, fresh start, and the promise of eternal life when you accept Christ in your life and that weight of sin was lifted from your shoulders. As we remember our salvation, we should also share this incredible news with others. Our testimony can be a beacon of hope for those who are lost and searching.

Today take a moment to reflect on your salvation. Write down special moments of your faith journey. Today would be a good day to share your story with someone else. Your new creation story can inspire others to seek the same new life you have experienced in Jesus.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, I come before you with a grateful heart, remembering the gift of salvation you have given me through your son Jesus Christ. Thank you for transforming my life and help me never to take for granted the grace that covers my sins and keeps me going each day. Lord, I ask for the strength to live like a new creation as I reflect your light in a world that desperately needs it and to share your love and the joy of salvation with others. In Jesus' name, amen.*



## **Day 9**

### **Remember Your Position**

Today, we remember our position in Christ. Our position in Christ is rooted in several key biblical truths that emphasize our identity with God and the transformative power of salvation. Here are some essential aspects of our position in Jesus. Yesterday, we talked about how God gives us new life and a new purpose. Through faith in Jesus, we are justified or declared righteous before God. Romans 5:1 says, “Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Thank God we are no longer under condemnation. It’s “just as if we have never sinned,” as the song writer reminds us.

### **Adopted**

According to Galatians 4:4-7, believers are adopted in God’s family. This relationship gives us the privilege of calling God, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV) I can remember a song we sang for several years at Cross Church called, “There are no Orphans of God.” As a believer, please know you are adopted by the King.

### **Inheritance**

Believers are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, according to Romans 8:17. “And if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.” This promise gives us all the spiritual blessings found in Christ. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 1:3 (ESV) I love this last one.

### **We’re Empowered by the Holy Spirit**

Upon accepting Jesus, believers receive the power of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live according to God’s will and exercise the gifts that He gives us. The Holy Spirit teaches, guides, and empowers us. We have all authority on heaven through Christ Jesus our Lord. It is so important to use these supernatural gifts in our local church. At Cross Church, we call that “serving Jesus on the Dream Team.”

Our position in Christ is one of transformation, belonging, and purpose. This identity shapes how we live, how we impact others, and how we’re going to fulfill His mission in our world. Consider how this truth is going to impact your life today and how can you live in light of your position in Christ. All of us have areas where we need to remind ourselves of God’s grace and love.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the incredible gift of grace that has saved me and raised me to life in Christ. Help me remember my position with you every day and share that with others. Teach me to reflect your kindness, mercy and grace in my actions and words. May I always be mindful of the honor and responsibility that comes from being seated with Christ. in Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.*

## **Day 10**

### **Provision**

Our thoughts today focus on our God providing all our needs according to His riches in glory. God assures us, “And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19) God promises to provide for our needs. Reflect on the ways God has provided for you in the past—spiritually, emotionally, financially, and in so many other ways, some we do not even realize until after the fact that He IS providing. Remembering His faithfulness in provision can strengthen your trust in Him.

In a world filled with uncertainty, it's easy to become overwhelmed by our circumstances. However, as believers, we are called to remember and trust in God's provision. The Bible is rich with stories of God meeting His people's needs, from the Israelites in the wilderness to the early church facing persecution.

Expressing gratitude is an essential part of acknowledging God's provision. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 encourages believers to give thanks in all circumstances, recognizing God's hand in their lives. “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Following God's plan outlined in scripture asks us to joyfully trust God and His provision as we give 10% of all He has given us into the storehouse (the local church). And we give offerings above and beyond that as He provides. Giving shows the condition of the heart like little else. Take a moment and thank God for His provision as you have been obedient to give back to Him.

As we begin a new year, take an honest look and evaluate your generosity journey.

Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude for Your abundant provision in our lives. Thank You for the blessings You shower upon us each day, for the food that nourishes us, the shelter that protects us, and the love that surrounds us.

In moments of need, You are our provider, always meeting our needs according to Your riches in glory. We acknowledge that every good gift comes from You, and we are deeply thankful for Your faithfulness and generosity.

May we never forget to express our gratitude, and may we share the blessings we receive with others, reflecting Your love and kindness. Help us to trust in Your continued provision and to seek Your guidance in all that we do. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Day 11

### Remember Your Trials

It was the day before Thanksgiving when I got the call from an Atlanta area hospital that my 30-year-old son (who was a worship pastor at a great church) had transferred to heaven after a tragic bicycle accident. At that moment and in the days and years since, we have had a choice to make. We could believe James 1:2-4 or not. "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing." We have chosen to focus on the things we do know, rather than focus on that which we do not know. We know that our son is in a great eternal place called heaven. We do know that God loves his family, his mom and dad, and sister left behind on this earth. We do not know the answer to the big question....WHY? . Focus on what you DO know when trials come.

Everyone endures trials. The question is whether we are going to walk by faith or by sight. God invites us into a supernatural peace that passes all understanding if we are willing.

Think back and remember the trials of your life. Focus on Gods hand guiding, comforting and the ultimate hope of heaven. My wife says it this way talking about heaven. "Jesus is the person and heaven is the place." Thank God for His abiding presence.

"I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." With Psalm 91:2 on your mind and heart, list the trials you are facing today. Choose to believe Gods Word. Focus on what you do know, and HE will meet you there.

*Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for being with us during our trials. Help us remember that every challenge we face is an opportunity for growth in faith and character. Teach us to embrace our struggles with joy, knowing that You are working all things for our good. May we find comfort in Your promises and strength in Your presence. Guide us to share our testimonies of Your faithfulness with others, so they may also find hope in their trials. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

## Day 12

### Remember Your Calling

*"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3 (NIV)*

As we navigate the complexities of a busy life, it can be easy to forget the calling God has placed on each of our lives. In Ephesians, the Bible urges us to live a life worthy of this calling.

#### 1. Your Identity in Christ

Our calling begins with our identity as children of God. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are not just saved from sin; we are called into a relationship with Him. This relationship transforms us and gives us purpose. Reflect on 1 Peter 2:9, which reminds us that we are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession." Remembering who we are in Christ is the foundation of our calling.

#### 2. Live with Intentionality

Paul encourages us to live in a manner that reflects our calling. This involves being humble, gentle, and patient with one another. In a world that often encourages self-promotion and pride, we are called to exhibit the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV) Are you serving others in your community, or encouraging a friend in need?

#### 3. Pursue Unity in the Spirit

Unity among believers is essential in fulfilling our calling. In Ephesians 4:3, Paul emphasizes the importance of "maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." How can you contribute to peace and harmony within your church family or community? Perhaps it's through forgiveness, understanding, or simply reaching out to someone with whom you've had a conflict.

#### 4. Focus on the Ultimate Goal

The ultimate goal is to bring glory and worship to God. Philippians 3:14 reminds us to "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Let this truth motivate you to keep moving forward, even when challenges arise.

Reflection: Take a moment to reflect on your life's calling. Are there areas where you might have strayed from living out that calling? Pray for guidance and strength to realign your life with God's purpose. Ask Him to help you be a light in this world, sharing the gospel message of His love and grace.

## **Day 13**

### **Remember Our Future**

All of us are interested in the future. As followers of Jesus, our future is secure.

I encourage you to simply focus on these words from God's Word and a time-tested song of hope.

Here are some scriptures that emphasize the importance of remembering our future as Christians and the hope we have:

*Jeremiah 29:11 "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."*

*Romans 8:18 "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*

*2 Corinthians 4:16-18 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."*

*Philippians 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."*

*1 Peter 1:3-4 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil, or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you."*

### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest;  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

*Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided:  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

The final destination for those who are Christ followers is heaven. No matter our present situation, lift your eyes toward your future in heaven.

It is also important to teach our young children about heaven. They don't need to be afraid, but excited about the wonderful place called heaven.

Our future is as bright as the promises of God.

*Prayer: Heavenly father, Thank you for knowing everything about us and still loving us with an unconditional love. Thank you that you know our name. You know our every thought. You see each tear that falls and you here us when we call. Thank you for giving us a future that is secure and full of hope. Help me to not focus so much on my circumstances now, but give us your perspective on our future. In Jesus name. Amen*

## Day 15

### Praying in the Holy Spirit

*You, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*

Jude 1:20 (NASB)

Jude was a man for his time as he had significant concerns about the culture and its godless influence invading the church. Therefore, he wrote a letter to Christians about the basics of the faith and living the Christian life. Jude contended earnestly for the faith.

Jude understood the importance of truth and the significance of prayer in the life of Jesus' followers. Prayer and the Holy Spirit are connected. Jude presents a healthy balance of having the most holy faith built upon God's truth and understanding the importance of praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude was a Christian leader committed to the Word and the Spirit. We should also be. The Scriptures teach us to pray in the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to pray in the Holy Spirit? It means to pray

- As the Holy Spirit leads you. Be willing to sit before the Lord and let the Holy Spirit lead you in what to pray for and how to pray for it. As the Spirit leads you, you will pray by the Word of God and with the Word of God.
- As the Holy Spirit assists you. There are times when you do not know how to pray; therefore, be still, open the Bible, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you.
- As the Holy Spirit empowers you. The power of God in prayer precedes the demonstrations of the power of God through his people publicly. Everything goes to a new level when the Spirit's power comes.

Praying and fasting elevates praying in the Holy Spirit, and praying in the Holy Spirit elevates prayer and fasting. The key to a powerful prayer life is praying in the Holy Spirit. In your private prayer life and in your church's prayer time, consider sitting before the Lord quietly, letting the Holy Spirit speak to you, and asking him to lead you to pray as the Spirit wills, which will always be built upon the Word. Then pray as he leads you. Pray in the Holy Spirit.

*Prayer: Father, I want to pray in the Holy Spirit. Please teach me how to do this built upon the Word of God and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

## Day 16

### Total Surrender to God's Will

*"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."*

Luke 22:42 (NASB)

One of my favorite places in Israel is the Garden of Gethsemane. This area is sacred ground to Christians because it is where Jesus poured his heart out to the Father in prayer in such a way that his sweat became like drops of blood dripping onto the ground. Even knowing crucifixion was ahead, Jesus totally surrendered himself to the Father's will: "Not My will, but Yours be done."

Total surrender to God's will when you pray and fast should emulate the heart and prayer of Jesus that night in Gethsemane. While this is not easy, it is important that you do it. At all times, we must totally surrender everything to God.

It is good for us to remember that our role is to pray and fast; then God alone determines when and how he will answer those prayers. God alone determines the timing and the results; we do not. Prayer leads us to experience the power of God, most especially when we pray in Jesus' name and do so according to his will as recorded in the Bible. We must never forget that we can discover God's will in God's Word. Prayer and fasting move our hearts toward God's will more than our prayers ever move God. Therefore, total surrender to God's will when you pray and fast is more likely to occur when you do these things:

- Pray according to the Scriptures and stand upon the Scriptures when you pray. In the Bible, God reveals to you his will.
- Present your request to God, trusting in him alone to determine when and how he will answer. When we do not know God's will regarding a decision we must make, we need to present it to God and trust him alone to determine what happens.
- Prayer is faith, and your dependence upon God builds faith.

Therefore, you should learn to surrender totally to God's will when you pray and fast. Always remember Jesus' words: "Not My will, but Yours be done."

*Prayer: Father, in Jesus' name, I am standing upon your Word, praying now: Not my will, but your will be done. Amen.*



## **Day 17**

### **Pray Big**

*“Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Joshua 10:12–13 (ESV)*

Joshua had no problem thinking big enough. For decades, he had seen God do so many great things. After marching all night from Gilgal and knowing the hand of the Lord was with them, he knew that the battle would be long that day at Gibeon, so Joshua prayed to God before all Israel in a big way: “Sun, stand still.”

*Declare This Today: I will pray big.*

The Bible says that the sun did stand still, and the moon stopped until Israel took vengeance on their enemies. The sun stopped and did not hurry to set. The Scripture says, “There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel” (v. 14 ESV).

Are you praying big enough? Can you imagine yourself praying like Joshua before your company or church or among your closest Christian friends. We must stop trying to reduce God to our understanding or fit him into our little world of faith. God is big! So for your future and your life, begin doing this today: pray big!

*Prayer: God, enlarge my vision of who you are and increase my faith to pray big. Amen.*

## **Day 18**

### **With Expectation**

*In the morning, Lord, You will hear my voice; in the morning I will present my prayer to You and be on the watch. Psalm 5:3 (NASB)*

David was surrounded by many people who opposed him. Have you ever been there? Due to his situation, with urgency, he prayed for protection and expected God to intervene in his life. David was committed to a deeper prayer life for most of his life. In Psalm 5:3, he demonstrated a strong conviction for the need to pray. This verse reveals his practice in prayer. He went to God in the morning and talked to him. Anticipating that God would answer him, he watched with great expectation for God's intervention.

*Declare This Today: I will watch with a greater expectation for God to answer my prayer.*

Do you know why David expected God to intervene in answer to his prayer? I believe it is because prayer is faith. I believe the more consistently we ask in prayer, the greater faith we will have in God. Since prayer creates greater faith, prayer itself is faith. When I talk to God about anything, I admit I am not the answer nor do I have the answer; therefore, I talk to the only one who can answer, which is God. In prayer, give everything to God.

Are you expecting God to intervene by answering your prayer?

*Prayer: God, prayer is faith, so I will pray with greater expectation. Amen.*

## Day 19

### Interceding for Others When You Pray and Fast

*For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Colossians 1:9 (NASB)*

Interceding in prayer for others is one of the most outstanding gifts you can give. When you intercede for someone in prayer, you are pleading with God because you know of a special need or challenging time someone else may be going through. The Lord is pleased as you offer prayers to him on their behalf. Praying for others is one of your highest callings in the Christian life.

Just think of all the people who have prayed for you. One of the greatest joys of pastoring a church is knowing people are praying for you. We need God's help and power to live like Jesus wants us to. Therefore, everyone needs to pray for others and receive prayers from others.

Many years ago, I learned the importance of praying for others regarding their specific needs. Since then, I have an ongoing and ever-changing prayer list of people for whom I call out to God in prayer. I have already talked about the importance of praying biblically for others, standing upon the Word of God as you pray for them. When you stand upon God's Word as you pray, it elevates and empowers your prayers.

In Colossians 1, the apostle Paul prayed for people unceasingly. When he heard how some of the people were being influenced by the anti-Christ philosophy that man could attain a higher knowledge than God, which was their salvation, Paul began to intercede unceasingly for the believers. He pleaded with God for them to live with spiritual wisdom and to be strengthened by God's power so they could bear fruit. His prayer was for them to be filled with God's will.

There are so many ways you can intercede for other people. One of the significant biblical sections about how to pray for others is Colossians 1:9–12. Call out specific names of people as you pray through this passage. Lift the points from this text to become your prayer points for others. When you are praying and fasting, always intercede for others in prayer.

*Prayer: God, I want to be an intercessor and pray for others, specifically and biblically. Please teach me how to do this. Amen.*

## Day 20

### Prayer and Fasting Increases Your Persistence in Prayer

*“I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Luke 11:9 (NASB)*

Prayer and fasting usually elevate your spiritual life and your entire prayer life. While every prayer and fasting journey is unique, God will use each one to elevate your walk with him and to deepen your prayer life. Therefore, prayer and fasting increase your persistence in prayer.

What is persistence in prayer? Persistence is when you pray about something specific in your life and cannot let it go, so you continue to pray about it, persevere through it, and believe tenaciously for God to answer your prayer, even if that means praying for years or even decades. This is praying with persistence.

Jesus talked about this as recorded in Luke 11. After Jesus told the disciples a story about a man who persistently asks his neighbor for bread, he amplified the principle in the story by going straight to the point in Luke 11:9: “Ask and it will be given to you.” In so many words, Jesus taught his followers to never give up in prayer. We refer to this at times as “praying it through.” Prayer and fasting can help you increase your tenacity and persistence regarding prayer requests you call out to the Father in heaven. I have found this to be true personally.

Jesus was telling us to ask and keep on asking, to seek and keep on seeking, and to knock and keep on knocking until the door is opened. When you ask, you receive; when you seek, you will find; and when you knock, the door will be opened. All of this can happen due to your generous heavenly Father.

So how long should you pray about something even when there is no visible response? I want to encourage you to persistently call out your request to God in prayer until you know it is not God’s will or until you see God answer it or until you receive a spiritual release from praying about it any longer. When you are persistent in prayer, it means you have great faith in God. I have walked with God for many years, and I can tell you that prayer and fasting have increased my persistence in prayer.

*Prayer: Father, I desire greatly to have great faith and to never give up in prayer. Amen.*