

21



**DAYS OF  
FOCUSED  
PRAYER**



## CREATING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed. MARK 1:35*

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

### HAVE A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time in prayer. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

### HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

### HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer is often recited in churches or at religious events, but there's so much more to this prayer. Jesus provided this model as an outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to God, aligns our priorities with His, and helps us live dependently on Him. This model takes us through each part of The Lord's Prayer, showing us how to pray the way Jesus instructed.

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." LUKE 11:1*

*"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*

MATTHEW 6:9-13 NKJV

### CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

*"Our Father in Heaven"*

God isn't interested in us practicing religion; instead, He desires a relationship with us. God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Heavenly Father. Starting our prayer time, acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well.

*You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, "Abba, Father."*

ROMANS 8:15 NLT

Proclaim your intimate relationship with God, addressing Him lovingly as your Father and thanking Him that you are His child.

PRAYER:

*"Father, I come to You in prayer today thankful that I am Your child. I know I am a sinner, but You have forgiven me and adopted me as Your own, and I am so grateful to call You my Father. Thank You for loving me. I love You."*

### **WORSHIP HIS NAME**

*"Hallowed be Your name"*

God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His Name. Here is a list of some of the titles attributed to His Name to help us worship Him specifically and personally:

God is Righteousness – *He makes us clean through His Righteousness on the Cross*

God is Sanctifier – *He has called us and set us apart*

God is Healer – *He heals all our diseases*

God is Banner of Victory – *He defeated our enemies*

God is Shepherd – *He speaks to us and leads us*

God is Peace – *He is our peace in every storm*

God is Provider – *He supplies all of our needs*

*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. PROVERBS 18:10 ESV*

When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is.

PRAYER:

*"God, I am in awe of You. Your name is a strong tower, a place of protection and safety for me. I praise You as my Healer, my Shepherd, and my Banner of Victory. You are my Peace, my Provider, my Righteousness, and my Sanctifier. Your name is great, and I worship You."*

### **PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST**

*"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"*

Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about and loving who He loves. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first.

*He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.*

LUKE 12:31 TLB

Spend time focusing on what God is focused on. His priorities include:

- *Saving the lost*
- *Wisdom and guidance for those in authority—parental, spiritual, governmental, work-related*
- *Caring for the poor and marginalized*
- *Unity and love*
- *Justice*
- *Freedom for those in bondage*
- *Accomplishing His purpose in our lives*

PRAYER:

*“God, I recognize there is no better plan on earth than Yours, and I pray for Your will to be done in our world and in my life (name the areas of your life where you need more of God’s presence today). This world is lost and needs You desperately, and I pray for every person to know You as their personal Lord and Savior. I pray for the leaders in my life (pray specifically over parents, spiritual leaders, governmental leaders, employers, and any other leaders in your life), that You would show them Your will and give them supernatural wisdom and discernment as they lead. God, I pray that Your heart for justice and unity would be seen in our world; that those who are in bondage will be set free; that the needs of the poor and marginalized will be met. Help me love who You love and see value in all people. I give my life to You again today; have Your way in me. Please give me wisdom and clarity as You show me my next steps.”*

## **DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING**

*“Give us this day our daily bread”*

God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, needs, and desires and to trust Him to provide.

*I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!*  
PSALM 121:1-2 NLT

Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. Bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. It may help to open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him. Problems can either be ours or God’s; they can’t be both.

### **We honor God when we ask for the impossible!**

PRAYER:

*“Lord, I acknowledge that everything I need today will come from You. You made the heavens and the earth; You are more than capable of handling any situation I’m dealing with, so I give it to You completely (specifically, talk to God about what is on your mind and heart right now and give it to Him). I look to You to help me, sustain me, and give me Your peace. Remind me of Your hope and power today. Thank You in advance for taking care of my needs.”*

## **FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN**

*“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”*

God has offered us complete forgiveness, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins and receive His forgiveness, our hearts are more prepared to forgive others as well.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

1 JOHN 1:9

Ask God to check your heart and life and show you areas where you might need to ask for forgiveness from Him. Then, it is your turn to forgive those who have offended you. We can even choose to forgive people in advance. Ask God to forgive you and to help you forgive others.

PRAYER:

*“God, thank You so much for offering me the gift of forgiveness. Show me any areas in my life that I need to bring before You in order to receive forgiveness and healing. I confess that I have been struggling with sin (talk to God about any areas of sin in your life), and I know that You want me to be clean again. Please forgive me for my sin. Thank You for showing me unfailing grace.. Help me let go of the things that have offended me and acknowledge when I have offended others. I release to You those who have hurt me, and I trust You to handle those situations according to Your perfect will.”*

## **ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

*“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”*

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us.

As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory through Jesus as we're empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God's Word, and every lie the enemy has told us can be replaced with God's truth.

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.* EPHESIANS 6:12

By recognizing that the enemy wants to destroy you, you can shed light on his lies and claim God's truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you're believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Ask Him to expose the enemy and to help you understand and receive His truth. Simply speaking the name of Jesus has great power in the spiritual realm. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Through prayer, we can resist him and walk forward in freedom.

## PRAYER:

*“God, I recognize that my struggles today aren’t against the people or circumstances around me, but against the enemy. Please help me to see how the enemy is lying to me. Help me to recognize his lies, take them captive, and make all of my thoughts obedient to the truth of Your Word (list out any specific areas God shows you where you have believed a lie that needs to be replaced with His truth). While the enemy wants to destroy me, I know that You came to give me life to the fullest. I speak the name of Jesus over my life and declare that no weapon formed against me will prosper. I don’t have to fear the enemy because the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

## EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD’S ABILITY

*“For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”*

God is more than able to move in every situation, and ending our prayer time claiming His authority and power focuses our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do.

*Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You. JEREMIAH 32:17*

Remind yourself of God’s limitless power and then return to praising Him and declaring your faith in Him:

- *“Yours is the Kingdom” – all authority belongs to You*
- *“Yours is the Power” – all mightiness flows from You*
- *“Yours is the Glory” – Your victory will be complete*

## PRAYER:

*“ God, nothing is too hard for You! Through Your great power, all things are possible. All authority is Yours, all might is Yours, and I know that Your victory will be complete. You are amazing, and I worship You. I praise You for Your power and presence in my life. You are my God, and You are worthy of all praise.”*

## 21 Days of Focused Prayer

Join our entire church family in praying these focused prayers over the next 21 days in January.

### Day 1

- Unity of the church body during these 21 Days of Prayer (John 17:20 – 23).
- Pray for the unification of the global church and the manifestation of God's Glory in the earth.
- Pray that everyone who participates in this fast will seek the Lord as a unified body for one purpose.

### Day 2

- Pray for spiritual growth in the lives of the members. Pray that we would all develop in the love of God (Matthew 22:37 – 40, Philippians 1:9 -11, Corinthians 13).
- Pray that we all bear spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22 – 23, Colossians 1:9-11).
- Pray for believers to develop into mature disciples who are equipped to make more disciples. (Matthew 28:19 -21, Matthew 10:7-8).
- Pray that all strongholds be broken in our lives and the lives of our church family (Mark 9:14-29).

### Day 3

- Pray for the fivefold ministry to be expressed & realized in the local church (Ephesians 4:8 - 11).
- Pray for wisdom/knowledge, and understanding for our pastors (Colossians 1:9).
- Pray that the leadership in our local church walk together in unity, sharing the vision of our pastors (Numbers 11, 16-17).
- Pray for the equipping of all saints for ministry.

### Day 4

- Pray for our nation (Psalm 33:12, Exodus 19:5-6).
- Pray for all branches of government that their hearts will turn toward God and righteousness will reign in their hearts.
- Pray for the peace and prosperity of our nation and community (Psalm 91, Psalm 3, Isaiah 54:17, Isaiah 58:8).
- Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

## Day 5

- Pray for God's favor to be released (Psalm 102:13, Psalm 5:12, Psalm 30:5, Psalm 41:11)
- Pray that every member would develop Godly goals that are in alignment with God's will for their lives.
- Pray for the 4 areas of Restoration: (1) Health, (2) Families, (3) Finances (4) our Community & Region.

## Day 6

- Pray for the manifestation of God's Glory to be revealed (2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 4:17, Colossians 1:27).
- Pray for Godly families (Genesis 18:18 – 19).
- Pray for Godly marriages and broken marriages to be healed (Ephesians 5:22 – 33).
- Pray for children to love and follow the Lord. Pray that children will obey their parents (Acts 16:31, Ephesians 6:1-3).

## Day 7

- Pray for wise financial stewardship (2 Corinthians 9:8, Deuteronomy 8:18)
- Pray for Kingdom businesses to be established (Deuteronomy 28:8, Daniel 6:2-3).
- Pray for sufficient resources for the church, our families, and businesses (Philippians 4:19).
- Pray for economic empowerment in our community.

## Day 8

- Pray for clear opportunities to share the Gospel with others (Colossians 1:9-27).
- Pray for courage when inviting others to attend church with you (Acts 1:8)
- Pray for God to give us special favor in our community & region as we reach out to those who need salvation (Psalm 84:11).
- Pray for clear opportunities to teach personal Bible studies this year where you live, work, and play.



## Day 9

- Pray for that the vision and purpose of the ministry will come to pass (Habakkuk 2:2-3)
- Pray that our vision of “*becoming an equipping and mobilizing church that transforms SW Louisiana and beyond, by making disciple of Jesus Christ*” is fully realized.
- Pray that the daily mission of “Loving God & Loving People” is lived out.
- Pray that everything we do as a church is done through our values of Generosity, Joy, Connection, Transformation & Evangelism.

## Day 10

- Pray for believers to increase in their prayer life and their daily devotion (Luke 18:1).
- Pray for all to obtain the strength to remain focused on their commitment to continue to fast and pray throughout the year.
- Pray that every member would fall in love with the Word of God. That there would be a hunger for strong Biblical teaching.
- Pray for the equipping of the saints to teach God’s Word to others.

## Day 11

- Pray for the sick and suffering amongst our church family (James 5:13 – 16, Psalm 103:3).
- Pray that we would see miracles of healing in this year, and that they would point people to the Kingdom of God manifesting here on earth.
- Pray that we would all pray with the boldness of faith. We honor God when we pray for the impossible.

## Day 12

- Pray that God will use our youth and our student ministry to effectively impact the next generation (Psalm 78:1-7).
- Pray that the hearts of every student will be turned toward God and that God will make them a light in the darkness of their generation
- Pray for the mission of our children’s ministry to be fulfilled this year. That all of our children would be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost before they move up to student ministry.

## Day 13

- Pray that every need within every ministry is met. Pray for the heart of generosity to be developed in every believer. (2 Corinthians 9:6-15)
- Pray that our giving exceeds our needs for our yearly budget so that we can continue to be generous to our community and missions.
- Pray for every missionary we support, both in the United States & globally, for their needs to be met.
- Pray that we can raise up local missionaries from our congregation and send them out to preach the Gospel.

## Day 15

- Pray let us draw near to You with a true heart in full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22)
- Pray that you will be filled with the knowledge of God's will (Col 1:9)
- Pray for wisdom and spiritual understanding in all situations (Col 1:9)
- Pray that we would all develop in the character of Jesus.

## Day 14

- Pray for the vision and purpose of the ministry to come to pass (Habakkuk 2:2-3)
- Pray for families to commit to the ministry and to actively volunteer to serve (Joshua 23:14-15).
- Pray that more and more people would take the "next step" in becoming involved in Growth Track and our Emotionally Healthy Discipleship pathway.
- Pray that healthy leaders will continuously be developed.

## Day 16

- Pray that our Pastors are faithful to God's purpose and vision for this house. (Ps 31:23)
- Pray that God continually reveals Himself through His Word & Spirit to our Pastors and leaders.
- Pray that our Pastors do not grow weary in well doing (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that our Pastors & families abound with blessing
- Pray that our leaders continue to lead with the health of the organization in full view

## Day 17

- Pray that we are hospitable to one another without complaint (1Pet 1:9)
- Pray that the joy of the Lord is our strength (Neh 8;10)
- Pray that the peace of God rules our hearts (Col 3:15)
- Pray that we are known as the most “loving” congregation in this region.

## Day 18

- Pray that the church dwells together in unity and faith (Eph 4:13)
- Pray that the church stands fast in one spirit, striving together for the faith (Phil 1:27)
- Pray that the church is not carried about with various and strange doctrines (Heb 13:9)
- Pray that we study to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Tim 2:15)
- Pray that we look out for the interest of others (Phil 2:4)

## Day 19

- Pray for the continued building and development of our each phase of our building process. That it is all for the Glory of God and to reach our community and region.
- Pray that we will be in a place to be “debt-free” soon so that we can reach more people with the Gospel.
- Pray that we become a “training” center, not just a “teaching” center.

## Day 20

- Pray for those who are thinking about baptism to take the next step in their journey.
- Pray for our vision to see at least 150 people baptized in Jesus’ Name by 2026.
- Pray that God would indeed “pour out His Spirit upon all.”

## Day 21

- Pray that our ability to reach more people through programs like Celebrate Recovery, Hope House, The Anchor, Grief Share, etc., would expand.
- Pray that God would send more workers to the “harvest field” of recovery.
- Pray that our community would be known more for “restoration” than addiction.