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PRAYER JOURNAL



TWENTY ONE DAYS OF PRAYER | 2022

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Dear Reader,

Since the beginning of our church in 2015, we have set our hearts to be a people of prayer. Our rally cry has simply been, "Pray First." In every situation, whether good or bad, we try to pray before we act. Many times people act first and then want God to bail them out of that situation, but prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough. In order for it to become a part of our life, it needs to become something we look forward to doing. I'm convinced most people don't enjoy prayer because they have never been taught how to pray. That's where this simple prayer journal can help. Using biblical prayer models, verses and daily reflection questions to make prayer more personal, this booklet is designed to bring joy into your time with God.

When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him, you'll experience the presence of God that will change your life. Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life. And then...

Before the day begins — Before you go to bed — Before you go to work or school — Before you send that text — Before you eat, drive or travel — When bad things happen — Before bad things happen — In every situation — PRAY FIRST!

Prayer changes everything!

Fastor Josh and Crystal Whitlow

INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

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.

"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 (NIV)

HAVE A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. 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 recommend what we like to call the First 15. Essentially, it is five minutes of worship, five minutes of prayer, and five minutes of reading your Bible every day as a starting point to practicing prayer. As we pray every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary and grow, but it helps when we have a plan for regularly connecting with God.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 (NIV)

"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 lead us not 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)

1. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY | "Our Father in heaven..."

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)

God loves for us to call Him our Father. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for the relationship you have with Him.

2. WORSHIP HIS NAME | "...Hallowed be Your Name..."

The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. PROVERBS 18:10 (NIV)

What are His Names? Righteousness, He makes me clean. Sanctifier, He has called me and set me apart. Healer, He heals all my diseases. Banner of Victory – He has defeated my enemy. Shepherd, He speaks to me and leads me. Peace, He is my peace in every storm. Provider, He supplies all of my needs

3. PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST ["...Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven..." *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) God's priorities: Saving the Lost, Guiding those in authority (parental, spiritual, governmental, workplace), and His will in us

4. DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING | "...Give us this day our daily bread..."

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

Ask God for what you want and need and then trust Him for the answer.

5. GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE |

"...Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors..." 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 (NIV)

Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any area that He brings to mind. Forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. You can even forgive people in advance.

6. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE | "...And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one..."

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 (NIV)

Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God's Word.

7. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY | "...For yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever."

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 (NIV)

End your prayer time by reminding yourself of God's ability. Return to praise and make your faith declarations. "Yours is the Kingdom" – all rule belongs to You. "Yours is the Power" – all mightiness flows from You. "Yours is the Glory" – Your victory shall be complete.

TOPICAL PRAYERS

We know that we should pray about the things that are happening and important to our lives, but many times we don't know how to go about praying for those things. Below are some common topics, scriptures, and sample prayers to help get you started.

FINANCIAL NEED

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23:1, Romans 13:8, Proverbs 10:4

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for all that you've given me. I know you are my Shepherd, and I shall not want for anything and that includes my finances. I need wisdom when it comes to handling my finances, I pray that you would give me steps to take to live financially free and to not owe anyone anything except to love them. Forgive me for any financial mistakes I've made. I desire to steward all that you give me and to honor you in every area of my life, especially with my finances. Give me opportunities to sow into other people's lives with what I have. Although it may only be a little at first, I know that it will continue to grow as I realign my finances with your Word. From this day forward, I promise to be diligent with all that you bless me with financially. Help me to keep my eyes on you, and help me focus on my relationship with you more than anything else. In your powerful name I pray, Amen.

MARRIAGE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 5:25,33, Matthew 6:13-15, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, James 1:19

PRAYER: Father, thank you for the spouse you've blessed me with. Help me to be forgiving and loving towards them. Teach me to love my spouse unconditionally. God, allow my spouse and I to fulfill the plans that you have for our lives. Lord, help us seek you first and teach us to depend on your power through every difficult moment we face together. God help us be quick to listen and slow to speak - help us not say hurtful things to one another. Rather help us to build each other up and stay unified. I pray that my spouse and I would not yield to any temptation that comes our way. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Thank you for your peace, love, guidance, and unity in our marriage. Pour out your Spirit on us Lord, and pour out your blessings on our marriage. In Jesus name, Amen.

FAMILY

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 4:2, John 10:29

PRAYER: God, thank you for my family. I know that you've placed them around me and me around them so that we could protect and love each other and be a picture to the world around us of what it looks like to be in your family. Lord, help me to be humble and kind when I spend time with my family. I place my family in your faithful hands, knowing that nothing can take them from you. Thank you for the joy that my family provides me. I pray against any evil plan or scheme that comes against them, and today I declare that it is powerless and must leave right now. I declare as a member of their family that they are covered by Your protection. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray all of these things, Amen.

UNBELIEVERS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 3:9, John 3:16, Isaiah 55:11, Ezekiel 11:19 PRAYER: God, I come before You in prayer and in faith, believing. Your Word says that You desire no one to perish, so I bring (insert name) before You today. I pray against any attack, plan, or scheme of the enemy on (insert name) life. God, use another believer or me to display your character and share the gospel's good news in such a way that he/she will listen and understand it. God soften their heart towards you, only you can take a heart of stone and make it a heart of flesh. Father, I ask that You fill (insert name) with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and understanding by the power of your Holy Spirit. I am confident that Your Word will not return to You void, and it will accomplish that which You sent it to do. Therefore, my confession today is that God has begun a good work in (insert name) life and He will perform it and bring it to full completion. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

GUIDANCE

SCRIPTURE: *Psalm 24:4-5, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 32: 8-9, James 1:5-6* PRAYER: Father, I ask that you would give me wisdom and guidance today. My desire is for you to lead me in your truth and teach me to hear your voice no matter what else is going on. May your Words guide every step that I take. I ask that you would give me wisdom and give me the faith to step obediently into all that you're calling me to do. Teach me which way I should go in every area of my life, and give me the grace to use this guidance so I never stray from you and your Word. Thank you for your guidance in my life and highlighting the best direction for me. In the mighty name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

PERSONAL LIFE CHANGE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 10:5, James 4:8, Jeremiah 29:13 PRAYER: Today, I realize that I need something in my life to change. Reveal to me what's happening in my life and heart. Show me if there is anything that's out of alignment with your Word. I know that if you have my whole heart, you can change my life. So I ask you to help me open up every part of my heart to you. Free me, heal me, and wash me from every sin, hurt, and pain. Thank you for revealing all of these things to me, and allowing me to be in a relationship with you. I believe you're working in my life give me the strength to take every thought captive to the authority of your Word. I know that life change doesn't always happen overnight, so give me the patience, strength, and discipline to wait on You as You continue this process within my heart over time. Lord, thank you that progress, not perfection, is your desire for me. So today and every day, I surrender everything to you. In Jesus name, Amen. PRAYER JOURNAL

DAY 1: JOYFULL PART 1

DAY 2: PRAYER

BIBLE VERSE PHILIPPIANS 4:6

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

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

If I'm being completely honest, how do I view prayer? How can I take a step in my prayer life?

DAY 3: WORSHIP

bible verse PSALM 40:1–3

"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him."

QUESTIONS

How can you worship God throughout your everyday life? What areas could change in your life if you started living a life of surrendered worship?

DAY 4: LOVE

BIBLE VERSE 1 CORINTHIANS 13:4–7

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.."

REFLECTION

Are you loving others the way Jesus loves you? What steps can you take to be a visible, tangible and reflective image of God's love today?

DAY 5: JOY

BIBLE VERSE ISAIAH 55:12

"For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

REFLECTION

What do you allow to steal your joy? Who could you directly impact by being more joyful today?

DAY 6: HOPE

BIBLE VERSE ROMANS 15:13

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

REFLECTION

Where have you set your hope? Is there a situation that is depleting your hope? What can you do to restore your hope in Jesus?

DAY 7: PATIENCE

BIBLE VERSE PROVERBS 14:29

"Whoever is patient has great understanding, but one who is quick-tempered displays folly."

REFLECTION

In what specific ways can you practice patience today? If you are in a waiting season, how would improved patience make a difference in your walk with Jesus? PRAYER JOURNAL

DAY 8: JOYFULL PART 2

DAY 9: KINDNESS

BIBLE VERSE LUKE 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

REFLECTION

What are three tangible ways you could show kindness to others today? How could your prayers change from "God help (fill in name)" to "God use me to help (fill in name)?"

DAY 10: PEACE

BIBLE VERSE ISAIAH 26:3

"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Are there any circumstances in your life that threaten to steal your peace? How can you purposefully fix your eyes on Jesus today — instead of fixating on your problems?

DAY 11: GENEROSITY

JOHN 3:16

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

REFLECTION

Do you struggle with selfish tendencies in any of these areas? In what ways can you take a step in being more generous with your time, talent and treasure?

DAY 12: FORGIVENESS

BIBLE VERSE COLOSSIANS 3:13

"Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

REFLECTION

Is there someone you are struggling to forgive? What could change in your life if you decided to forgive someone who hurt you?

DAY 13: WISDOM

JAMES 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

REFLECTION

Have you ever asked God for wisdom in a situation? What happened? Is there an area in your life you need to listen and follow God's wisdom over your own desires?

DAY 14: HONOR

BIBLE VERSE ROMANS 12:9–10

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

REFLECTION

Are there people in your life who are difficult to honor? How can you adjust your attitude towards those people? Do you struggle with honoring people who are different than you or who have different beliefs? PRAYER JOURNAL

DAY 15: JOYFULL PART 3

DAY 16: TRUTH

BIBLE VERSE JOHN 8:31–32

"Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.""

REFLECTION

Do you struggle with accepting the entirety of the Bible as unchanging truth? What are some lies from culture that you have believed? How can you counter those lies with God's eternal truth?

DAY 17: FAITH

BIBLE VERSE NUMBERS 23:19

"God 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?"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

In what ways do you need a fresh revelation of God's faithfulness? How is your faith level right now? Are there areas you aren't fully trusting in God?

DAY 18: SELF-CONTROL

BIBLE VERSE 2 TIMOTHY 1:7 "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."

REFLECTION

What is an area over which you have the most trouble exercising self-control? What safeguards could you put in place to help you demonstrate selfcontrol in this area?

DAY 19: CONTENTMENT

BIBLE VERSE PHILIPPIANS 4:11–13

"I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength."

REFLECTION

What is keeping you from living a life of contentment? What changes can you make today to start living a life of contentment?

DAY 20: OBEDIENCE

BIBLE VERSE 1 JOHN 5:2–3

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."

REFLECTION

Are there areas in your life where you are unwilling to obey God? How can you take steps to fully trust Him and trust that His ways are better than your own?

DAY 21: DISCIPLINE

bible verse 1 TIMOTHY 4:7–11

"Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things."

REFLECTION

What's one area of your spiritual life where you're lacking discipline? What changes do you need to make to up your discipline commitment? How do you plan to continue daily time with the LORD going forward?

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