



THAT I MAY
KNOW HIM

PRAYER GUIDE



THIRD QUARTER 2007

GENERATION NOW

Who among us is not in agreement with our Pastor's concern for the youth of the next generation—Generation Now?

As Jesus prayed for His disciples who were with Him at the moment, and then extended His prayer for those who would follow (John 17:20), let us enlarge the circle of our personal prayers by praying for not only our own families, but for all the families of Prestonwood. Let us pray not only for our own children and grandchildren, but encompass the youth of Prestonwood, the “Generation Now” to whom we’ll one day pass the responsibility for advancing the kingdom of God.

Let us join together, praying that we’ll be a people after God’s heart for generations to come. Let every prayer be pleasing to Him in its content and scope, praying His will to accomplish His purpose in every life. Let’s not limit what we’re asking God to do—or who we’re asking Him to reach through our prayers.

T H A T I M A Y
K N O W H I M

“...that I may know Him...” (Philippians 3:10a)

PrayerPower Ministries

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THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

Praying with Paul—

We're fortunate that Paul shares several of his prayers in his letters—fortunate not only because they are beautifully written, but because they provide insight to his heart for those he was discipling. Paul's passion was to know Christ personally, and he lived in spiritual intimacy with the Lord he loved so much. He wanted the same for his disciples.

Paul realized that in his day, as now, believers were apt to settle for less than God's best, often settling for a shallow, rather than spiritually mature life (1 Corinthians 3:2). Because Paul wanted more for them, he poured out his heart in his prayers, always asking God for more, better, deeper, richer spiritual growth and maturity.

Paul focused on spiritual rather than temporal needs in his prayers, which is why they are timeless. The needs for progressive and continuing spiritual growth are the same today as they were then.

Making Paul's Prayers Our Own—

We've taken Paul's prayers one verse or phrase at a time, including all of his longer prayers. The verses become a theme for each day's prayer, beginning with worship and confession, including supplication (asking). Other Scriptures round out the prayers.

Although the prayers may be prayed just as they are written, we've included prayer prompts at the end of each section, so that you can personalize them and keep them fresh each time you go through the guide.

Why should we pray Paul's prayers?

Paul prays for things that we might not think to ask, because we're often focused on daily needs (Matthew 6:11). But we need much more if we're to grow spiritually. That's what Paul's prayers are about, and we can know that what Paul prays is clearly God's will (1 John 5:14-15). Paul's prayers are part of the Scriptures, so when we pray them, we're praying the Word and can trust that God will use them to accomplish His purposes (Isaiah 55:11).

As God answers these prayers, we will find ourselves, as Paul did, knowing God in remarkably personal ways, living in spiritual intimacy with Him. We will know Him better, and love Him more, every day of our lives.

Day One:
Blessed Be God

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us...with every spiritual blessing in Christ...I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers....

(Ephesians 1:3, 16)

Father, I worship You—

I bless You, as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ—my Father, my Lord and my God. (Ephesians 1:3; Matthew 4:10). *Now, tell Him what He means to you...*

I confess—

The Apostle Paul has a heart of worship that can't be contained. How does my heart compare? (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:15-16). *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind...*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

I praise You and thank You that I may pray for these I know and love. Thank You for their salvation, for their growing faith and love for one another. (Psalm 100:4; Ephesians 1:3, 15-16) *Add your own prayer...*

For our Pastor, ministers, church staff—

I praise You and thank You for our Pastor and his staff, who work hard in Your service. May they never be content with their spiritual maturity, but continue to grow and study the Word. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) *Add your own prayer...*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

I praise You and thank You for them and for everything in their lives that You are using to draw them to Christ. (John 6:44) *Add your own prayer...*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Two: I Keep Asking

I keep asking that....

(Ephesians 1:17a)

Father, I worship You—

I praise You as our God who is willing to hear prayer, as my heavenly Father who invites me to ask, seek, and knock in prayer. (Psalm 65:2; Matthew 7:7-8) *Now, tell Him what He means to you....*

I confess—

We're taught to keep asking, to pray always and not to give up. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1) Am I that steadfast in my prayers? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to keep asking for the things that were important to the Apostle Paul in his prayers, for spiritual growth at every level of our walk with You. Help us to keep hold of the deep truths of our faith. (Colossians 1: 9-12; 1 Timothy 3:9) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, church staff—

May they keep asking for themselves and the church to continue maturing in Christ especially in our prayer lives, so that we will be built into the house of prayer that You desire us to be. (1 Peter 2:5; Luke 19:46) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

They may be those who pray, yet have no understanding that Jesus is the only way to You. Open their eyes to see. (2 Corinthians 4:4) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Three: Father of Glory

...remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory....

(Ephesians 1:16-17a)

Father, I worship You—

I turn my heart to worship and acknowledge You, blessed three-in-one, as the Father of glory, Lord of glory, Spirit of glory—You are our God of glory in every way! (Ephesians 1:16; 1 Corinthians 2:8; 1 Peter 4:14; Acts 7:2).

Now, worship Him for His glory....

I confess—

Jesus said we would worship You in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24) How do You receive my worship?

Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to be people of worship, those who worship You acceptably, in reverence and awe. May we be the kind of worshipers You seek. (Hebrews 12:28; John 4:23) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they live in the reality of surrendered lives, knowing that surrender itself is an act of spiritual worship. May that be their way of life, and an example for us to follow. (Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 11:1) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

They cannot worship in spirit, for their spirit has not been made alive with Christ. They cannot worship in truth, for they have no understanding of the truth. Save them by Your grace! (Ephesians 4:4; 2 Corinthians 2:14) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Four: That We May Know Him

...may [He, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ] give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

(Ephesians 1:17, NIV)

Father, I worship You—

I worship You as my Creator and my Maker, who has created me with spirit, soul and body, so that with my spirit I may know and experience Your presence in my life. (Colossians 1:16; Psalm 95:6; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; John 17:3) *Now, worship Him in light of this truth....*

I confess—

I want to know You personally, intimately, but do I spend sufficient time with You to maintain and develop such a relationship? (John 17:3; Matthew 6:6). *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to know You better than we ever have, to make the time we need to be alone with You for prayer and reading Your Word. (Ephesians 1:17; Matthew 6:6, 9-13; Psalm 119:15-16) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they know You better than they ever have, coming daily into the secret place with You, enjoying the close fellowship and spiritual intimacy that You desire with all of us. (Psalm 91:1-2, 9; 1 John 1:3). *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

May they come to know You! Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light. (Acts 26:18) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Five:

That We May Know His Power

I pray also...that you may know the hope to which he has called you...his glorious inheritance... and incomparably great power....

(Ephesians 1:18-19, NIV)

Father, I worship You—

I worship You as the One who has given me the hope, the certainty, of my salvation and inheritance in Christ. (Ephesians 1:18-19) *Now, tell Him what this means to you*

I confess—

Am I living beneath my heritage as Your child? Am I living as a child of the light? (John 1:12; Ephesians 5:8) *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to come to fully understand the inheritance that is ours in Christ, and to learn to appropriate Your great power to help us live as Your children should. (Ephesians 1:19; 1 Corinthians 4:20) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Help them to experience their inheritance in Christ as they minister today. Release Your power through their preaching and teaching, and as they present the gospel may Your power save those who hear. (Romans 1:16) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

May the day come when they will know and experience the hope of Christ and their inheritance! Help them to hear the gospel and receive Your saving power. (Romans 8:17; 1:16) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Six: Mighty Inner Strength

I pray that...he will give you mighty inner strength
through his Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 3:16, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as the strength of my heart—You are my strength and my song, my salvation! You are my God and I will praise You. (Psalm 73:26; Exodus 15:2) *Now, praise Him as your hearts leads you....*

I confess—

In my weakness I need Your strength, but I realize there times when I choose not to ask for it. (2 Corinthians 12:10) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Grant us Your mighty inner strength through Your Holy Spirit, the strength we need to put off the old and put on the new, to resist sin and turn away from it. (Ephesians 3:16, 4:22-24) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Give them inner strength to meet the physical and emotional demands of their ministry. Strengthen them to resist every temptation. Be their strength when they feel weak; keep them moving from strength to strength. (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 84:7) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

They are without Your Spirit and have no inner strength; please make them alive with Christ while they are dead in their sins. (Ephesians 2:5) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Seven: Christ in Your Heart

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith....

(Ephesians 3:17, NIV)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You, Father, knowing You and Christ are One. I praise You, Lord Jesus, as Christ who lives in me. I bless You, Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of my Father. (John 10:30; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:9; Matthew 10:20) *Now, worship Him as your triune God....*

I confess—

I want Christ to live in my heart and be at home there, so I ask is my heart as clean and pure as it needs to be? (Psalm 51:7, 10) *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to live so that Christ lives freely in our hearts. May we guard our hearts, confessing our sins and keeping them pure for Him. (Ephesians 3:17; Proverbs 4:23; 1 John 1:9) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May Christ live within their hearts. May they have pure hearts and a clear conscience, and fully commit their hearts to You. (1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Kings 8:61, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Keep them from letting their hearts grow calloused by choosing not to believe; open their hearts to receive Christ. (Acts 28:26-27, NIV; 16:14). *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Eight: Rooted and Established in Love

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ....

(Ephesians 3:17b-18, NIV)

Father, I worship You—

Father, I exalt You as our Father whose love for us sent Your Son to the cross. I worship You, Jesus, as the Lamb of God, whose love led You to the cross. (John 3:16; 1:29; 15:13). *Now, share with Him what such love means to you....*

I confess—

I want to demonstrate my love to You in return; Jesus said we show our love through obedience. (John 14:21) Where in my life do I need to take this more to heart? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

May our lives be securely rooted in Your love, so that it will nourish us to stand firm in our faith. (Ephesians 3:17; 2 Corinthians 1:24) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Help them to grasp how wide and long, high and deep Your love is, and to be confident no one can separate them from it. (Romans 8:35-39) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Thank You that they are able to love You, because You have loved them first. Turn their hearts toward You. (1 John 4:19; John 3:16; Proverbs 21:1) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Nine: To Experience This Love

[That you may really come] to know
[*practically, through experience for yourselves*]
the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere
knowledge [without experience]....

(Ephesians 3:19a, AMP, italics added)

Father, I worship You—

Again I come to reflect on Your amazing love. There is no greater love, for You laid down Your life for us—that is how we know what love is! (1 John 3:16) *Now, tell Him how much His love means to you....*

I confess—

In light of such love, I want to love You in return—with all of my heart (Matthew 22:37). Am I even close? Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to experience—to abide in, to be secure in—Your love, and be consciously aware of it. May we see that the love that sent You to the cross is with us today. (Ephesians 3:19; John 15:9; Jude 21) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they, too, experience the reality of Your love. May Christ's love be the motivation of their lives and ministry—may they be compelled by the love of Christ! (Ephesians 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:14, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

In Your kindness and love, save them because of Your mercy. (Titus 3:4-5, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Ten: Filled with the Fullness of God

...that you may be filled to the measure of all
of the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3:19b, NIV)

Father, I worship You—

When I think of being filled to the measure with You, I worship You as the One who has grafted me into the Vine. I exalt Jesus, my life-giving Vine, and the Spirit who pours His life into me. (John 15:1; 14:16-18; 23) *Now, thank Him for His life in you....*

I confess—

I cannot be filled with the Spirit if I am full of self. Show me anything that I have not fully surrendered. (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 12:1-2) *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

May we be filled to the measure, none of us content until we're living Spirit-filled lives. Help us to be increasingly emptied of self so that He is able to live in us as fully as He desires. (Ephesians 3:19; 5:18; Romans 12:1-2) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May it be equally so for them, that they will live as branches filled with the life of Christ, bearing His fruit for Your glory. (John 15:5, 7-8) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Because of Your mercy, wash away their sins and give them new life through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 9:18; Acts 22:16; 2:38-39) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Eleven: Overflowing Love

I pray that your love for each other
will overflow more and more....

(Philippians 1:9, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

Blessed holy One, I worship You as the One who taught us how to love, who showed us how to demonstrate our love for one another. You are the embodiment of love! (1 John 4:9-12, 16) *Now, worship Him for His love....*

I confess—

Your love both overwhelms and convicts me, for I'm to love others as You love me (John 13:34). Show me where I've fallen short. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

May our love for each other overflow more and more, Your perfect *agape* love that has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. May all that we do be done in His love. (Philippians 1:9; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 16:14) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Help them to love us and each other with the unconditional *agape* love of Christ. May the love that is the fruit of the Spirit flow from them as rivers of living water, washing over every life they touch. (Galatians 5:22; John 7:38) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Pour Your Spirit into them that they may live, and love with Your love. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; 2 John 5) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twelve: Growing in Spiritual Knowledge

...and at the same time keep on growing in
spiritual knowledge and insight....

(Philippians 1:10, TLB)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as the One who is willing to give us spiritual knowledge, who has provided the Holy Spirit. I worship Him as the Spirit of knowledge who indwells me, who is with me to grant me spiritual insight. (Acts 8:20; Isaiah 11:2) *Now, praise Him for the gift of the Spirit....*

I confess—

Still, whether or not I grow spiritually is up to me (Hebrews 5:1-3a). Are You pleased with the progress I'm making? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Keep us growing; help us to not be satisfied with our present level of spiritual knowledge and insight. May we be willing to study and apply the Scriptures to our lives. (1 Corinthians 3:2) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Keep them growing as well, for we look to them to teach us. Help them to look to You—protect their time alone with You, that they may hear You explain things, to take them into deeper levels of understanding the Word. (Mark 4:34; Luke 24:27, 45) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Grant them understanding of Your truth as they hear Your Word, for faith comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17). *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Thirteen: Be Pure and Blameless

For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until Christ returns.

(Philippians 1:10, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I worship You as the God of peace who sanctifies me, who makes me holy and pure in Your sight. I exalt You, Lord Jesus, as the Lamb who made it possible. (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 5:7) *Now, praise Him for making you holy in His sight . . .*

I confess—

You sanctify me, yet I have responsibility to keep myself blameless. (2 Peter 3:14) What do You see in my life in this regard? *Pause . . . and confess anything that comes to mind . . .*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to live pure and blameless lives, making every effort to live honorably in every respect. May we guard our thoughts, thinking only about things that are proper and right. (Philippians 1:10; 2 Peter 1:5-7; 5:22; Philippians 4:8) *Add your own prayer . . .*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they keep themselves pure, setting an example for us. Help them to turn away from worldly pursuits and live genuine and godly lives. (1 Timothy 4:12; Titus 2:12) *Add your own prayer . . .*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Grant them repentance. Lead them to a knowledge of the truth, so that they can come to their senses and escape the devil's trap. (2 Timothy 2:25-26) *Add your own prayer . . .*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Fourteen: Filled with the Fruit

...[and be] filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

(Philippians 1:11)

Father, I worship You—

I revere You as the Lord who is both our righteous judge and our advocate who speaks in our defense; thank You for Your blood that has washed us clean. (Psalm 7:11; 2 Timothy 4:8; Psalm 51:7). *Now, continue to express your gratitude....*

I confess—

I'm grateful for the righteousness of Christ, yet I must daily seek Your kingdom and righteousness. (Matthew 6:33) Show me what You see as my priority. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Develop in us a hunger and thirst for righteousness, so that we will pursue it in every way, carefully giving thought to how we live. (Matthew 5:6; 1 Timothy 6:11; Proverbs 21:29) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they walk before You in righteousness, and teach with integrity. May the fruit of their righteousness be seen in their lives, the good, kind things that show they belong to You. (Titus 2:7; Philippians 1:10-11, TLB) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

They have no righteousness apart from Christ, so I ask for their salvation. Christ has already paid the price, dying for them while they are yet sinners! (Romans 3:10; 5:6-8) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Fifteen: Asking to Know God's Will

...asking that you may be filled with the
knowledge of his will....

(Colossians 1:9, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I praise You as the great Shepherd of the sheep, the One who equips us with everything good for doing Your will, who works in us what is pleasing to You. (Hebrews 13:20-21, NIV) *Praise Him for the way He is working in you....*

I confess—

I want to be like Christ, always doing what pleases You (John 8:29). What do I need to see? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Fill us with the knowledge of Your will. May we make every effort to learn Your will, to become students of the Word, not only studying the Bible, but doing what it says. (Ephesians 5:17; Acts 17:11; James 1:22) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Grant them complete understanding of Your will. May they have the attitude of Christ, living in submission to You with their only desire to do Your will; may they do it from their hearts. (John 6:38; Luke 22:42; Ephesians 6:6) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

The lost cannot be filled with the knowledge of Your will, because that must be spiritually discerned. In Your kindness, open their minds to the truth. (1 Corinthians 2:14; Luke 24:45) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Sixteen: Asking for Spiritual Wisdom

...and we ask him to make you wise
with spiritual wisdom.

(Colossians 1:9 b, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You, for You alone are truly wise with the wisdom of heaven—our only wise God. True wisdom and real power belong to You. (James 3:17, NLT; Romans 16:27; Job 12:13, TLB) *Now, worship Him for His wisdom . . .*

I confess—

I know the wisdom of the world is foolish to You, and it should be to me. (1 Corinthians 3:18-19) But do I always live as though it is? *Pause . . . and confess anything that comes to mind . . .*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Make us wise with Your wisdom, so that we'll be careful how we live. Help us not to be impressed with our own wisdom, but to have a healthy fear of You and stay away from evil. (Ephesians 5:15-16, NLT; Proverbs 3:7, NLT) *Add your own prayer . . .*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Make them wise with Your wisdom, and give them discerning hearts. Wherever they go, may they tell everyone about Christ, teaching them with all the wisdom You have given them. (Colossians 1:28, NLT) *Add your own prayer . . .*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

How can they have spiritual wisdom apart from You? Send someone to share the gospel not simply with words, but with the power of the Holy Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5, NLT) *Add your own prayer . . .*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Seventeen:
Walking Worthy of the Lord

...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord....

(Colossians 1:10a)

Father, I worship You—

Worthy! Lord, You alone are worthy of our worship, worthy to receive glory and honor. I will exalt You, my God and my King, for You are great and worthy of praise. (Revelation 5:11; Psalm 145:1, 3) *Now, continue your worship....*

I confess—

A worthy life is one that honors You. (Colossians 1:10a, NLT) Is this true of every part of my life? *Pause... and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to walk worthy of You, to do our best, in Your strength, to imitate You. May we daily clothe ourselves with Christ and give no thought to satisfying our sinful desires. (Ephesians 5:1; Romans 13:12, 14) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they walk worthy of You, with a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith—keep them from wandering away from strong and right living. Help them to keep a close watch on themselves, as we all should. (1 Timothy 1:5; 4:16) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

They know nothing of walking in a manner worthy of You. Please send the Spirit to show them the truth about their sin and their need for repentance. (John 16:8) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Eighteen: Fully Pleasing the Lord

...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
fully pleasing to him....

(Colossians 1:10b)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as the Lord of all the earth—Lord of the whole world!—and as my Lord and my God. I praise You, for You are God, my Savior. (John 20:28; Psalm 97:5; Zechariah 6:5, NIV; Luke 1:47). *Now, tell Him how much He means to you....*

I confess—

Is my desire to please You wholly motivated by love? Is there any way that legalism has slipped into my life? (2 John 6; Galatians 3:1-5) *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

May we live in such a way as to be fully pleasing to You. Work in us, giving us the desire to obey You and the power to do what pleases You. (Philippians 2:13) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Help them to live to fully please You, keeping a firm grip on their faith—and themselves. May they train themselves to be godly, living wisely and with self-control. (1 Timothy 1:19, Msg.; 4:7; 3:2, NLT) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Help them to see their need of a Savior and lead them to call on the name of the Lord, for all who do will be saved. (Acts 2:21) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Nineteen: Bearing Fruit

...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work....

(Colossians 1:10)

Father, I worship You—

I praise You as our Lord, as Christ who has redeemed us, the One by whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together. (Galatians 3:14; Colossians 1:16-17) *Now, tell Him how grateful you are....*

I confess—

If we sow sparingly, we'll reap sparingly; the reverse is equally true. (2 Corinthians 9:6) How do You see the seeds I'm sowing through my life? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to bear fruit in every good work—to not get caught up in serving for serving's sake, but to have an eternal purpose in mind, to be the aroma of Christ wherever we are, whatever we're doing. (2 Corinthians 2:15) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they bear fruit in every good work—doing everything wholeheartedly as though working for You. Help them not to grow weary or discouraged; keep them from being distracted. (Colossians 3:22-25 NIV; Galatians 6:9) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Help these who are lost to understand that they cannot be saved by their own righteousness, but only by Your grace. Lead them to accept Your amazing gift. (Ephesians 2:8-9) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty: Knowing God Better

All the while, you will learn to know
God better and better.

(Colossians 1:10b, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as our Most High God, higher than the highest, our blessed and only Ruler. I marvel that You welcome me into Your presence. (Psalm 91:1; 1 Timothy 6:15, NIV; 1 Thessalonians 3:9) *Now, tell Him how much this means to you....*

I confess—

We must choose to live consciously in Your presence, to set our minds on things above (Psalm 91:9; Colossians 3:2). What do You think of my thought life? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to know You better *and better*, to grow increasingly close to You, hearing Your voice more clearly, sensing Your presence more completely. (1 John 1:3, Msg.; John 10:4-5; Matthew 28:20) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they too know You better *and better*. Protect their private devotional time with You. Don't let them substitute the hard work of ministry for the joy of living in the secret place with You. (Matthew 6:6; Psalm 91:1-2) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

In Your kindness, lead them to repentance. Don't let them come to the end of their lives and hear You say, "I never knew You." (Romans 2:4; Matthew 7:22-23) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-One: Strengthened for Patience and Endurance

We also pray that you will be strengthened with his glorious power so that you will have all the patience and endurance you need....

(Colossians 1:11, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as Lord Almighty, the Mighty One, our Everlasting God who gives strength to the weary and power to the weak. (2 Corinthians 6:18; Joshua 22:22; Isaiah 40:28-29, NIV) *Now, worship Him for His strength and power....*

I confess—

With Your patience available to me, why do I find myself impatient so much of the time (Galatians 5:22)? Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Strengthen us for the patience and endurance that will help us be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient, putting up with each other, and forgiving anyone who offends us. (Colossians 3:12, CEV) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Grant them strength for the patience and endurance they need to continue teaching the Word in all its truth, encouraging them even as they challenge and warn people about their sins. (2 Timothy 4:2) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Thank You for Your patience, for not wanting any to be lost, but for everyone to turn away from sin. Change their hearts and turn them to the truth. (2 Peter 3:9, CEV) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Two: Strengthened to Give Thanks

May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people....

(Colossians 11-12, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as the Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift. I rejoice that You have given me every spiritual gift in Christ! (James 1:17; Ephesians 1:3) *Now, thank Him for His good and perfect gifts....*

I confess—

I'm so grateful for my spiritual blessings, beginning with my salvation! Do I even begin to thank You sufficiently? (Hebrews 12:28) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Strengthen us to have grateful hearts in every circumstance, thanking You for the blessings of our inheritance. May we sing hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts! (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Colossians 3:16) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Strengthen them with gratitude for their spiritual blessings, that they may thankfully teach others with the Word that dwells in them so richly. May all they do, be done in the name of the Lord Jesus with thanksgiving. (Colossians 3:15-17) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Reveal to them the truth about Your Son, that they may declare as Peter did to Jesus, "You are the Christ!" (Matthew 16:16-17) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Three:

Living in the Kingdom of Light

...always thanking the Father, who has enabled you to share the inheritance that belongs to God's holy people, who live in the light.

(Colossians 1:12, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I worship You as the Light of the World, as the great Light who shines on those who walk in darkness, as the bright Morning Star. (John 8:12; Matthew 4:16, TLB; Revelation 22:16, NIV) *Now, tell Him what His light means to you....*

I confess—

Your light exposes the darkness of sin, and so I ask You to shine Your light on my life. (Ephesians 5:13-14) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to live as Your children in the kingdom of light—full of Your light. Let our behavior show it, for Your light will produce what is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5:8-9) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they live in the kingdom of light, shining forth as light in the world. Make their light shine so that others will see the good that they do and praise You for it! (Matthew 5:14-16) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to You, so they may receive Your forgiveness. (Acts 26:18, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Four: Abounding in Love

And may the Lord make your love grow and overflow to each other and to everyone else....

(1 Thessalonians 3:12, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I praise You for Your unfailing love for us, for loving us with an everlasting love, for Your covenant of love that cannot be broken! (Psalm 119:76, NIV; Jeremiah 31:3; Deuteronomy 7:12) *Now, worship Him as Your God of love....*

I confess—

We are to imitate You, and that includes Your willingness to love us with unfailing love (Ephesians 5:1) Show me where my love misses the mark. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Increase our love others in the body of Christ—and everyone else. Help us to choose to love others with Your *agape* love that is patient and kind, doesn't envy or boast, isn't proud or rude, irritable or resentful—and doesn't insist on its own way. (1 Corinthians 13:4-5) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Increase their love for both the saved and the lost. May love be their highest goal, and may they prove themselves by their sincere love as they faithfully preach the truth. (1 Corinthians 14:1, NLT; 2 Corinthians 6:6, NLT) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Because of Your great love for them, save them by Your grace. (Ephesians 2:5) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Five: Hearts Strong and Blameless

As a result [of your love growing], Christ will make
your hearts strong, blameless, and holy when you
stand before God....

(1 Thessalonians 3:12-13, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You, Holy Father; You are enthroned as the Holy One, our God who alone is holy. Holy and awesome is Your name! (John 17:11; Psalm 22:3; Revelation 15:4; Psalm 111:9) *Now, continue to worship Him in His holiness....*

I confess—

We are told to be holy in all that we do. (1 Peter 1:15) Show me what I need to see in my life. *Pause... and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Make our hearts strong, blameless and holy, for we've been chosen to be a kingdom of priests, a holy people who belong to You, Your instruments to do Your work and speak out for You. (1 Peter 2:9a) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Give them hearts that are strong, blameless and holy so they can live rightly with undivided devotion to You. Help them to live holy, godly lives. (1 Corinthians 7:35; 2 Peter 3:11) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Send someone to tell them about the night-and-day difference You have made in their lives; call these who are lost out of the darkness and into Your wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9b, Msg./ESV) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Six: Counted Worthy of God's Calling

...we pray for you all the time...that our God will make you fit for what he's called you to be, pray that he'll fill your good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something.

(2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, Msg.)

Father, I worship You—

I praise You One who holds my times in Your hands, who numbers my days—who has a plan and purpose for my life! (Psalm 31:15; 139:16; Jeremiah 29:11) *Now, share your heart with Him*

I confess—

One day I'll have to give an accounting of my life. (Romans 14:12) In light of Your plan and purpose, what do You now see? *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Make us fit for what You have called us to be. Let Your power work within us, beyond anything we can think or imagine—so that everything we are will serve Your purpose. (Ephesians 3:20-21) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Keep them fit for all that You want them to be and to do, enabling them to go and make disciples, teaching them all You have commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

To them the message of the cross is foolishness; may they hear it in the power of the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:18-19, NIV; 2:12-13) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Seven: Glorifying the Name of Jesus

We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(2 Thessalonians 1:12)

Father, I worship You—

I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever. My soul magnifies You, my spirit rejoices in You—holy is Your name! (Psalm 86:12; Luke 1:46-47, 49) *Now, continue to praise His name....*

I confess—

Am I living so that the name of the Lord Jesus is glorified in me? (2 Thessalonians 1:12) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

May we live so that the name of the Lord Jesus is glorified in us. Grant us a spirit of unity as we follow Christ, so that we will glorify You as one. (Romans 15:5-6) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they live so that the name of the Lord Jesus is glorified in them, living such good lives that others may see their good deeds and glorify You. (1 Peter 2:12) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

May the day come quickly that they can glorify the name of the Lord, for You have said You want all men to be saved. (1 Timothy 2:1-4) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Eight: **Doing What Is Right**

We pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. We pray this, not to show that our ministry to you has been successful, but because we want you to do right....

(2 Corinthians 13:7, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as the Holy and Righteous One. You alone are immortal and live in unapproachable light—may You be honored forever! (1 Timothy 6:15-16) *Now, honor Him with Your praise....*

I confess—

How far am I from not doing *anything* wrong? (2 Corinthians 13:7) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Keep us from doing what's wrong and help us to do what's right. Help us to have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. (Hebrews 13:18) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

Keep them from doing what's wrong and help them to do what's right. May they live as Your servants, able to commend themselves because they stay on guard, standing firm in their faith as men of courage. (2 Corinthians 6:4; 1 Corinthians 16:13) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Some are like Lydia, people of prayer who honor You with worship, unaware that they have never received Christ. Open their hearts as You opened hers. (Acts 16:13-14, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Twenty-Nine: Actively Sharing Our Faith

I pray that you may be active in sharing
your faith.... (Philemon 6)

Father, I worship You—

I exalt You as God my Savior and Christ Jesus my hope, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the whole world! My hope is in You, the living God, my Savior and Redeemer. (1 Timothy 1:1; John 1:36; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 1:4; Galatians 3:13) *Now, praise Him as your only hope....*

I confess—

Am I keeping this good news to myself? (Romans 10:13-15) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to be active in sharing our faith, sharing the good news of the gospel wherever we go. Make us witnesses of the light! May we never be hesitant to share the gospel. (Romans 10:15; John 1:8; Romans 1:16) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they be active in sharing their faith, not just in services but as a way of life—for how can anyone call on the name of the Lord and be saved unless they've heard? How can they hear, unless someone tells them? (Romans 10:13-15) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Bring them someone to share, that they may hear; may the Spirit breathe life into them! (Romans 10:13-15; Revelation 11:11) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Thirty: Filling Up Our Faith

Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to fill up anything that may still be missing in your faith.

(1 Thessalonians 3:10, NLT)

Father, I worship You—

I worship and exalt You, our God who sits on Your throne and saves our prayers in Your golden bowls. (Revelation 7:15; 8:1-4) *Now, tell Him what it means to you that He is willing to hear your prayers....*

I confess—

Am I the person of prayer You want me to be? (Matthew 6:6, 9-13) Show me what You see. *Pause...and confess anything that comes to mind....*

For ourselves, our children, generations to follow—

Help us to pray earnestly, night and day, with a clear conscience—may nothing hinder our prayers. May we pray with the faith of a mustard seed—living faith that does not doubt. (2 Timothy 1:3; Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7; Matthew 17:20; Mark 11:22-24) *Add your own prayer....*

For our Pastor, ministers, and church staff—

May they pray earnestly, night and day—powerful and effective prayers that bring results! May their prayers be heard as Jesus' were, because of their reverent submission. (James 5:16b, NIV; Hebrews 5:7, NIV) *Add your own prayer....*

For the lost in families and touched by our church—

Their sins prevent You from hearing their prayers, except when they call upon the name of the Lord. Enable them to call! (Isaiah 59:2; Acts 2:21; John 6:65) *Add your own prayer....*

In Jesus' name, amen.

Day Thirty-One:

Praying as We Read God's Word

It's good to pray Paul's prayers, but we should also pray through God's Word as an integral part of our daily prayer time. We simply talk to God as we read, thanking Him for His revelations of who He is, what He is like, how He works in the world, and what He expects of us.

If we ask, God will help us develop a listening ear as we read, giving us new understanding and application for our lives. He will help us develop the habit of meditating on what we've read, thinking about it during the day.

Prayer is meant to be a dialogue with the Lord: We speak and He listens; He speaks—not audibly, but clearly to our hearts—and we should respond. At times it will seem to be a conversation between our *Abba* Father and His child. Other times, He may seem more like our Teacher speaking to His student, or our Shepherd leading us as His dependent sheep.

This means slowing down, lingering over verses or passages—not necessarily for a long period of time, but simply reading fewer verses in the time we have. We should read through the Bible, following whatever pattern seems best for us. But as we read, let's set aside our tendency to cover a specific number of chapters a day. It's better to read a few verses prayerfully, because in the Word we're meeting God.


ARE YOU A CHILD OF GOD?

This is a question that is easy to answer—if you aren't sure—by Scriptures that reveal this truth:

- Have you believed in Christ, trusting Him, relying on Him for everything? Have you received Christ into Your heart and life? (John 1:12)
- Have you become a new creation in Christ? Have you changed—desiring to turn away from sin, to spend time in God's Word, to live the life His children are called to live? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Do you know Christ through personal experience? (Matthew 7:21-23)
- Have you believed in Your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and spoken with your mouth that Jesus is Lord? (Romans 10:9)
- Have you repented—turning away from sin, desiring to live an obedient life? (Luke 13:3, 5)

If these things don't seem real in your life, and you want them to be, speak to a pastor or godly friend—or pray a prayer like this:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son; I now receive Him into my heart. I believe that He died for my sins, that He was buried and raised again to new life. I confess that I have sinned against You, and I'm sorry. Forgive me, and help me to turn away from sin in Your strength. I acknowledge Jesus as my Savior and my Lord, and I pray in His name, amen.”



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