

21 Day Prayer Guide Prayer For Your Personal Life

Week 1
January 9, 2022 – January 15, 2022

Day 1, January 9: To Increase In Spiritual Hunger And Holiness

Psalm 51:10-12: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Daniel 6:10: Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

It was Daniel's practice, three times a day, to go to an upstairs room in his apartment, open the windows facing Jerusalem, get down on his knees, and pray to the one true God. No doubt, Daniel prayed at other times also. He probably prayed throughout the day. But there were these special times, set aside times, where it was his priority to meet with God in prayer. In fact, it was such a priority to Daniel that when the king passed a decree that for the next thirty days' people could only pray to the king, Daniel was unfazed. "No way." Daniel may have been an important official in Darius' kingdom, but when the king's law (don't pray) conflicted with God's Law (pray), the choice was clear. Daniel just kept right on praying.

Read Daniel 6. Daniel was thrown in the lion's lair, but God protected Daniel, delivered Daniel, honored Daniel, and put it in the Bible for all to see.

Of the many truths in this stunning chapter, one concerns Daniel's prayer. Three times a day, he set aside a special time to pray. God nowhere commands us that we must do the same, but there is wisdom here. Wisdom would suggest a special time, or several briefer times, set aside each day to meet with God in prayer. A time we prize. A time we protect. A time we prioritize.

Yes, we want to pray throughout the day, an ongoing conversation with our Father. But it is wise to also have a special time of prayer each day. Maybe it's not a long time, but it is your time, as in you and God. It is your time to talk and listen and be together, no matter what else happens that day. Your time to connect. During that time, God will fill you up, restore your soul, and prepare you for whatever the day brings.

REFLECT:

- Describe your thoughts around Daniel and his commitment to the Lord.
- What special time will you set aside in the next 21 days to talk and listen to God?

PRAYER:

Lord, awaken my heart to Your love. Give me an increased hunger to spend more time in prayer, worship, and Your Word. Please give me a greater awareness of Your holiness, a tender conscience, and a heart to please You in every thought, word, and deed.

Day 2, January 10: To Draw Close To The Lord

Psalm 24:3-4: Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

Psalm 32:5: Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

How can I sincerely draw close to a God who is all powerful, all knowing, and fully aware of all the reasons I do not belong in His presence? Is it really safe? Is this really what God desires?

It is a common malady of this Christian life to face serious insecurities when considering approaching God. In my own life, I have experienced many dark seasons of feeling unworthy or uniquely disqualified from this privilege.

Why the struggle? Because I know me! I know my propensity to sin. I know my inability to give God the righteousness He deserves. If I were Him, I wouldn't be pleased to have me come near.

Praise God. He knows we have these struggles. And, He has an answer.

First, my confidence in drawing near to God is not based on my performance. My confidence is in the performance of Jesus. Hebrews 4 instructs us to come to God with boldness based on our full confidence in the finished work of Jesus on our behalf.

And second, my confidence in drawing near to God is based on His love. I can trust His love for me. And strangely enough, the very things in my life that appear to disqualify me – sin, weakness, failure, flaws, etc. – provide convincing proof of God's love.

If someone says they love you, but are not familiar with your past failures or current weaknesses, you cannot be sure they really love you. But if they are fully aware of the good and the 'ugly' and love you anyway, you are truly loved. Praise God! He knows it all and loves us anyway. My sin and weakness become my opportunity to really know He loves me. I can really trust His love for me.

Today we draw near to God. We do this by uncovering the 'ugly' side. We confess our sin. We reveal the part of our life that puts His love for us to the test (at least in our minds). And praise God again... He proves His love. He forgives and loves us anyway.

REFLECT:

- It's not until we recognize the depth of our sin that we realize the depth of God's love. What sins have you minimized to 'little mistakes' versus acknowledging they are what nailed Jesus to the cross?
- According to Romans 2:4, what leads us to repentance?

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, reveal anything in my life that would hinder my ability to come into Your presence. Help me see my propensity towards sin and help me to change. Help me to see my sin the way You see it. Thank You for loving me in spite of my failures. Lord, it is your loving-kindness that leads me to repentance.

Day 3, January 11: To Worship With A Whole Heart

Psalm 111:1: Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 27:8: My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

In You, O God, I find my identity. When I come to seek You, I find that You are already here, seeking me. What gives my worship meaning is so much more than anything that I can do or say - it is You! You are the reason I came to exist, You are the giver of my next breath, and You are the reason for my continued being. You are the reason I worship. I worship You with my whole heart.

I come to worship You because of who You are! You are the one and only true God! I bring You praise because of Your holiness. You are so gracious to me, and You have already done more than enough for me to bring You thanksgiving. I worship You.

May my life bring glory to You, my Lord and my God. I want to worship You with my whole heart. I am not ashamed to declare my love and adoration for You before others. All I am is Yours, and I belong to you. I am Your possession. May You be pleased with my worship.

I long to recapture a spirit of genuine worship, a personal revival of my whole being, heart, soul, and spirit. Heaven and earth declare Your glory, O God, and therefore so do I. All of creation submits to You, and so my life is surrendered to You. I am willing to do Your will. How can I be in Your presence and not be changed? I long to be the kind of worshipper that You have been looking for, fully devoted to You. I worship You with my whole heart.

REFLECT:

- How has being in God's presence changed you?
- Because everything we do can be an act of worship, how does this affect your view and more so, your attitude about common, everyday tasks?

PRAYER:

Humbly and yet confidently, I come into Your presence. I am relying on the promise of Christ, providing me the relationship with You as my Heavenly Father. Bring me fully into Your presence O God. Lead me more fully into Your will so that every day of my life will be worship, offering a living sacrifice to bring You glory.

Day 4, January 12: To Set The Desire Of Your Heart

Psalm 27:4: One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 37:4: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

When it comes to setting our hearts in the proper place, there may be no better example outside of Jesus than an obscure often forgotten figure in the Old Testament named Ezra. He didn't lead the first wave of exiles back to Jerusalem; he led the second. He wasn't a powerful military leader, just a scribe. He didn't even show up in the book that bore his name until chapter 7 (out of only 10). But once Ezra arrived on the scene, he arrived in force.

We learn that the hand of God was all over this man (Ezra 7:6,9,28). That he successfully led 5,000 people with 30 tons of precious metals on a four month, 900-mile journey from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 8). That he was supremely concerned about holiness and the purity of God's people (Ezra 9). And that he ultimately led God's people to repentance like few other scenes we read in scripture (Ezra 10).

So what's the point? The point is that all of Ezra's success can be Biblically directed back to the place where he set his heart. This is the key to Ezra's life of leadership and a clear guide to success with God in our own lives. Set your heart to the study of God's word. Set your heart to doing God's word. And set your heart to giving God's word away.

REFLECT:

- The world needs more people like Ezra. Where will you set your heart?
- According to Matthew 6:33, what should you seek first?

PRAYER:

Lord I want You to be the top priority of my life with nothing even close in second place. Help me, Father, to love You more than I ever have before. I want You to fill my heart, all of it, so Your love and grace can flow richly through me to everyone I come in contact with.

Day 5, January 13: To Walk In Wisdom And Revelation

Psalm 43:3: Send me your light and your faithful care, let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy mountain, to the place where you dwell.

Ephesians 1:17-18: I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and the incomparably great power for us who believe.

Too often we slide slowly into the normalcy of pretending and stay there unaware. With this strange statement, I mean that as Christ Jesus has resurrected our souls by His grace, we know that light and life only come from Him. We are convinced of this emphatic truth. We've looked elsewhere for life and have been awakened to its emptiness. But sadly, we often return there slowly and sink into the gray of unintentional motion, conditioned responses, and banal routine.

Lord Jesus, Open our eyes!

James, the leader of the Jerusalem church, reminds us that when we lack wisdom, we should ask it of God who gives generously. In Psalm 43, the Psalmist confesses that God's light and God's truth are the only reliable leaders, for they bring us to where He is.

God of Heaven, Lead us with your light and truth!

As we continue our way into this consecrated season of prayer and fasting, we are coming together as a church praying that God would lead us, open our eyes, and give us the moving power of His Spirit in a fresh and awakening way. This prayer is a heart-felt, guttural, straining desire to return to True Reality, God's light and life. We know that Christ Jesus has resurrected our souls by His grace and that light and life, along with wisdom and revelation, come only from Him.

REFLECT:

- Where have you sensed God giving you the gift of wisdom and discernment in your life?
- James tells us that God will give us wisdom if we ask. Will you ask Him for wisdom? He promises to give it to you when you ask.

PRAYER:

Lord, open my eyes to see You more clearly and my ears to hear anything You desire to speak. I pray for a Spirit of wisdom and revelation that I might know Jesus more deeply and have a profound understanding of the hope that is in His heart for me.

Day 6, January 14: To Be Filled With Power And Purpose

Psalm 61:3 & 5: For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe. For you, God, have heard my vows; you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

Psalm 92:11: My eyes have seen the defeat of my adversaries; my ears have heard the rout of my wicked foes.

Romans 15:13: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we near the end of the first week of fasting, you may be tired. You may be wondering how you will be able to fast for two more weeks. It reminds me of how often in life we feel tired. Physically tired, spiritually tired, emotionally tired. We have so many things pulling at our time and making us tired. Our daily task lists just seem to get longer and longer with less and less time for rest. Do you ever have those days where you just feel completely drained? Like you have nothing left to give? I often ask myself, "How can I fulfill the purpose God has for me when I feel like I have no more to give?" The answer is simple. God's Word, the Bible.

Jesus tells us in John 15:1-4, "I am the vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful... Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." It takes discipline to keep our devotions at the top of the priority list. Especially, when there are so many other things fighting to be at the top of the list. The Bible is very clear though, in that if we are to bear fruit we must stay connected to the vine. He will prune us to bear fruit and cut off what is not bearing fruit for His purpose. God does have a plan and a purpose for each and every one of us. We must remain in Him to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. If we put God first and stay connected to Him, He will give us the strength and power to do the tasks He has set before us.

REFLECT:

- What areas of your life are not bearing fruit and can be pruned?
- Where will you find more time in your schedule to stay connected to the Vine?

PRAYER:

Father God, I pray for You to help me stay connected to the Vine. Lord, I desire You in every aspect of my life. Please prune off the things that are not important and get in the way of my time with You. I know that I can only fulfill your purpose for me by being filled with Your Holy Spirit.

Day 7, January 15: To Find And Fulfill Your Destiny

Psalm 139:24b: ...lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 18:36: You provide a broad path for my feet, so that my ankles do not give way.

Psalm 37:23: The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.

Psalm 44:18: Our hearts had not turned back; our feet had not strayed from your path.

So often, we are the ones to decide what we want to be or do with our life. As children, we are asked “what do you want to be when you grow up?” There is an unspoken pressure to decide, and then somewhere around your junior or senior year in high school, it becomes spoken with a deadline affixed to your sophomore year in college. But, finding and fulfilling our destiny can only be done in God.

Joseph was given a dream, David had an encounter with a prophet, and Joshua had a mentor. In all three cases, God conveyed His plan into the lives of these individuals.

Jeremiah wrote that God has a plan for your life and when you seek Him, you will discover your destiny (Jeremiah 29:11- 13). Moreover, you find out His plan is far superior to yours.

Holding on to the dream is tough when you face prison time and accusation as Joseph did. The words of the prophet can fade away when you find yourself hiding and living in caves, as David did. The disciplines of your apprenticeship imparted by a mentor can become a lonely place when he is gone, as Joshua discovered. However, all three experienced what Mary said in Luke 1:37, “no word from God is without power”.

It is only the word from God that can sustain you in the long term. His plan for our lives is better than our own. The greatest joy, fulfillment, and success come when we seek Him about the direction for our lives and commit to follow His plan for us.

REFLECT:

- Where do you believe God is leading you?
- Are you willing to surrender your plan to discover and live out His plan for you?

PRAYER:

Lord, please give me the next step in Your Divine plan for my life. Help me to be still and know that You are God, so that I can clearly sense Your guidance and hear from You. I commit to follow You, forever.