



MDPC Women's Ministry is thrilled to share with you 31 Days of Prayer for 2025! Whether you can kick off the year with 31 Days or utilize it throughout the year, it is a love offering from women to women at MDPC. It is our heart and prayer that as you read and reflect on the day's entry, you will be in awe of the God who wants to be in conversation with you each and every moment of the day.

This year we are looking at seven (one for each day of the week) characteristics of God. As you can imagine, it was a difficult task as the triune God is so much more than we can list. We chose God is...Faith, Peace, Holiness, Sustainer, Omnipresence, Love, and Mercy. We hope you are blessed and that the Holy Spirit will speak through each and every one of these entries to draw you closer to the God who loves you beyond all measure.

We want to encourage you in your journey of discipleship, so please feel free to reach out to us with prayer requests or praise reports at our emails below. If you prefer a digital version of this prayer guide, go to <u>31days.mdpc.org</u>.

Margaret Humphreys (streetmf@gmail.com)
Teri Adair (twadair@comcast.net)

Lastly, creating 31 Days of Prayer is a collaborative effort and we are deeply grateful to all the women who submitted journal entries and edited and designed this wonderful prayer and journaling tool. Without them this would not have been possible.

Blessings!

Teri and Margaret



God is Faith

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

It's a new year, but maybe you don't feel like a "new you." Just because the calendar changes, it doesn't mean our circumstances automatically change with it. Maybe you're stuck in a season of wandering the lonely wilderness or the desert wasteland. Even there, God is faithful.

God, through His son Jesus, delivered us from sin and death. But that is not the final destination. We are encouraged to shed our past and look forward to what God is doing in our lives now. In His faithfulness, He promises to make us new.

On our journey towards newness, perceiving God's work may be hard. The "new thing" may look different than we thought—new things aren't always fun or shiny. It may look like an unexpected change of direction in life or stepping into a path forward that otherwise felt impossible. But in all seasons, God is faithful and will bring our salvation to completion as a new creation.

Where is God leading you in this new year? How can you look at your circumstances differently to perceive the newness God is working in your life?



DAY 2

God is Peace

Isaiah 26:3 (NIV)

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in You."

Many years ago, I was a young mom with young children. I lived in chaos. My house was a mess. My life was a mess. Everything seemed to be a mess. One afternoon, my kids and I were playing on the driveway. I don't remember what triggered the situation, but one by one, each kid began to fall apart. I felt conquered, alone, and lost. The situation was out of my control. I was in the middle of chaos.

On the verge of tears and what may have become a panic attack, the Holy Spirit focused my mind on Him. I closed my eyes. I breathed in the deepest of breaths. My mind was at peace. I opened my eyes, and the chaos still surrounded me. But the chaos didn't control me.

When life is out of control, what do you do to be in His perfect peace?





God is Holiness

Isaiah 6:3 (NIV)

And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory."

Holy in Hebrew means to be "set apart." God is completely separate from sin and evil. Perfect, righteous, and good. One worthy of all our praise and devotion. This triune God is the one who invites us into an intimate relationship, covering us with his righteousness. We cannot miss seeing His holiness because the whole earth is FULL of His glory.

Look around today. How have you experienced God's glory in ways that led you to praise God?

DAY 4

God is Sustainer

Psalm 125:1-2 (NLT)

"Those who trust in the Lord are as secure as Mount Zion; they will not be defeated but will endure forever. Just as the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people, both now and forever."

Read the verses again, noting which terms appear twice.

Now, close your eyes, and visualize the picture painted by the poet's words.

The Psalmist says that the way the Lord protects us is like unto mountains rising above the periphery of a city, protecting it from enemy armies. In other words, God's sustaining presence is our protection.

In what ways do you need God's sustenance today? Where have you noticed God's sustaining mercy in your life? List at least five...if more come to mind, keep writing!

Read this excerpt from the Prayer of St. Patrick, picturing the value in each phrase:

"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me."



God is Omnipresence

Psalm:139 1-6 (NIV)

"You have searched me, Lord, and You know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue You, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before, and You lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

God's is all present (omnipresent) in the most wonderful of ways. When I was young, I had the idea God was like Santa Claus - watching me to determine whether I was "naughty or nice." As I have grown in my faith, I have come to understand God is not all-present to scare me into being good, but God is all-present because God loves me and desire a relationship with me. God's loving gaze is upon us always!

How does this passage make you feel? Does it create awe and wonder or sadness that you are not experiencing God in this way? Share your heart with God.



DAY 6

God is Love

Psalm 136:1-4 (ESV)

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever.

Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for His steadfast love endures forever;

to Him who alone does great wonders,

for His steadfast love endures forever."

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines *steadfast* as immovable and loyal. Think about that: immovable love forever and loyal love forever. Our God loves His children forever. In our fast-paced world, things are constantly changing. Our homes change. Our jobs change. The weather changes. Everything seems to change. Our God does not change, though. He is immovable and loyal. His steadfast love for YOU endures forever.

Read all of Psalm 136. Then, write your own Psalm 136. What are the events going on in your life right now? Remind yourself that His steadfast love endures forever.



God is Mercy

Micah 7:18-19 (NIV)

"Who is a God like You, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of His inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. You will again have compassion on us; You will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea."

Unlike human beings, who often struggle to forgive and let go, God delights in showing mercy. This is not a reluctant obligation, but a joyful expression of His character. His mercy is not a one-time event but a continual action of compassion towards us that stretches from the Old Testament and original covenant to the sacrifice of Jesus and our present and eternal redemption.

The imagery in these verses is powerful. Our transgressions are not merely temporarily forgotten; they are utterly removed from His presence—trampled or tossed into the sea, symbolizing the totality of His mercy.

In our daily lives, we often carry the weight of our mistakes, feeling unworthy of forgiveness. However, these verses remind us that God's mercy is far greater than our sins. It reassures us that no matter how far we stray, His arms are always open, ready to embrace us with grace and forgiveness.

Have I been called to offer compassion and forgiveness to someone else? Pray for strength to ask forgiveness when owed and give it when it may not be "due."



DAY 8

God is Faith

Psalm 86:1-2, 5, 7 (ESV)

"Incline Your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

Preserve my life, for I am godly; save Your servant,

who trusts in You—You are my God.

For You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,

abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon You.

In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me."

"You answer me..." David's unquestioning confidence in who God's answer is so beautiful. I remember crying as I read this Psalm a few years ago in a season of life when, despite hardly ever having a moment to myself, I felt alone.

I lost my mom when I was 21 and always missed her, but the scarredover sense of loss became raw after I married and had children. There was intense love and joy in those relationships, but also heartache and worry. And where was my person to talk to? The one I knew loved me unconditionally? The one who wanted to know my heart with no agenda?

This Psalm, full of pleading and need, voiced my feeling of loss while in the same breath proclaiming the power, grace, and faithfulness of the Lord.

Today, pull out your Bible and immerse yourself in a Psalm. Wrap yourself in the warmth and goodness of our loving God.



God is Peace

Colossians 3:15 (NIV)

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

Paul reminds us that we are a part of God's family and uses the Greek word *adelphoi* to call his fellow brother and sister in Christ. He writes this letter with a gratitude perspective, encouraging us to place Jesus in the center of our lives during difficult situations.

While your difficult situation may be around your kids, health, partner, job, endless to-do list, or even finances, when we face our fears and worries with a thankful attitude we take a step closer to permitting God to rule in our hearts, bring peace, and see a new light instead of being blinded by the things of the world.

Breathe... Be still... Breathe, my fellow *adelphoi*. Maybe going on a run, going on a walk, or journaling helps you connect with the Lord and feel peace, but doing so with gratitude in mind while gently placing your worries and fears on Him will allow you to see His goodness amid hard times. So, now I ask you, what are you worried or afraid of? Is there anything you are thankful for in this situation? As you think about it, breathe... be still... breathe, and let His peace overflow in every situation.



DAY 10

God is Holiness

1 Samuel 2:2 (NLT)

"No one is holy like the LORD! There is no one besides You; there is no Rock like our God."

Like the ocean waves that barrel in, chasing and swarming the shore, then shrink back revealing a changed landscape, God's holiness pushes and pulls at me.

I *want* the God of the universe to be wholly other, majestic, immaculate and uncompromised by humanity's penchant to make a mess of things. My spirit rejoices that God is the Rock upon which a church, a life, can be built.

But I am also afraid of this God. A holy God isn't my homeboy. A holy God doesn't find my laziness cute. The gaze of a holy God makes me weak in the knees, and my stiff neck finds its reverent bend. The holiness, otherness, set-apart-ness of God, resplendent in glory, burning away sin and shame, reminds me that I am not the center of the universe. We exist for Him, and not the other way around.

Those waves ultimately get ahold of me, drawing me deeper into the ocean of love, wrapping me up in confidence and hope that the best is yet to come, because the Rock is alive and well.

What physical sensation happens in your body when you think about the holiness of God?

How does your spirit respond?



God is Sustainer

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (ESV)

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

We choose where to put our trust: ourselves, our bank accounts, other people, our jobs, etc. In Jeremiah, we see a stark contrast of what happens when we put our trust in anything other than the Lord. And a glorious illustration of blessing when we put all of our trust in the Lord.

Heavenly Father, we pray for a deep, abiding trust in You. May the Holy Spirit save us from trusting in ourselves or in other things in this world. Each morning and every moment of each day, help our hearts to seek a resolved and continual confidence in You. Help us to remember that only You can give us perpetual peace in any and every circumstance. Only You can uphold us through the lowest of valleys and the highest of peaks. Only You can provide for everything we need. Your Living Water sustains us. You are God; there is no other.



DAY 12

God is Omnipresence

Proverbs 15:3 (ESV)

"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good."

Today's world is full of strife. We see this in our community, city, state, country, and the world. When we go to the news outlets, we hear first about all the bad events that happened. At the end of a news program, we hear one story about something good. It is easy to become discouraged and believe that there is mostly evil and very little good happening in our world. It can become easy to be cynical about our world.

Yet, God reminds us in this Proverbs passage that He is present and watching all the evil and the good. What a relief! Yes, we live in a broken world, but God has not abandoned it or us. Whenever we feel discouraged about an evil event in the world, we need to turn that discouraged thought into a prayer to God, acknowledging we are remembering that He is aware of all that is happening.

What is a way you may use to remember that God is present in evil situations? How do you celebrate God being present in the good situations?



God is Love

Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV)

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

My neighbor's house was torn down today. We all stood and watched from our front lawn as a giant bulldozer knocked the walls down one by one. Pretty soon their "new" house will be under construction. Imagine if we, as Christians, had signs that read "under construction." Would it be easier to hold grace for each other, understanding that our creation isn't finished being fabricated? There is still work to be done and His work isn't quite complete.

Speaking "truth in love" as the apostle Paul tells us, we are actively growing and building ourselves to become more Christ-like. Each kind word we give to a stranger, support we give to a friend in need, is like the brick and mortar of our own house being built in the name of love.

Today, will you allow God to do His work in you and through you? What loving thing can you say or do that shows the world a glimpse of Christ in you?



DAY 14

God is Mercy

Jeremiah 18:2-4 (ESV)

"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do."

I've always loved the vivid imagery of the potter at the wheel. It all starts with a lifeless lump of dirt and water. The potter uses his hands to artfully mold the clay into the desired vessel. It's a process that requires patience. The potter is in complete control of what he makes of the clay, but not necessarily of how the clay responds. As any potter will tell you, the wet clay can quickly collapse on the wheel and spoil the vessel, forcing the potter to make a choice—start again or abandon it. And, here, the potter chose to start again.

The lesson from the potter's house is one of rich mercy. God is in complete control of what He makes of our lives, but not necessarily how we respond. Sometimes we collapse, we're uncooperative, or we spoil the vessel. But, God, in His rich mercy, calls us to repentance and always chooses to start again.



God is Faith

Romans 5:8-11 (NLT)

"God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, He will certainly save us from God's condemnation. For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of His Son while we were still His enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of His Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God."

Romans 5:1-11 was my soul's nourishment for an entire year.

I copied it into the inside cover of my Bible. It was the beginning meditation of every quiet time, and the gist of my final prayer at night.

God came for me. God came for me!

When I was lost (and oh boy, was I lost and preoccupied by every worldly priority), Jesus shined a light in my path, faintly at first, to woo and not to spook, and eventually my beloved revealed His true identity. I am His and He is mine. I am saved, by grace, through faith... the faith-full-ness of God first, and the gift of faith in return.

What verse underscores God's faithfulness to you?



DAY 16

God is Peace

John 16:33 (NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

"In Me you will have peace." Jesus is telling His disciples then and now that by trusting in Him when troubles come, we can experience His peace because He has overcome the world. We cannot conjure up this peace ourselves. "These things" Jesus told His disciples, was that although He was leaving them for a time, He would send an Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be present with them. We are not alone in our troubles because we have the Holy Spirit to help guide, comfort, and allow us to experience the peace only Jesus can give.

What does mean to you when you read Jesus' words, "In Me you may have peace"? Journal your thoughts and feelings.



God is Holiness

Exodus 3:3-5 (NIV)

"So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up." When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look,

God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

"Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."

Have you ever been star-struck? Did you forget what you wanted to say, even your name, and your legs turn to Jello? In my early twenties, I visited my best friend who was nannying in Italy. She wasn't nannying for just anyone, but for the grandchildren of the former Italian President! During my stay, we visited one of the families' private homes. I felt unworthy to be in it as I admired their personal photos and stylish paintings. I felt I was imposing on their sacred space despite the fact I was invited.

When I read about Moses, I wonder if this is how he felt as God spoke to him. Did his legs turn to Jello? Did he feel like he didn't belong? Holy means set apart...sacred... that's who God is. If He wasn't holy, His Son couldn't have died on the cross for us as the perfect sacrifice.

Pause. Ponder what it means for God to be Holy. How can you show honor to God this week by prayer, worship, or testimony of His Holiness?



DAY 18

God is Sustainer

Exodus 33:14 (NIV)

"And He said, 'My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest'."

Lately, I have really related to Moses. It seems like the tasks set before me by God keep coming in and it can sometimes feel like I am in the desert with no end in sight. Can you relate?

God gave Moses big and unfathomable tasks, as well as unruly people to manage. God even admits that God Himself could not live with the Israelites or He might destroy them out of frustration (Exodus 33:3). When Moses admits to God that he feels overwhelmed, God promises him that He will be with Moses, and that He will also provide rest.

Do you have tasks and responsibilities set before you that are overwhelming you? Have you invited God to accompany you on your journey? ...or even to lead?

God makes a way, for those that ask for His help...and He provides rest on our journey. It can make all the difference.



God is Omnipresence

Job 38:4-11 (NIV)

"Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation?

Tell Me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—

while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, 'This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt'?"

The poetry of this passage and the message it contains gives me great peace and hope. This is part of God's reply to Job and it covers only a small portion of the whole response. Here God reminds Job of His grandeur and power. His fingerprints are everywhere over everything.

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God has even gone down into death itself. There is no place we can go where He has not been! We can trust that He is even with us in our homes, our cars, our places of work, and everywhere life takes us.

Where do you need to be reminded of God's continual presence?



DAY 20

God is Love

1 John 4:19-21 (NIV)

"We love because He first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And He has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister."

This passage lays out in stark terms what it means to truly know and love God. If we claim to be a Christian and yet do not love our fellow humans, then something is deeply wrong. The good news is that the love demanded of us is not something we are required to produce of our own accord. Instead, we look to the love God has toward us. This is the love that fuels and inspires our interactions with every single human being.

We all know loving people close to us is hard at times. However, the love of God compels us even beyond that to loving all people—for all human beings are made in His image. This is one of the ways God invites His people to partner with Him in the restoration and renewal of all things!

Who do you struggle to love? How might you pray about that situation?



God is Mercy

Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness."

I love to think on the Mercy of God – it can mean forgiveness or the withholding of punishment...or relief for those who are suffering...or just compassion/kindness. The writer in Lamentations is definitely someone who is/has been suffering. Earlier in the chapter we read phrases like "teeth grinding on gravel, cowering in ashes, I have forgotten what happiness is..." These are just a few of the ways the writer describes his plight. But then he says he "calls to mind" verses 22-23 and finds hope.

In my "afflictions" large and small, can I call to mind the promises of God? Am I reading the Bible in such a way that I remember?

Sing:

There's a wideness in God's Mercy like the wideness of the sea There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty. There is welcome for the sinner and more graces for the good. There is mercy with the Savior, there is healing in His blood. - by Frederick William Fabre (1862)



DAY 22

God is Faith

Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."

In the verse above, Moses is at the end of his life and delivers this powerful message to the Israelites. He then again repeats these words almost exactly two verses later (Deuteronomy 31:8), in front of the Israelites, to God's choice of his successor, Joshua. Joshua is about to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land and much uncertainty and danger lay ahead. The message is given not only once, but twice...a sure sign that God means it!

Think of the word "never" that is used in this Scripture. It is an absolute. God will NEVER leave us nor forsake us. No matter what we face. No matter what uncertainty looms ahead. God is faithful. He is our unchanging God, and He can be nothing else. He will never leave me nor forsake me. I can face any hard thing with confidence of God's promise to be faithful to me always.

In what areas or circumstances of my life do I have trouble believing this promise of God? And how would I face things differently if I remembered to believe it?



God is Peace

Matthew 6:32-33 (ESV)

"... the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Years ago, when I was in my late 20s, I adopted Matthew 6:33 as my guidepost. My faith had dimmed after my teens and, when I looked back, I saw a series of poor decisions that led into darkness. God's grace alone (at times acting through amazing, faithful friends) brought me back into the light – but then, how could I trust myself, the same person who had chosen so poorly so many times?

One of those faithful friends had gifted me with my first personal Bible, and I was reading and learning all I could. The directive in Matthew 6 to seek first the Kingdom of God and assurance that all these things will be added overwhelmed me with a feeling of peace. It removed the anxiety of certain decisions. If an opportunity conflicted with church or Bible study or what scripture taught, I chose God.

It was a very literal application of Jesus' words, but one that became so ingrained it still guides me today. Is there something you're "seeking first" that's not the Kingdom? How might your life change if your priorities realigned?



DAY 24

God is Holiness

Matthew 6:9 (NIV)

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

When Jesus was teaching His disciples how to pray, He started with acknowledging God's holiness, "Hallowed be Thy Name." Jesus modeled how we can hold up God's holiness and reflect God's glory back to Him. It reminded me of a quote from Frank Laubach, a missionary in the Philippines who wrote, "Open your soul to and entertain the glory of God, and after a while that glory will be reflected in the world about you and in the very clouds above your head."

I love that! As we open our soul to God's glory, to His holiness, we begin to see it reflected in everything around us. We will be able to see God's kingdom come on earth as is it is heaven.

Try stopping 3 times today for 15 seconds to open your soul and entertain God's holiness.

Record what you experience or feel in those seconds.



God is Sustainer

Hebrews 12: 1 (NIV)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

As Christians, we can easily hide our sin from those around us. We think it's too much for the people that love us to handle, so we try to keep it close and run the race alone. Without the periodic hydration stations or family cheering us on, we give our best efforts to do it all solo.

What if we were to "throw off everything that hinders" and call upon some witnesses? What if in our time of need, we just asked for help or said we're struggling? Imagine as we move through entanglements with sin, that we are not only supported and sustained by our fellow Christians in this lifetime but also the champions of faith that came before us.

Am I calling upon my own "cloud of witnesses" to help cheer me on as I persevere in my Christian race?



DAY 26

God is Omnipresence

Psalm 139:7-10 (NIV)

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?

If I go up to the heavens, You are there;

If I make my bed in the depths, You are there.

If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."

David is very clear in the words of Psalm 139. There is not a single place we can go that God will not be. He is everywhere, and always will be!

Change some of the places that are listed in this Psalm where we can go and God will still be. Use places you go...the office, the grocery store, class, carpool line, the doctor's office...any and all places you can list. God is with you in any and all of these places. Pray then to always know His comfort and presence. All day, every day. God is indeed holding you fast.



God is Love

1 John 4: 8-10 (NIV)

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."

God's love is eternal. It has no beginning or end. His love is all around us: in nature, in friendships and relationships, in the gift of His Son. Nothing we can do separates us from this unconditional love. He loves us so much we are created in His image.

What are some God signs that are constant reminders to me of God's love? What can I do to shift my focus and remember God's love when I feel my fears and doubts creeping in?



DAY 28

God is Mercy

Matthew 11:29 (NLT)

"...learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

We are at church, a familiar building, when my four-year-old son runs ahead of me and disappears down a stairwell. This comes after a morning of the usual "age-appropriate" boundary pushing, so my patience is a little frayed, to put it mildly.

I yell his given name as I start down the stairs (this is no time for pet names)...but then I remember where I am. I've just taken communion, washed in the most powerful love and grace, and I imagine Jesus here, watching this moment unfold. What would He do with a precocious child?

"Be gentle," I say to myself. My little guy's guileless, grinning face peers up, waiting at the bottom door. The knot of anger in my chest loosens as I imagine the King of kings gazing at him (at me) with a tender smile, and loving him (loving me) into renouncement of sin. No shame, threat, or fear needed.

At the last step, I sit down to pull my son close, and I am gentle.

Do you have a relationship that would look different if you viewed it through the eyes of Jesus?



God is Faith

Isaiah 43:1-2 (NLT)

"But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you.

O Israel, the one who formed you says,

'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you.

I have called you by name; you are Mine.

When you go through deep waters, I will be with you.

When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown.

When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up;

the flames will not consume you."

My precious daughter was born on June 4th. I felt so many things when they placed her on my chest: awe, exhaustion, amazement, and fear. In an instant, our entire lives had changed. Were we ready to be parents? Did I have what it takes to be a mom?

I will always remember our first night. I don't know if my baby or I slept one wink. The responsibility was overwhelming. And yet, God was near. This tiny life wasn't just mine to sustain; it was His to sustain, too.

I made a playlist with songs to buoy us up. A favorite of ours is a children's song called "Fear Not" by Ellie Holcomb. She wrote that song based on Isaiah 43:1.

Today, listen to the song and let it be your prayer. Remember: *I have called you by name*; *you are Mine*.



DAY 30

God is Peace

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Life can feel like a never-ending juggling act. Between balancing obligations at work, the needs of our families, and commitments to friends, it's easy to feel overwhelmed and burned out. Philippians 4:6-7 offers a lifeline, reminding us that we don't have to carry these burdens alone. Paul encourages us to bring *every situation* (great or small!) to the Lord. God has demonstrated His love for us and wants an intimate relationship with us. You prove nothing by being strong and independent with Him! Our Father knows us, our fears, our struggles. Turn to and rely upon Him.

Through this understanding of reliance, of dependence, you can gradually develop a mindset of gratitude. All things come from God. Thankfulness is what can shift our focus from our lack to His provision. Let His peace come upon your heart and mind.

What are some of your current worries or anxieties? Write down five things you are thankful for today. Pray to God about them all!



God is Holiness

Leviticus 19:1-2 (NIV)

"The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy."

If you look up "holy" in your Bible or on Google, you will find several scriptures calling us, humans, to Holiness because God IS Holy. In scripture, the Israelites continue to judge themselves against their neighbors, past enslavers, and enemies. In the Old Testament, they want a king because everyone has a king. Did that solve their problems? In the New Testament, they want a warrior to free them from Roman rule. Who came instead? Jesus. The greatest gift we did not know we needed.

How does this connect to Holiness? We cannot understand God's Holiness or what He desires for us unless we align our desires with His, releasing our expectations, idols, and dreams. Can we rest in the tension of being different by following God as King instead of the world's kings?

(Pray) Abba Father, I cannot begin to grapple with what it means to be Holy. Make my heart tender to Your Word. May I not compare myself to my neighbor but to the Bible. Show me my idols. May I be holy like You are holy. If You can make manna fall from the sky, the lame walk, and close the mouths of lions, please create in me a clean heart. My Rock and my Redeemer, Amen.

