

JULY

Prayer Devotionals

JULY 2 - JULY 29

DANIEL 10:12
THE FIGHT
THE YEAR OF PRAYER
TAFT AVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Monday, 7/2, Acts 5: The Lord has commanded us to go and preach the gospel to all people. When we do, we will face opposition and will be persecuted, just like what happened to Peter and the apostles. But we should rejoice like Peter did knowing that we will be counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. Pray that God will give us boldness to go out and tell others of what Jesus did; to give us strength to endure whatever trials come our way. It is all for the Glory of God.

Tuesday, 7/3, Acts 6: Jesus had come to set the ultimate example on how to serve. When more help was needed, additional disciples were summoned to help with the work load that had been set to serve those in need. We are all disciples of Jesus! Pray that God would show every one of us where we are needed to help, and that we proclaim the name of Jesus, and are faithful servants for Jesus.

Wednesday, 7/4, Acts 7: Stephen demonstrates the grace and power of a true disciple of Jesus. Even though he was heavily opposed, his face showed that he was filled with the Spirit. He was truly blessed with boldness to proclaim the name of Jesus to a group that was totally against the Word of God. Pray that God would give us boldness like Stephen and that we can be an example like him. Pray that we can preach to those who ridicule us and stand up to them for the name of Jesus.

Thursday, 7/5, Acts 8: As Saul was ravaging the church, the disciples of Jesus were scattered throughout. A great persecution had scattered them, but it allowed the gospel to be spread. We have also been commanded to go all over to spread the gospel. Pray that we would listen for and obey instructions from God on where to go, just like Philip did when he was instructed to go to Gaza; and also that we wait to see where God plans to send us like he did with Philip when he carried him to Azotus, where he preached throughout.

Friday, 7/6, Acts 9: Chapter 9 covers the conversion of probably the most prolific apostle of all times, Paul. We see how God worked in Paul's early life. We see how God can change any heart. With Paul now out of the picture persecuting, the churches were at peace, but mainly because they walked in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Pray that we have the boldness of Paul when we evangelize. But also pray for our church that it will also walk in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit – that we will all gather and work in unity with each other just like the churches in Acts.

Saturday, 7/7, Acts 10: We never know where God is going to take us and why. Notice in this chapter how Peter has a vision and then has several servants and a soldier come to get him to take him to a Gentile centurion's home, yet he had no idea why. But God worked in him to show him what he was to do, which was the stepping stone to presenting the gospel to the Gentiles. Pray that we follow God's calling, even if we aren't really sure what lies on the other end. God will be with you and will show you what His plan is for you.

Sunday, 7/8, Acts 11: The spreading of the church is in full swing. Despite the persecution, the gospel continues to be spread throughout the region, including to the Gentiles. The disciples are focused on reaching the lost no matter where they are going. Another thing to notice: this entire chapter begins, when Peter explains that he was praying. You see what God can do through prayer. Talk to God and ask Him for strength and to help improve your prayer life. He wants us to talk to Him. Ask God for wisdom and guidance, to help you establish a plan to reach those around you, at work, recreation, or in the neighborhood. He will work with you and lead you to spread the gospel to others.

Monday, 7/9, Acts 12: Take in how miraculous the escape was that God did for Peter. Now, re-read verses 5 and 12. This miracle was done because of earnest prayer by the saints in someone's home. As

you pray, remember the power of your prayers, especially with other Christians. Commit to pray with other believers this week.

Tuesday, 7/10, Acts 13: After fasting and praying, Paul boldly explains that the Gospel was intended for the Gentiles, not just the Jews. As you pray, thank God for the salvation we have received through his chosen people! Consider fasting for a portion of the next 24 hours while remembering Paul's words.

Wednesday, 7/11, Acts 14: Paul and Barnabas spoke boldly to the people about the Gospel, even when threatened with death. Later, they returned to these same places to encourage the believers in their faith. Who should you speak boldly to? Who have you shared the Gospel with in the past that needs encouragement? Pray for God to bring names to your mind and take action.

Thursday, 7/12, Acts 15: The early church leaders show examples of unity and division. In either situation, the Gospel is preached. Pray for our church and its leaders to listen to the Holy Spirit and act in unity.

Friday, 7/13, Acts 16: Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns to God after being wrongly accused, stripped, and thrown in prison. No matter your situation, sing a praise song to God as your prayer.

Saturday, 7/14, Acts 17: Paul was able to present the Gospel to those in Athens by meeting them where they were. He explained the Gospel by showing them they have been looking for it the entire time. Pray God gives you wisdom to see how those around you are already looking for God so you can present the Gospel in a way that they can readily receive it.

Sunday, 7/15, Acts 18: Apollos spoke boldly and accurately about Jesus to others, even though he didn't know the whole story. He didn't let his gaps in knowledge prevent him from telling others the good news.

Continue to improve your knowledge, but also boldly share with others what you know today. Pray you will have the confidence to share the gospel today and not let any perceived lack of knowledge discourage you.

Monday, 7/16, Acts 19: The Spirit worked so mightily, Lord, as You performed extraordinary miracles through Paul that the presence of the Spirit would sometimes remain on the handkerchiefs and aprons Paul touched. Those items could then be used to heal and cast out demons! We are so tempted to misunderstand and honor such objects and occurrences as “magical”. Help us to see the unexplainable and supernatural things in Your word and in our world as manifestations of your awesome glory and power working according to Your plan for Your glory and our good. Thank You God that nothing is impossible for You or outside of Your control!

Tuesday, 7/17, Acts 20: We treasure your word, Lord, and are in awe of the ways You reveal Yourself and Your Son so intricately through the interworking of scripture. John tells us that so many things were done by Jesus during His ministry that not all of it could possibly be written down, let alone be completely chronicled in the Gospels. Paul quotes the words of Jesus as, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” – a quote found nowhere in the Gospels and yet so obviously in-keeping with the teaching and life of Christ that Paul admonishes them to “remember the words of the Lord Jesus”.

Wednesday, 7/18, Acts 21: The prophet Agabus prophesied that if Paul would go to Jerusalem he would be bound and delivered into the hands of the Gentiles. Paul’s friends urged him not to go to Jerusalem, even though he felt he was being led to go by the Holy Spirit. Paul knew what he needed to do for You Lord, and he was ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die for the name of Jesus. Help us, Lord, to be as willing to suffer loss, embarrassment, hardship, discomfort, inconvenience, and even imprisonment and death for the fame of Your glorious name!

Thursday, 7/19, Acts 22: Paul gave a testimony of his life before the Jewish crowd after he had been arrested for defiling the temple and for teaching against the law. In front of this hostile crowd, he clearly lays out what his life was like before Christ, his dramatic encounter with Christ and about his new life in Christ as a witness for Him to the Gentiles. Lord, help us to understand the importance of our testimonies in leading others to know the life changing power of Your Spirit, and help us to rehearse our testimonies and be ready to give an account to anyone who asks the reason for the hope that is in us.

Friday, 7/20, Acts 23: God, you are mighty and sovereign, your plans can never be thwarted! In this chapter, your hand is apparent at every turn. You granted Paul a vision confirming that he was going to live long enough to testify about Christ not only in Jerusalem but also in Rome. You brought information to light and created the opportunity to save Paul's life so that your purpose could be fulfilled. Lord, help us to see your sovereign hand in our own lives and you manage everything that happens to your exact specifications for the completion of your plan and purpose.

Saturday, 7/21, Acts 24: Paul is accused of three things, two false and one true. He is accused of stirring up riots and profaning the temple, both false. But the third accusation is true – he is a leader of the “sect of the Nazarenes” or “the Way” or as we say today, the Christians. He proudly confirms his belief in everything in the law and the prophets and his hope in God and in the resurrection of the just and the unjust. Lord, give us all the strength and confidence to profess our devotion to You and to Your word in the face of adversity and persecution.

Sunday, 7/22, Acts 25: Just as with Jesus, the Jews case against Paul was so flimsy that the Romans were at a loss as to what they should do with him. So Paul, knowing God wanted him to go to Rome and that he will most likely die there, takes decisive action and appeals his case to Caesar. Again and again we see the words, “he has done

nothing deserving death”, and yet that was Your plan for him. And Paul faithfully did all he could to stay within Your will. God, give us all that kind of confidence and trust in Your will and in Your love for us.

Monday, 7/23, Acts 26: Jesus told us in the Gospels that we would be persecuted for our faith, but also that we must go and make disciples. We must not be ashamed but proclaim His name in all circumstances. The Spirit will give us the words that we need. Here we see Paul being an example, being in prison, but filled with the Spirit to give his testimony to King Agrippa. Pray that we would have the boldness like Paul and be able to tell others about Christ, no matter what kind of situation we are in.

Tuesday, 7/24, Acts 27: We see God at work through Paul on his trip. When they first didn't listen to Paul, they got into a big storm. However, we see that those on the ship began listening to Paul, as he explained how God had talked to him. We will go through 'storms' in our lives. Pray that when we do go through those storms, that we listen to what God has to say, and He will lead us through those storms. Pray to that God remind you that being a follow of Christ is not all about comfort.

Wednesday, 7/25, Acts 28: Paul continued proclaiming Christ's name despite the chains that he had. God works in wonderful ways to bring those who have not heard the gospel to us, no matter what the circumstances. Pray for the boldness that Paul had to proclaim Jesus's name as we come across those who have not heard the gospel before, or who do not believe. Pray that we can tell them the hope that we have that allows us to persevere through our trials.

Thursday, 7/26, Romans 1: Every person is born with the imprint of God in them. God had shown Himself through His eternal power and divine nature; yet people still ignore what God has shown them and have not filled or grown that imprint in them. Paul also specifically

addresses homosexuality, which has become a huge issue. Pray that we can reach those who fall into unrighteous behavior before God's wrath reaches them and evicts them from eternal life.

Friday, 7/27, Romans 2: Everyone will be judged when Christ comes. Even those who judge others, yet do the same thing, will be judged accordingly. We need to be teaching and proclaiming what the Holy Spirit has instilled in our hearts and showing others how Christ has worked in our hearts. Pray that you can be an example to those who are currently under God's wrath. Pray that we can be a light to those around us.

Saturday, 7/28, Romans 3: Chapter 3 starts out by stating that God is faithful to us, regardless of what we do – just as He was faithful to Israel as they wandered through the desert years ago. Paul further identifies the faithfulness and righteousness of God, showing how we are justified (made right with God) through Christ's work on the cross. Read verses 21 – 31 over and over. These may be the most important words of the Bible. When you pray, thank God for the most precious blessing He has given us in giving us His Son as a propitiation for our sins. Pray that He would continue to build us up in our faith; and that he help us organize our time as we read His Word diligently to help us grow.

Sunday, 7/29, Romans 4: We are all justified by faith through Christ, faith in believing that Christ died for our sins and rose again. Abraham was the first example to show that having faith in God, and believing in the promise of God, would be considered as righteousness. Even as he grew older he did not weaken in faith but actually grew stronger. Pray to God that He would work in us so that we can grow stronger in our faith as well. Continue to pray to have Him help you organize your time in His Word, that you would take it to heart, and then tell others about His great promise.