



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

OCTOBER 1 - 21, 2023

OCTOBER 1 - 7

WEEK

ONE

DAY 1

Pray Without Ceasing

Prayer is simply communication with God. Oswald Chambers wrote, "To say that 'prayer changes things' is not as close to the truth as saying, 'Prayer changes me and then I change things.'"

When you're speaking to God, you don't need any set format. You could be driving to the grocery store, and you can talk to Him. If you're going through a rough time at the moment, pray and to come before the Lord in a childlike attitude and tell Him about your needs. We can talk to the Lord, and sing, cry, and argue with the Lord. He would prefer you to be angry rather than not to speak to Him at all. Think of your own children—when they don't speak to you, that's when you get concerned. So speak to God about your financial, work-related, and domestic needs, and you'll be surprised how God answers. Remember, however, that prayer is not a proverbial grocery list that you take to God; He wants you to be His friend. He'll talk back to you, not necessarily audibly, but in your heart and through nature, through godly neighbors or circumstances, and of course through His Word the Bible. Speak to Him; tell Him about your joys, expectations, anxieties, and fears, and you'll feel a lot better that the Lord of the universe is looking out for you.

- **Read:** 1 Peter 3:12
- **Prayer:** Jesus, remind me today to bring all the little things to You. Thank You for listening! Amen.

DAY 2

Fervent Prayer

It is said of Martin Luther that the busier he became, the more time he spent in prayer. The more responsibilities he had to shoulder, the earlier he got up in the morning to pray more. But with us it is often the opposite: the busier we become, the less time we spend in prayer. When you think about it, it's completely nonsensical! Prayer is a basic ingredient of our faith for a reason: we need it to survive.

We have to pray continually. Continuous prayer might take discipline at the start, but after a while it becomes a beautiful way to live, and a hallmark of a vital relationship with the Lord. God designed prayer to be as natural for a Christian as breathing. If this does not describe your prayer life, take heart and keep at it. Prayer is not just talking; it is also listening, waiting upon God. Remember the saying, "When men work, they work. But when men pray, God works."

- **Read:** 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- **Prayer:** Lord, please revitalize my prayer life with You. I long for our conversation to flow naturally and intimately. Amen.

DAY 3

Prayer Changes Things

Something worth having is always worth praying for. When we seek to spread God's Word, it's not medical help, education, or impressive speeches that will turn the tide, but undiluted prayer and nothing less. We are working toward Jesus Christ's harvest, so why wouldn't we communicate with Him above all else? What is truly special is that Christ Himself prays for us. He is our ultimate Intercessor in this dying world. It is always touching to know that one of our friends or family members is praying for us, but how much more wonderful to know that the very Son of God is praying for you and me! He also sets a towering example of the way we should pray (Matt. 6:5-13). It is like the roots of a tree: without the roots the tree cannot grow strong and survive when the rough wind blows. Daily communion with our heavenly Father is absolutely critical to the Christian life. Give the first fruits of every morning, and indeed the rest of the day, to Jesus by spending time in prayer with Him. When you pray, go to a quiet place and keep it personal.

- **Read:** Colossians 4:2, Matthew 6:5-13
- **Prayer:** God, please make prayer my fuel for life. Thank You, Jesus, for interceding for me always. Amen.

DAY 4

ACTS

One simple method of praying is using the acronym ACTS. A stands for ADORATION. This is the time to adore the Lord for who He is; to give Him thanks for a new day; to praise Him for the beautiful new morning. C stands for CONFESSION. This is the time to repent before the Lord, to ask God to forgive your sins. Maybe you lost your temper with your family unintentionally; maybe it is something you have neglected to do; but the Lord forgives and cleanses. T stands for THANKSGIVING. We should thank

God for His undeserved lovingkindness that gives us the opportunity to call ourselves His children. We can thank Him for our family and loved ones and for new opportunities in life. S stands for SUPPLICATION. Bring all your requests before God concerning your life and your family's well-being and future. Pray specifically, expectantly, and faithfully.

- **Read:** Ezra 3:11
- **Prayer:** Lord, be with me in prayer as I engage with You through adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. Amen.

DAY 5

Your Heavenly Helper

Who is your helper? When you turn on the television and you listen to the news, what do you see and hear? There is a meltdown taking place in the world today—economically, environmentally, politically. You start to wonder if there is a future for your children. What hope is there left for the world? Angus Buchan said, "I am just a simple farmer, but I want to tell you that the Lord Jesus Christ, the greatest Friend who has ever lived, has been with me in my darkest times. Today He says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you ... I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isa. 41:10). Jesus Christ has never let me down. He is more than my Helper; He is my Protector. He is the one who looks after my wife when I am away overseas preaching. I know that she is safe because He stations His angels around our home." Start concentrating on what Jesus says about you and not on what is going on in a world gone mad. Let's pray and refocus. The best is yet to come—the Master is coming in all His glory. So take heart, be of good cheer, because the Lord has promised to never abandon us..

- **Read:** Psalms 121:1-3, Isaiah 41:10
- **Prayer:** Lord, I know there has been discord on this earth every day since the Fall in the garden. Help me to look forward to a day when all is made right again. Amen.

DAY 6

Pray and Read the Word

Praise God that we have an opportunity to start fresh every new day, and every new year. Let us allow the Bible to renew our minds as well, dedicating ourselves to deeper study. There are many men and women who are professors of religion and know the Bible inside and out, but they have not met its Author. The reality is that the Christian faith is all about a Man, not an organization, and this Man's name is Jesus Christ. When we

read the Word and God starts to speak to us through it, then we can find true intimacy. God will reassure us and give us direction. We will begin to notice His influence in matters such as when to buy, when to sell, whether to change jobs, how to take care of our families, and so on. There's an immense peace that comes upon a person who prays and reads the Word. Read Acts 4:13, that last sentence in the verse is the bottom line: what the world is looking for is not you and me, but Jesus Christ. The degree to which Jesus is involved in your life determines how effective you will be in kingdom work. Spend time with God. Have intimate times with the Lord, and watch your life change.

- **Read:** 1 John 5:7, Acts 4:13
- **Prayer:** God, please bless the time I spend with You, and open my eyes to the meaning of the Bible. Amen.

DAY 7

Powerful Prayers

Ern Baxter was an evangelist who was rebellious as a boy. He would tip-toe past his grandmother's room and see her bedroom light shining under the door, and know she was on her knees praying for him. Baxter was radically saved and he became a preacher. God used him mightily in signs, wonders and miracles. On Sunday mornings, thousands of people attended his church. His grandmother sat right in the front row; her head was bowed as she prayed for Baxter while he preached. Many years later when she passed away, Baxter was shattered. He had loved her very much. Baxter climbed up to the pulpit on the following Sunday morning. He opened his Bible and looked down to where his grandmother used to sit. Then he bowed his head and wept. He realized that he had always thought that God had gifted him to preach, and he suddenly realized it was because of his grandmother's prayers. She was no longer there. At that moment, an elderly woman stood up at the back of the church and shouted, "Pastor, I'll be your granny!" She came running forward, sat down in the empty chair and started praying; Baxter began preaching.

- **Read:** 1 Samuel 1:27
- **Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for the people who have faithfully prayed for me throughout my life. Help me to become a mighty prayer warrior for others. Amen.

OCTOBER 8 -14

WEEK TWO

DAY 8

The Importance of Prayer

Dr. Billy Graham was asked what the three main principles were that made him the most successful modern-day evangelist. He answered that the first one was prayer, the second one was prayer, and the third one was prayer. When you have your quiet time, you begin talking to God. You listen more than you speak. A lot of us battle to keep quiet in conversations. God gave us two ears and one mouth. We are meant to listen twice as much as we speak. Prayer is not a grocery list of "Lord, give me, give me, give me ..." No, it is a conversation. Have you ever asked God how He is feeling? I believe God gets very lonely, because half of the prayers He has to listen to have nothing to do with Him. It's all about us! Let's work on developing a relationship with the Lord instead of using Him as a fire escape.

- **Read:** I Thessalonians 5:16-18
- **Prayer:** Almighty Father, I am reminded that Jesus, my Savior, did nothing without first speaking to You. Help me to get into the habit of talking to You and developing a relationship with You. Lord, I ask You to help me become a person of prayer. Amen.

DAY 9

Always Pray

The Bible tells us that Elijah had the same passions as you and I. In other words, he had the same failings we have. He faced the same temptations. He was plagued by the same fears and doubts, but he was a man of faith, a man of prayer. There was another man that comes to mind named Smith Wigglesworth, a humble man but a man of prayer. He said, "I never pray for more than thirty minutes; but I never let thirty minutes go by without praying." You see, that's the difference. Some people want to talk all the time. Let's stop talking and rather see what God has to say about the matter.

- **Read:** Luke 18:1
- **Prayer:** Father God, thank You for the reminder that I should always pray. I know that sometimes my prayers lack conviction. Help me to speak positively about situations I have prayed about. Help me to pray, believing You for the answers according to Your will. Amen.

DAY 10

Come to Him in Prayer

Elijah was an ambassador for God. You will remember that Elijah prayed and God withheld the rain for three and a half years. Then Elijah prayed again, and God sent the rain. In 1 Kings 18, Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to see whose god was the real God. They built an altar and called to their gods, but nothing happened. Then Elijah built an altar and even poured water all over it. Then He asked God to bring down fire from heaven. The Lord did this and consumed the entire sacrifice. Sometimes we find it hard to ask for what we need. Perhaps it is because we are independent and too proud. We want to be self-reliant. We want to do things our way or we don't want to do it at all. However, there comes a time when we have to say: "God, if You don't do this, I am finished. Lord, please undertake this for me." When you attempt big things for God, then you have to ask Him for what you need. You know that if He doesn't do it, it's not possible. It is a good place to be, because then, when it is accomplished, God receives the glory. Our part is to come to Him in prayer and ask.

- **Read:** 1 Kings 18:37
- **Prayer:** Father, I desperately need a miracle. I come to You, asking You to please undertake for me. As I wait on You in faith, I pray that You would make a way for me. Amen.

DAY 11

A Gentle Whisper

Sometimes we have to say "no" to things so that we are less busy. Running from one thing to another everyday can take away from our time to hear from God. Reducing our commitments is not always easy. You need to find a quiet space: it may be your bedroom, your study, your office or even your car. Often when you sit down with the intention of being quiet before the Lord, your mind starts working overtime. You suddenly remember all the things you need to do. Random thoughts will pop into your head. The Lord speaks in a gentle whisper; He cannot get through if you are thinking about something else. Have a special place to withdraw to be with God. If you

want to be used by God, if you want to hear from God and know intimacy with Him, then you have to prioritize your quiet time.

- **Read:** Ephesians 6:18
- **Prayer:** Father, I am so aware that I find all kinds of excuses for not setting aside time to spend with You. Help me to reset my priorities so that I can make time with You. Amen.

DAY 12

Earnest Prayer

In today's verse we read about Elijah, who prayed earnestly that it would not rain. Elijah wasn't supernatural; he was an ordinary man who prayed that it would not rain, and it didn't. He just prayed in faith. You might be praying for a baby. Well, that's exactly what Sarah and Abraham did: they believed God, and God gave them a child. Hannah prayed for a baby, and she gave birth to Samuel. If the Lord tells us to go and do something, He will supply. God will pull you through every situation and fulfill His promises. I want to encourage you to start praying with a different attitude. You don't have because you don't ask in faith (James 4:2-3). And faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God. Start spending time in the Word of God and get direction from Him, not from the people around you. That is effective prayer. God answers fervent prayer offered in faith. Make sure your life is in order with God, seek His will, and thank Him in anticipation.

- **Read:** James 4:2-3, 5:17
- **Prayer:** Lord, please strengthen my faith as I pray. I thank You ahead of time for answering this prayer! Amen.

DAY 13

The Power of Prayer

Are you concerned about your loved ones? Maybe you have some prodigal sons or daughters in the family who are living a wild life, and every time you try and talk to them, they don't listen to you. What can you do? How much time are you spending on your knees for your children, family, friends? Here comes the challenge: If you are not praying for them, how do you expect things to change? Billy Graham said that if he had to live his life again he would preach less and pray more. Why? Because there is power in prayer. The Bible tells us that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Talking can turn to nagging, but prayer is the way to true change. John Wesley's mother prayed for her son every day. Start believing what God says about your loved ones, and not what other

people say. Keep believing and praying, and God will answer your prayers.

- **Read:** Ephesians 3:14-15, James 5:16
- **Prayer:** Lord, when I'm frustrated about a loved one, remind me to come where the power is: to You in prayer. Amen.

DAY 14

Persist and Pursue

Here are two key ideas that are essential to getting anywhere worth going: persist and pursue. If we give up or keep changing direction, we never really get anywhere. Instead, let us persist in seeking God's will and then pursue it with our whole heart. Think of the two blind men who wanted Jesus to heal them. They pursued Him, and when they caught up with Him, Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I can?" Jesus prayed for them, and their eyes were opened. They went away rejoicing once their faith had made them well (Matt. 9:27-30). You can either believe that the Lord answers prayer, or you can say it is a coincidence. But as a Christian, you cannot continue to think it is coincidence for the rest of your life. We serve a mighty God who expects us to pursue and to persist in prayer. If you keep knocking on that door, it's going to open. God honors the fervent prayer of the righteous. For me it's become a lifestyle to first seek God's will and then persist in prayer until it comes to pass. It's very exciting and so very rewarding. As Christians we have been sorely tested in numerous ways, and we will continue to be tested. Many have become disillusioned, but I encourage you to once more pursue the dream that God gave you by persistently praying until it comes to pass.

- **Read:** Matthew 9:27-30, James 5:16
- **Prayer:** Dear Lord, when I become tired or complacent, help me to pursue You and persist in prayer. Amen.

OCTOBER 15 -21

WEEK THREE

DAY 15

Protected by Prayer

Angus Buchan tells this story: "It is our habit on our farm to begin the day by singing Zulu hymns, reading God's Holy Scripture, and praying. One day, after we did exactly that, my son sent some of the staff off in a truck to fetch some building poles from a nearby plantation. The driver, two teenage girls, and one helper were in the truck going down a steep hill when they lost control of the truck. It careered off the mountain and rolled. Just half an hour after the prayer meeting had concluded, one of our young herdsman who saw the crash came riding down on his bike weeping uncontrollably. He said, 'There's been a terrible accident. The truck has rolled.' He wasn't sure if anyone had survived. Fearing for the lives of the occupants, my son and I jumped into another vehicle and drove straight to the scene. As we came down the hill, I started to pray to God. The truck was at the bottom of the mountain and was an absolute wreck. Miraculously, no one was killed. There were minor injuries that they all have recovered from; and one of the young girls didn't have a scratch on her. The young herdsman who had reported the accident reminded me how earlier that morning we had spent time in prayer. He firmly believed that the Lord Jesus Christ protected all four of those people in the vehicle. Yes, indeed, we can never underestimate the power of prayer."

- **Read:** John 9:31
- **Prayer:** Jesus, make prayer my first line of defense. Amen.

DAY 16

Be a Prayer Warrior

As we've read before, James tells us: "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit" (James 5:17-18). If we follow Elijah's example, our prayers will become effective. Then God will be able to use us.

Elijah said that it would not rain in their country for 42 months. After this time, Elijah prayed that God would send the rain. When he had finished praying, Elijah sent a message to Ahab, telling him to climb on his chariot and hurry home, because it was going to rain hard (see 1 Kings 18:44). Sure enough, down came the rain. Don't you want your prayers to start reaching God? It is my desire, more than ever before, that the Lord hear the prayers of His people.

- **Read:** 1 Kings 18:44, James 5:16-18
- **Prayer:** Lord God, I realize that I cannot have an effective prayer life if I do not spend time in Your presence. Help me to reprioritize my life so that I can spend quality time with You. Amen.

DAY 17

A Vibrant Prayer Life

Angus Buchan recounts: "I am an uneducated farmer, but I want to tell you one thing: I know that God answers prayer. You can ask anybody who goes on our campaigns with us, it regularly starts raining at the end of a campaign. I don't know why this happens, but I am yet to hear a farmer say they are getting too much rain. God gave Noah a sign. He gave him a beautiful rainbow. God promised that He would never again flood the earth (see Gen. 9:11), and He never has. God has given us a sign. It's like the Lord is saying, "Well done, good and faithful servants." That's why I love Jesus so much. He's more real to me than anything I can see in front of me. All He wants us to do is call out to Him so that He can answer us. How do you pray, how long do you pray and where do you pray? We need to lock ourselves in our prayer closet. Let's take hold of the Lord, and not let go until He answers. When we pray an effective prayer, God can move."

- **Read:** Genesis 9:11, John 15:7
- **Prayer:** Lord, I rejoice in You. Thank You for Your great love for me. I want to have a vibrant prayer life – I want to spend time in Your presence so that I can be close to You. I realize that nothing can take the place of spending time with You. Amen.

DAY 18

Start Praying and See God Move

When people pray, God works. When you pray you need to go into your prayer closet every morning. You see, prayer is really talking to Jesus. They say that James Hudson Taylor, the man who started the China Inland Mission, was not a great preacher. When he was home on furlough from China, he became well known. A journalist came to interview the Englishman who was shaking China, and attended a Bible study where

Taylor was present. He did not impress the journalist. Disappointed, the journalist wondered how he was going to write an interesting article about Taylor and his work. Right at the end of the evening, the group began to pray. And that's when the tide changed. The journalist reported that he had never in his life heard a man talking to God like Taylor did. He said that he then realized who this great giant of the Christian faith was: he was a man of prayer.

- **Read:** Acts 6:4
- **Prayer:** Almighty God, You have given me the wonderful gift of prayer. Help me to make prayer a way of life. I ask that You would work in my heart and life so that You might give me a passion and yearning for prayer.

Amen
DAY 19

Ask in Faith

I believe that God will give you anything that is within His will. When you say, "Lord, heal my body so that I can be a breadwinner for my family," or, "Lord, save my prodigal son, bring him home to me," those are the kind of things the Lord expects you to ask of Him. On one occasion, a woman asked Jesus to heal her daughter who was possessed by a demon. Jesus said to her, "Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." She replied, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat from the children's crumbs." Jesus then said, "For this saying go your way; the demon has gone out of your daughter." When she returned home, she found that her daughter was healed (see Mark 7:27-30). This woman was not even a Christian, but she had faith. She asked God to do something for her. She persisted and He eventually agreed to heal her daughter. Why is it that we don't ask God for things and assume that the Lord knows our needs? The Lord wants to hear us ask Him.

- **Read:** Mark 7:27-30, John 15:13-14
- **Prayer:** Father God, You are a great and wonderful God. Thank You for supplying my needs. Thank You that You hear me. Amen.

DAY 20

Jesus, Our Healer

Moses went up the mountain and waited on the Lord to receive the Ten Commandments. When he returned, he became so angry that he smashed the Ten Commandments. Moses told the Israelites that they were to burn the calf, grind it up, put it in water and then drink it. Many years later, Jesus went into the temple and saw that the money changers had turned His Father's house into a market place. What did He do? He made a whip,

went into the temple and cleared it out. Do you see the similarity? God sent venomous snakes to punish the children of Israel. They were suffering dreadfully and Moses called out to God for help. God told him to make a bronze snake and to put it on a pole. The people were to look at the snake and they would be healed. Jesus didn't make a bronze snake; He simply touched sick people and they were made well. Or He spoke a word and they were restored to health. Jesus still heals the sick today. If you are unwell, I have good news for you. There is healing in the name of Jesus. He says, "Call to Me, and I will answer you" (Jer. 33:3).

- **Read:** Jeremiah 33:3, Mark 11:24
- **Prayer:** Lord, I pray that as I sit in Your presence, You would heal me, both physically and in the deepest parts of my soul. Renew my heart and my mind, I pray. Amen.

DAY 21

Ask in Faith

"Ask, and you will receive..." (John 16:24). We complain before God, and sometimes we are apologetic or indifferent to Him, but we actually ask Him for very few things. Yet a child exhibits a magnificent boldness to ask! Our Lord said, "...unless you...become as little children..." (Matthew 18:3). Ask and God will do. Give Jesus Christ the opportunity and the room to work. The problem is that no one will ever do this until he is at his wits' end. When a person is at his wits' end, it no longer seems to be a cowardly thing to pray; in fact, it is the only way he can get in touch with the truth and the reality of God Himself. Be yourself before God and present Him with your problems—the very things that have brought you to your wits' end. But as long as you think you are self-sufficient, you do not need to ask God for anything.

- **Read:** John 16:24, Matthew 18:3
- **Prayer:** God, you have established things so that prayer, on the basis of redemption, changes the way I see things. Talking to You is not a matter of changing things externally, but one of working miracles in my inner nature. Have thine own way Lord, Amen.