

Prayer Challenge

AUGUST 19 - SEPTEMBER 28

A GUIDE TO PRAYER

DAY 1 | INTERCESSION: We all have the ability to help others through prayer. Let your prayer today be directed toward someone else rather than yourself. Trust that God will answer your prayer.

Genesis 25:21 - *And Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren. And the Lord granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived*

DAY 2 | WHO ARE YOU? David asked God, "Who am I?" God's answer to David is the same as to you and I. We are his sons and daughters. Nothing we will ever do will change that.

1 Chronicles 17:16 - *Then King David went in and sat before the Lord and said, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?"*

DAY 3 | PROTECTION: God hears our prayers for protection because He knows that we are in a spiritual battle. He will hear and protect us. Today, offer up a special prayer of protection for your loved ones.

Nehemiah 4:9 - *And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.*

DAY 4 | YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO: God puts things on our hearts or in our lives that we don't want. It is clear here that Jesus wasn't looking forward to a tortious death. We should take a lesson from our Savior that we should always be praying for HIS will to be done, no matter how bad it might hurt.

Matthew 26:39 - *And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*

DAY 5 | DANGEROUS PRAYER: We triple dog dare you to pray David's prayer today. This is a prayer that God will answer and you will not like what He has to say. However, if you are brave enough and will respond to what He shows you, it will change your spiritual life.

Psalms 139:23-24 - *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

DAY 6 | PRAY WITH A CLEAR HEART: Isn't it amazing how reluctant we are to forgive considering everything that God has forgiven of us? In order for our prayers to be pure, we need to offer the same forgiveness to others that God extended to us.

Mark 11:25 *And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*

DAY 7 | WHERE DO YOU PLACE PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE?: It is an interesting question, isn't it? Are we allowing our prayer life to drive our day to day life or do we just keep it in our pockets for an emergency. **QUOTE:** *"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?"* - Corrie Ten Boom

DAY 8 | DEVOTE YOURSELVES TO PRAYER: It is God's will that we pray to Him. Pray often and pray regularly. There can be many distractions in our day, so we need to make it a priority. Schedule a time each day to spend time talking to God. **Colossians 4:2** - *Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving.*

DAY 9 | PRAYER IS VITAL TO CHRISTIANS: It is kind of hard to live without breathing. It is even harder to be a Christian without prayer. Remember to breathe everyday.

QUOTE: *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."* - Martin Luther

DAY 10 | BELIEVE WHAT YOU ASK FOR: Jesus' promise here is hard to understand because we have all prayed for things that we didn't receive. He never fails His promises, though. Our problem is that many times we are praying for things outside of His will for us. Today, simply pray, "Thy will be done". **Mark 11:24** - *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

DAY 11 | HARD TO BELIEVE: Matthew 21:22 - *And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

DAY 12 | FOCUS: Jesus reminds us in Matthew that we should be focused in our prayer time. Spend a few minutes today before you pray reflecting on what it is that you want to talk to God about. **Matthew 6:7** - *And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words.*

DAY 13 | A MUST FOR OUR CURRENT SOCIETY:

Jesus told His disciples to pray so they wouldn't enter into temptation. This is a prayer that should always be in our spirit. Today's environment offers sin at the push of a button and truth is on the retreat. Pray today that you will not enter into temptation. **Mark 14:38** - *Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

DAY 14 | IF IT IS IMPORTANT TO JESUS, IT SHOULD BE

IMPORTANT TO US: Jesus was very intentional about praying. He made time and picked quality spots as to not get interrupted. We would be wise to follow His lead.

Matthew 14:23 - *And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone,*

DAY 15 | PRAYER CHANGES US: C.S. Lewis reminds us of a great point. Prayer is about changing us, not God.

QUOTE: *"I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, walking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me."* -C.S. Lewis

DAY 16 | START NEW EVERY DAY: C.S. Lewis reminds us that we need God every day. Work that thought into your prayer today. **QUOTE:** *"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done"* -C.S. Lewis

DAY 17 | ON THE LORD'S SIDE: Lincoln's prayer is a perfect example that we should constantly be seeking the Lord's will for our lives and country. **QUOTE:** *"I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that I and this nation may be on the Lord's side."* -Abraham Lincoln

DAY 18 | LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION: Location is a major component to any business. We are blessed because location doesn't matter when we pray. Jonah is a great reminder that no matter our surroundings, God hears our calls.

Jonah 2:1 - *Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish*

DAY 19 | REVIVAL WILL BEGIN WITH PRAYER: Pray for our country today. It needs it more than ever.

QUOTE: *"To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees."* -Billy Graham

DAY 20 | IT'S NOT A DUTY, IT'S A PRIVILEGE: Prayer is a privilege; and what a privilege! We should never forget that.

QUOTE: *"Prayer should not be regarded as a duty which must be performed, but rather as a privilege to be enjoyed, a rare delight that is always revealing some new beauty."*

- E.M. Bounds

DAY 21 | THE POWER OF PRAYER: Prayer is powerful. There is a story told of a church that had the same phrase on their bulletin every Sunday: "Prayer is the tiny nerve that moves God's mighty hand." How true.

James 5:16 - *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

DAY 22 | GOD'S WILL: Praying in the Spirit does not refer to the words we are saying, but rather, HOW we are praying. Pray for the Spirit to lead you in your prayers, knowing that with God's Spirit we can pray according to God's will and be confident of His perfect answer to our request.

Ephesians 6:18 - *Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

DAY 23 | HOPE FOR GOD'S PURPOSES: Since our hope is in Jesus, joy should come easily. The only way to be patient in affliction is if we are faithful in prayer. Pray today for God to help you be more faithful in WHAT and WHEN you pray.

Romans 12:12 - *Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.*

DAY 24 | WHAT IS TRUE PRAYER? Take advantage of the privilege we have to be able to talk with the Creator of Heaven and Earth. What an awesome privilege!

QUOTE: *"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth."*

- Charles Spurgeon

DAY 25 | REVIVAL BEGINS WITH US: The Lord says here "if my people who are called by my name..." He is talking about US, not the unbelievers. If we want revival for our church and country, it must begin with US.

2 Chronicles 7:14 - *If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*

DAY 26 | TIME OF PRAYER: There is no better way to start and finish your day than talking to the Creator.

QUOTE: *"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."* -George Herbert

DAY 27 | LET OTHERS KNOW WHEN GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYERS: Time and time again we see that when David praises the Lord, he acknowledges the fact that God hears our prayers.

Psalms 6:9 - *The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer*

DAY 28 | PRAYER IS NOT ASKING: Today, try to ask for less and listen more.

QUOTE: "Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts." - Mother Teresa

DAY 29 | PRAY IN EVERY SITUATION: Today, try to start your prayer with thanksgiving. Do your best to mention everything that God has given or done for you. It will change your attitude for the rest of your prayer.

Philippians 4:6 - *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

DAY 30 | WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO BAD NEWS?

Nehemiah 1:4 - *As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven.*

DAY 31 | HARD TO DO: We have all read this command from Jesus before. Our problem is that we overlook it. Think about it, how many people really want to pray for people that are persecuting them? Nevertheless, it is a command from Jesus. Therefore, pray today for someone that you feel is persecuting you in some way.

Matthew 5:44 - *But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you*

DAY 32 | DON'T TAKE PRAYER FOR GRANTED: We live in a country where we can pray freely. Daniel shows us how we should spend time talking with God even if the state bans it. Pray today for Daniel's fearless commitment to prayer to be active in our church.

Daniel 6:10 - *When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.*

DAY 33 | CONTINUOUS PRAYER: We should always be in a state of prayer. Let every waking moment be lived in an awareness that God is with us and that He is actively engaged in our thoughts and actions.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 - *Pray without ceasing*

DAY 34 | PRAYER IS A TWO-WAY STREET: We should be listening more than talking in our prayer life.

QUOTE: "God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer." -Mother Teresa

DAY 35 | POWERFUL PRAYERS: When the disciples couldn't cast out a demon, Jesus explained how He did it. Prayer. Prayer is so powerful that it effects the dark forces of Satan. Never forget that when you bow your head.

Mark 9:29 - *And He said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."*

DAY 36 | ABIDE IN HIM: When we abide in Christ it means we are in union with Him. We have an on-going daily dependence on Him. His desires become our desires and that spills out in our prayers. Our prayers and desires are now for His will and plan to be done, not our own.

John 15:7 - *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you.*



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