

PRAY FIRST

I want FBC to set our hearts to be a people of prayer. Our rally cry can be, “Pray First.”

In every situation, whether good or bad, we can pray before we act. Many times, people act first and then want God to bail them out of that situation, but prayer should be our first response, not our last resort. Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough.

For prayer to become a part of our life, it needs to become something we look forward to. I’m convinced most people don’t enjoy prayer because they have never been taught how to pray. That’s where this simple prayer journal can help.

Using several prayer models out of the Bible and having some guides to make prayer more personal, this booklet is designed to help bring joy into your time with God. When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him, you’ll experience the presence of God that will change your life.

Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life. And then...

- Before the day begins
- Before you go to bed
- Before you go to work or school
- Before you send that text
- Before you react
- Before bad things happen
- Before you eat, drive, or travel

In every situation

PRAY FIRST! Prayer changes everything

Pastor Johnny

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

We don't have to follow a specific formula to talk with God but practicing different ways to pray can help us find deeper purpose and connection to Him through our prayer time. This book is designed to give you several prayer models.

You don't have to master all of them at once; you can select a different prayer model each day in any order you want, and even spend a few days on the same model as you become more comfortable. To get started, choose which model you want to use today in prayer.

As you pray, focus on the process the model reveals, giving yourself time to pray intentionally. If your mind wanders, use the model to restore your focus.

The goal of using this guide is not to add pressure or overwhelm you. The goal is simply to get comfortable with different biblical models of prayer and for your prayer life to become more natural, effective, and enjoyable. To make your prayer time even more meaningful, you can write notes and prayer requests and play worship music.

The most important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer. The heart of this guide is to help you find a new level of purpose, effectiveness, and enjoyment in your prayer life. While prayer does take commitment and can require discipline to develop into a daily habit, we also want to remember

that it's a "get to" not a "got to." It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer.

CREATING A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

MARK 1:35

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

HAVE A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." This outline, along with several other tools, is available in this guide. As we pray

every day, our plans for our prayer time can vary, maybe including worship music, Bible reading, and quiet time to listen to God. It doesn't always have to look the same; it just helps when we have a plan for connecting regularly with God.

January 1-9

WARFARE PRAYERS

Prayer is not only communion with God; it is also confrontation with the enemy. When Jesus was on the earth, He came face-to-face with the devil when He was tempted in the wilderness (*see Matthew 4 and Luke 4*), and every time the enemy tried to tempt Him, Jesus responded with a reference from the Bible. He used the Sword of Truth to defend Himself from the enemy's attacks. In these exchanges, Jesus didn't confront the devil as God. He confronted the devil as a man with the Word of God. We should do the same thing.

These spiritual warfare prayers and verses are examples we can use and adapt to our specific situations when we or someone we know is under attack from the devil.

January 1

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17

Knowing that we are in a spiritual battle, God provides spiritual armor and equips us to take a stand when battles come our way.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. Ephesians 6:11-18

Acknowledge that you're in a spiritual battle. Then, claim the protection God has given you by praying through the different pieces of armor described in Ephesians 6.

PRAYER: "Thank You, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You, and I declare that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ and the place I have in Your Kingdom. I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Cover me with Your holiness and purity—defend me from all attacks against my heart. Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Expose the lies I have believed and show me Your truth today. I

choose to live for the gospel in every moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Give me strength to walk daily with You. I believe that You are powerful against every lie and attack of the enemy, and I receive and claim Your power in my life. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the traps of the enemy. Bring those Scriptures to mind today. Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day.”

January 2

THE WEAPONS OF WARFARE

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

When we are aware of spiritual warfare, we can be active in praying through it. Through the blood of Jesus, God has given us victory and power to fight.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

You can command anything that comes against the truth of God and His Word to bow to the name of Jesus. Take a bold stand,

praying specifically and confidently through God's power and His Spirit.

PRAYER:

“Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against me will prosper (Isaiah 54:17), and I declare it in Jesus’ name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). I declare in Jesus’ name that Satan cannot make trouble for me again, like he has in the past. I declare in the name of Jesus that all these prayers are answered and taken care of by trusting You. I stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from me; from my home, workplace, church family, children, and loved ones. I declare that he is not able to stand against me. No weapon formed against me will prosper, because the Spirit of the Lord is with me, protecting me. I declare these truths in the name of Jesus. Anything that comes against me or my family that is not in line with the truth and will of God, I command to bow to the powerful name of Jesus. Father God, I give You all my thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor, and worship. Thank You for loving me, making me clean, and giving me purpose.”

January 3

PROTECTION PRAYER

Based on 2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:3-5;
Romans 12:1-2

We often worry about our safety and protection. When we feel this way, we can immediately come to God in prayer, pouring out our heart to Him, and battling in the heavenlies by asking for and claiming protection for ourselves and our families in Jesus' name.

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

Share your thoughts and concerns with God. Ask Him for His supernatural protection. He says He will command His angels to guard you in all your ways (Psalm 91:11).

Claim this promise and lay everything down before Him trusting His good plans and His power to protect you and those you love.

PRAYER:

“God, I bow in worship to praise You. Thank You for making a way for me through Your Son, Jesus. I surrender myself completely in every area of my life to You. I submit myself to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of the enemy in my life. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I reject every thought that tries to compete against the knowledge of Christ. I pray and thank You for a sound mind, the mind of Christ. Today and every day I ask for protection over my family, loved ones, and those around me—all immediate family members, relatives, friends, and acquaintances. I ask for protection during all our travels. I ask You to watch over our financial security, possessions, health, and safety (be as specific here as you like). All that I have is Yours God, and I declare that Satan cannot touch me or anything You have given me. I rebuke the enemy and tell him to bow to the blood of Jesus that covers me and my family. He will

not take what You have given us, and we are protected and provided for by You, God, and You alone.”

January 4

CONFESSION PRAYER

Based on Romans 10:10; James 5:16; 1 John 1:7-9, 3:8

Our sin separates us from God, but Jesus made a way for us to be reunited with God by covering our sin when He died on the cross. When we accept the gift of salvation, we confess our sin. As Christians, confessing and repenting of sin is something we continue to do. By coming clean and repenting before God, He is able to work in our lives and transform us to be more like Him.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Assume a posture of humility, and without fear of condemnation or punishment, come sincerely to God confessing your sin on a regular basis. Whether your sin feels big or small to you, your sin is still sin and affects your relationship with God. You get His attention when you tell Him your sin and turn from it to follow Him. After you confess, remind yourself and claim the power of the blood of Jesus in your life to wash you clean and make you new.

PRAYER:

“Lord Jesus, I confess all of my sins to You. I repent and turn away from them. I’m sorry for the wrong I have done. I confess the times I should have stepped up to do right and did nothing instead. I lay it all down at Your feet. I submit my thoughts, words, actions, and inactions to You. Thank You, God, for forgiving and making a way for me through Your Son, Jesus. Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. You died on the cross for my sins and rose to life again on the third day. I confess all my sins and repent. I receive Your forgiveness and ask You to cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, setting me free, making me holy, and giving my life purpose.

January 5

FORGIVENESS PRAYER

Based on Matthew 6:14-15; Leviticus 19:18

Forgiveness can feel challenging, but God makes it clear in the Bible that He freely forgives us and we are expected to do the same for others.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15

Come before the Lord with humility, honesty, and sincerity. Share the areas in your life where you need to forgive others. Even if you

aren't able to settle a situation with that person, you can settle it with the Lord by forgiving them. As you choose to forgive those who have hurt or offended you, you can also praise and thank God for forgiving you when you didn't deserve it.

PRAYER:

“Lord, I have a confession to make. I have harbored bitterness in my heart. I haven't loved others well. I have resented certain people and have not forgiven them in my heart. God, I know that You have forgiven me for so much, and I need Your help to follow You and forgive others. In faith, I now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself because You have made me new in the name of Jesus.

January 6

PRIDE PRAYER

Based on Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 26:12; 1 Timothy 3:6

The Bible tells us that pride comes before the fall. Pride can be a very real issue in our lives, but we have the power to overcome it through Jesus.

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. Proverbs 11:2

Practicing humility requires overcoming pride in our lives. Just as you confess other sins, regularly confess your pride to God. Submit

it to Him, asking Him to help you walk in humility, free of pride, closed-mindedness, and self-absorption. If you feel like pride is an issue that continues to surface in your life, confess it daily and bring it before God.

PRAYER:

“Father God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. I know pride only keeps me from You. I put down anything that would cause me to have pride in my heart in dealing with other people. Help me recognize where I lack knowledge and understanding. Help me to prioritize others over myself. I ask You, God, to remind me daily that true humility is not thinking less of myself, it’s thinking of myself less. I humble myself before You and come to You like a child.”

Note: One of the best ways to humble ourselves is to combine prayer with fasting.

January 7

GENERATIONAL BONDAGE PRAYER

Based on Exodus 20:4-6, 34:7; Numbers 14:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1, 12:1

Generational bondage is sin that can be passed down from generation to generation. Whether it’s pride, addiction, racism, sexism, abuse, divorce, abandonment, sexual sin, or something

else, through spiritual warfare, you can claim the power of Jesus to stop the sin with your generation.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:4-6

Recognize the generational bondage that might be in your life and bring it before God. Ask for His power to defeat the sin that has affected generations of your family. Ask for it to stop right now, with you, and rebuke any sin or anything that tries to pull you away from your relationship with Christ. Pray for protection, healing, and a new path for you and your family

PRAYER:

“Father God, I understand that I have inherited certain consequences from my family, and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I proclaim Your power to break any hold of mental or physical illness, pride, addiction, racism, other ungodly perspectives, and anything else on me and my family that are a result of sin being passed down through parents, grandparents, or other family members (if specifics come to mind, talk to God about it). I proclaim that all generational sin ends here and now, and that I will not pass these on to anyone in my family. Thank You, Lord, for setting me free and making a new way for me and my family.

January 7

HEALING PRAYER

Based on 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:2-5; Luke 1:37

Our God is a God of miracles. Just as we read about in the Bible, we still see Him perform miraculous healing today. He is our healer, and we can confidently approach Him asking for healing for ourselves or someone we know.

Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. Psalm 103:2-5

In faith, ask God for healing. Proclaim His power and goodness, believing and trusting Him to take care of you and those you’re praying to be healed.

PRAYER:

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before You asking for healing (name yourself or someone you are praying to experience healing). My hope is in You as our Healer. I believe You are able to do this.

Your name is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, and I believe every knee will bow to You including the name of (name disease or disorder). Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross so that we can receive healing. You say that You forgive our sins and heal our diseases, and I praise You for this. Thank You that the Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. I stand in faith believing for healing for (yourself or someone you're praying for). Nothing is impossible for You, God! Give us peace and direction as You work in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen."

January 8

MARRIAGE PRAYER

Based on Ephesians 5:25-30

God created marriage, and His design for it is good. In marriage, just as in any human relationship, we must work to love well. We can't do this successfully in our own power. We need God, who is love Himself, to give us His Holy Spirit and to guide us in our marriage. Marriage is a picture of Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church. As Christian husbands and wives, we have the high honor to represent the love and commitment Christ has for the Church through our love and commitment to each other.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that He might

present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church. Ephesians 5:25-29 ESV

Thank God for your marriage. Start by asking Him to help you be the best spouse you can be. Ask Him to help you love well and to see your spouse as He sees them. Then, pray for your marriage, asking God to use your marriage to impact the world for Him. Ask Him for protection physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Pray for unity in your marriage and wisdom from Him about how to live your lives as one. Bring to Him anything in your marriage that concerns you and trust Him to work on your behalf.

PRAYER:

“Thank You, God, for loving us, and for creating marriage to be an illustration of Your love for us here on earth. Help me, God, to love my spouse (call them by name) the way You love me. Help me to listen to and honor my spouse, putting them before myself. Protect us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We ask You to build greater unity between us, make us stronger as a couple, more devoted to one another and to You. Use us God, build us up to be an example of what godly marriage can look like. Use us together to do more than we could ever do apart. We ask for greater influence and more impact on the people around us. We ask You to work through us in the lives of our friends, family, and even those far away. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and move through us to bring those far from You closer, so that they can have an

encounter with the Living God, who seeks and saves the lost, and who sets us free and gives us purpose. We choose as a couple to love You first, God. We put our relationship with You before anything and everything else. We confess our need for You. Thank You for bringing us together. We choose to love one another today and every day. Thank You for our marriage. We ask You to bless our marriage, build it, and be present in it always.

January 9

RACIAL RECONCILIATION PRAYER

Based on Ephesians 4:3-6; Mark 12:28-31; Psalm 139:23-24

God created every person in His image on purpose and for a purpose. We are all unique and have value in the eyes of God. As Christians, we love who God loves and seek to serve others, so it's important for us to see the value that each person brings to the world. We need to do our part to foster reconciliation, advocate for equality, and work to ensure that every person is treated with dignity, respect, and honor. As followers of Jesus, we have been commanded to do everything we can to promote peace. We are all one in Christ, called to serve Him and others with a Spirit of Unity.

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:3-6

Recognize the presence of racism in our world and bring it before God today. Thank Him for creating every person in His image, on purpose, for a purpose. Ask Him to help you embrace your unique design and the uniqueness of others. Pray for eyes to see the ways inequality is at work in the world around you, and pray for boldness to uphold peace, love, and unity in the face of injustice. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind any ways you have not promoted equality and unity (thoughts, words, actions, etc.) or people towards whom you have not shown the love of Christ. Ask for forgiveness, and trust God to help you grow and become an advocate for reconciliation.

PRAYER:

“Father, I recognize that You created every person in Your image and that You have great purpose for each of us. I ask You to help me see every person as You see them. Help me to love others with the unconditional love of Jesus and to make every effort to promote peace, unity, and equality for all people. Forgive me for the times that I have not valued others or spoken up for what is right. Give me boldness to confront inequity when I see it and to honor others in my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to love my neighbor as myself and to be an ambassador for reconciliation, as You have called me to be. I ask You to break the spirit of racism and division off of our nation, in Jesus’ name. Thank You for making us one by the blood of Jesus and the power of Your Spirit.”

January 10-14

PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO NEED GOD

God desires everyone to know Him. He says in His Word that He would leave the ninety-nine to go after the one who doesn't know Him. As followers of Christ, we are called to partner with Him in praying for those who don't know Him to come to know Him.

January 10

ASK THE FATHER TO DRAW THEM TO JESUS

God draws people to Him. It's not something we can make happen out of our own efforts, so we need to be faithful in praying that the Father would draw those He's placed on our hearts to Jesus.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them... John 6:44

Think about the people you know who are far from God. Let your heart be open to God and anyone He may bring to your mind. It may help to write down their names as you focus on praying for them.

PRAYER:

“Father, I pray for the people around me (list specific names), that You would supernaturally draw their hearts to You. Send Your Holy Spirit to them and give them the desire to give their lives to You. Help them to recognize their longing for more in life as a spiritual thirst only You can quench. Open their ears to hear Your voice.”

January 11

BIND THE SPIRIT THAT BLINDS THEIR MINDS

The truth can be right in front of some people, and they still can't see it because something is in the way blocking their view of God.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

We can pray against whatever is in their way so that they can see the light of God. We can pray that they would see the truth without any obstacles or distractions interfering.

PRAYER:

“Father, bind the evil spirits that are blinding the minds of the people around me. In the name of Jesus, I pray that they would be able to see clearly, to recognize who You are, and to give their hearts to You. Remove all hindrances the enemy would use to distract them from Your truth. Open their eyes, Lord, that they might see Jesus.”

January 12

**PRAY THAT THEY MAY HAVE A
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD**

Many people think Christianity is just another religion. They only see God through the lens of the organization and institution of the church. They may even feel frustrated, angry, or betrayed by people in churches they have encountered or by religious legalists and their hypocrisy. But God didn't come to build an organization. He came to have a relationship with His children.

*The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, "Abba, Father."
Romans 8:15*

God wants His beloved sons and daughters to come home. Praying for people to have personal encounters with the living God makes a huge difference.

PRAYER:

“Father, I pray that people will understand how much You love them. Loose the Spirit of Adoption for the people around me, so that they come into a meaningful relationship with You. Stir in

their hearts a longing to come home, to hear Your voice, and to see You welcoming them with open arms. Let them know You are always running to meet them and hold them close.”

January 13

PRAY FOR BELIEVERS TO CROSS THEIR PATHS

This is twofold: we can pray for other Christians to influence the people around them positively, and we can also look for opportunities to influence others positively ourselves. God’s plan to reach people is worked through those who already know and love Him. Jesus asked us to pray for people to go into the world to be salt and light. He came to bring the good news of the gospel to all people, and His desire is that everyone would know and love Him.

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field. Matthew 9:38

As His “spiritual farmers,” we should be attuned to opportunities to plant spiritual seeds in the lives of the people we encounter each day. We may have no idea who has already been praying for them and the culminating impact our kind word, compassionate act, or loving attitude can have to draw them to Christ.

PRAYER:

“Father, I pray for the lost around me to meet believers who will influence them in a positive way. Lord, let my life shine in such a way that people want to know the God I serve. Allow others to see my genuine love and concern for them in all that I say and do. Let me be Your hands and feet to serve them and let them know just how much You love them.”

January 14

RELEASE THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION ON THEM, SO THEY MAY KNOW GOD BETTER

It's that “eureka” moment, that “aha!” when it finally clicks. The most important moment to have this kind of revelation is when the lights come on spiritually. People need to see their own sin, see what Jesus did on the cross, and see the hope that comes from giving their life to God.

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. Ephesians 1:17

People need wisdom, not just knowledge, of spiritual things and insight into how spiritual realities directly impact them. We can pray for this kind of supernatural revelation that only comes from God.

PRAYER:

“Father, I pray for the people around me to experience the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation. I pray that they would truly understand their spiritual condition and see what Jesus did for them on the cross. Help them to have the information and experiences needed to come to You, so they can understand all You have for them.”

January 15-22

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Lord’s Prayer is often recited in churches or at religious events, but there’s so much more to this prayer. Jesus provided this model as an outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to God, aligns our priorities with His, and helps us live dependently on Him. This model takes us through each part of The Lord’s Prayer, showing us how to pray the way Jesus instructed. One day Jesus was praying in a certain place.

When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray...” Luke 11:1

“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from

the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV

January 15

CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

“Our Father in Heaven”

God isn't interested in us practicing religion; instead, He desires a relationship with us. God has adopted us as His children and loves for us to call Him our Father. Starting our prayer time acknowledging our relationship with God is powerful for us and delights Him as well.

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15 NLT

Proclaim your intimate relationship with God, addressing Him lovingly as your Father and thanking Him that you are His child.

PRAYER:

“Father, I come to You in prayer today thankful that I am Your child. I know I am a sinner, but You have forgiven me and adopted me as Your own, and I am so grateful to call You my Father. Thank You for loving me. I love You.

January 16

WORSHIP HIS NAME

“Hallowed be Your name”

God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His name. Here is a list of some of His names to help us worship Him specifically and personally:

- *God is Righteousness*
- *He makes us clean God is Sanctifier*
- *He has called us and set us apart God is Healer*
- *He heals all our diseases God is Banner of Victory*
- *He defeated our enemies God is Shepherd*
- *He speaks to us and leads us God is Peace*
- *He is our peace in every storm God is Provider*
- *He supplies all of our needs*

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. Proverbs 18:10 ESV

Speak God’s names out loud. When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, but we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is.

PRAYER:

“God, I am in awe of You. Your name is a strong tower, a place of protection and safety for me. I praise You as my Healer, my Shepherd, and my Banner of Victory. You are my Peace, my

Provider, my Righteousness, and my Sanctifier. Your name is great, and I worship You.”

January 17

PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST

“Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven” Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about and loving who He loves. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray His agenda first.

He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. Luke 12:31 TLB

Spend time focusing on what God is focused on. His priorities include:

- *Saving the lost*
- *Wisdom and guidance for those in authority— parental, spiritual, governmental, work-related*
- *Caring for the poor and marginalized*
- *Unity and love*
- *Justice*
- *Freedom for those in bondage*
- *Accomplishing His purpose in our lives*

PRAYER:

“God, I recognize there is no better plan on earth than Yours, and I pray for Your will to be done in our world and in my life (name the areas of your life where you need more of God’s presence today). This world is lost and needs You desperately, and I pray for every person to know You as their personal Lord and Savior. I pray for the leaders in my life (pray specifically over parents, spiritual leaders, governmental leaders, employers, and any other leaders in your life), that You would show them Your will and give them supernatural wisdom and discernment as they lead. God, I pray that Your heart for justice and unity would be seen in our world; that those who are in bondage will be set free; that the needs of the poor and marginalized will be met. Show me what my role is in seeing the realities of heaven come to earth. Make Your priorities my priorities. Help me love who You love and see value in all people. I give my life to You again today; have Your way in me. Please give me wisdom and clarity as You show me my next steps.”

January 18

DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

“Give us this day our daily bread”

God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, needs, and desires and to trust Him to provide.

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! Psalm 121:1-2 NLT

Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. Bring them to God and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. It may help to open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him. Problems can either be ours or God's; they can't be both.

PRAYER:

“Father, I acknowledge that everything I need today will come from You. You made the heavens and the earth; You are more than capable of handling any situation I'm dealing with, so I give it to You completely (specifically talk to God about what is on your mind and heart right now and give it to Him). I look to You to help me, sustain me, and give me Your peace. Remind me of Your hope and power today. Thank You in advance for taking care of my needs.”

January 19

FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN

“Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”

God has offered us complete forgiveness, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins and receive His forgiveness, our hearts are more prepared to forgive others as well.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 JOHN 1:9

Ask God to check your heart and life and show you areas where you might need to ask for forgiveness from Him. Then, it is your

turn to forgive those who have offended you. We can even choose to forgive people in advance. Ask God to forgive you and to help you forgive others.

PRAYER:

“God, thank You so much for offering me the gift of forgiveness. Show me any areas in my life that I need to bring before You in order to receive forgiveness and healing. I confess that I have been struggling with sin (talk to God about any areas of sin in your life), and I know that You want me to be clean again. Please forgive me for my sin. Thank You for showing me unfailing grace. As You have so freely forgiven me, I also want to freely forgive others. Help me let go of the things that have offended me and acknowledge when I have offended others. I release to You those who have hurt me, and I trust You to handle those situations according to Your perfect will.”

January 20

ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us. As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory through Jesus as we’re empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God’s

Word, and every lie the enemy has told us can be replaced with God's truth.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

By recognizing that the enemy wants to destroy you, you can shed light on his lies and claim God's truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you're believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Ask Him to expose the enemy and to help you understand and receive His truth. Simply speaking the name of Jesus has great power in the spiritual realm. The Bible tells us in James 4:7 that if we resist the devil, he will flee from us. Through prayer, we can resist him and walk forward in freedom.

PRAYER:

“God, I recognize that my struggles today aren't against the people or circumstances around me, but against the enemy. Please help me to see how the enemy is lying to me. Help me to recognize his lies, take them captive, and make all of my thoughts obedient to the truth of Your Word (list out any specific areas God shows you where you have believed a lie that needs to be replaced with His truth). While the enemy wants to destroy me, I know that You came to give me life to the fullest. I speak the name of Jesus over my life and declare that no weapon formed against me will prosper. I don't have to fear the enemy because the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.”

January 21

EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD’S ABILITY

“For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.”

God is more than able to move in every situation, and ending our prayer time claiming His authority and power focuses our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do.

Ah, Sovereign LORD, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You. Jeremiah 32:17

Remind yourself of God’s limitless power and then return to praising Him and declaring your faith in Him:

- *“Yours is the Kingdom” – all authority belongs to You*
- *“Yours is the Power” – all mightiness flows from You*
- *“Yours is the Glory” – Your victory will be complete*

PRAYER:

“Father God, nothing is too hard for You! Through Your great power, all things are possible. All authority is Yours, all might is Yours, and I know that Your victory will be complete. You are amazing, and I worship You. I praise You for Your power and presence in my life. You are my God, and You are worthy of all praise.”

January 22-31

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

The Word of God is one of the most valuable tools we have to build a dynamic daily prayer life. It brings power, truth, and encouragement to our prayer time. Let's begin with King David's Psalm 23. Take a moment to read it, and then use the prayer below as a way to use the psalm to have a conversation with God.

SCRIPTURE:

The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely Your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. PSALM 23

PRAYER:

“God, You are my Provider, and I know You will take care of me. Thank You for guiding me to places of rest. You are my source of energy and passion. You keep me going and lead me toward a life of purpose and freedom. I know that even when I experience my darkest seasons of difficulty and challenge, I have nothing to be

afraid of because You are with me. Your presence and power are a constant comfort to me. I know that You are preparing the way for me and that my enemies cannot touch me because You are taking care of me. I know that You have blessed me, and I thank You for choosing me and anointing me with purpose. Your blessings are so much more than I could ask for. I know that You are good, God, and that You are with me all the days of my life. You have chosen me, and I have chosen You, and that means I will be with You, in Your presence, forever.”

In the following section, we will use several Scriptures and claim their promises through prayer. You can make this as personal as you like. You will find the most benefit when you pray the Scriptures that God is showing you in His Word and that are connecting with you personally in your current season of life.

January 22

SCRIPTURE:

Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:8

PRAYER:

“Heavenly Father, You have promised that if I draw near to You, You will draw near to me. I need more of Your presence today, and

I am drawing near to You through prayer, worship, and reading Your Word. I open my heart to You and ask You to be near to me and change me to be more like You.”

January 23

SCRIPTURE:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

PRAYER:

“Father God, I ask You to search my heart. If You find anything in me that is offensive, please show me and help me remove it from my life. Teach me to love others well and live a life that points people to You. Help me live my life on earth in a way that impacts eternity.

January 24

SCRIPTURE:

But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Matthew 6:33

PRAYER:

“Your Word tells me that if I seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness, You will lead me to a life of blessing, purpose, and freedom. I am Yours today, God, and I give this day to You. Help me to focus on Your priorities first- sharing Your love, making Your Name known, and advocating for justice in our world. I know that by focusing on You and Your heart for others, rather than myself, I will receive joy and peace.

January 25

SCRIPTURE:

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10

PRAYER:

“God, You have promised that if I humble myself before You, You will lift me up. I recognize today that I cannot succeed on my own, and I need You in every moment. I humble myself before You, and I ask You to work in and through me today. My time, efforts, thoughts, and words are Yours today (name specific parts of your day and give them to God). Show me what I don’t know, and help me grow in the knowledge of You and Your heart for people. Use me for Your purposes, Lord. I trust that You will be with me and lift me up.

January 26

SCRIPTURE:

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

PRAYER:

“Father, I know You have not given me a spirit of fear or timidity, but one of power, love, and self-discipline. When my mind feels out of control, I pray that You will renew my spirit and let power, love, and self-discipline fill me. Help me look more like You every day. With confidence that Your power lives in me, give me boldness to confront the enemy and anything I see in the world that does not reflect Your heart. Thank You for breaking the spirit of fear off my life, and I receive the truth that You have given me a sound and healthy mind.”

January 27

SCRIPTURE:

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28*

PRAYER:

“God, You promise me in Your Word that in all things You work for my good. Right now, there are circumstances in my life that don’t feel good and that I can’t see an ounce of good in (talk to God about the specific situations that are causing you difficulty or pain). Even though this is how I feel, I choose to believe Your truth over my feelings. When You say You will work in all things for my good, I believe You. Even in situations that seem hopeless, I know You are working on my behalf and that You want more for me than I could ever want for myself. Thank You for having a purpose for me and for working all my circumstances for good.”

January 28

SCRIPTURE:

Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge. Psalm 62:8

PRAYER:

“Father, in Your Word You invite me to pour out my heart to You. You are my refuge, and I know that anything I think, feel, or do is okay to bring to You. Knowing that You are a safe place for me, I come to You and give You everything on my heart (talk to God about the specific things that are on your heart today). From what is worrying me to what is delighting me, for what I hope for to what I’m afraid of, I bring it all to You because I know I can trust You. Help me and guide me in every area, in Jesus’ name.”

January 29

SCRIPTURE:

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. Deuteronomy 28:12

PRAYER:

“Lord, I believe You have everything I need and You want to bless me. You tell me in Your Word that You will open the heavens to bless the work I do. I know that without You, I can do nothing. I ask that You will open the heavens and pour out Your blessings and power over me. I give my work and my efforts to You and I ask You for favor and blessing in anything my hands touch (surrender specific efforts to Him). May it be for Your glory alone so that others may see Your power and goodness at work.”

January 30

SCRIPTURE:

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39

PRAYER:

“God, I am in awe of Your love for me. You are so great, and I am so small, yet You love me fully. I remind my soul today that nothing can separate me from Your love—I am so grateful! There is nothing I can do to win or lose Your love; You love me without condition. Because I know nothing on earth, in time or space, or anything in existence can separate me from Your love, I will live confidently and peacefully knowing I have always been and will always be fully loved by You.”

January 31

SCRIPTURE:

“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord. Isaiah 54:17

PRAYER:

“Lord, I know that no weapon raised against me will succeed because I am Your child. I feel pressure in my life right now, and sometimes I feel as though life will overcome me (talk to God about the concerns weighing on you). Even though I feel this way, in faith, I claim Your promise that no weapon can overcome me and that any accusations that come against me will be silenced. This truth is verified by Your love and saving power in my life.”