

# 2025 DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR

## 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

In our fast-paced world, it's easy to overlook the power of prayer. Yet, prayer is not just a religious ritual, it's a transformative practice that can infuse our lives with purpose, power, and divine connection. Just as a pleasing fragrance can fill a room, our prayers can create a spiritual aroma that reaches the heavens and changes the atmosphere around us.

The Bible often speaks of offerings and incense as a "sweet aroma to the Lord." This imagery isn't just poetic; it's deeply meaningful. In ancient times, the aroma of incense from temple sacrifices could be detected miles away. Similarly, our prayers should be so constant and fervent that they become part of our very essence, detectable to those around us even when we're not actively praying.

Consider the Psalmist's words: "Let my prayer be set before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice" (Psalm 141:2). Our prayers are like spiritual incense, rising before God's throne. In fact, Revelation 5:8 describes golden bowls full of incense in heaven, which are the prayers of the saints. This powerful image reminds us that our prayers are not forgotten or ignored—they are collected and cherished by God Himself.

But what does it mean to live a life infused with prayer? It's more than just saying a quick blessing before meals or muttering a hasty "God help me" in times of trouble. Living a life of prayer means developing a constant awareness of God's presence and engaging in ongoing dialogue with Him throughout our day.

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). This doesn't mean we should neglect our responsibilities to kneel in prayer all day. Rather, it suggests maintaining an attitude of prayer—a continuous openness to God's leading and a readiness to turn our thoughts to Him at any moment.

Jesus emphasized the importance of persistent prayer in the parable of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8). In this story, a widow continually petitions an unjust judge until he finally grants her request. Jesus uses this example to illustrate how much more our just and loving God will respond to our persistent prayers. The key is not to lose heart or give up, even when answers seem delayed.

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Prayer is not just about asking for things; it's about aligning our hearts with God's will. It's a two-way communication where we speak and listen. Too often, we rush through our prayer time without pausing to hear what God might be saying to us. Taking time to listen can lead to profound insights and direction for our lives.

Moreover, prayer is not just for our benefit. We are called to intercede for others, including those in authority over us. 1 Timothy 2:1-3 instructs us to offer "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks" for all people, including kings and those in authority. This can be challenging, especially when we disagree with leaders' decisions or actions. Yet, praying for those in power—regardless of our personal opinions—is both a biblical mandate and a powerful way to influence our world for good.

Our prayer life should extend beyond our immediate concerns. God may call us to pray for situations, people, or nations we've never even encountered. These "prayer assignments" require faith and persistence. We may not see immediate results, but our faithfulness in prayer can have far-reaching impacts we may never fully comprehend in this life.

Developing a robust prayer life requires intentionality and discipline. It means carving out dedicated time each day to commune with God. This might require adjusting our schedules, perhaps going to bed earlier so we can rise and pray before the day's demands begin. It could mean turning our commute into a mobile prayer closet or finding moments throughout the day to lift our hearts to God.

As we cultivate a life of prayer, we'll find that it changes us. Prayer builds our faith, increases our spiritual sensitivity, and develops our character. It aligns our will with God's and gives us His perspective on the situations we face. A consistent prayer life also equips us to handle life's challenges with greater grace and wisdom.

Remember, prayer is not about impressing God with eloquent words or long speeches. It's about honest, heartfelt communication with our Creator. We can pour out our souls before Him, expressing our deepest fears, joys, and desires. At the same time, we should allow His Word to shape our prayers, praying in alignment with His revealed will in Scripture.

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As we grow in prayer, we'll find that it becomes more than just a spiritual discipline -- it becomes a way of life. We'll develop a heightened awareness of God's presence and leading throughout our day. Our lives will begin to diffuse "the fragrance of the knowledge of Him in every place" (2 Corinthians 2:14), impacting those around us in powerful ways.

Let's challenge ourselves to elevate our prayer lives. Start by setting aside dedicated time each day for prayer. Be intentional about listening as well as speaking. Expand your prayer focus beyond personal needs to include intercession for others, including those in authority and even those you may not naturally like or agree with. Persist in prayer, even when answers seem delayed, trusting that God is working behind the scenes.

As we do this, we'll find that our lives begin to change. We'll experience greater peace, increased spiritual power, and a deeper sense of purpose. Our faith will grow stronger, and we'll be better equipped to face life's challenges. Most importantly, we'll draw closer to the heart of God, experiencing the joy and fulfillment that comes from intimate communion with our Creator.

May our lives become a sweet aroma of faith, rising continually before the throne of God and transforming the world around us through the power of persistent, faith-filled prayer.

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### AGENDA

During our 21 days of prayer, we have a different focus for each day of the week. These focuses are not to replace your normal prayer time but provide inspiration to pray even more. When you begin your prayer time, read the Scriptures, reflect on the Devotional, pray over your normal requests as well as the focus. As you pray, be conscious of the Spirit's leading. Endeavor to not rush through your prayer time but allow the Holy Spirit to help you pray. Our prayer focuses are as follows:

#### MONDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

The Marriages & Families of Faith Christian Center

#### TUESDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

◆ Local Leaders     ◆ State Leaders     ◆ Federal Leaders

#### WEDNESDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

For the Faith Family to thrive in every area of their life and to increase in the fruit of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, in influence, in prosperity, and in every good thing.

#### THURSDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

For every member of the Faith Family to receive further wisdom & clarity concerning their call and the daily decisions they have to make.

#### FRIDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

For Pastor Kerrick, Pastor Racquel, & the Entire Leadership Team

#### SATURDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

For All of Our Faith Experiences

#### SUNDAY'S PRAYER FOCUS:

Schools in the Ten Mile Radius of Your House & the Church

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DAY  
1

PRAYING GOD'S WILL, NOT OUR OWN

**Reading: 1 John 5:13-15**

Devotional: As we begin this journey, let's reflect on the importance of aligning our prayers with God's will. Often, we approach prayer with our own agenda, but today's passage reminds us that confidence in prayer comes from seeking God's will. Take a moment to consider: Are your prayers for loved ones based on your desires or God's perfect plan? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers, shifting from "my will be done" to "Thy will be done." Remember, the Word of God is the will of God. As you pray for others today, root your petitions in Scripture, trusting that God hears and answers according to His wisdom and love.

DAY  
2

ENLIGHTENED EYES OF UNDERSTANDING

**Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23**

Devotional: Today's passage is a powerful prayer for spiritual enlightenment. Paul prays for believers to have the "eyes of their understanding enlightened." In a world where spiritual blindness is prevalent, we need this divine illumination more than ever. Reflect on areas in your life or the lives of loved ones where spiritual insight is needed. Pray for God to flood your spiritual eyes with His light, revealing the hope of His calling, the riches of His glory, and the greatness of His power. As you go through your day, be attentive to moments where God might be opening your eyes to His truth and presence in unexpected ways.

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DAY  
3

#### OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

**Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6**

Devotional: Today we confront the reality of spiritual blindness. The enemy works tirelessly to keep people from seeing the light of the gospel. But as believers, we have the authority to pray against this darkness. Think of those in your life who seem spiritually blind. Instead of frustration, approach them with compassion, understanding that their eyes are veiled. Pray fervently for God to remove the blinders and let His light shine in their hearts. Remember, your persistent prayers can be the catalyst for someone's spiritual awakening. As you intercede, also examine your own heart. Are there areas where you might be resisting God's light? Invite Him to illuminate every corner of your being.

DAY  
4

#### PERSISTING IN PRAYER

**Reading: Luke 18:1-8**

Devotional: Jesus teaches us the value of persistent prayer through the parable of the persistent widow. In our instant-gratification culture, perseverance in prayer can be challenging. Yet, this passage encourages us not to lose heart. Reflect on prayers you've given up on or areas where you've grown weary in intercession. God invites you to bring these before Him again with renewed faith. Unlike the unjust judge, our Father delights in answering His children. Your persistent prayers for loved ones, no matter how long it takes, are not in vain. They are powerful and effective. Today, commit to praying with perseverance, trusting in God's perfect timing and unfailing love.

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5

#### THE POWER OF EARNEST PRAYER

##### **Reading: James 5:13-18**

Devotional: As we conclude our devotional series, we focus on the incredible power of earnest, heartfelt prayer. James reminds us that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. This isn't about perfection but about approaching God with sincerity and faith. Reflect on the quality of your prayer life. Are your prayers earnest and heartfelt, or have they become routine? Consider Elijah's example - an ordinary person whose extraordinary prayers changed the course of nature. What seemingly impossible situations are you facing? Bring them before God with renewed fervor and faith. Remember, your prayers can make tremendous power available, dynamic in its working. As you pray for others today, do so with the confidence that your intercession is making a real difference in the spiritual realm.

DAY  
6

#### PRAYING GOD'S WILL

##### **Reading: 1 John 5:13-15**

Devotional: As we continue this journey, let's reflect on the power of aligning our prayers with God's will. The passage reminds us that when we pray according to God's will, He hears us and grants our petitions. Today, take time to consider: Are your prayers rooted in your own desires or in God's perfect plan? Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayer life, helping you discern and pray for God's will in every situation. Remember, the will of God is found in the Word of God. Spend time meditating on Scripture, allowing it to shape your prayers and align your heart with God's purposes.

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7

#### THE POWER OF OUR WORDS

##### **Reading: James 3:2-6**

Devotional: Today's reading highlights the profound impact our words have on our lives and the lives of others. Just as a small rudder steers a large ship, our tongues can direct the course of our lives. Reflect on how your words have been aligning with your prayers. Have you been speaking life and faith, or have your words contradicted what you've been praying for? Ask God to help you tame your tongue and use it as an instrument of blessing and encouragement. Make a conscious effort today to speak words that align with God's promises and the prayers you've been offering.

DAY  
8

#### PERSISTENT PRAYER

##### **Reading: Luke 18:1-8**

Devotional: Jesus teaches us the importance of persistence in prayer through the parable of the persistent widow. In our fast-paced world, it's easy to grow weary or impatient when our prayers aren't immediately answered. Yet, God calls us to persevere in prayer, trusting in His perfect timing. Consider areas in your life where you may have given up praying too soon. Recommit these situations to God, asking for the strength to persist in prayer until you see breakthrough. Remember, persistence in prayer is not about changing God's mind, but about aligning our hearts with His and demonstrating our faith in His promises.

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9

#### PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

##### **Reading: Romans 8:26-28**

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us of the Holy Spirit's role in our prayer life. When we don't know how to pray, the Spirit intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. This is a beautiful picture of God's grace in our weakness. Take time to reflect on moments when you felt at a loss for words in prayer. How can you invite the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers more fully? Practice praying in the Spirit, whether through speaking in tongues or simply yielding your prayer time to the Spirit's leading. Trust that even when you don't know what to pray, the Spirit is interceding on your behalf according to God's will.

DAY  
10

#### SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH

##### **Reading: Galatians 6:7-10**

Devotional: As we conclude our devotional series, let's consider the principle of sowing and reaping in our spiritual lives. Our prayers, words, and actions are all seeds we sow. What kind of harvest are you cultivating through your daily choices? Reflect on areas where God might be calling you to sow seeds of faith, whether through acts of service, words of encouragement, or persistent prayer for others. Remember, we reap what we sow, but often not immediately. Trust in God's timing and continue to sow good seeds, knowing that in due season, you will reap a harvest if you do not give up. Today, ask God to show you specific seeds He wants you to sow in faith, believing for a bountiful harvest in His perfect timing.

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11

#### SPEAKING FAITH

##### **Reading: Mark 11:22-24**

Devotional: Jesus taught that our words, when coupled with faith, have tremendous power. "Have faith in God," He said, emphasizing the importance of not just believing, but also speaking our faith. Today, pay attention to your words. Are they aligning with your faith, or are they undermining it? Practice speaking words of faith over your circumstances, your loved ones, and your future. Remember, this isn't about making up our own words but about declaring God's truth and promises. Spend time in prayer, listening for God's voice, and then boldly speak forth what He's saying to you.

DAY  
12

#### THE FRAGRANCE OF FAITH

##### **Reading: Psalm 141:1-2, Revelation 5:8**

Devotional: Just as incense rises before God, our prayers ascend as a sweet aroma to Him. Today, reflect on the power of persistent prayer. How often do you find yourself rushing through prayer, treating it as a ritual rather than a heartfelt conversation with God? Consider setting aside dedicated time each day this week to pray intentionally, allowing your prayers to become a fragrant offering. As you pray, imagine your words rising like incense before God's throne. Remember, your prayers are not just heard but treasured by Him. How might this perspective change your approach to prayer?

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13

#### PRAYING WITHOUT CEASING

**Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Luke 18:1-8**

Devotional: Jesus teaches us to pray always and not lose heart. In our fast-paced world, the idea of praying without ceasing might seem daunting. Yet, it's less about non-stop verbal prayer and more about maintaining a constant awareness of God's presence. Today, practice turning your thoughts to God throughout the day - in moments of joy, stress, or mundane tasks. How can you integrate brief prayers into your daily routine? Remember the persistent widow in Jesus' parable. What situation in your life requires persistent prayer? Trust that God hears and will answer in His perfect timing.

DAY  
14

#### THE POWER OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-3, Romans 12:12**

Devotional: We are called to pray for all people, including those in authority - even those we may disagree with. This can be challenging, but it's a crucial aspect of our faith. Today, choose a leader or someone in authority you struggle to support. Spend time praying for them, asking God to grant them wisdom and to work through them for the good of all. How does this change your perspective on them? Consider making a list of people to intercede for regularly. Remember, your prayers can make a difference in ways you may never see.

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15

#### PRAYER AS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

**Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18, James 5:16**

Devotional: Prayer is not just communication with God; it's a powerful weapon in spiritual warfare. Prayer can be considered similarly as the Roman soldier's "lance" for long-distance fighting. How can you use prayer proactively in your life, addressing potential challenges before they arise? Reflect on areas where you feel spiritually vulnerable. Spend time today "putting on the full armor of God" through prayer, specifically focusing on these areas. Remember, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much." How might this empower your prayer life?

DAY  
16

#### THE CONFIDENCE OF PRAYER

**Reading: 1 John 5:14-15, 2 Corinthians 2:14-16**

Devotional: As believers, we have the incredible privilege of approaching God with confidence. Our prayers are not just wishful thinking, but powerful declarations aligned with God's will. Today, reflect on times when you've seen God answer prayer in your life. How has this built your confidence in prayer? As Pastor Kerrick shares, we should leave prayer knowing "that it worked." Practice praying with this level of confidence today. Also, consider how your life can be a "fragrance of Christ" to those around you. How can your prayers and actions together create an aroma that draws others to God?

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DAY  
17

#### THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN US

##### **Reading: John 14:15-26**

Devotional: Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit as our helper and guide. Pastor Kerrick often emphasizes how the Spirit lives within us, ready to lead and empower us in every situation. Reflect on times when you've felt the Spirit's gentle nudging. How can you become more attentive to His voice in your daily life? Practice pausing throughout your day to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance, even in small decisions. Remember, you have a constant supply of divine wisdom and power within you.

DAY  
18

#### UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

##### **Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27**

Devotional: The sermon highlighted how our individual "supplies" or spiritual gifts come together to build up the body of Christ. Consider what unique gifts and experiences God has given you. How can you use these to encourage and support others in your faith community? Look for opportunities today to collaborate with fellow believers, recognizing that together, your diverse gifts can accomplish more than you could alone. Pray for unity and harmony in your local church and the broader Christian community.

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DAY  
19

WALKING IN LOVE

**Reading: 1 John 4:7-21**

Devotional: We were reminded that our faith works through love and that many spiritual breakthroughs are hindered not by lack of faith, but by lack of love. Examine your heart today. Are there people or groups you struggle to love? Ask God to help you see them through His eyes. Practice intentional acts of kindness, especially towards those you find difficult. Remember, as you grow in love, fear diminishes, and your capacity for faith increases.

DAY  
20

FORGIVENESS AND FREEDOM

**Reading: Matthew 18:21-35**

Devotional: The sermon stressed the importance of forgiving others, not for their sake, but for our own freedom. Unforgiveness can limit our spiritual growth and effectiveness. Is there anyone you need to forgive? Even if they haven't apologized, choose to release them and the hurt they caused to God. This doesn't mean you have to resume a relationship, but it frees you from being chained to the past. Ask God for the strength to forgive and feel the weight lift as you do.

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21

EXPECTANCY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

#### **Reading: Acts 4:23-31**

Devotional: We were encouraged to come together with intention and expectation, believing for miracles. The early church saw incredible breakthroughs when they prayed together. How can you cultivate a spirit of expectancy in your spiritual life? Before you enter times of worship or prayer, remind yourself of God's power and willingness to move. Look for His hand at work in both big and small ways throughout your day. Share testimonies of God's faithfulness with others to build collective faith. Remember, your expectant faith creates an atmosphere for God to move powerfully.

