

TOGETHER '22 21-Day Devotional Prayer Guide

Three weeks of devotionals collected
and curated by the National Day of
Prayer Task Force

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Introduction

✿ Kyle Davison Bair, TOGETHER '22 Prayer Coordinator

How do you prepare yourself for revival?

God is on the move. As we are working towards TOGETHER '22, God has been going before us by providing what we need, opening doors, and uniting people on purpose.

It is becoming clear that God has great plans for TOGETHER '22. By His grace, this will be a culture-defining moment, uniting a generation in the love of God to go into all the world and make Jesus known.

How then do we prepare for this?

The National Day of Prayer Task Force wrote and compiled a fantastic set of devotionals designed to prepare our hearts for what God is going to do. The authors of these devotionals comprise some of the most passionate prayer leaders in America today, those who cherish the privilege of prayer and use it mightily to accomplish God's will. They can teach us a great deal about this amazing God we serve.

These devotionals are split into three groups of seven, each focusing on a unique type of prayer – devotional, intercessory, and missional:

✿ **Devotional prayer** expresses our devotion and dependence on the Lord. These prayers include repenting of sin, surrendering to God, or seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit to discern the next steps in life.

✿ **Intercessory prayer** seeks the good of someone else. We can intercede for our loved ones, our neighbors, or even government officials, asking God to provide grace, wisdom, and discernment.

✿ **Missional prayer** cultivates the prayer/care/share lifestyle of a believer. This kind of prayer can seek God's insight into how to view your everyday life as a mission field or provide an example of powerful prayer to someone you're ministering to.

I pray that God uses these devotions to prepare your heart for all He is about to do. His ways are higher than ours and His dreams are loftier than ours. Yet He invites us along with Him, blessing us with the chance to join His world-changing work.

This is our time, my friends. Let's prepare our hearts – and let's make Jesus known.



Devotional Prayer

Devotional prayer expresses our devotion and dependence on the Lord. These prayers include repenting of sin, surrendering to God, or seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit to discern the next steps in life.

Taught and Triumphant

✿ Kathy Branzell, President, National Day of Prayer Task Force ✿

"Jesus then left that place and went into the region of Judea and across the Jordan. Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them" (Mark 10:1 NIV).

Throughout Scripture we see the word "taught." The Father, the prophets, and Jesus taught. The reason we are taught is to learn a lesson that will not only increase our knowledge but our success. For Christians, success is fruitfulness that glorifies God and accomplishes the purposes He designed and destined for our lives. We don't learn just to have the knowledge stored in our brain but rather to put it into practice for gain and less pain throughout life.

Spiritual lessons teach us what we should or should not believe and therefore how we should and should not behave. Our beliefs and what we know steer where and how we go about life. Ponder that for a moment. How does knowing the power and love of God change the way you see your challenges and choices? How does your belief in God strengthen your obedience and love towards Him knowing His thoughts, affection, and actions towards you? How does your knowledge of Jesus filter your view of earthly trials and temptations? It makes me want to know more and live a life that responds to the relationship I have with Him as my Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, Deliverer, Defender, Refuge, Strength, King, Father, Friend, and more. The more you learn about God; His mighty unchanging attributes, the more you want to worship Him as you walk in His Word, will and ways.

The people who attended Explo '72 knew they were there to be taught; to be educated and equipped in order to leave and evangelize the world. They knew the work was just starting when Explo '72 ended. Please pray with me about completing our assignment as we are taught at TOGETHER '22.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the great love that you have shown me. Help me to know Your love and show Your Love as You teach me every day through Scriptures, sermons and godly relationships, and listening to You in prayer. Guide and guard me as I put into practice what I am taught at TOGETHER '22. I commit to being taught, not entertained at an event, but educated to engage triumphantly in the destiny You have authored and will complete in me.

Growth

✿ By Nick Hall, Evangelist, Founder & President, Pulse ✿

May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. [...] May we shout for joy over your victory
and lift up our banners in the name of our God.”
(Psalm 20:1, 5 NIV)

I prayed for this. I prayed to be an evangelist, asking God to chain me to His will for my life. But as I'm living it out, I'm facing a million things I didn't ask for — things I didn't expect, things I'm not good at, things that are hard.

It's a regular surrender in my life to come back to the purposes and sovereignty of God, to say "God, if I prayed for this, and You're allowing this, then I know it's for my good."

I'm not saying there aren't things that are wrong, or that there aren't things that need to be changed. But even the hard, God allows. Even the wrong, God allows. Even the sickness, God allows. Because He's after you.

Growth comes through hard stuff. I've been through so many destructive growth and learning experiences in my life. But every season where I have been pushed and stretched has prepared me for what God was calling me to next.

God is stretching you because He intends to use you for greater things. The things that used to stress me out don't stress me out anymore. Why? Because God has grown my capacity to know what I can handle. God has grown my faith to realize that these things are not a big deal for God.

I have never felt less stressed than I have these last months. I have never felt more peace or more calm, even when things aren't going well. God has taken me from stress to peace, mostly through suffering.

If you're getting stressed or overwhelmed, bring it back to the Lord. If you're losing the joy, come back to the truth that God is growing you. What does it look like to be able to embrace the hard stuff in your life? It's realizing that God is preparing you for something greater.

Prayer:

"Lord Jesus, I pray that You will show me Your plans for my life and help me live them out daily. When hard times come, help me embrace them, knowing that You can grow me through them. Use my challenges to prepare me for greater things, so that I can do all You call me to do. Make Jesus known through my life. Amen.

Waiting Patiently for Redemption

✿ By Sarah Lowe ✿

Have you ever felt like a hopeless outsider? Perhaps because of a move or a life circumstance you found yourself out of favor with those around you, or maybe you were in an environment that seemed so hostile you felt trapped with no resources to sustain you.

As we study the life of Naomi in the book of Ruth, we see a very challenging time, but God shows us His Plan of Redemption through Boaz and Ruth. Ruth could have gone on her way and left Naomi to fend for herself after the death of Naomi's husband and both sons, but instead, she faithfully followed wise counsel and worked hard to provide for both of them. She embraced Naomi's God and pledged herself to walk in His Ways.

As Ruth worked hard to take care of Naomi, she caught the eye of Boaz, a wealthy landowner. She learned to trust the Lord God of Israel through the lessons of Naomi; she was faithful. To recap the story, Boaz invited her to glean in his fields and his servants reported of her faithfulness. And so Boaz began to plan how to provide for her out of the abundance of his fields.

The story of Boaz and Ruth all began in Ruth's commitment to the Lord and to her mother-in-law. It continued as she walked in integrity, growing in maturity and being faithful.

As we read through the book of Ruth, we see how God reveals His Love through this story of a widow with no visible means of support, living in a foreign land. Yet His Hand guides her, just as He guides each of us as we draw close to Him. We seek out wise counsel, we faithfully follow God's Guidance and we watch Victory come forth!

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that You love me with an everlasting Love! Thank You for Your Mercy and Grace. I have felt the lonesome feeling of hopelessness and rejection. You created us to feel but You want to bring us to healing and deliverance. I lift up the one reading this today for Guidance as You teach them how to walk in deliverance and victory. How to walk filled to overflowing so that their lives become so full of You that they are given to blessing those around them. There is no more powerful calling than to give ourselves in intercessory prayer on behalf of those in need. Lead on O King Eternal, we ask in Jesus Name! Amen

The Invitation

✿ Hannah Gronowski Barnett, CEO & Founder Generation Distinct ✿

Jesus is reaching out His hand, whispering about the wild adventures that await if we will only say yes. Adventures that are sometimes difficult and painful, that require great amounts of sacrifice. And yet. These adventures will fulfill our deepest longings for meaning, our soulful search for fulfillment, and our great grasp for purpose. This adventure is what we were created for.

You are not an extra name, a last-minute addition, or a forgotten element. You have an essential role in God's strategy for the redemption and restoration of this world. Do not miss it. Do not waste your life wondering when someone will finally invite you to participate. Because the very moment God placed you on this earth, He was issuing you and me an invitation to *life*.

You're *invited* to lead with remarkable courage.
You're *invited* to confront the injustice in your own hometown.
You're *invited* to speak boldly for truth.
You're *invited* to preach the Gospel.
You're *invited* to create relationships across divides of race and culture.
You're *invited* to provide a meal for a hungry man in your city.
You're *invited* to welcome people into your home.
You're *invited* to raise funds for children across the globe.
You're *invited*.

God is still calling to His people and asking, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8a). He doesn't force us to say yes. He *invites*. He asks. And He waits for us to respond and say, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8b).

The *invitation* is already extended. Let's be a generation that raises our hands, jumping up and down, waving our arms, calling out God's name, and praying, "Send me. Send me. *Send me!*"
You're *invited* into this wild adventure of the mission of Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus, wake me up. Create a spark within my soul.
Open my eyes to the people who are unseen so I may see them.
Open my eyes to the injustice around me so I may fight against it.
Open my eyes to the magic of life so I may delight in it.
Open my eyes to Your work in the world so I may join You.
Open my eyes to see Your heart so I may know You intimately.
Equip me to be an ambassador of Your freedom & Gospel in this world. I'm ready to say yes.
Send me.

The Rhythm of Life

✿ Gwen Bradley, National Liaison for Prayer Mobilization and Partnerships, National Day of Prayer Task Force ✿

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1 NASB).

Every season of life includes both good and bad times. In weather, there are four seasons but in your life, there are many seasons. "Season" figuratively expresses the changing stages of our lives as the way of life as we know it according to how God has arranged them.

Disappointments, stress, hard times, and anxiety are part of life. These unexpected things can throw us out of rhythm. Has there ever been a time when you got out of rhythm due to a stressful or difficult situation? What did it take to get your rhythm back? *When we face these occurrences, they are not shocking exceptions, they are part of life.*

Recognizing this valuable truth is very important in living a life of contentment. The Bible tells us in Habakkuk 3:17-19 (ESV) that "Though the fig tree should not blossom nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places." Even in the midst of life's curve balls, we can stay focused and be victorious -- by faith.

All seasons of life are part of living out God's plan for our lives. Please know that no detail or second of your life is without purpose. Resolve to live each second, minute, hour and moment with purpose and contentment.

It is unfeasible to give compatible effort to every dimension of your life every day. Life is dynamic and constantly changing. In order to live to well, we must flow with the changes.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, help me to trust You in the timing and rhythm of my life. May I take my ordinary life —my sleeping, eating, going-to-work, life—and place it before You as an offering. Embracing what You do for me is the best thing I can do for You. Help me not to become so well-adjusted to my culture that I fit into it without even thinking. Instead, may I fix my attention on You. I know I will be changed from the inside out. May I readily recognize what You want from me, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around me, always dragging me down to its level of immaturity, God, You always brings the best out of me and develop well-formed maturity in me." — Prayer Based upon Romans 12:1-2: (The Message)



Endeavoring

✿ Gary Frost, National Director, March for Jesus ✿

“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
(Ephesians 4:3 KJV)

In the midst of America there has always been the influential presence of the Body of Christ, the Church. I believe it's safe to say that the “open secret” to the strength and unique influence of America throughout the world has been Christ in her midst through the Church. Heaven knows this Body has not always operated in harmony with Jesus Christ, and historically there have been tragic consequences as a result this disharmony. Perhaps even now we are witnessing such effect.

I believe that the social fractures in our nation today are a direct result of the spiritual fractures in our relationships in Christ's Body in America. If we hope to experience the “more perfect union” of America, the Church must first “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:1-6).

The word “endeavor” in this passage is critical to our proper understanding of how unity is achieved and maintained; it speaks of intentionality and tenacity. It helps us know that unity doesn't come easy but we must work to maintain it. Yes, we are “one in Christ” (John 17:20-23) but the evidence of that oneness must be worked out in real time as we live out our faith. Remember Jesus said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34,35)

The unity of Christ's Body in our nation must not be just a hopeful ideal, it is a matter of life or death. Not just the temporal survival of our nation and its citizenry but more importantly the eternal life and death of those who have yet to see Christ in us and know Him as their Savior. LET'S ENDEAVOR TO KEEP THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT IN THE BOND OF PEACE.

Prayer:

Father, we bless Your Holy Name, we thank You for the marvelous grace You have bestowed on us through Your Son, Jesus. Thank You Jesus for the gift of eternal life You have purchased for us through shedding Your precious blood.

We ask Your forgiveness for our sinful pettiness and our willful disobedience in sowing discord amongst our brothers and sisters. We are sorry for our lack of forgiveness and failure to extend grace to one another. We ask that You empower us to “endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Enable us to embrace each other as family in Christ. May the world see Christ in us. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Worship-Saturated-Prayer: Prayer that Enthrones God

✿ Dick Eastman, International President of Every Home for Christ ✿

In recent years the global Church is discovering the impact of worship-saturated prayer (see Rev. 5:8-10; 8:1-6). We see a clear picture of this in Revelation 8:1-6, where “the prayers of all the saints” (a picture of intercession) are released with “much incense” (a picture of worship) at the throne of God. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this passage in *The Message Bible* describes smoke rising up before God's throne saturated with the “incense-laced prayers of the holy ones” (Revelation 8:4). This release soon climaxes in the sounding of a seventh trumpet accompanied by a mighty shout echoing through the heavenlies declaring, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

In a uniquely profound way, the prayers of God's people, saturated with worship, literally bring them into alignment with His throne and, thus, His full purposes and power. King David sang to the Lord, “But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel” (Ps. 22:3, *NKJV*). The King James Version translates this verse, “Thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.” The Hebrew word translated “inhabitest,” yawshab, comes from a root word meaning “to sit.” Of course, the place God sits is His throne, thus leading to the accurate use of the expression “enthroned.”

God literally dwells, reveals Himself, where His people praise Him. I am told a literal Japanese translation of this verse reads, “When God's people praise Him, He brings a big chair and sits there.”

What a powerful thought! Our praises become God's throne—he actually sits among us. When we begin saturating our prayers with God's praises we are literally establishing His throne amid our needs.

Prayer:

Lord, I bow in prayer to exalt you this day in the wonder and majesty of Who You are—awesome in every way, beautiful beyond measure, and abounding in mercy and grace. I join with the bride of Solomon's day in declaring, “The syllables of your name murmur like a meadow brook. No wonder everyone loves to say your name” (Song of Songs 1:3, *The Message*). O Lord, be exalted and enthroned amid and upon a rising young generation in our culture who desperately Need to Know You! Open their ears to hear, eyes to see, and lips to declare that you alone are Lord! Holy Spirit, come as Christ promised you would (John 16:14) to glorify the name above all names (Philippians 2:9) and only path to eternal salvation—Jesus Christ—and it is in his name, the glorious name of Jesus, that I pray. Amen!

Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory prayer seeks the good of someone else. We can intercede for our loved ones, our neighbors, or even government officials, asking God to provide grace, wisdom, and discernment..

The Way of the Intercessor in 2022

✿ Barbara Ingmire, West Region National Area Leader, National Day of Prayer Task Force ✿

Our great high priest Jesus the Messiah ever lives to make intercession for us. The high calling to intercessory prayer allows the believer to enter into the heart of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. According to Romans, it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to pray according to the will of God. Effectively entering into the Spirit of God requires an attitude of worship and an attitude of submission.

We find in Psalm 122 an example of intercessory prayer for the great city of Jerusalem. Here we are commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and in Isaiah 62 we see that God puts watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem. We understand from these verses that God is inviting us into His heart for His holy city.

To be holy means to be set aside for the use of a holy God. When we set ourselves aside to be used in intercession, we are laying down our own thoughts and ideas and yielding to the thoughts and ideas of our Creator. This work is both exciting and humbling. A disciplined Intercessor will find their place on the wall and be faithful to stand in that place and so fulfill the call of God on their lives.

Psalm 2 is another passage which calls us into a place of great importance. In this psalm we enter into God's heart for the nations of the earth. We are told here that the nations are the inheritance of His son Yeshua and that His Son rules with a rod of iron from Jerusalem. As intercessors, we must be established in the truth of God's word concerning the nations and God's instructions to leaders of nations. As always, the word of God is our guidebook and our counselor in this great work of intercession.

Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven, we acknowledge You as the Most High God. We praise You and we give thanks for who You are and for writing our names in the Lamb's book of life. We commit to a life surrendered to the most wonderful Holy Spirit. We ask for a garment of praise, that You may continually be lifted up. We also pray that we would be careful in carrying the burdens of Your heart and that as good and faithful soldiers we will lay down all that is necessary to serve our Great Commander in Chief. You, Adonai, are a King who is worthy of our devotion. In Jesus Name we pray, amen.

Prayer and Confession

✿ Daniel Lim, International House of Prayer – Kansas City ✿

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 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 5:16-18 NKJV).

Prayer is our highest call; it is our glorious eternal calling. Prayer is communion with the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. It is the very life-blood for love. Without prayer, it is impossible to love God with all of our hearts, all of our souls, all of mind and all of our strength. Through prayer, we received love and strength from the Holy Spirit to love God and to love our neighbors. Prayer is not a means to an end, it is the means, and the end; all in all.

A prayer saturated life is a laborious life filled with abundant love and the works. Interestingly, our faithfulness in the abundance works of the great commission and the great commandment usually exposes barrenness in our spirituality, thus move us deeper into the posture of prayer. Prayer and works have to work in a positive feedback cycle in a dynamic equilibrium. The Glory of God is revealed through such a dynamic life and community.

While we can pray alone as Matthew 6 instructs, prayer often fosters greater communion among the saints; as a common saying goes “a family that prays together, stays together.” Therefore, James exhorted us to draw near to God and each other through prayers and confession; as prayer of a righteous person avail much. He gave the examples of Elijah in 1 Kings 18-19. Elijah was just like all of us; mere flesh and blood; full of weaknesses, but the Lord used Him in the place of prayer. In fact, when we are lack of faith to approach God; we can ask for mercy and grace to approach His throne (Hebrews 4:14-16). We are standing at a crucial cross-road of history; let us stand in the gap with His word and pray!

Prayer:

Our Father, through Christ we can approach You today with confidence! Before Your throne of grace, we know we can find mercy to help in time of need. Therefore, we can put our trust in You in everything; great or small. In fact, before we even ask, You knew it. Therefore, we boldly ask that you turn the church in my nation back to Her first love. I asked that you turned many souls away from sin to righteousness in Christ through the Gospel. Father, send us a Holy Spirit revival in our generation. In Jesus name. Amen.

The Call to Intercede

✿ Gina Gibson, Mountain Region National Area Leader, National Day of Prayer Task Force ✿

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and **pray for one another...** The prayer of a righteous person has great power” (James 5:16 ESV, emphasis added).

When we participate in intercession, we are praying for others. Dick Eastman says, “In no other way can the believer become as fully involved with God’s work...as in intercessory prayer.” From my childhood, I have felt a prompting to pray for everyone. In my twenties I heard the term “intercessor” while attending a prayer conference. I gained a greater understanding of why my heart was burdened so often for others.

As a senior adult, I have continued to have that strong urge to pray for others. But part of the dilemma that I see in the Body of Christ regarding intercession is that if we call some “intercessors” then we may be implying that others are not. James 5:16 seems to indicate that every believer is called to some level of intercession.

You may not be “wired” for this kind of prayer in the same way as other saints, but remember that intercession is only one part of our prayer life. Alvin Vandergrind, in *Love to Pray*, defines prayer as “the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives, our love relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” In our conversations with Him, He will show us His heart for others and prompt intercession on their behalf.

This is my challenge to you: Who do you feel burdened for today? Perhaps a loved one who needs Christ or a government official that you feel needs God’s wisdom? Ask the Lord to show you how to intercede with His Heart. Respond in obedience and accept His assignment of intercession until the burden lifts.

Prayer:

Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, help us to pray for others. You tell us in Your Word that we do not know how to pray as we should and that we must rely upon the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27). As we seek You, show us how we to pray for the concerns that You place upon our hearts. We want to pray with pure motives, and we are trusting that You will create clean hearts in us (Psalm 51:10) so that our intercession is powerful and effective in Heaven’s Courts. Empower us to continue in prayer, by the power of the Holy Spirit, until the burdens lift. Thank You for the privilege of co-laboring with You so that Your Kingdom will come, and Your will be done in the lives of all for whom we intercede. We pray in Jesus’ Name, Amen.



Intercession

✿ Robin McLaughlin, Northeast National Area Leader, NDOP ✿

Intercession is the act of interceding; prayer petition, or entreaty in favor of another. Someone who pleads with God on behalf of another. A person who stands between two opposing parties for the purpose of reconciliation. There are several examples in the scriptures including Jesus the Great Intercessor. Let us take a look at a few.

In Genesis 18:23-33 Abraham stood before the Lord on behalf of the people in Sodom and Gomorrah. He said if there were fifty righteous within the city would you also destroy the place and not spare if for the fifty righteous? The Lord said I will spare all the place for their sakes. Abraham asked the Lord this same question down to if there were 10 righteous and the Lord said the same thing every time if there are 10 righteous I will spare the place for their sakes.

In first Samuel 1:10, Hannah prayed in bitterness of soul, and wept in anguish. Hannah brought forth Samuel who became the prophet whose words never fell to the ground.

In John 17 Jesus is the greatest example of an intercessor. He prayed on behalf of all those the Lord had given to Him. He prayed for those who would come to Jesus because of what the disciples said. He prayed that we would be sanctified by His truth, His word is truth. Jesus prayed that we would all be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in You: that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Romans 8:34 says that Jesus sits at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. May we all come to the realization that we are all called to be intercessors just as Jesus is the great Intercessor.

Prayer:

Father, I thank you that through your great plan for humanity that you sent Jesus, Your beautiful Son to the earth to be born, live, die, be resurrected to sit at Your right hand and forever intercede for humanity. I ask you Father that you would make us all modern day intercessors that we will stand before you on behalf of the circumstances of our day that they may be brought into alignment with Your will. Lord give us the grace, the empowerment to stand before you in intercession to change our governments, to change our family circumstances, to change our health and the health of others, that salvation and revelation will come to humanity in ways we never thought possible. Father just as Jesus is forever interceding on our behalf give us the desire to know You better so that we can intercede on the behalf of others. In Jesus name Amen.

Grandmother's Prayer

✿ Joel McGill, Senior Coordinator, All America ✿

My grandmother prayed for me. I wonder how many of us are who we are because of our grandmother's fervent prayers? Looking beyond just our own needs and struggles to contend for the destiny of another, should be normal Christianity. Every person being prayed for by name is foundational for what God is wanting to do in the world right around us. If you're unsure of how effective this idea is, ask any Christian if anyone prayed for them before they gave their lives to Christ.

Take a moment and consider: who are the people that God is asking you to contend for? Commit to a regular time where you stand before God, who sits on the throne of grace, and pray for them by name. Be specific when you pray, ask the Lord for your instructions for how to be part of answering these prayers. There is nothing more exciting in following Jesus than partnering with Him and seeing the prodigal son return home.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for my grandmother and the millions of grandmothers around the world who are standing in the gap for the next generation. I commit to pick up the baton and join with them to contend for the generations after me. I pray for my family, friends, and neighbors that do not know your love and forgiveness. I pray that you would shake all of us out of the apathy and slumber that keeps us focused on ourselves.

I fix my eyes on you, Jesus. "The author and perfecter of our faith. For the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured suffering so that I won't grow weary and lose heart, in Jesus Name." (Hebrews 12:2-3)

Intercessory Prayer

✿ Sylvia Williams, Midwest Region National Area Leader, National Day of Prayer Task Force ✿

First Timothy 2:1-4 is the intercessor's roadmap to prayer for government leaders and other officials who serve in authority. The Apostle Paul was crystal clear in his instructions to pray "all kinds" of prayers for anyone who holds a position of authority.

Paul did not say to pray *only* for the people you like, or *only* for the people who believe like you do. No, he admonished Timothy and his congregation to make earnest, heartfelt prayers and to stand in the gap for those who are in any position to make decisions that would affect their lives and the lives of future generations. He also instructed them to give thanks to God for these officials.

Paul's message is especially relevant today. We should pray without ceasing because of the level of vitriol in across our nation. The benefits of this kind of prayer model are huge. First, the church and society at large would lead a quiet and peaceable life, instead of a life of violence, chaos and fear. Secondly, life would be lived in godliness and honesty and not corruption and deceit. And thirdly, this kind of intercession pleases God because His ultimate goal is to see all mankind saved and to come into the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

According to verse four, one of the main reasons for prayer is salvation—the salvation of those for whom you pray. When was the last time you prayed earnestly for the president of the United States or for someone whose views you adamantly oppose? Remember, you are not just going through the motions in prayer, you are releasing the heart of God for kings, presidents, and all who are in authority to come into the saving knowledge of Christ.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for all that Jesus did on the Cross and for the opportunity to intercede for Your creation. Let my prayers be effectual as I seek You, concerning the president. Thank You for the office of the president, the Commander-in-Chief of this country. I pray that President Joe Biden will be healthy and strong all the days of his life. I pray that You would give him a sound mind to govern our country. Give him laser sharp discernment and help him to make divinely directed decisions that are according to Your plan for the United States. Let his number-one priority be to protect the people of America. I pray that President Biden would cry out to You, and that You would visit him in a special way. Send laborers to minister salvation to him and prepare his heart to receive Your word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In One Accord

✿ Thai Lam, Executive Director, Luke18 Project IHOP, Kansas City ✿

"These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." — Acts 1:14 (NASB)

In Acts 1, when Jesus told His disciples to wait together for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4,8), He called them to move in together and embrace a lifestyle of fervent prayer until they saw the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. These men and women who not too long before were quarreling, jockeying for position, and falling asleep at late-night prayer meetings were now "*with one mind continually devoting themselves to prayer*". The Greek word for "*with one mind*," *homothymadon*, is also translated "*together*" or "*in one accord*." *Homothymadon* describes the power of deep, unanimous agreement and how the Lord moves when there is unity and oneness in prayer, fellowship, worship, ministry, teaching and leadership (Acts 1:14; 2:46; 4:24; 5:12; 8:6; 15:25).

I see three key elements of *homothymadon* family: (1) the consecrated life together, (2) the shared life together, and (3) the poured-out life together. The disciples learned how to selflessly pursue the Lord together; how to enjoy each other, be vulnerable, and struggle together; and how to give themselves sacrificially in prayer, service and ministry together. The ten days in the upper room leading up to Pentecost was an internship in which they learned to grow in *homothymadon* family in faith, life and mission. The disciples' journey to becoming a family of one heart and mind in Acts 1 is almost as significant as the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.

Today, we are called to this same reality: to be a praying family bound to each other in the Spirit of God and contending for another great awakening in our day.

Prayer:

"Father, we humble ourselves and confess our great need for You in this hour. In a time in our nation with so much political, racial, and social division, would you unite Your church in America "in one accord" for Your promises and purposes for our day? Would You anoint us to once again be an "upper room" praying family "continually devoting ourselves to prayer" for revival in the Church and spiritual awakening in America? We believe that You have so much more that You want to do in our day that we have yet to see. Let Your Kingdom come, let Your will be done! All that is in Your heart in heaven, let it come to pass here in our nation. We ask You Father for historic revival to once again visit the Church in our nation and for another great awakening in America, in Jesus' name, amen!"



Missional Prayer

Missional prayer cultivates the prayer/care/share lifestyle of a believer. This kind of prayer can seek God's insight into how to view your everyday life as a mission field or provide an example of powerful prayer to someone you're ministering to.

All

✿ Dan Allan, Executive Director of Mission Expansion, Cru ✿

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"
(Matthew 28:19-20, ESV).

Prior to Jesus' ascension, He instructed His followers to make disciples of all nations. This passage reveals how they made disciples. They made disciples by **going** which meant that they took the initiative with others. They **baptized** these disciples as a mark of complete identification with the Lord Jesus. Jesus' followers **taught** these disciples to obey which is evidence of their belief and a mark of their discipleship. Going, baptizing, and teaching all mark how Jesus called His followers to make disciples. This passage gives us four "all's" that reveal insight into Jesus' commission.

Jesus possesses **all authority** and He delegates authority to His followers in this command to make disciples. We move forward in God's mission not in our own wisdom, strategy, or resources, but, rather, in Jesus' authority. We are extending His heavenly kingdom as we make disciples.

The scope of this great commission calling it to **all nations**. From Genesis to Revelation, we see God's heart for every person and for all the nations. God's heavenly kingdom transcends earthly kingdoms. God shows no partiality--His salvation is freely available to all so we take this good news to all as we make disciples.

Jesus calls His followers to **obey all** that He commanded. No exceptions--including this instruction to make disciples. Making disciples isn't a class of "special Christians." It is the normal Christian life.

Finally, Jesus gives us the promise that He will **all-ways** be with us. We are never alone. His presence brings confidence, courage, and comfort as we make disciples.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You that we go forward in making disciples in Your power and for Your promise to be with us always. Thank You for giving us the good gift of the Holy Spirit who puts Your law in our hearts and empowers us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our Savior and God. Jesus, let us proclaim Your good news to others with courage and with care as we obey Your command to make disciples. Help us journey together in reflecting on Your ways through the gospels and lead us into faithful action that embodies our love to a hurting world. Thank You Jesus that Your love provides us with steady footing for uncertain days. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Missional Prayer

✿ David Bowden, Co-Founder, Spoken Gospel ✿

“We should never expect God to do apart from prayer that which He has only promised to do through prayer.”

My pastor says this all the time. Usually, it is in response to someone asking if prayer is really necessary. Can't God just do something without me asking?

The answer is yes. He *could*. But He typically *doesn't*. God chose to partner with humanity in a mysterious and powerful way to carry out His will. And that partnership includes our prayers.

Another similar question is often asked about evangelism or sharing your faith. People wonder why God needs us to share our faith. Can't God just save people?

The answer again is yes. He *could*. But He typically *doesn't*. God chose to partner with humanity to save the lost. And that partnership includes us! There is no greater purpose than to partner with God in cultivating the world through the mysteries of praying for others and sharing our faith.

Jesus perfectly embodied this mystery.

Did God have to become human to save us from sin? Did Jesus *have* to die on the cross and face humiliation and punishment? Did Jesus *have* to experience a physical resurrection and ascend to the Father's right hand?

The answer is YES!

That is how deeply He wants us involved in cultivating and ruling the earth with Him. He wants it so much that He became like us and died for us. He did this so that we could be with Him, speak with Him, and grow the garden with Him like we did back in Eden.

Pray this as an invitation to God and your own soul to partner with God in the garden work He has for you today, tomorrow, and the rest of your life.

Prayer:

God, I thank You for Your rescuing heart that longs to save my neighbors (1 Timothy 2:4), And for intentionally placing me here to join You in that labor (Acts 17:26). I lift up my neighbors before Your gracious throne (1 Timothy 2:1). You created them, You love them, and You want to rule in their home (Ezekiel 37:27). Save them, Lord. Reveal Yourself. Help them see (Matthew 11:27). Soften their hearts to Your Word. For Jesus, make them thirsty (Ezekiel 36:26). Set up appointments between us that I may share Your Gospel's freedom (Acts 8:26-27). Use me in their lives to be salt and light for Your glory and Your kingdom (Matthew 5:13-14). In Jesus name, Amen.

Praying for Your Neighbors

✿ Dave Imboden, National Day of Prayer Task Force / United In Love Initiative, Research & Resources Team Member ✿

When my wife and I moved into a new condominium community, we began introducing ourselves to the residents in the units around us. Most of these connections took place while walking through our community on a regular basis and greeting our new neighbors while they were walking their dogs, working in their front garden or in their garage. We have also gotten to know our fellow believers, share with them the 'Prayer, Care, Share' vision God placed on our hearts: to pray for others, care for their needs and share the Gospel.

We pulled together a neighborhood text group that now includes fifteen neighbors. It is wonderful for caring for each other as needs arise, including one neighbor who tragically lost two loved ones via fentanyl overdoses and two neighbors who needed help while going through cancer treatments. Over the years our community has seen Christ loving them through their Christian neighbors.

The best way we've discovered to begin a spiritual conversation with our neighbors has been to just ask, "How can we pray for you?" This quickly establishes you as a caring Christian, and ideally opens a door to sharing your spiritual journey, discovering theirs and then sharing the Gospel. And though the impact has not always been visible, we have witnessed a number of our neighbors impacted positively for Christ and eternity.

Our prayer strategy has been to pray at least weekly for our neighbors, and to lift up their names before God home by home. Following is a prayer to help you pray with even greater effectiveness for your neighbors and for the love of Christ to reach them through a growing company of praying, caring and sharing saints.

Prayer:

Father, create within us a heart for prayer, caring for needs and sharing the Gospel with the neighbors you have placed strategically around us. We ask that you would search their hearts, convict them of sin, grant them a thorough repentance and a great hunger to seek you and follow you with all their hearts. Awaken and connect the believers in our neighborhood. Strengthen our faith and grant us a unified heart of love and concern for the well-being of our neighbors and the boldness to share Your Son's love with them and see many disciples birthed into your kingdom.

Praying Our Witness

✿ Mark Slaughter, Evangelist & Dir. of Evangelistic Partnerships, ✿
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA

Pete was attending a week-long training camp just four weeks after becoming a follower of Jesus through InterVarsity's campus ministry at a university in the Midwest. One day Pete wore a sweatshirt with his fraternity's Greek letters on it. A staff guy, Garrett, saw the Greek letters, and literally almost fell off his chair in disbelief, saying, "Wow, are you a 'Delt'?" Pete said he was. Garrett caught his breath and said, "I graduated from your campus and was a student leader of the campus ministry. Four years ago, our student leaders took a campus map and identified every fraternity and sorority with no known Christians in them. I've been praying for four years for God to raise up a Christian in your fraternity, and you are the answer to my prayers!" As a new Christian, Pete got a crash course in missional prayer!

Colossians 4:2 says, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Being watchful means "being alert" like a military guard constantly scanning the surroundings for new shifts or movements. Similarly, we are to be "spiritually alert" constantly, noticing movements in our world and in the lives of people near us, especially those who are not following Jesus... life events, moments of spiritual openness and hunger. And we "pray for an open door for the gospel" from Colossians 4:3.

Colossians 4:2-6 exhorts us to a prayer-care-share lifestyle by

- Speaking to God about People (**Prayer**) – (:2-3a)
- Speaking to People about God (**Care & Share** through our lives and words) – (:3b-6)

We show and share hope in Christ by sharing clearly, being wise in relation to outsiders, seizing God opportunities, and having conversations full of grace and seasoned with salt.

Who are your "Pete's"? Right now, make a list and daily pray strategically for your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, and people at school.

Prayer:

Oh God, thank you that You go ahead of us and are drawing people toward following the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Give us eyes to see how You are working in our world and in the lives of people around us. Arouse spiritual hunger in people we know. Give us open doors to listen to people's stories and to share clearly our own transformation stories and the story of Jesus. Give us wisdom to be winsome -- gracious and salty, tactful and bold -- as we relate to others. May every word we speak be full of grace and yet "salty" to spark interest, and may many find true life in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prayer, Care, Share

✿ Paul Cedar, The Table Coalition ✿

Jack and Sandy moved into the house across the street from us. We began to befriend the young couple until the day that Jack found out that we were involved in Christian ministry. He told us that he wanted nothing to do with us.

So, what should we do? As we prayed about it, the Holy Spirit guided us to back off and honor Jack's wishes, but, at the same time, to pray intentionally that they would come to faith in Christ. Several months passed and then one day a remarkable thing took place.

The major water pipe in our front yard suddenly ruptured which resulted in a large stream of water spouting high into the air. We could not afford to call a plumber, so early the next morning we appeared in our front yard with shovels and tools. It was a hot day in our desert. And after a couple of hours of digging and perspiring, Jack suddenly appeared. He greeted us warmly and said, "Paul, I have a question for you." I quickly crawled out of the deep trench we were digging and said, "Great, Jack. I will do my best to answer your question."

Jack replied that one of his brothers invited him to a men's retreat. He accepted the invitation and enjoyed it immensely. He then asked, "Could you help me find a Bible Study?" We invited him and Sandy to join us for our neighborhood Bible Study. A couple months later, Jack invited Jesus into his life and Sandy recommitted herself to Jesus.

How did this happen? It is simple! Jeannie and I sought God in earnest prayer for the salvation of two younger people who needed Jesus. We prayed and God moved! That is when we began to live the Prayer-Care-Share lifestyle.

Prayer:

Lord, you are the model for the Prayer-Care-Share lifestyle. Thank you for listening to the prayers of Your children. Show me when to press forward in prayer, when to reach out and care, and when to pause and share your Gospel!



Unfinished Prayer

✿ Solomon Lujan, Global Director of Prayer and Partnerships, Seed Company ✿

There are some things in life that, if left unfinished, are pointless. House projects, doing taxes, writing a book, fixing a car and watching a movie are a few to name. When something is complete it is perfected and activated to fulfill its purpose.

What about the spiritual life, specifically prayer? Is there such a thing as unfinished prayer? In James 2:20-24, the apostle James spells out for believers the biblical perspective of faith: it is incomplete unless action is taken. James uses the term barren or nekros, in Greek, and it is usually translated dead. Barren paints the picture of something that has potential for life yet is not fully actualized. Taking action is the fruit of the seed that is dormant in the spiritual womb of prayer!

Is there a greater example of biblical faith than Jesus at Gethsemane? “He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine” (Matthew 26:39). The cup of suffering Jesus was asking the Father to be relieved of was not just the physical pain, but much more of the eternal sea of separation sin creates between God and people. Unfinished prayer is the unhealthiest habit in the spiritual life! It is declaring and asking for God’s will to be done in the world, yet not surrendering through action by becoming the answer. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). “The Author and Finisher of our faith” gives us prayers to finish.

Prayer:

Abba, give us the kind of faith that James wrote about. Faith full of action. As we meet for Together '22, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us. We are nothing without you. We will never reach this broken, dying and lost world without the burden Christ carried at Gethsemene. Awaken us with divine compassion for people experiencing separation from their eternal love and purpose, the Living God. Compel us to rearrange our lives so every day we are supernaturally intentional in sharing Jesus with others! In Jesus’s name, amen!

Action Steps

✿ Phylicia Masonheimer, Founder & CEO, Every Woman A Theologian ✿

Prayer is an action step.

In times when I struggle to pray, or think of ten other things I could be doing to fix a situation, I remind myself of this truth. Prayer is an action step. Or perhaps I should say THE action step, because in seeking the Lord’s wisdom I am given wisdom of my own! In my early days of cultivating a prayer life, I focused on my own life and dreams. This was a necessary stage of growth for me. But the wild thing about prayer is that - more than being about requests and answers - prayer changes you. It changes your desires. It aligns your heart with the heart of God.

Missional prayer softens our hearts to the individual griefs of our city, our state, our nation, and our world. Our diligent exposure to God’s heart motivates consistent petition for his hand. I have been amazed how, by drawing near to the heart of God, I have been given very specific burdens for a part of my town, a specific country, or an issue in the news. Attempting to choose prayer topics on my own strength was and is overwhelming; letting God define those priorities is freeing.

No human can bear up under the immense weight of this world’s evils. God never asked us to carry the grief of the world - he asks us to intercede for the people and situations he has specifically laid upon our hearts. Will we listen? Will we pray?

Our challenge in this noisy, media-drenched society is to separate ourselves from the noise enough to hear the voice of God and ask: What, or who, do you want me to pray for today? Then, in a step of faith that he is already working, invite him to continue that work.

Prayer:

Dear God, today I seek Your wisdom. Change my desires. Align my heart with Yours. Show me who You want me to pray for today. Show me how You want me to pray for them. Thank You that You not only hear our prayers, but You show us how to pray. In Jesus’ Name, amen.

