



The Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World

Week 1: Jan. 23 – Jan. 29

Chapters 1 - 2

- Check out the Prayer Challenge Schedule for details
- Check out the daily reflections for prayer growth
- Check out the prayer requests on the prayer guide. Prayers are posted at the end of this page or on the prayer requests only tab.

Daily we live with the reality of distractions. Walking through this world of “pandemicism,” (a word I created) has led to what seems like a world of heightened distractions. Whether it’s family, home responsibilities, deadlines, work, a positive diagnosis, sickness of any kind, or whatever distractions hit us square between the eyes every day distractions abound. Despite our distracted lives, Jesus desires time alone with you and I, His beloved children. Paul E. Miller, reminds us that intimacy with our Savior is pleasing to Him. And, spending time has great benefits for us, His children. So, let’s begin this year taking some time, some intentional time, at an appointed hour, daily, undistracted by the world, to pray.

Just imagine the people of God, intentionally taking time away from the distractions of our lives to sit awhile with Jesus, communing with Him, dwelling in His presence. There is power in united prayer. When the people of God pray together, lives are changed. The early Church turned their world upside down. Our united prayers today can turn our world upside down. Let’s fervently pray this year that the hearts of God’s people would be saturated with a desire to pray. I love God’s reminder about prayer in 2 Chronicles 7: 14, “if my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; THEN will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” Paul E. Miller, reminds us that God is here, now! Prayer is meant to be the conversation where your life and your God meet. While this book can be personally applied, studying with others is valuable. Wrestle through your prayer struggles with someone else. Studying in community opens up new insights and helps us grow.

-----Daily Reflections-----

- Sunday, Jan. 23: Daily, Jesus invites us to His table to have fellowship in His presence. When we come, we should first look to ourselves, examining our attitudes, our actions, our affections. Anything that hinders our true allegiance to Jesus needs to be laid down at the table. Examine yourself today. Pray Psalm 139:23-24, God, search me, search my heart for any attitudes, actions, or affections that are not in alignment with You and Your plans for my life. Try me, and know my thoughts. If there is any wicked way in me, forgive me. I confess my sins before You, my God. Lead me in Your everlasting way.

- Monday-Friday, Jan. 24-28: Chapter 1: What frustrates you about prayer? I mean, really???? What is frustrating to you about your prayer life? Sometimes a quiet cynicism, spiritual weariness and doubts grow in us. Imagine that prayer is like being on the phone with your earthy father. What is it like to talk with your heavenly Father? Reread (pg. 5-6) Ashley's Contact. When has God specifically answered a prayer for you? What happened? Be vulnerable with your prayer partner/group this week. Your vulnerability will help others be vulnerable. Which aspect of 'the praying life:' 1. Feels like dinner with good friends. 2. Is Interconnected with all of life 3. Gives birth to hope. 4. Becomes integrated 5. Reveals the heart, spoke to you the most? Why? How is praying like having a meal with good friends? Read again the last 2 paragraphs on page 8 before the next section.
- Saturday, Jan. 29: Think about this statement from chapter 2, "LEARNING TO PRAY DOESN'T OFFER YOU A LESS BUSY LIFE; IT OFFERS YOU A LESS BUSY HEART. Spend time thanking God today for one aspect of a praying life and the freedom that comes when we pray.



Weekly Prayer Guide for Jan. 23 - 29

Adoration: Heavenly Father, we worship You because You are to be highly exalted!
 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
 If I ascend to heaven, You, are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, You, are there.
 If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the depths of the sea,
 Even there Your hand will lead me; Your right hand will lay hold of me,
 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me," Even the night will be light around me.
 The darkness is not dark to You, And the night shines as the day;
 Darkness and light are alike to You. (Psalm 139:7-12)

I Praise You, Jesus:

- Because Your law is perfect, restoring to the soul
- Your testimony is sure, making wise the simple
- Your precepts are right, rejoicing the heart

- Your commandments are pure, enlightening the eyes
- To fear you is pure, enduring forever
- Your judgements are true and altogether righteous, more desirable than pure gold
- Your judgements are sweeter than honey and by them are we your servants warned.
- You're a rewarder to those that keep your commandments

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession: acknowledging my sinfulness to God to obtain forgiveness.

Those whom You love, You, rebuke and discipline. Therefore, may I be zealous and repent.
(Rev. 3:19)

There are many ways in which we have failed you God:

- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to our fellow men and women
- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to our neighbors and friends
- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to prayer
- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to reading your Word
- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to putting first the Kingdom of God
- We confess our lack of commitment and obedience to _____
- Open my heart God to the awareness of anything that violates what You desire for me and the life You've given me. I don't want to miss Your target for my life.

Acknowledge any areas of sinfulness to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Thanksgiving – *We will enter His gates with Thanksgiving in our hearts!*

We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks. For Your name is near; We tell of Your wonderful works. (Ps. 75:1). Lovingkindness and truth meet together, Righteousness and peace kiss each other. Truth springs forth from the earth, And righteousness looks down from heaven. (Ps. 83: 10-11). It is in You, Lord Jesus, that I have peace. In this world I will have tribulation, but I will be of good cheer because You have overcome the world. (John 16:33). I have been set apart for Your gospel, O God. I am among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:1,6). As the old hymn states, "I was once lost in sin's degradation, but You Jesus came down to bring me salvation, You lifted me up from sorrow and shame, and now I belong to You." Jesus, I'm so thankful that I'm Your child, today and forevermore.

Praises:

- Join us in praising God for the great God results in 2021: for all the SYFW, EV2 launches, HFK, and Equip America's that were held, for the many profession of faiths, assurances of salvation, people that heard the Gospel, lives that were touched by prayer and all the people that learned how to share the Gospel. Praise God for all the faithful people that showed up to train others.

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

Supplication – *To ask of the Lord, with humble entreaty!*

Since I died with You, Jesus, to the basic principles of this world, may I not submit to the world's regulations as though I still belonged to it. (Colossians 2:20). May I be strong and courageous; may I not be afraid or discouraged because of my adversaries; there is a greater power with me than with them, for You, Lord my God, are with me to help me. (2 Chronicles 32:7-8)

Pause here to petition God for growth in your desire to know and please Jesus Christ. Pray for a greater love and commitment to Him, for the grace to practice His presence and for the grace to glorify Him in your life. Offer prayers regarding your activities for the week and any special concerns you may have.

- Pray for the US ministry of EE: it's vision for the future, God's person to fill the position of US director (Randall Woods (our director for 8 years will be leaving EE to pastor Midway Baptist Church), a smooth transition over the next few months
- Pray for additional ministry partnerships so that TOGETHER we can reach the world with the Gospel.
- For America to turn to God and our Nation to see the next Great Spiritual Awakening.
- For our leaders to be God-fearing and recognize that they are accountable to Him for each decision and act. (Prov. 9:10)
- For God to grant people in authority wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- Pray that the Church in America will open their eyes to see the hope to which we've been called.
- For prospective churches to host Equip America in future locations around the country.
- Equip America on January 29: Orlando, FL, Albany, GA, and Mayaguez, PR. A downloadable prayer guide for Equip America can be found at equipamerica.org website at the bottom of the prayer tab.
- For plans and preparations for Congress Of Nations in 2023
- For God to expand the ministry of Hope For Kids in 2022. For expansion of the Explorers' Club ministry.
- Pray churches that have attended Everyday Evangelism Launches will begin implementing.
- For Pastors' in America to Stand UP! Stand Firm! Stand on God's Word with grace, power, and mercy!
- Pray for peace in our cities and unity in our churches and nation.
- **The 71st National Day of Prayer** will be celebrated on Thursday, May, 5, 2022. The theme this year is a call to praise in prayer. *'EXALT THE LORD, WHO HAS ESTABLISHED US'* based on *Colossians 2:6-7*.
- Lift prayers for our persecuted brothers and sisters: ask God to help them rest in the knowledge that Our Good Shepherd walks with them through every difficult situation. Ask God to provide Bibles and Christian literature that will reach the most remote and needy areas where they are in the shortest supply. Ask God to continually bring comforting scripture to their mind giving them the strength to press on. Ask God to bring about justice in an unjust world.
- Pray for your pastor and church leadership.
- Pray for ministries in your church and ministry directors
- Pray for unbelieving family members that God would draw them to salvation.

(Ministries of EE: Share Your Faith Workshop, Everyday Evangelism, Hope for Kids)

SYFW	1/29	Westminster Presbyterian	Lancaster, Penn
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SYFW	2/5	Wilson Presbyterian Church	Wilson, NC
SYFW	2/9 -3/16	First Baptist Rogers	Rogers, AR
SYFW	2/19	Calvary Church	Everett, WA
SYFW	2/19	Shilo Baptist Church	Brandy Station, VA
SYFW	2/19	Whitehall Bible Fellowship	Whitehall, PA
SYFW	2/26	New Life in Christ	Fredericksburg, VA
SYFW	3/5	Hutto Bible Church	Hutto, TX
SYFW	3/12	Bethany EPC	Havertown, PA
SYFW	3/12	Pathway Community Church	Cincinnati, OH
SYFW	3/12-3/13	Village Baptist Church	Bella Vista, AR
SYFW	3/19	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Harleysville, PA
SYFW	3/26	First Baptist Church of Cole	Blanchard, OK
SYFW	4/30	Broadway Baptist Church	Maryville, TN
EV2 Launch	2/18-2/19	Eficaz a Filipino American Alliance (Espanol)	Arlington, TX
EV2 Launch	2/11 – 2/12	Bethel AME Church	Columbia, SC
EV2 Launch	2/18 – 2/19	Filipino American Alliance Church	Arlington, TX
EV2 Launch	3/17 – 3/18	Harmony Community Church	Peachland, NC
EV2 Launch	4/7 - 4/8	First Baptist Rogers	Rogers, AR
EV2 Launch	4/22	Eficaz a Iglesia Un Nuevo Comienzo	El Paso, TX
EV2 Launch	8/4 – 8/5	First Baptist Rogers	Rogers, AR
HFK Lab	3/25 - 3/26	Landmark Church of God	Statesville, NC