

The Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World

Week 3: Feb. 6 – Feb. 12

Chapters 5-6



- Check out the Prayer Challenge Schedule on the prayer guide tab for schedule 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.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. — John 15:5

Some time ago, while reading the classic book *Prayer* by the Norwegian theologian O. Hallesby, I gained fresh understanding of what most of my prayers were lacking—the humility to see my utter helplessness. Prayer is not using God to my own ends nor attempting to make something happen. **Prayer is coming to God, admitting my helpless state, and acknowledging my deep, gut-level need.**

"Prayer and helplessness are inseparable," Hallesby wrote. "Only those who are helpless can truly pray."

I began to understand. From the moment I acknowledge my helplessness, the Lord becomes actively engaged in *hearing my cry*. He stoops down to help me. "Our helplessness is one continuous appeal to His father-heart," Hallesby says. We may feel our helplessness is overwhelming, like a cyclone in the center of our lives. But in God's sight, our helplessness is both the foundation and the sustaining power of our prayer life.

In reality, we can do only one thing—invite the great, sovereign God to have mercy on us, to love us, and take care of us. **Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Why**

does it take so many of us a lifetime to learn this?

"Prayer, therefore, consists simply in telling God day by day in what ways we feel that we are helpless," Hallesby writes.

We tell God how powerless we are by nature to love others, to believe His promises, to hope, to serve, to practice the spiritual disciplines, to struggle against our fleshly desires, to suffer well. This acknowledgement of helplessness puts us in a position to be helped.

"As long as we are conscious of our helplessness, we will not be overtaken by any difficulty, disturbed by any distress, or frightened by any hindrance," Hallesby says. "We will expect nothing of ourselves, and therefore, bring all our difficulties and hindrances to God in prayer."

We will simply open the door and let Jesus come into our hopeless messes. **And in our helplessness, we will see the power of God work in and through us.**



HOW TO PRAY

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Ps. 73: 25-26)

I read this devotion a couple of years ago and wanted to share this great word with you from DAWN WILSON (founder and director of *Heart Choices Today* and serves on the team of Revive Our Hearts) I felt this devotion

applied so well to chapter 6 of this week's reading schedule. "Good praying themes: helplessness, relationship, repentance, asking story, and hope" says Paul E. Miller.

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

- Sunday, Feb. 6: As this week's chapters are opened, begin to think about Jesus' life with the Father. Paul Miller says, "Jesus' prayer life is an expression of his relationship with his Father, He wants to be alone with the person he loves." How about you, do you want to be alone with the person of Jesus just for the sake of spending time with him because you want to or because you feel like you have to?
- Monday-Friday, Feb. 7 – Feb. 11: [Chapter 5](#): Why did Jesus need to pray? P. 33 paragraph 3 says that "Jesus defines himself only in relationship with his heavenly Father." What does this mean to you? How would your life look differently if you did the same – define yourself only in relationship with your heavenly Father?
How does Jesus love the Father (p. 34)? How does the knowledge that the Father loves you with the same intensity of a "one-person focus" impact you? Write down all you observe about how Jesus prayed (pp. 35-36). What are some suggestions in the book (pp. 38-39) that might help you have a more focused prayer time with your Father? Try them this week!
[Chapter 6](#): Read Psalm 142. This psalm was written by David when he was in the cave hiding from Saul (I Sam. 23-24). What is David's emotional state in this psalm? Have you ever been in a similar state? What words or phrases in the psalm show us David's helpless state? What words or phrases show us David's trust in God's ability and willingness to act on his behalf? What makes becoming helpless so difficult for us? Why is helplessness the key to a praying life (pp. 42-43)? Paul Miller writes, "Prayer mirrors the gospel" (p. 43). How so?
- Saturday, Feb. 12: Ponder this statement from chapter 5, "Regardless of how or when you pray, if you give God the space, he will touch your soul. God knows you are exhausted, but at the same time he longs to be part of your life. A feast awaits."

-----Daily reflections adapted from *A Praying Life* Discussion Guide-----



Weekly Prayer Guide for Feb. 6 – Feb. 12

Adoration: praising God for what and who He is:

O Lord, we worship You and Your Son Jesus, for You have made Him our Messiah and King:
His throne is Your very throne, O God.
His kingdom will last for ever and ever.
He will rule by treating everyone fairly.
He loves what is right and hates what is evil.
So You have placed Him above His companions.
You have filled Him with joy by pouring the sacred oil on His head. (Psalm 45:6-7)

One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty
And on Your wonderful works.
Many shall speak of the might of Your awesome works,
And I will proclaim your great deeds. (Psalm 145:4-6)

Confession: stating our sins, and asking forgiveness:

If I say that I have fellowship with You, O Christ, and yet walk in the darkness, I lie and do not practice the truth. But if I walk in the light, as You are in the light, I have fellowship with others, and Your blood, O Jesus, purifies me from all sin. Forgive me of my sin, O Lord.

Confess your sins before our great God who is faithful and just and willing to forgive your sins. Where are you feeling helpless right now? Confess all areas of your weakness to Him. Ask Him to help you see your true state and cry out humility.

Thanksgiving: thanking God for specific things He has done.

I trust in Your loyal love;
My heart rejoices in Your salvation,
I will sing to You, O Lord,
For You have dealt bountifully with me.
I will bless You, Lord,
For You have heard the voice of my prayers.
You are my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in You, and I am helped.
My heart greatly rejoices,
And I will give thanks to You in song.

“For to You, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
Be blessing and honor and glory and power
For ever and ever!”

Supplication: asking for things we want God to do, for others or for us.

May I be a doer of the word and not merely a hearer who deceives myself. For if I am a hearer of the word and not a doer, I am like those who look at their natural faces in a mirror, and after looking at themselves, go away, and immediately forget what kind of people they were. But if I look intently into the perfect law of freedom and continue in it and I am not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word I will be blessed in what I do.

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.
- 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.
- Pray for the grieving. There is much loss everywhere. Many lives that are struck by the loss of those they love dearly. Ask God to shower them with his tender mercy and cover them with His feathers and they would take refuge under His wings. That they would grasp His faithfulness to be their shield and rampart.

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

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