



The Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracting World

Week 5: Feb. 20-26

Chapters 9-10

- 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.

Prayer Life Checklist: It's inventory time! Whose side are you leaning on? If you are leaning toward a praying life, you're leaning on the Lord's side. If you're leaning on cynicism, you're moving away from the Lord and more to self. It may be time for repentance and confession, renewal, and return.

CYNICISM	A PRAYING LIFE
Defeated weariness	Glorifying delight
Questions the active goodness of God	Recognizes God's goodness that spills out of the heart
Loss of childhood spirit	Childlike in spirit
Moves you away from our Father	Desperation for the Father
Creates a numbness toward life	Gives life joy and zeal
Destroys intimacy with the Father	Creates a heart of thanksgiving that leads to an intimate fellowship with the Father
Allows bitterness to creep in	Replaces bitterness with generosity
Critical spirit	Thankful spirit
Passivity	Action packed
Without hope	Full of hope
Cocooning itself from the passion of the great cosmic battle we're engaged in	Engaging evil by not taking no for an answer. In the face of God: hoping, discerning, asking.
Feelings of phoniness	Authenticity
Can-do reliance on self; leading to self-centeredness	Can-do reliance on God, leading to God-centeredness
Destroys a life of prayer	Creates a passion for prayer
Goodness of humanity	Goodness of God
Naïve optimism	Godly confidence with cautious optimism
Lacks a pure heart	Humility and repentance
Double-minded	Harmonized public faith and private practice

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

- Sunday, Feb. 20: As this week's chapters are opened, begin to think on this Paul Miller statement: "Without the Good Shepherd, we are alone in a meaningless story" (p. 68). Read Psalm 23. How does

the Shepherd bring meaning to David's story? If David's God is your shepherd now, how might he be bringing meaning to your story?

- Monday – Friday, Feb. 21 – Feb. 25: **Chapter 9: One day this week, try to record every cynical thought that enters your mind. When you catch yourself, pray quietly, “Lord Jesus, save me from my cynicism. Give me eyes to see you.** Look at pp. 64-65 and consider, how does cynicism entice? Why is cynicism dangerous? How does it subtly shape how you see God and reality? Read Psalm 23 again. What is true about God in this psalm? What is true about people? How does this further differentiate faith from naïve optimism?

Chapter 10: The five cures for cynicism:

1. Be warm but wary
 - a. What does it mean to be warm but wary (pp. 69-71)?
 - b. Read Matthew 10: 16-22, 26, 28, 31-32, 34. How does Jesus respond to evil with faith?
 - c. When Jesus died, how did he keep “in tension wariness about evil with a robust confidence in the goodness of his Father.” (p. 69)
 - d. How can we keep informed and vigilant without cultivating a cynical spirit?
2. Learn to Hope Again
 - a. Paul's friend said, “Expect nothing. Then if something good happens, be thankful.” How can this attitude be compelling? How does it reflect cynicism? How does it kill hope and affect our prayers?
 - b. Why can we hope (pp.71-72)?
 - c. Where do we learn how to hope? Where do we start?
3. Cultivate a Childlike Spirit

Paul writes on page 73, “Both the child and the cynic walk through the valley of the shadow of death. The cynic focuses on the darkness; the child focuses on the Shepherd.” Read Psalm 23. How does focusing on the Shepherd lift the fog of cynicism?
4. Cultivating a Thankful Spirit
 - a. Paul writes, “Nothing undercuts cynicism more than a spirit of thankfulness. You begin to realize your whole life is a gift.” (p. 75). How does thankfulness help us? How is it different from naïve optimism?
 - b. Think of a time when expressing gratitude to God dispelled bitterness or changed your perspective on a difficult situation. Describe what happened.
 - c. Read Psalm 23 again. Drift through your day yesterday. How was the Shepherd good to you? Thank God for his goodness to you.
5. Cultivating Repentance
 - a. How is cynicism two-faced (pp. 77-78)?
 - b. How does being cynical hinder us from cultivating repentance?
 - c. Paul writes, “Repentance brings the split personality together and thus restores integrity to the life.” (p. 78). Read 1 Samuel 17:17-18, 26-29. What does this split personality look like in Eliab? How is David a contrast to this?
 - d. Have you recently been misjudged in your motive for doing or saying something? What do you learn from David's example? Or, have you cynically misjudged someone else, like Eliab? How were you two-faced? Repent of the specifics before God.

- Saturday, Feb. 26: Ponder this statement from chapter 10, “So the feel of a praying life is cautious optimism – caution because of the fall, optimism because of redemption. What are your thoughts? Journal your thoughts. Are you allowing Jesus to boldly send you, His disciple, into an evil world to spread His plan of redemption? If not, pray for that cautious optimism to permeate your life.

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



Weekly Prayer Guide for Feb. 20 – Feb. 26

Adoration: praising God for what and who He is:

O Lord, the God of our fathers, are You not the God who is in heaven? Are You not the ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand, and no one is able to withstand You. (2 Chronicles 20:6)

I will praise You, O Lord, with all my heart;
I will tell of all Your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. (Psalm 9:1-2)

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

Confession: stating our sins, and asking forgiveness:

Have You as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, O Lord,
As in obedience to Your voice?
To obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed is better than the fat of rams.
For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. (1 Samuel 15:22-23)

If there is any thought within me that needs forgiveness, I confess it. Forgive any way within me that is not according to Your will and Your ways.

Ask the Spirit to search your heart and reveal any areas of unconfessed sin. Acknowledge these to the Lord and thank Him for His forgiveness.

Thanksgiving: thanking God for specific things He has done.

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

Thank You, Lord, for making us fearfully and wonderfully. Nothing is hidden from Your sight, everything is uncovered and exposed before Your eyes. Lord, know my thoughts afresh and anew today. You are the Alpha and the Omega, you know the beginning and end, nothing surprises You. You knew us before we were even born. You wrote our lives in your book. You counted the number of our days before we lived them. You had a plan for our life from before the foundation of the world. We know you hold the whole world in the palm of your hand. Your eyes run to and from throughout the whole earth to show yourself strong on behalf of those that love you. We know you promised we could come to your throne of grace to find help in time of need. Dear Lord, we are so grateful to You.

For these things we bring our thanks:

- On Feb. 12, 22 people came to the EV2 launch in Columbia, SC. 16 pastors trained. 16 churches represented. 16 churches plan to implement. 1 person made a profession of faith. 7 people heard the gospel. Praise the Lord, Bishop Green and his son, Rev. Green committed to sending district pastors and they came.
- For the ministry of Shibu Oommen in DE, PA, and NJ and all the lives being changed by the spread of the gospel in these areas.

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

As one of Your chosen people, holy and beloved, may I put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with others and forgiving others even as You, Lord, forgave me; and above all these things may I put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-14)

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) and we're asking God for a smooth transition.
- 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 Equip America on March 19 in Grand Junction, CO, Tampa, FL, Fort Payne, AL, Stillwater, OK, and El Paso, TX (Spanish).
- 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.
- Pray for Judy and Nyle Bosier: prayer strategist, ministry coaches, and partners of EE: strength, endurance, and healing.
- Pray for Endre Norem: prayer strategist for EE as he travels throughout the North Western parts of the US, sharing the Gospel, equipping others to pray more intentionally and become courageous witnesses for You.
- Pray for Darrell Farney: prayer strategist for EE as he continues to grow prayer groups throughout the US.
- Pray for Billy Graham Rapid Response Team chaplains who are ministering day and night in numerous Canadian border crossings and in Ottawa. They are offering emotional and spiritual care and sharing the Gospel of Christ when the door opens. People there are open to prayer, pray that the chaplains know how to pray and that God would open the door for them to share the gospel.
- Prayer for peace for all who struggle with anxiety and worry. Pray for the Lord to be the one they run to, to calm their spirit and take the areas of their life causing them stress and fear.
- Prayers for our growing children: Father God, help parents to be good at parenting their children. Give parents compassion and understanding toward children when they make childish mistakes. Help them to discipline with love when dealing with sinful attitudes and actions. God, give children a teachable spirit, blessed by both You and those who observe their life. God, we pray for all children to know You, believe in You and learn at a young age how to follow, listen to, and obey You. We pray for children to immediately, completely, and with the right attitudes. Help us to teach children Your Word, and how to store it in their heart. May Your Word fill their hearts and transform their lives as they grow and may Your blessings fall upon them. (Place the specific names of children in this prayer to make it more personal).
- Pray that all the pastors attending the EV2 launch on Feb. 12 that missed part of the training will follow through with scheduled zoom training to complete their certification and begin to implement EV2 in their church.

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

SYFW	2/19	Calvary Church	Everett, WA
SYFW	2/26	New Life in Christ	Fredericksburg, VA

SYFW	3/5	Hutto Bible Church	Hutto, TX
SYFW	3/5	ACyM Casa de Oracion	Brandon, FL
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	3/12	Pathway Community Church	Cincinnati, OH
SYFW	3/19	Covenant Presbyterian Church	Harleysville, PA
SYFW	3/26	First Baptist Church of Cole	Blanchard, OK
SYFW	4/2	One Life Church	The Dalles, OR
SYFW	4/9	Faith Baptist Church	Streetsboro, OH
SYFW	4/9	CrossPointe Church, CPA	Media, PA
SYFW	4/30	Rio Life Community Church. English & Spanish	Mercedes, TX
SYFW	4/30	Broadway Baptist Church	Maryville, TN
SYFW	5/14	The Redeemed Christian Church	Erie, PA
SYFW	5/14	Callahan Baptist Church	Callahan, FL
EV2 Launch	3/17 – 3/18	Harmony Community Church	Peachland, NC
EV2 Launch	4/8	New Generation Baptist Church	Norman, OK
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
Classic Clinic	10/24-10/28	Chinese Community Church of Indiana	Carmel, IN