

A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Distracted World

Week 6: April 24 – April 28

Chapters 22 - 23



- ⇒ We are nearing the end of another 40-day prayer challenge. Thank you for sticking it out. This Thursday, April 28 marks the 40th day. What are you learning from this prayer study? Your perseverance in prayer matters, it's changing lives. Prayer changes things. You and I are a part of something much bigger than we will ever know. We are a part of KINGDOM sized things. Hallelujah!
- ⇒ Our next challenge will begin on May 15. During this challenge we will complete the book *A Praying Life* by Paul Miller. Stick with us and complete this "Growing in Prayer" Study.
- ⇒ While we await the next challenge, remember to pray for the world. Check out prayerpartners.world for details.

Last week we looked at living in the desert – this place of pain, disappointment, and lack of our resources. This place where God so profoundly meets us. This week, we will look at prayers of lament. Often times, prayers of lament are difficult for us, but why? How can we overcome the "allergy" of lamenting?

I went searching for an easy way to remember the principles of lamenting and make the information applicable to my prayer life. I broke it down to the basics. The ABC's of lamenting.

4 Components of Lamenting:

1. Address God
2. Bring Your Complaints to Him
3. Call on Him for Help
4. Determine to Trust Him No Matter What

Lamenting allows us to actively practice patience. Trust looks like this: talking to God, sharing our complaints (without slipping into bad lamenting that is magnified, endless; complicated by bitterness, self-pity, escapes, and denial), seeking God's help and then recommitting oneself to believe that God will. Lament is enduring, trusting, and waiting. When we believe in God's

mercy, redemption and sovereignty we can create a place for lamenting. As followers of Christ, we lament because we believe. What's troubling you: sin, desperation for your family, the current state of our nation, a recent diagnosis, etc.? Address God as Sovereign and fully in control! Tell Him all about your troubles! Cry out to Him in desperation for His help and rescue! Then wait with great anticipation for how He will move! God inhabits the praises of His people. God waits patiently for us to call on Him. Dane Ortlund says in his book *Gentle and Lowly: The Heart of Christ for Sinners and Sufferers* (I highly recommend this book, by the way) "When you come to Christ for mercy and love and help in your anguish and complexity, and sinfulness, you are going with the flow of his own deepest wishes, not against them." Also in that book, Ortlund quotes a profound statement made by Thomas Goodwin: Christ's own joy, comfort, happiness, and glory are increased and enlarged by his showing grace and mercy, in pardoning, relieving, and comforting his members here on earth." So, come on, take it to the Lord right now. He's tenderly waiting.

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

- Sunday, April 24: As you begin this week's chapters from *A Praying Life*, take some time to read some laments from the book of Psalm.
 - Psalm 6:1
 - Psalm 22:1
 - Psalm 28:1
 - Psalm 35:17,22
 - Psalm 43:2
 - Psalm 60:1
 - Psalm 71:9
 - Psalm 74::1
 - Psalm 79:5
 - Psalm 88:7
 - Psalm 102:2
 - Psalm 142:6
 - Psalm 143:7

- Monday – Thursday, April 25– April 28: [Chapter 22](#)- Paul writes, "To love is to lament, to let your heart be broken by something" (p. 174, first paragraph). What do you think he means by that? And how do you see yourself loving in your lamenting? Have you seen cynicism quietly seeping into your life? How would lamenting help you if you have become cynical? Recall one situation or event in your life where your prayers were a "call to arms" and you saw God answering. [Chapter 23](#) – What do Paul's words, "a plea to his Father, the potter, to act, to create anew" mean to you? (p. 183, 2nd paragraph) Can you think of a time when you prayed that prayer, and what was the result? Paul cautions us to be careful that our laments don't slip into complaining. How does that strike you? Where do your laments tend to fall? Consider picking some favorite Psalms to pray through and how they might help you in your lamenting. Take some time to write out a cultural or world lament. Of the three things that Isaiah believed about God (that he is sovereign, that he is love, and that he keeps his covenant) which is the easiest for you to believe and which is the most difficult? How do you see that unfold in your prayers?

Daily reflections are adapted from Paul E Miller's *A Praying Life Discussion Guide*.

- ⇒ Take the next two weeks to lament to God about the hardships facing our world. People need the Lord. Every nation, every people group, every age group need Jesus. Lament, cry out, give Him an emotional dump, repent, and leave the prayer altar believing He is Able and Fully in Control.



WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS FOR APRIL 24 – APRIL 28

ADORATION: praising God for who He is and what He has done.

Father, I choose this day to lift up my hallelujahs. Your grip is on my life. Your handiwork is apparent. When I recall Your faithfulness, it fills my heart with hope, with courage and I am reminded that I can trust in you. You are a good, good father. You are a refuge in whom I can run to. You are the one and only true God in whom I can draw near, in good times and bad, with lamentations and hallelujahs. You hear them all. And You will faithfully meet with me, wherever I am and whenever I call. Thank you for your tender kindness toward me. Nobody loves me better than you. You are worthy of everything. You deserve the glory. From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, we praise you and glorify your blessed name. Show me more of your glorious presence. We worship You.

Pause to express your thoughts of praise and worship.

CONFESSION: stating our sins and asking forgiveness!

Father God, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, you are faithful and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Failing to confess our sins keeps us from living in the fullness of joy that comes with kingdom living, and we should take every opportunity to confess, repent and ask for your forgiveness. Without the realization of our own sinfulness, we have no need of a savior. Easter reminds us that we have a savior; one who lived as an example for us, died in our place, and rose from the grave to bring us life, abundant life and joy everlasting. The key to

this gift is confession of sin. We humbly now confess our sins to you, our forgiving savior.

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 that He has done.

There's a land that is fairer than day. And by faith we can see if afar, for You, our father waits over the way, to prepare us a dwelling place there. Lord, thank you for that sweet by and by when all the saints shall meet on that beautiful shore. Oh, what a day that will be! Thank you for that sweet eternal home that you are preparing for us. We thank you for hearing us when we voice our complaints to you and pour out our heart to You. We choose to trust in You, even when we don't understand. We know who You are. You are faithful. Your mercies are new every day. Call to mind, continually, all your goodness and faithfulness. Thank you for hearing us when we call. Help us to not grow weary as we wait for your deliverance. When our memory fails us, remind us of Your faithfulness and Your goodness. You are our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in time of trouble.

EE Praises:

- Another Equip America! Yay God! On Saturday, 4/23 in Tallahassee, FL, Pueblo, CO, North Providence, RI, and Las Vegas, NV. Final report to come. To God be the Glory, He always does great things.
- Marty Phagan completed a SYFW in Vivian, Louisiana with 15 people attending, 1 pastor. 15 people heard the gospel and 1 person made a profession of faith.
- On the streets of PA, a group of college graduates from NC were trained and equipped intensively in street evangelism, neighborhood evangelism, college campus evangelism and multi ethnic places. There were a half dozen faith commitments. Praise God for college students willing to invest their lives in Kingdom things. Thank you God, for Shibu and Bill and their commitment to equip others in evangelism.
- Praise God for implementing churches that press on semester after semester. Pray for strength to persevere and keep equipping the Body of Christ.

Pause to offer your own expressions of thanksgiving.

SUPPLICATION: asking God for our needs and our wants.

Father, we want to cry out with complete transparency, not shying away from You when we go through hard times. Lord, your ears are open to all who call on Your name. You do not reject those who see You. Help us to trust Your plans for our life, help us to wait on You and seek You in all seasons of our life. Father, we put our trust in you. Your steadfast love is faithful. You said You will never leave us or forsake those who love and seek You. And we remember your promises are true. We know that every detail of our lives are woven together for good. Hear our petitions today, O God:

- Pray for GO Day on May 28, 2022, a day set aside to share your faith with at least one person through gomovement.world. Pray for April 30th which is GO Training Day. Pray for millions to be trained to GO FORTH telling the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray for a powerful movement of the Holy Spirit to be unleashed as millions go out sharing the Gospel on May 28th.
- **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*.
- For plans and preparations for Congress Of Nations in 2023
- Pray for "TOGETHER 22" happening in the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas, TX, June 24-25! EE is partnering with Pulse to help the spread of the gospel and equip others to share. Pray for an outpouring of God's Spirit as entire generations gather to meet with Jesus and be equipped to share Him with the world. We're praying that a new Jesus movement will be unleashed.
- Bring protection and healing to the people of Ukraine, God. Show them that you are with them and that You hear their prayers. Strengthen anyone who is feeling hurt, alone, or broken. Replace any feelings of anxiety, fear, and uncertainty with Your peace and hope. Draw near to them and draw them near to You, God.
- Pray for God's manifest presence (His presence made known) to be made known in our lives, in our country, in our marriages, in our churches, in our pastors, in our families, in our children, in our neighborhoods, in our cities.
- Pray for Equip America on August 13 in Lake Tahoe, CA, and Orange County, CA in Korean, Spanish, and English)

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

SYFW	4/24	North Macon Presbyterian Church	Macon, GA
SYFW	4/29 – 4/30	Calvary Arlington	Arlington, WA
SYFW	4/30	Broadway Baptist Church	Maryville, TN
SYFW	4/30	Grace Baptist Church	Salem, OR
SYFW	4/30	Calvary Arlington	Arlington, WA
SYFW	4/30	Polk Baptist Association	Columbus, NC
SYFW	4/30	Faith Family Fellowship	Purdy, MO
SYFW	4/30	Philema Road Baptist Church	Leesburg, GA
SYFW	4/30	Taller Manos a la Obra a Rio Life Community Church (Spanish)	Mercedes, TX
SYFW	4/30	Rio Life Community Church (English)	Mercedes, TX
SYFW	4/30	Philema Road Baptist Church	Leesburg, GA
SYFW	4/30	First Presbyterian Church of JAX	Jacksonville, FL
SYFW	4/30	Riverwalk Church of God	Sanford, FL
SYFW	4/30	Lancaster Vietnamese Alliance Church	Landisville, PA
SYFW	4/30	Broadway Baptist Church	Maryville, TN
SYFW	5/1	Maumee General Baptist Church	Owensville, IN
SYFW	5/7	Emmanuel Baptist and One Life Church	The Dalles, OR
SYFW	5/7	Faith Presbyterian Church	Wilmington, DE
SYFW	5/14	Taller Manos a la Obra a Iglesia ACyM Casa de Jennings	Bronx, NY
SYFW	5/14	The Redeemed Christian Church	Erie, PA
SYFW	5/15	Mt. Pleasant Church of God	Evansville, IN
SYFW	5/14	Callahan Baptist Church	Callahan, FL
SYFW	5/21	First Baptist Church	Effingham, IL
SYFW	5/22	Oak Hill Christian Center	Evansville, IN
SYFW	5/28	Iglesia Central Bautista	Dunn, NC
SYFW	6/4	Trinity Bible Fellowship	Blanton, PA
SYFW	6/11	Life Bible Church	Harrisburg, OR
SYFW	6/18	Cimarron Valley Church	Perkins, OK
SYFW	6/25	The Church of the Apostles	Atlanta, GA
SYFW	8/27	Martha Road Baptist Church	Altus, OK
EV2 Launch	5/13 – 5/14	Northside Baptist Church	Lawton, OK
EV2 Launch	5/19 – 5/21	Lanzamiento Evangelismo Eficaz a Iglesia ACyM de Virginia	Manassas, VA
EV2 Launch	6/10 – 6/11	New Generation Baptist Church	Norman, OK
EV2 Launch	8/4 – 8/5	First Baptist Rogers	Rogers, AR
EV2 Launch	8/25 – 8/27	Lanzamiento Evangelismo Eficaz a ACyM Casa de Oracion	Brandon, FL
Classic Clinic	5/16-5/19	Grace Korean Church	Fullerton, CA
Classic Clinic	10/24-10/28	Chinese Community Church of Indiana	Carmel, IN
HFk	6/17	Calvary Christian Reformed Church	Ripon, CA