

21

DAYS OF PRAYER



GRACE CITY CHURCH

This personal prayer guide is merely a tool to help guide you in fully engaging your mind and heart in prayer on a daily basis. Whether you are new to faith in Christ and to prayer, or a seasoned saint, we want you to make focused prayer a part of your daily life, not just during these 21 days, but as a regular ongoing part of your relationship with God in 2017. It's our prayer for you, that you will increasingly learn to enjoy prayer and experience the presence of God and encounter the Word of God in life-changing ways through prayer.

THE WORD OF GOD & PRAYER

The Word of God and prayer go hand in hand. One of the best ways to learn how to pray and to be able to spend longer amounts of time in prayer is to mingle Bible reading and reflection with prayer. As you meditate on God's Word you will find it easier and easier to spend time praying and you'll enjoy an increasing depth to the content of your prayers as you learn to pray God's Word.

PRAYER & FASTING

We are encouraging those who are able to sign up for one or more days to fast at least one meal on that day and spend that time with the Lord in prayer. There are other ways to fast (ie fasting from technology or entertainment) but the most common is a fast from food. There are various biblical purposes for fasts (See Neh. 1:4; Isa. 58; Matt. 6:16-18). Essentially, fasting is a spiritual discipline where we express our dependence on God and seek to increase our *spiritual* hunger. In fasting, we are saying "This much I need you God! This much I long for you! More than my body needs food, I need you Lord!" Through fasting you use the physical experience of hunger to remind you of the reality of your spiritual need for Christ. If you have never engaged in the practice of fasting - this would be a great time to try! ***Please consult your doctor before engaging in a fast.*

MAKE PRAYER A DAILY LIFESTYLE

In order to make prayer a part of your daily life, you'll need:

- **A Time** - Set a planned meeting with the Lord and stick to it. It's best if it can be the same time each day. Just don't leave it to chance. Set a time.
- **A Place** - Don't waste time wandering. Pick a private place where you can be free from external distractions.

- **A Plan** - That's where this guide comes in. We also encourage you to bring your Bible. Use blank pages or a notepad to write down anything that comes to mind that might be a distraction to keep you from praying. One of the hurdles many people experience in prayer is mental distractions. Have a plan for how you will capture those invading thoughts if needed and then stay focused and on track in prayer.
- **A Partner** - Two is better than one and a cord of three strands is not easily broken. Find 1-2 prayer partners who will check in on how you're doing and with whom you can do the same.

HOW THIS GUIDE IS STRUCTURED

We've structured the 21 days around the pattern of Jesus' teaching known as the Lord's Prayer. We've broken it into 7 segments that we will walk through three times over the course of the 21 days. The Lord's Prayer is essentially the outline for prayer that Jesus gave his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray. You can use the pattern and outline of the Lord's Prayer as a daily pattern as well.

There are many different tips and tools for prayer that have been used and proven helpful in the lives of Christians through the ages (Ex. - The acronym "A.C.T.S." - Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication; Using the Psalms as prayers; Praying Paul's Prayers, etc...), and it's helpful to experiment to see what works best for you. At the end of the day, prayer is not a recipe, but a real relationship and ongoing conversation with a loving Father. I've found many of these tools to be helpful myself (I've included a list of Paul's prayers in the back of this guide for you to reference as well), but I consistently come back to the Lord's Prayer as the outline that has served me most and best and so I offer it for you as a guide for our 21 Days of Prayer.

May the Lord teach us to pray, hear our prayers, and renew our hearts in His presence as we follow Him in 2017!

For your progress and joy in the faith,

Pastor Adam

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOCUS #1 - *Our Father in Heaven...*

DAYS 1, 8, 15

FOCUS #2 - *Hallowed be Your Name...*

DAYS 2, 9, 16

FOCUS #3 - *Your Kingdom Come,
Your Will Be Done on Earth as it is in Heaven...*

DAYS 3, 10, 17

FOCUS #4 - *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread...*

DAYS 4, 11, 18

FOCUS #5 - *Forgive Us Our Sins
As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us...*

DAYS 5, 12, 19

FOCUS #6 - *Lead Us Not into Temptation but Deliver Us from Evil...*

DAYS 6, 13, 20

FOCUS #7 - *For Yours is the Kingdom & Power & Glory Forever.*

DAYS 7, 14, 21

DAY 1

FOCUS #1 - "Our Father in Heaven"

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD AS OUR PERFECT FATHER, ENJOYING HIS PRESENCE

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God." - Galatians 4:4-7

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace..." - Ephesians 1:3-6

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would personally and collectively know & experience the love of God, believing we are his beloved sons and daughters
- That more lost sons and daughters would come home to the Father and know their place in the Family of God
- For GC Leaders, that God would empower them and protect them to serve & lead well
- That God would bless all those who join us for these 21 days of prayer

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #1:

The highest and greatest truth that we can know and experience, is to be called a son or daughter of God. Of all the blessings bestowed upon us through the gospel, none are greater than our *adoption*. Knowing God as your Father is a

game changer. Some people struggle with the concept of relating to God as their father because of the broken or painful relationship they had with their earthly father. But God, our Father, is not a blown up version of your earthly dad. He's not a reflection of our earthly father. Rather, He is the perfection of everything a good father is and should be. Regardless of what kind of father you've had, the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that you get a better father. The perfect Father. And He loves you. In Christ, He's chosen you and adopted you as His own. And if God is for us, who can be against us? If God is our Father, who or what do we have to fear?

PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for loving me. Thank you for sending your son Jesus to make a way to adopt me as your child. Help me hear your loving voice and let out a deep sigh of relief in your presence. Thank you that I can pour out my heart to you and come to you anywhere with anything at anytime. Remind me of your amazing love for me today... that because of Jesus, there's nothing I could do to make you love me more and nothing I could do to make you love me less. Abba, Father, I belong to you. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

QUOTE:

"Prayer is asking God to incarnate, to get dirty in your life. Yes, the eternal God scrubs floors. For sure we know he washes feet. So take Jesus at his word. Ask him. Tell him what you want. Get dirty. Write out your prayer requests; don't mindlessly drift through life on the American narcotic of busyness. If you try to seize the day, the day will eventually break you. Seize the corner of his garment and don't let go until he blesses you. He will reshape the day." - Paul Miller



FOCUS #2 - "Hallowed Be Your Name"

EXALTING GOD'S NAME, WORSHIPPING HIM FOR HIS ATTRIBUTES AND ACTIONS

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" - Exodus 3:13-14

Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. - John 8:56-59

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That God's Name and Renown would be the desire of our souls
- That the Name of Jesus would be exalted in our city & region
- That we would live lives that "demand a gospel explanation"
- For the provision of resources to build a facility to be used to advance the mission of the gospel in our city and beyond
- For more people to meet, love, & follow Jesus as a result of GCC's missional efforts in 2017

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #2:

God shares His glory with no one. There is ONE Name above every Name. There is ONE Name that we want to exalt over Wenatchee and everywhere God gives us voice. As we endeavor to establish a gospel headquarters in the Wenatchee Valley for generations to come, we want to fly the flag of JESUS CHRIST. Period. There is no one like Him. He is the great I AM. God is un-defeatable, never-

ending, never-changing, never-weakening. He is the Ancient of Days who never grows old. He is the author of all reality and all existence. To know Jesus is to know God, to know God is to know the greatest Being in the universe. He dwells outside of time and does all that He pleases. He is worthy of praise, and His greatness none can fathom. Let us exalt the Name of our God - the LORD - Yahweh - I AM WHO I AM, our Redeemer, our Righteousness, our Peace, our Provider, our Savior, our King!

PRAYER:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name! You are God and there is no other. You are worthy of praise and glory and honor. You are above all, the Author of life and salvation and without you nothing exists. I stand in awe of You. May my words be few! Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty... Who was and is and is to come. The whole earth is full of your glory. Let the whole earth bless your name forever and ever. You who created all things, sustain all things, and uphold all things by the Word of your power. May you receive glory and honor and may your name be lifted high through the people of GCC now and forever. Amen."

QUOTE:

"If you know that you, like Jesus, can't do life on your own, then prayer makes complete sense." - Paul Miller

"Prayer is where the action is." - John Wesley

DAY 3

FOCUS #3 - "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven"

ASKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM RULE & REIGN, SUBMITTING OUR AGENDA TO HIS

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." - Matt. 6:33 (see v.25-34)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." - Matt. 13:44

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." - Rev. 5:8-10

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would prioritize the Kingdom of God in 2017
- For favor with city officials, leaders in our community, and the neighbors we will cross paths with in 2017
- For God to raise up more leaders and workers for the mission/harvest
- That all the Jesus-loving, Bible-preaching churches in our valley and region would be blessed and experience the intensified work of the Holy Spirit in their gatherings and ministries
- For more resources to be given to Kingdom endeavors

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #3:

Tim Keller writes: "Throughout the Old and New Testaments and church history, every spiritual awakening was founded on corporate, prevailing, intensive, kingdom-centered prayer. We cannot create spiritual renewal by ourselves, but we can "prepare the altar" and ask God to send his Holy Spirit to change our hearts, our churches, and our communities." The existence of Grace City Church is 100% about the Kingdom of God advancing here on earth, through the people of God. Individually and corporately we want to prioritize the Kingdom, seek first the Kingdom, and leverage our lives for the King!

PRAYER:

"Father, we ask that you work in us individually, corporately as a church family, and in the lives of those who do not know you in the Wenatchee Valley. May your Kingdom come in undeniable ways, bringing not only extra-ordinary signs of your power, but also bringing about the intensified ordinary work of Your Spirit among us...convicting of sin, bringing salvation and renewal in every sphere of society. We desire Your will above all and submit our own plans to your Kingdom will and agenda. Amen."

QUOTE:

"These men knew how to pray and how to prevail in prayer. Their faith in prayer was no passing attitude that changed with the wind or with their own feelings and circumstances; it was a fact that God heard and answered, that His ear was ever open to the cry of His children, and that the power to do what was asked of Him was commensurate with His willingness. And thus these men, strong in faith and in prayer, "subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, waxed mighty in war, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Everything then, as now, was possible to the men and women who knew how to pray. Prayer, indeed, opened a limitless storehouse, and God's hand withheld nothing." - EM Bounds



FOCUS #4 - "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

ASKING FOR PROVISION, DEPENDING ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him! Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing." - Ps. 34:8-10

"Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ... Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith!" - Luke 12 (see v. 22-31)

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would trust Jesus to provide our every need
- That we would not worship money but rather use the money God entrusts to us as a tool to accomplish His purposes
- That we would cultivate contentment, faithfulness and generosity in our handling of finances in 2017
- For the provision of resources to build a permanent facility to be used to advance the mission of the gospel in our city and beyond
- For people to be debt-free and live in financial freedom in 2017

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #4:

At the heart of prayer is "asking". Let's keep the categories straight. We are not the "givers" and God the "receiver." It is the other way around. God is the giver, we are the receivers. In fact, God is glorified when we make much of Him by

expressing His worth and fullness through our asking. Ultimately, we depend on Him for everything. The breath in our lungs. The blood in our heart. The basic needs of life. And the resources to spread the gospel near and far. Jesus commanded us to, "Ask", "Seek", and "Knock" and to keep on asking, seeking, and knocking. So let us be bold in this season of prayer to ASK! At the heart of our asking in 2017 is our request as a Body of believers for GOD TO PROVIDE financial resources through the generosity of people. That we would be purified and have our passions aligned with God's passions and that we would joyfully invest resources entrusted to us for the furthering of God's Kingdom. Let us humbly yet boldly ask the Father to provide the resources needed to move the mission forward in the ways we believe He is directing us.

PRAYER:

"Father, we ask that you would continue to show yourself gracious and faithful, as you have in the the past, as you have to each one of us personally and as you have in the short unfolding story of GCC...would you grant an abundant overflow of your grace to flow through us, as Your Spirit works in our lives. Cause us to look to you for our every need in 2017. We ask this in Jesus' Name and for His glory, Amen."

QUOTE:

"If you are not praying, then you are quietly confident that time, money, and talent are all you need in life." - Paul Miller

DAY 5

FOCUS #5 - "Forgive Us Our Sins As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us"

ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS, PURSUING RELATIONAL HEALING & UNITY

"Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit." - Ps. 51:10-12 (Read all of Psalm 51)

"Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." - Psalm 19:12-14

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- For the Spirit's intensified conviction in our lives
- For humble confession of sin and bringing any hidden sins out of the dark and into the light
- For GCC Men to lead the way in modeling true repentance
- For an outpouring of God's Spirit, making us a humble people who walk in the light
- For cleansing and renewal and the restoration of joy in Christ

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #5:

A distinguishing mark of Christianity is FORGIVENESS. Not only do we accept the radical gift of God's forgiveness in and through Christ, but we also extend the radical gift of forgiveness to others, especially those who have sinned against us. One of the signs of the Spirit's work among us will be our relational health and unity. This isn't possible without forgiveness. Let us be slow to anger and quick to forgive. Let us be quick to ask for forgiveness and gracious to grant it. Do not give place to bitterness, or harbor hidden sin in your life. Let us confess our sins to God & each other. Let us get in right relationship with God and each other that we might tell the truth to the watching world about the gospel of Jesus Christ. What sin(s) do you need to confess? Who do you need to seek forgiveness from? Who do you need to forgive? Let's keep short accounts GCC, not long lists of records of wrongs. Let's walk in integrity with God and humility & unity with one another. Take whatever steps necessary TODAY to walk in forgiveness.

PRAYER:

"Father, if we say we do not have sin we deceive ourselves. Show me my hidden faults. Convict me by Your Spirit. Forgive me for _____... Lord, help me to step fully into the light of your grace and your truth and seek whatever help I need to put my sin to death. Lead me to seek forgiveness from anyone whom I have sinned against. Show me anyone against whom I am harboring bitterness and grant me a heart of forgiveness. Lead me to do my part to pursue and preserve the unity and peace of this Body. Thank you for the grace to both receive and extend forgiveness through Jesus & the price of forgiveness that He already paid. Amen."

QUOTE:

"Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies." - Westminster Catechism



FOCUS #6 - "Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil"

ASKING FOR PROTECTION, ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak." - Eph. 6:10-20

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That God would protect us from the evil one
- That we would remain spiritually alert & persevere in prayer
- That GCC would be strengthened in 2017 and stand firm in the faith
- That we would be a Body fully equipped in the armor of God
- That we would boldly proclaim the gospel

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #6:

Satan is real. Demons are real. No, they are not behind every bush, but, they would love nothing more than to derail the mission, leaders, and people of GCC.

Like a hungry lion looking for someone to devour, the devil would have no problem eating you for lunch. He wants to destroy your faith, your marriage, your children, your hope, your integrity, your witness, and ultimately your soul. Do not be deceived. Spiritual attack and spiritual warfare are REAL. Making disciples = WAR. Period. We are on the offense. We do not want to give our adversary, the devil, an ounce more or less of the attention that God's Word calls us to give. We are not to be ignorant or unaware of his schemes. We are to pray for God's divine protection, leadership, and deliverance from temptation and evil. We have the armor of God, mighty weapons for warfare, the ability to resist and rebuke the enemy, the triumph of the Cross to daily remember, and the confidence of victory past, present, and future as we worship the Victorious Serpent-Crusher, King Jesus! Let us humbly yet boldly ask for God's protection and live lives of vigilance as we fight the good fight of faith!

PRAYER:

"Father, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil! Grant that we would walk so closely with You that, by your grace, we would say "NO!" to the tempter and seek the way of escape that you provide. Keep our foot from slipping as we hide Your Word in our heart and take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ. Preserve us to the end, that we may stand firm in the faith and honor You with all our days. Amen."

QUOTE:

"Prayer is primarily a wartime walkie-talkie for the mission of the church as it advances against the powers of darkness and unbelief. It is not surprising that prayer malfunctions when we try to make it a domestic intercom to call upstairs for more comforts in the den...Until you know that life is war, you cannot know what prayer is for: Prayer is for the accomplishment of a wartime mission." -

John Piper



FOCUS #7 - "For Yours Is The Kingdom & The Power & The Glory Forever"

PRAYING IN FAITH, GIVING ALL GLORY TO GOD

Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand. - Prov. 19:21

Then Job answered the LORD and said:
"I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted." - Job 42:1

"Remember this and stand firm,
recall it to mind, you transgressors,
remember the former things of old;
for I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like me,
declaring the end from the beginning
and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall
stand,
and I will accomplish all my purpose,' - Isaiah 46:8-10

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would have confidence and faith in God's sovereign purposes for our lives and for GCC
- That we would pray in faith, and have hope because of God's sovereignty
- That God would grow larger in our minds and hearts
- That we would experience deep and abiding peace and rest as we increasingly trust in the absolute sovereignty of God over all things in our lives

THOUGHT ON FOCUS #7:

At the end of the day and at the beginning of a new year, we want to clearly proclaim our faith in the Lord to sovereignly bring about His good plans and purposes in His timing for His people. We will be careful, to give all glory and all honor to Jesus Christ for every gift of his grace, every heart changed, every sinner saved, every sin confessed, every deed done... This is God's show first to last. God's Kingdom, Jesus' Church, the Spirit's work. We exist by Him and for Him. In the end, we know #JesusWins. We know #JesusMakesNew. The fact that we get to play a part in what God is doing??!! Incredible privilege & grace! We want to express faith-filled worship, putting the spotlight on WHO OUR GOD IS and ALL HE HAS DONE, IS DOING, AND WILL DO. Let us declare with hearts full of praise and full of faith that God is absolutely Sovereign, altogether Good, All-Powerful, abundantly Gracious, and Glorious beyond all compare. He who was and is and is to come...to Him be all glory, honor, power, and dominion now and forever, Amen!

PRAYER:

"Our Father in Heaven, holy is Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever... Lord, we look to You, we trust in You, our hope is in You. Thank you for what you are doing and how you are providing for us. Continue to draw us closer to yourself and conform us to the image of Jesus. We glorify your name and submit our lives to your will. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

QUOTE:

"The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer." - EM Bounds

DAY 8

FOCUS #1 - "Our Father in Heaven"

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD AS OUR PERFECT FATHER, ENJOYING HIS PRESENCE

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God..." - Romans 8:15-16

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." - 1 John 3:1

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would walk in the assurance and confidence of our sonship in Christ
- That we would be filled with a God-given burden and compassion for the hurting and broken in our city & region
- For every member of GCC, that we would be equipped & sent as ministers of Jesus in our homes and in our city
- That we would be a blessing to everyone we come in contact with in 2017, bringing the peace and love of the Father into all of our relationships

QUOTE:

"Reading a book about prayer, listening to lectures and talking about it is very good, but it won't teach you to pray. You get nothing without exercise, without practice. I might listen for a year to a professor of music playing the most beautiful music, but that won't teach me to play an instrument." - Andrew Murray



FOCUS #2 - "Hallowed Be Your Name"

EXALTING GOD'S NAME, WORSHIPPING HIM FOR HIS ATTRIBUTES AND ACTIONS

"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life." - Isaiah 43:1-4

O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

- Psalm 130:7-8

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would have open doors and opportunities to speak about Jesus and the redemption we have found in Him
- That we would have boldness and wisdom in the way we talk about Jesus with unbelievers
- That we would be increasingly aware of God's redeeming grace in our lives on a daily basis
- For more people to meet, love, & follow Jesus in 2017

QUOTE:

"Prayer is not learned in the classroom but in the closet." - EM Bounds



FOCUS #3 - "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven"

ASKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM RULE & REIGN, SUBMITTING OUR AGENDA TO HIS

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ... For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." - Romans 10:9, 13

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ... No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day." - John 6:37, 44

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Rom. 5:8

See also 2 Cor.4:4-6; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; 2 Peter 3:9; Eph. 2:8-9

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- Pray for the names of people you know who don't yet know Jesus
- That God would draw __ (name) __ to Jesus.
- That God would grant _ (name) _ repentance.
- For increased passion for the lost around us
- For open doors and opportunities to build relationships with people that don't yet know Jesus
- For GCC to practice hospitality and invite lost people into our homes and lives

QUOTE:

"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers." - J Sidlow Baxter

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed.” - A.J. Gordon

FOCUS #4 - "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"**ASKING FOR PROVISION, DEPENDING ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING**

"We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us." - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work." - 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would give generously, sacrificially, and cheerfully as the Spirit leads
- That our hearts stay riveted on the mission of reaching others with the good news of the gospel
- That our hearts are freed from idols and purified through generous giving
- For thankful hearts to receive every good gift of God's provision in our lives (list all that come to mind)
- That we would not take for granted the blessings we daily receive and enjoy (list all that come to mind)

QUOTE:

“You know the value of prayer: it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it.” - Sir Thomas Buxton

“Talking to men for God is a great thing, but talking to God for men is greater still. He will never talk well and with real success to men for God who has not learned well how to talk to God for men.” - EM Bounds

DAY 12

FOCUS #5 - "Forgive Us Our Sins As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us"

ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS, PURSUING RELATIONAL HEALING & UNITY

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." - Ephesians 4:32

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." - Colossians 3:12-15

"If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared." - Psalm 130:3-4

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we confess any anger and/or bitterness and sever the root of bitterness in our hearts
- That all who participate in prayer would experience great blessing through time with God in prayer
- That we would be a church filled with forgiven and forgiving people
- That we would be struck again by the amazing reality of our sins being forgiven in & by Christ (past, present, & future)
- For more people to meet, love, & follow Jesus during 2017, knowing His forgiveness

QUOTE:

“It is one thing to believe such power is available in prayer, but another thing to practice it.” - J. Oswald Sanders

“Prayer is not the foe of work, it does not paralyze activity. It works mightily...It springs activity, stimulates desire and effort. Prayer is not an opiate but a tonic, it does not lull to sleep but arouses anew for action. The lazy man does not, will not, cannot pray, for prayer demands energy.” - EM Bounds

DAY 13

FOCUS #6 - "Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil"

ASKING FOR PROTECTION, ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything. - 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

"For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ." - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would put the flesh to death, & not walk in it
- That we would take our thoughts captive and compare it to the Word of God and truth of Christ
- That we would have endurance to respond in a godly manner
- That we would live as though Heaven is our true home
- That we would endure hardship for the sake of the gospel

QUOTE:

“Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” - Oswald Chambers

DAY 14

FOCUS #7 - "For Yours Is The Kingdom & The Power & The Glory Forever"

PRAYING IN FAITH, GIVING ALL GLORY TO GOD

Moses said, "Please show me your glory." And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ... The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. Exodus 33:18-19; 34:6-8

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! - Psalm 27:13-14

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would rest secure and know that God is good all the time, regardless of our circumstances
- That God's goodness would be seen by more people in our city, valley, and region
- That we would grow and mature in Christ in 2017
- That our relationships would reflect the goodness and kindness of God and humility of Christ

QUOTE:

"Books on praying, like marriage manuals, are not to be treated with slavish superstition, as if perfection of technique is the answer to all difficulties; their purpose, rather, is to suggest things to try. But as in other close relationships, so in prayer: you have to find out by trial and error what is right for you, and you learn to pray by praying." - JI Packer

DAY 15

FOCUS #1 - "Our Father in Heaven"

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD AS OUR PERFECT FATHER, ENJOYING HIS PRESENCE

"And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." - Matthew 6:7-8

"O Lord, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O Lord, you know it altogether. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it." - Psalm 139:1-6 (Read all of Psalm 139)

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would rest in the knowledge that God knows what we need & knows what concerns us at all times
- That we would slow down in the presence of God & learn to eliminate distractions to deepen trust & intimacy with God
- For new people who come to GCC, that they would feel welcomed, experience the grace of Jesus, and find a place of meaningful participation in the life of the Church
- That we would know the accepting, affirming, approving grace of Jesus - hearing the voice of the Father - affirming our new creation identity in Christ

QUOTE:

"If you want that splendid power in prayer, you must remain in loving, living, lasting, conscious, practical, abiding union with the Lord Jesus Christ." - C.H. Spurgeon

DAY 16

FOCUS #2 - "Hallowed Be Your Name"

EXALTING GOD'S NAME, WORSHIPPING HIM FOR HIS ATTRIBUTES AND ACTIONS

In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.' - Jeremiah 33:16

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord." - 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would have confidence, freedom, and joy knowing our righteousness is found in Christ alone
- That our weekly Sunday gatherings would be marked by great joy, thanksgiving, and sincere praise to the Lord
- That we would regularly acknowledge together in gospel communities God's grace toward us in small and big ways
- That we would represent Jesus well in our city
- Thank the Lord for His gift of righteousness through Christ

QUOTE:

"You don't need self-discipline to pray continuously; you just need to be poor in spirit." - Paul Miller

DAY 17

FOCUS #3 - "Your Kingdom Come, Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven"

ASKING FOR GOD'S KINGDOM RULE & REIGN, SUBMITTING OUR AGENDA TO HIS

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." - Isa. 61:1

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." - John 8:31, 36

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."
- 2 Corinthians 3:17

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That God would bring freedom to those stuck in enslaving sin and addictions
- That the Spirit would strongly convict people and set them free in Sunday gatherings & GC gatherings
- That God would increase our compassion for those in bondage to sin
- For the blessing and health of all non-profits and agencies in our valley that work with people in need
- That we would have wisdom to engage in the needs of our city and bring wise solutions and gospel power to meet needs of those in bondage

QUOTE:

"Only praying believers...and believing pray-ers, can move the hand of God to break Satan's death grip on other's lives, praying fervently that God would grant them repentance, would save, and set free." - Anonymous

DAY 18

FOCUS #4 - "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

ASKING FOR PROVISION, DEPENDING ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ...

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." See Galatians 5:16-26

"So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." - Matt. 6:17-20

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That our love would grow and increase
- That our joy would grow and increase
- That we experience God's peace in increasing measure
- That we would be patient with God's provision and timing
- That kindness & goodness would mark all our interactions with others
- That the fruit of gentleness would grow and increase
- That the fruit of self-control would grow and increase

QUOTE:

"The easiest thing about prayer...is giving up. We're like the naughty boy who rings the doorbell and runs away." - Terry Virgo

DAY 19

FOCUS #5 - "Forgive Us Our Sins As We Forgive Those Who Sin Against Us"

ASKING FOR FORGIVENESS, PURSUING RELATIONAL HEALING & UNITY

"I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." - Eph. 4:1-3

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. - Romans 15:5-7

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." - John 13:34-35

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That the unity at GCC would be strong and on display throughout 2017
- That we would be eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit
- That there would be an atmosphere of harmony and peace around GCC whenever we gather
- That we would treat one another as brothers and sisters in Christ
- That our unity and love for one another would bring many to know and believe and worship Jesus

QUOTES:

“We do not drift into spiritual life; we do not drift into disciplined prayer. We will not grow in prayer unless we plan to pray. That means we must self-consciously set aside time to do nothing but pray.” - DA Carson

“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.” - A.T. Pierson



FOCUS #6 - "Lead Us Not Into Temptation But Deliver Us From Evil"

ASKING FOR PROTECTION, ENGAGING IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. - Revelation 12:9-11

"Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world." - 1 Peter 5:8-9

See also Jude 1:9, Matt 4:1-11

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That we would learn to biblically resist and rebuke the enemy
- That we would not be fearful or ignorant of spiritual warfare
- That the voice of the Accuser would be silenced and we would overcome him through faith in Christ, not the flesh
- That we would be sober-minded & watchful
- That we would learn to use the Sword of Scripture against the temptations and attacks of Satan

QUOTES:

“Satan trembles when he sees...the weakest saint upon his knees.” - Anonymous
Couplet

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, through Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised, or according to the Word of God, for the good of the Church, with submission in faith to the will of God.” - John Bunyan

DAY 21

FOCUS #7 - "For Yours Is The Kingdom & The Power & The Glory Forever"

PRAYING IN FAITH, GIVING ALL GLORY TO GOD

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness! - Ps. 115:1

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" - Isaiah 6:3

"For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another" Is. 48:11

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. - Habakkuk 2:14

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" ... "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" - Revelation 5:12-13

SPECIFIC REQUESTS:

- That above all we would desire God to be glorified in and through our lives, our families, GCC, our valley & the nations
- That more leaders would be raised up and more churches would be planted to the glory of God
- That we would "settle the glory issue" in our hearts and give it all to God
- That God would be our greatest Treasure and satisfaction
- That we would greatly celebrate and give thanks for all that God is doing in our lives

QUOTES:

“At the center of self-will is me, carving a world in my image. At the center of prayer is God, carving me in his Son’s image.” - Paul Miller

“God is most glorified in you when you are most satisfied in Him.” - John Piper

A LIST OF PAUL’S PRAYERS

Another helpful way to learn to pray is to use the Apostle Paul’s prayers as a template to inform the content of our own prayers. You can look near the beginning of nearly all of Paul’s letters in the New Testament and find exemplary prayers. Here is a list of Paul’s prayers to consider reading and then turning into your own prayer for those you are praying for:

- **Romans 1:8-12**
- **1 Corinthians 1:4-9**
- **Ephesians 1:3-14**
- **Ephesians 1:15-23**
- **Ephesians 3:14-21**
- **Ephesians 6:10-20**
- **Philippians 1:3-11**
- **Colossians 1:3-7**
- **Colossians 1:9-14**
- **1 Thessalonians 1:2-5**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**
- **2 Thessalonians 1:3-4**
- **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

- 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

- Philemon 4-6