

The Next 30 Days- Prayer Journal Vol. II

Day 1

Read: Philippians 1:3-5

Activate: As Paul writes to the church at Philippi, he mentions how he often lifts that congregation up, and he does so in joy! Often, we only lift our church family, our biological family and our friends in prayer when something is wrong (health, death in the family, etc.).

Today, take a moment to lift up those in your life before the LORD in thanksgiving and joy. Pray for God to bless them, thank God for putting them in your life, and ask God to use them in a mighty way to advance His Kingdom!

Pray: Now that you've thought about the topic, talk to God about it. Give him praise and tell him about your day and your dreams, your successes and struggles. Bring your needs and the needs of those you love before his throne.

Read: Romans 12:9-21

Activate: Here Paul lays out what many have termed the “Marks of the True Christian.” Read over these characteristics that the Holy Spirit fosters in the lives of believers and ask God to continue to mold you into the image of a man or woman after His heart! Praise Him for areas where you have seen growth and seek His guidance and strength to grow in other areas.

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Read: Hebrews 12:5-8

Activate: As children we rarely look at discipline as a blessing. However, we can look back as adults and see where discipline saved us from making wrong turns and enduring dire consequences because of those decisions. Take the time today to thank God for times where his discipline has saved you from continuing down a path that would have led you to places you would not wish to go.

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Read: Luke 18:1-8

Activate: In today's parable we see the widow before an unjust judge who doesn't want to give her justice. Due to the widow's persistence though, he finally gives in. Let's pray today thanking God that He is not like the judge in our story. Focus on His faultless character, His generosity in giving good gifts, and above all for the great love He pours out on us! Let today's prayer be a prayer of praise!

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Read: Matthew 11:28-30

Activate: This is just a beautiful picture of how Jesus loves us. He begins by beckoning us: I know you're tired, I know you're worn out, I know you carry a heavy weight on your shoulders. He says let me take that for you, let me carry your sin and insecurities. Let me teach you. Let me give you what you need. Let me show you that you are accepted and loved. Jesus says let me carry the load.

Today think about those things that you are carrying, what is stressing you out, what is dominating your fears. Tell Jesus, be honest, and ask Him to lighten your load. Give it over to Him --then leave it, don't try to pick it back up.

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Read: Matthew 19:13-15

Activate: Scripture tells us in many places how much God loves children. Today pray for the children who have no permanent home, the ones who have no parents or who have been taken away to keep them safe. Pray for the children in your life- your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends. Pray for the children and teens of our church. Pray for them all physically, mentally, emotionally and especially spiritually- that they would know and trust God in a world that presents so many dangers and lies.

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Read: James 4:13-15

Activate: A popular quote has long been, “If you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plans!” As Humans we have a tendency to make plans and ask God to okay them (after the fact). Today let’s pray that God would direct our steps and give us His vision for where we should go and what we should do. Pray that God will help us to seek Him first with all our decisions, big and small, and that we would be obedient to follow His plan.

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Read: Luke 15:1-7

Activate: The Pharisees saw Jesus with tax collectors, prostitutes and sinners-- and they were livid! Why would Jesus spend time with **them**? Who do you know that when they come to mind all you see is negative? Whose failure and sin can you not look past? Pray that God would allow you to see them more through Jesus' eyes. Pray He would show you the value He sees in them. If forgiveness is needed, pray God would use you to initiate it!

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Read: Malachi 3:8-10

Activate: We don't often think of robbing God. Don't get me wrong, we often realize we're wronging God when we recognize sin, but actually robbing Him? Malachi uses some strong wording when he talks about not giving God His due. But when God is your Lord and Master, everything we have is His already. He's just being generous and sharing with us! Pray to God about your giving, and I don't just mean your money. Consider your time, your effort, your skills and talents, and throw your money in as well. Ask God to show you where He's pleased, and where maybe He wants to grow you a bit as well.

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Read: 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Activate: Praying for those in places of power can seem difficult when we disagree with what they are doing and how they govern. Think how difficult this must have been for Paul under Roman occupation. Yet still, God commands us to pray for our leaders! Pray today for those in places of power that: 1) They would come to know, follow and obey Jesus in all they do. 2) That God would grant them wisdom, discernment and courage to make decisions that honor Him.

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Read: Luke 21:1-4

Activate: The widow in today's passage trusted God with all of her money, and God saw and was pleased with her offering. Today pray to have faith like the widow in this passage. That God would help you to trust him with all of you... heart, mind, strength and soul. Thank Him for not only being your Savior, but also being your Lord!

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Read: Matthew 6: 19-21

Activate: One of the things that I have found in life is that it's very easy to get short sighted. We don't intend to, it just kind of happens. If you ask most people in the prime of their life, "What do you work for?" They may tell you for their family, to pay the bills, to have a nice house, to travel, to make enough money to do and have the things they want...and all of that is true. We have to earn a living and provide for the physical needs of those we love, and it takes money to do almost anything else we may want to do.

When I read a passage like Matthew 6 though, it makes me ask where is my treasure? Is it all wrapped up in my family, in comfort, in necessities, and in better toys than my friends down the street have? How does my heavenly vault look compared to my garage?

Most of us have figured out how to use the talents, skills and abilities that we are blessed with to earn a living, but how often do we look for ways to turn those same skills and talents into opportunities to show and share God's love? It's not so much about what we do, but who we do it for that matters.

A plumber with a kind word and a Christ-like demeanor in the middle of a home owner's nightmare, may touch a person who would never walk in a church. A school teacher who handles disciplining a difficult kid with mercy and compassion, when they get neither at home, may open the door to understanding unconditional love. You can earn a living, meet your physical needs, and still store up treasure where it really counts.

Read: Luke 14:7-11

Activate: Humility is something that many, if not all, of us struggle with. It's also one of those things that the better off we think we are with it, often the further from the mark we actually are. (I'm so humble, those people could learn a thing or two about humility from me. See what I mean!)

Pray that God would help you walk in humility, cheerfully considering the needs of others before yourself.

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Read: Colossians 3:15-17

Activate: Today let's gather together as God's people and give thanks for our local body of believers at FCCHP. We are blessed to share our lives and our beliefs with others who can spur us on to good works and support us in times of trial. Today pray and ask God to lay on your heart and mind anyone that He may want you to reach out to, someone who might benefit from a kind word and a check-in. Once you pray, follow through on that act of kindness!

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Read: James 1:19-20

Activate: There may be no more difficult command than the three we are given in today's passage. Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. As a matter of fact, in our own flesh and power, it's impossible. We love to be heard, we love to be right, and when we feel wronged, well, we can be quick to get angry.

The only way we live this out is through the Power of the Holy Spirit working within us. Today ask God to help you to listen, to choose your words wisely, and to hold your temper, speaking in love even when it's hard.

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Read: Jeremiah 17:7-8

Activate: Today let's pray that God would grow each of us like a strong tree, increasing our confidence in the Lord. Pray that we would walk by faith and not by sight, that fear would have no effect on us because our roots of faith run deep. Pray that we would bear fruit in accordance with the goodness of God and that we would honor Him by all we do and say.

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Read: Matthew 5:43-48

Activate: It is easy to pray both blessings and for aide for those that we love and hold dear. It is far more difficult to muster the ability to pray for those that wrong you, hate you, treat you poorly and undermine you. However, that is exactly what Christ calls us to do in today's passage. So today, spend some time praying for those that have made themselves your enemy, and that perhaps God would change their heart, and yours, to be enemies no longer.

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Read: Jeremiah 29:11-13

Activate: This is a passage I love! But, often we take it out of context and forget that this is God talking about what he is going to do for the people after they have endured a 70 year exile because of their unfaithfulness. God's desire was for Israel to learn from their mistakes and return to Him, as it is for us to learn when we've gone astray and return to Him. Spend your time today praying that God would examine you, reveal and cleanse you of anything that may be hindering your relationship with Him. Then ask Him to give you a spirit that seeks after Him with your whole heart!

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Read: Micah 6:6-8

Activate: Have you ever wondered in awe what it is that you could give to God to warm His heart, to bring a smile to His face? Like the ultimate hard-to-shop-for parent, what can I give God that he doesn't already have? Micah answers that for us, more than sacrifices or trinkets, what God wants is for us to live lives that show we belong to Him. Micah sums that up with three statements: act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Pray today that God will continue to develop within you a character of justice, mercy and humility so that we might better honor Him.

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Read: Romans 13:7-8

Activate: This seems like such a foreign concept in our modern world. Seemingly everyone carries debt- student loans, credit card debt, personal loans, and on and on. Daytime TV is flooded with attorneys broadcasting how bankruptcy lets you keep your prized possessions and eliminate debt, debt consolidation companies laud how they can reduce your payments by negotiating with lenders, and pay day lenders make quick access to funds sound so convenient.

So why does scripture call us to be different? Because anything that gives something else power over us, splits our allegiance. If my money is committed to lenders, then how can I be generous with my giving? If my time is committed to making money to pay off debt, how can I carve out time to serve.

If you, like many of us, have already fallen into debt, scripture is clear that we are to pay off what is owed (v7). But perhaps it's time to stop looking at debt as normal, just because the world says it is. Ask God to help you to come up with a plan to both get out of debt and to honor him!

If you are currently debt free (woohoo), then pray today about how that freedom allows God to use you in an 'unusual way' in our modern world. Could God use your experience to mentor others, your wealth to help sponsor some area of ministry or allow you the freedom to serve in ways many others cannot?

Whatever your financial position, ask God to guide you as the Lord of your finances.

Read: Romans 15:4

Activate: Today let us praise the Lord for the Bible, His Holy Word, which he has woven together from Genesis to Revelation to tell one story, the story of love and redemption through Christ Jesus. Pray that God would grow in us a desire to know His Word better, to carry it with us in our hearts and minds, to understand and to share it with a world that desperately needs to know about the love of Christ. Thank him for a hope that is not a wish or a desire, but that is a certainty, sealed by God and given to those whom He loves and who love Him.

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