# The Next 30 Days-Prayer Journal Vol. II Day 1

Read: Philippians 1:3-5

<u>Activate:</u> 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!

## **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.

# 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.						
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!

# Read: 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Activate: We live in a world where we are pushed to keep up with the Jones', or is it the Kardashians now? We are flooded with advertising and media that entices us to want more, want newer, want bigger. Granted, there's nothing wrong with nice things, but we do have to guard our heart from being entangled by the 'I wants'. Pray that God will keep you grounded and help you make the main thing (Him) the main thing in your life.

#### **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

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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 bear God laugh, tell Him your plans!" As Humans we have a endency to make plans and ask God to okay them (after the act). Today let's pray that God would direct our steps and give us His vision for where we should go and what we hould 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.

# Read: 2 Timothy 2:23-26

Activate: Some people enjoy nothing more than winning a						
fight. Given the chance they'll start an argument, just so						
they can try to win it. Today let's pray that God would give						
us the good sense to avoid unneeded and unfruitful						
quarrelling. Let's also pray that if we find ourselves in a						
debate that has merit, we would conduct ourselves with						
gentleness and genuine concern for the person we disagree						
with. Pray God will flavor all we say and do with Christ.						

#### 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 <a href="mailto:them">them</a> ? 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!

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.						
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.						

#### Read: Galatians 6:9

Activate: Can you identify with this verse? Do you ever get tired of doing the right thing, seeing those that do evil prosper, watching those that call wrong right get the accolades of the culture around us. Find solace in Galatians 6:9. Pray God would give you the strength and courage to do the right thing in every situation, to stand strong upon His truth, and to continue until the day you are called home.

# 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.

#### Read: 1 John 4:1-6

ctivate: We live in a world where we are constantly ombarded with people's voices and opinions, often resented as though they were facts. Sometimes it can be fficult to know which voices to listen to, and which to eject. Today let's pray that God will help us to clearly scern the voice of truth when we hear it, and to embrace nat truth. Likewise, let us pray that when the spirit of error
tempts to deceive us, we would recognize and reject it!
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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!

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.

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#### 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 w considering the needs of others	• •	neerfully

## 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!

#### Read: Daniel 9:3-19

Activate: This passage contains a powerful intercessory
prayer on behalf of the people of God. Daniel lifts up the
Israelites and asks for God to grant forgiveness and to
restore his blessing upon the people. Read through Daniel's
prayer and then come before God on behalf of our country
and our Christian culture here in the United States. Pray
that we would turn back to Him and that He would be
exalted by us once again as one nation, under God.
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Read: Psalm 24:4-5

Activate: This entire Psalm is absolutely beautiful, but the portion that we read today specifically speaks to us about knowing God and knowing what He would have us to do. Spend some time today asking God to reveal Himself and His plan for your life to you. Pour out to Him how you wish to please Him with all your words and actions, and ask Him for the strength and fortitude to follow His vision.
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#### Read: James 1:19-20

<u>Activate:</u> 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: Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

telling the disciples about the harvest that awaits. As you pray today, pray that God would give you the boldness and courage to be a sower of The Good News. Pray for those that you have already shared with and for opportunities to water and tend those seeds. Pray for fertile soil and ripe harvest!

Activate: When Jesus explains this Parable, He ends by

#### Read: 1 Peter 4:10-11

<u>Activate:</u> How do you treat something that you borrow from a friend? If they let you use their hedge clippers to trim your bushes, or borrow their car to run an errand- you get the benefit of the tool, but it's not yours. Don't you take extra care of it, clean it up, do your best to protect and honor it?

So, how does that play into the idea that nothing is really ours, we're just stewards? After all, we can't take it with us. Today, think about all that God has blessed you with. What all does He let you use?

Now pray to God with the kind of thankfulness you have

can't get yourself. Because that's the way we should see everything we 'own'.	
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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.

## 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.

## Read: Jeremiah 29:11-13

Activate: This is a passage Flove! 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 active and return to			
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!			

#### Read: Micah 6:6-8

Activate: Have you ever wonde	ered 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	d-to-shop-for parent, what
can I give God that he doesn't a	•
that for us, more than sacrifices	•
is for us to live lives that show v	
sums that up with three statem	J
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and walk humbly with God. Pra	,
continue to develop within you	
and humility so that we might b	better honor Him.

#### Read: Matthew 20:1-16

way God loves us. To think that someone can earnestly come to God at any point in their life, as a child, as a teen, young adult or old; with years to work for the kingdom or only moments before their death and that heaven and an		
eternity with Him awaits us all is an amazing blessing. Than		
God for His goodness, for a love that wishes none should		
perish, but that all would accept His grace and enter his		
presence.		

Activate: When I read this parable I am so thankful for the

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

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.
those whom He loves and who love Him.