

# 30-Day Devotional



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# Introduction

Before we dive into this devotional I wanted to share my heart and intent for it. I want the next 30 days to be a time that really inspires your prayer time. My hope is that some of these days will cause you to pray for people and things you never thought to pray for and that it would draw you into the Lord's presence.

Each day I will share a Bible Verse, a short message on the verse or an illustration. At the bottom of each day I have a section called *Prayer Points*. Most devotionals have a prayer pre-written out for you. Well, not here! I want these prayers to be 100% from your heart!

There is something so powerful and beautiful that comes from authentic prayer. And God knows the difference between reciting a written prayer out of habit or tasks and one that comes from the heart.

I know this can be daunting for some who are still learning how to pray. So, in these prayer points sections I will have several suggestions on what, who, how you can pray for that specific day.

I hope these prayer points are like a diving board that springs you into a refreshing pool of God's presence, and love.

# Day 1

## Our Great Advocate

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever...”

- John 14:16, NIV

Connie was born deaf in the 1950s when few resources existed for those with disabilities. But Connie's older sister, Sandra, didn't let that hold her back. She learned sign language so the two of them could always communicate.

Sandra let Connie follow her everywhere. They went to the same school and eventually to the same college. They lived together in the dorms and had the same circle of friends.

When Connie had a medical emergency, she had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. A nurse was unkind to Connie and her behavior was abusive. Fortunately, Sandra arrived at the right moment. She quickly called for help and defended her sister.

Throughout her life, Sandra was Connie's defender. She learned her sister's language and spoke on her behalf, making sure her voice was always heard.

Just as Connie had an advocate, you do, too. You may not always know what to say or how to say it, but the Holy Spirit that lives in you is your Advocate and Comforter. He defends and protects you as you go through your day and will never leave you.

### Prayer Points

- Take a moment to think how the precious Holy Spirit has helped you in a time of need.
- Then spend sometime in prayer giving Him thanks and praise for being your helper and advocate.
- Ask Him to draw near to you and for you to draw nearer to Him.

## Day 2

# Prayer to be Fearless

“Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel...”

- Ephesians 6:19, NIV

August's mother was a prayer warrior. She had prayed for her son faithfully since the moment she discovered she was pregnant. Though he was born two months premature and doctors gave him no hope, August's mother continued to pray for him.

He went home three months after he was born and this only deepened her belief that prayer was powerful. That it could change situations. But when August started attending a public high school, she worried about him and how he could express his faith.

Her son's science teacher was about to start a unit on evolution. She wondered how she could pray for her son during this time. That's when she stumbled across Ephesians 6:19.

While Paul was imprisoned, he asked the Christians in Ephesus to pray for him, particularly that he would boldly speak about the Gospel. Regardless of the year, location, or country you live in, it's hard to stand up for what you believe in!

But don't let the fear of what someone else might say or do prevent you from sharing the truth. You can offer Biblical viewpoints from a place of love and grace.

## Prayer Points

- Pray for yourself or someone you know who struggles with boldness in declaring their faith.
- Ask the Lord for courage, boldness, and wisdom when you speak to others. That you would be able to share the gospel in a way that would lead people to Christ.
- If you have children in school who are Christian this is a great time to pray for them to be powerful witnesses for Christ. If they are not saved yet, then I encourage you pray for bold witnesses to come into their lives and share Christ with them.

## Day 3

# Pray For Your Leaders

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

- 1 Timothy 2:1-2, NIV

Jim was having an animated discussion with his wife in the living room. They were playfully arguing over the rules for their nightly chess game.

When Jim looked over, he realized his teenage son was scowling at the TV. The headlines were proclaiming yet another politician who had been accused of a crime. *"There's so much evil in the world."* His son exclaimed. *"How can I make any difference at all?"*

Jim thought for a moment then 1 Timothy 2:1-2 came to mind. *"You can pray for your leaders...for your mayor, our governor, the Congressmen and women. Even our president."*

*"But how do I pray for them?"* His son asked. *"I don't know where to start."*

*"You could pray for their physical safety and for their salvation,"* Jim's wife offered. *"That any evil planned against them would fall to the ground."*

*"That they would stand firm in the face of temptation,"* Jim added.

*"And that God would provide them with wisdom so they would lead gently, not oppressing the people they serve."* His wife said.

Not everyone we vote for or think should be leading is leading. But we do have the power to pray for them. That they would pass laws that would please God and help the people.

## Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to highlight some political and governmental leaders. Begin pray for them.

- Pray for specific things they do in government. Pray for protection, wisdom, guidance, and that they would come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior if they don't already.

- Pray God's will do be done in their lives and that the laws the policies they pass would be Godly.



## Day 4

# Pray For Those In Prison

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

- Ephesians 6:18, NIV

Sasha had never been in trouble with the law. She hadn't gotten so much as a parking ticket in her life but when she heard the metal door of the local women's prison slam shut behind her, she still jumped.

She followed her friend to the visitor's area. She was overwhelmed to see the incarcerated women with their families. She couldn't imagine being separated for months or years from her children the way these women were.

When the visit was over, Sasha left with her friend. On the way home, she cried for the inmates of the prison. She'd sensed the hopelessness and despair many were dealing with. She wanted to help these women.

She got permission from the prison warden and she started a Wednesday Bible study. After each meeting, she stayed behind to offer prayer to any of them the women who asked for it. Over time, she became friends with many of the prisoners. She prayed for them, their spouses, and their children.

It's easy to start praying for others to forget those who are in prison. There are so many men, women, and adolescents that are broken, hurting and in need of Jesus. It doesn't matter if they are guilty of their crime or not. They need Jesus.

This is an opportunity to read a group of people that most people scoff at and reject. They are in need of our prayers.

## Prayer Points

- Some key things you can pray for those in prison:

- Salvation
- Mercy
- Faith to be grounded
- Grace and peace
- Health
- Family members

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in this time. You can even look online to get the names of specific prison you can pray for.

# Day 5

## Sifted

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat.”

- Luke 22:31, NIV

The Crucifixion is drawing near and Jesus has retreated with His disciples. He begins to tell them of the terrible things He will endure. Peter stops to interrupt Him, promising that he would follow Jesus anywhere...even if that path lead to death.

They're bold words, a heartfelt promise...and sadly, a lie. Jesus foretells Peter's coming betrayal. But He does so in an interesting way, explaining that Satan has asked to "sift" Peter as wheat.

For modern day readers may sound like a weird expression. To understand what Jesus said, you need to know how wheat is sifted in Biblical times. It's grabbed by the stalk and shaken violently. Doing this will separate wheat kernels, from the rest of the stalk, like the chaff.

So Satan's true intent is that Peter would fall away from Jesus and never return. He has that intent for every believer. But listen to what Jesus says about Peter's coming failure:

“But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” (Luke 22:32, NIV)

## Prayer Points

- If someone you love is enduring temptation, pray for them. Pray that if they fail to resist temptation, that they would be redeemed. Ask that God fills them with the strength to start again.

- If you feel like this is you. Then spend time in prayer for yourself and as the Lord to give you strength and wisdom. I would encourage you to reach out to fellow brother or sister in faith and ask them to pray with you.

# Day 6

## Keep Praying

Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them."

- Daniel 10:12, NIV

Daniel was a prayer warrior. He prayed daily, seeking God constantly. That fact alone is remarkable. But when you consider the time he lived in, it's downright amazing. He was a captive from Israel who had been taken to Babylon.

He was known to the king, who seeing Daniel's wisdom, promoted the young man. As a result, Daniel developed powerful enemies who tried to destroy him.

Once after Daniel had been praying over a coming war, an angel appeared. The angel told David that from the first moment of prayer, God had heard his requests. These prayers were immediately answered.

But Daniel did not see those answers for many days. Then one day, an angel arrives to explain that he had been traveling to give a reply from the Lord but was unable to come due to events happening in the spiritual realm.

Daniel's story illustrates that we may not always see immediate answers to our prayers. But that doesn't mean that God's not listening. Not only does God hear your prayers, He will also be faithful to answer them!

## Prayer Points

- If someone you love is enduring temptation, pray for them. Pray that if they fail to resist temptation, that they would be redeemed. Ask that God fills them with the strength to start again.

- If you feel like this is you. Then spend time in prayer for yourself and as the Lord to give you strength and wisdom. I would encourage you to reach out to fellow brother or sister in faith and ask them to pray with you.

# Day 7

## Your Prayers Matter

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.”

- Acts 12:5, NIV

Peter was imprisoned by King Herod. The evil king had already killed James and now he planned to execute Peter. But while the king was plotting, the church was praying.

The night before Peter was to go to trial, an angel appeared in the cell with him. Peter followed the angel out, thinking that this was a vision or dream. But what happened was 100% real! Peter must have been in awe as he hurried down the dark streets, looking for his friend's house.

When he arrived, he told the servant that he was Peter. She closed the door on him and reported this to those in the house and they all thought no way it's just his angel! But she was insistent and eventually others went to investigate and found Peter waiting on the porch!

Sometimes, we feel powerless to help hurting friends or family members. We think we can't do anything but that's not true. We can pray for our loved ones that God would intervene in their situations. God is a miracle working God!

As you wait for God's answers, continue to seek Him and strive to honor Him with your choices. The Christians in Peter's story continued to meet together and pray, despite how grim the circumstances must have looked.

## Prayer Points

-Spend time in prayer, praying for those who seem to be in circumstances that can't be helped or changed. This could be a health issue, relationship issue, financial hardships, and so much more. Pray for God to intervene and bring breakthrough for the individual or family.

# Day 8

## The Spirit Intercedes

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”

- Romans 8:26, NIV

Cheryl was about to head into her next college class when she got a text message from her mom asking her to call. Stepping outside the door, Cheryl quickly dialed her mom's number and waited.

Her mom answered and she told Cheryl that her little sister had just been diagnosed with leukemia. Her sister had been a surprise baby, born late to Cheryl's parents.

Cheryl would often watch her baby sister. The two had formed a strong bond that hadn't faded when she'd gone away to college. She still regularly called her little sister and sent her notes home.

When Cheryl heard the news, her stomach sank and she felt like she couldn't think. She was overwhelmed with pain and didn't know how to process her mom's words.

Sometimes, there are moments in our life when the pain we feel is so deep that there are no words. Maybe your family member was seriously injured or sick or a dear friend lost someone close to them.

In these moments, know the Spirit is praying for you and your loved ones. The Holy Spirit intercedes on your behalf constantly, so you're always in God's presence.

## Prayer Points

- If at this time you are facing a devastating blow of bad news or someone close to you is. I encourage to spend some deep time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your prayers and to help you to pray. Wait on Him...He is interceding on your behalf.

- If at this time you no one comes to mind and you are in a season of peace. I encourage you to lift up members of your church or something you have heard devastating on the news. Begin to intercede for these situations.

## Day 9

# Righteous & Merciful God

“The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.”

- Genesis 18:22, NIV

God had visited Abraham and shared a meal with him as friends do. Then He sent His angels on ahead to the city of Sodom. He was going to pronounce judgement on these cities (Sodom and Gomorrah) for the great sins the people had committed.

But as God sent the angels, He stayed with Abraham and revealed His plan. God's actions were just. In His righteousness, He could not overlook or excuse the sin in the city. He was not willing to let it continue in wickedness any longer.

When Abraham knows this, he begins to plead with God, begging for the city to be spared. He negotiates with God, asking if He would spare the city for fifty righteous people living inside of it. He continues to negotiate till he gets to 10 righteous people. Which many believe was the size of his nephew Lot's family.

What's so powerful is that Abraham intercedes by discussing the character of God. He says, *“Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”* (Genesis 18:25, NIV)

Sometimes when we intercede for others, we're tempted to downplay their sin. But every sin is an affront to the Holy God and causes separation and bondage. Rather than excuse unrighteousness, follow Abraham's example and focus on the character of God.

## Prayer Point

- The world is facing some dark times begin to pray for cities, states, countries that come on your heart. Pray for mercy and revival to take place. Pray for the righteous to rise up and pray and speak truth in those places.

- Pray for those who are under the bondage of sin and can't seem to break free. Pray that their eyes will be opened and that they would turn to Jesus and be set free.

# Day 10

## Praying for Real Encounters

Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!"

- 1 Kings 18:38-39, NIV

The nation of Israel was at a crossroads. Some of the people worshipped Baal and other false gods. But a few like Elijah still followed the Lord's commands.

Elijah knew it was time for the people to choose who they would serve. So he called the king and all of the prophets of Baal together. He proposed a plan: the wicked prophets would build an altar and offer a sacrifice, calling out for their god to send down fire.

They did this early in the morning and they continued all day without results. That's when Elijah built an altar and doused everything in water. Then he called out and fire fell from Heaven, proving that the Lord is God.

Sometimes the people around us need to see God's hand moving and know that He's real and He intervenes in real life situations. When you come across these people, remember Elijah and pray that God would send them a sign.

### Prayer Points

- Jot down the name of several individuals you know that have very little faith to no faith in God or who have left the faith
- Begin to pray for each person asking the Lord to show up in a way that is so evident that it would shake them to their core. Ask for their hearts to be softened that they would be able to see clearly.

## Day 11

# Jesus, A friend Who Prays

“Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

- Romans 8:34, NIV

Dwayne was in a motorcycle accident. Because he wasn't wearing a helmet, he suffered head trauma and had swelling of the brain. His doctors opted to put him a medically induced coma to save his life.

After his injuries stabilized, they stopped giving him the medications and waited for him to wake up. But he remained in the coma for several days. Initially, the doctors had been optimistic he would wake up.

Now, they doubted it would ever happen. They advised his friends and family to give up hope. But one of Dwayne's close friends, Lucas, came back day after day. He read the sports page to him, read him Psalms, and prayed over him.

Then after four weeks, Dwayne woke up. Despite the head injuries, he was fully alert and able to communicate to the staff. The first thing Dwayne remembers about coming back is hearing his friend's prayers.

It can be hard when it feels like everyone else has given up on you. But just like Lucas continued to pray for and help Dwayne, Jesus prays for and comforts you. He is the friend who never gives up on you.

## Prayer Points

- Write a list of things the Lord has done for you.
- Now, let this morning prayer time be focused on praise and thanksgiving. Let your well up and give thanks to God that Jesus is continuing to pray on your behalf and thank Him for all He has done in your life.



## Day 12

# Praying for Your Country

“The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him...”

- Daniel 9:9, NIV

When Daniel learned that the Israelite nation would be in captivity for 70 years, he grieved deeply. He mourned for his country and what it had become. But he didn't stop there—he entered into a time of deep prayer.

Like Daniel, we can look around at our own country and become discouraged. It may feel like no one is seeking God or doing what's right. Evil seems to be praised throughout the land.

You may be tempted to believe that there is nothing you can do. But one of the Christian's greatest weapons is prayer! You may not have any political influence or even be old enough to vote, but you can still impact your country in a profound way by praying over it.

## Prayer Points

-In your prayer time, ask God to bring revival. That the lost would come to know Jesus and that Christians would rise up and pursue God.

- Pray for justice would be given to the oppressed, that leaders would make Biblical decisions, and the needs of the poor and hurting would be met.

-Pray over first responders like police officers and firefighters that they would be protected from evil as they go about their work.

- This is a big one. Pray for UNITY. Ask God to let there be a spirit of peace between the people in your country that Satan would not sow division and hatred. Pray for this in the politics but also for the church.

# Day 13

## Standing in the Gap

"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

- Ezekiel 22:30, NIV

Mark's father died when he was an infant. His uncle stepped in to help raise him, teaching him all the things that a father teaches his son.

When Mark went off to college, he thought he was going to be a professional athlete. But during a game in his sophomore year, he was injured. This ended all of his hopes and dreams to be an athlete. Now, Mark had to rethink what he wanted to do with his life.

He thought of his uncle and how he'd been there for him. He decided that as a coach he could influence dozens of young boys and show them the love of a father.

After he graduated, he took a job in a poor area where many of the children were being raised by single moms. He started each day at 5 am with prayer over the players that he was coaching.

In Ezekiel, the walls of Israel were broken down and God sought someone to repair them. Likewise, we are surrounded by all kinds of "broken walls" like fatherless children and widows in need of financial and emotional help. We can begin to rebuild those walls through earnest prayer.

### Prayer Points

-Sit awhile and start to think of areas you know there are broken walls in. This could be in your family, school, church, job, city, or nation.

- With those areas in mind start to pray. Ask God to rebuild and heal. To raise up individuals to help mend the broken walls. And be bold ask the Lord if there is anything you can do to help. If the Lord speaks to you write it down and begin to pray over it.

# Day 14

## God Provides

"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."

- Nehemiah 1:4, NIV

Nehemiah was an Israelite living in Persia. When his brothers came to visit him, they reported about that the remaining Israelites were deep distress. Not only were they weary and discouraged, the wall surrounding Jerusalem had been broken down. The once magnificent wall had protected the city for years and stood as a testament to the faithfulness of God.

So when Nehemiah learned it had fallen into disrepair, he was deeply troubled. He wept over the destruction, confessing the sin of his nation.

Shortly after that, Nehemiah was serving the king of Persia. When the king noticed Nehemiah's distress, he asked what was bothering him.

Nehemiah prayed in the moment and explained the situation. The king granted him permission to leave and repair the city's walls. God caused the heart of the king to be responsive and kind to Nehemiah's request. He was not only given permission to go, he was also granted protection and provision, too.

"And because the gracious hand of my God was on me, the king granted my requests." (Nehemiah 1:8)

Is there a situation where you or a friend needs God's protection and provision? Take heart in the story of Nehemiah. God can and does provide for His children when they're walking in His will.

## Prayer Points

- Nehemiah received favor and an open door from the King. Take a moment to think of friend, family, or leaders you know that are in need of favor and open door. This could even be you!

-Pray for these people that God would soften the hearts of those around them and that they would have favor and access to do the Lord will in their lives.

## Day 15

# Prayer for Healing

"Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD.'"

- 2 Kings 20:5, NIV

King Hezekiah was suffering from a terrible illness. He was close to death when the prophet Isaiah visited him. Isaiah told the king that he would die soon and warned him to prepare his household.

When King Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed and wept.

As Isaiah was still leaving the palace, God sent him back to the king. He proclaimed that Hezekiah would live for fifteen more years and the city would be saved from capture.

God healed Hezekiah when he called out to him. When we pray for others, we can pray for healing for them in several areas: healing from physical diseases and ailments; healing from addictions and spiritual darkness; and healing from emotional trauma and suffering.

Your prayers don't have to be long or eloquent. Hezekiah simply said: "Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." (2 Kings 20:3)

## Prayer Points

- One of the names of God, Jehovah Rapha which translates The God Who Heals. Take some time and write down a list of people you know need healing. And try to not focus on just one type like physical healing. But think of people who need healing from all kinds.

- Bring each person up in prayer asking God to heal and restore them.

# Day 16

## Powerful Friends

"As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning."

- Exodus 17:11, NIV

When Luke's wife left him for another man, he was devastated. He had two little girls to raise and he felt unprepared for the task. He didn't know what to do so he reached out to a well-known men's leader in his community.

The men's leader connected Luke to a weekly men's meeting. The men prayed for each other every week, often sharing concerns about their work, their families, and their spiritual lives.

Luke's wife eventually came back to him, asking for a chance to repair their marriage. Although Luke wasn't sure if the relationship could be saved, he was willing to try for the sake of his daughters.

He shared the situation with his men's group and everyone prayed over him. The next two years were some of the most intense of Luke's life but with God's help, he rebuilt his marriage. He credits God and the faithful men in his prayer group as being the reason his family is still together.

The Israelites were in the middle of a fierce battle. Every time Moses held up his hands, they prevailed. But if Moses lowered his arms—even for a moment—they began to lose ground.

Eventually, Moses became exhausted. That's when Aaron and Hur stepped in. Sensing Moses' need, they sat by him and held up his arms so the battle could be won.

Walking through a crisis or trial on our own can be wearying. We all need Aarons who can grieve and weep with us, who know how to intercede and pour grace over our aching hearts.

### Prayer Points

- Having friend who cover you in prayer is important. If you don't have then I would encourage you to pray and ask God to bring these types of friends into your lives.
- If you have friends who pray for you then I would encourage you to spend sometime in prayer for them today.

## Day 17

# Forgiving Others

Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

- Acts 7:60, NIV

Stephen was an enthusiastic preacher, sharing the Word of God with others boldly. Others tried to trip him up but he was able to refute dissension and false truths because God gave him amazing wisdom (Acts 6:10).

But he had angered some of the religious leaders of the day. So they captured him and put him on trial, making up lies and false witnesses against him. When Stephen began to refute their words, he was dragged outside and brutally killed. As Stephen was being hit with large stones, he began praying for those who were harming him.

We find it difficult to forgive someone for a harsh word or wrongful doing. Stephen could have been angry. He could have lashed out. He could have called down God to deliver him.

But he didn't...he leaned into God's will. What if you interceded for those who wronged you? The driver who cut you off in traffic, the spouse that doesn't support your dream, or the cop who wrote you a ticket you didn't deserve?

Forgiveness is a powerful thing we can do as believers.

## Prayer Points

-Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mine anyone that you need to forgive. If someone comes to mind be quick to forgive them, but also process with the Lord what is going on in your heart.

Example:

Lucy is my co-worker and very competitive. I wouldn't call her a friend but we are acquaintances. At the last staff meeting she undermined me in-front of my boss. When I went to prayer I told the Lord how much it hurt and how angry I was. I then proceeded to forgive Lucy for her unkind words and I asked God to bless her. I also asked the Lord to give her peace in her heart to not feel like she needs to be competitive at work. I then asked God to forgive me for my anger and to help have favor at work despite the things Lucy said.

## Day 18

# Those Who Are With Us

"Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

- 2 Kings 6:16, NIV

Elisha was a prophet living in Israel. When another king tried to attack Israel, Elisha knew it. He warned the king of Israel and the nation was spared many ambushes and attacks.

Finally, the king of Aram grew frustrated. He called his officers in, insisting that someone must be telling the king of Israel about his plans. He demanded to know who the spy in the room was.

One man pointed him toward Elisha, saying that he "tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom" (2 Kings 6:12).

Then the king of Aram decided to capture Elisha and end the problem. He rode into the city under the cover of night and surrounded it so Elisha would have no hope of escape.

When Elisha's servant glanced out over the city the next morning, his knees started shaking! He quickly told the prophet what he could see. While his servant was focused on the physical army, Elisha focused on the unseen angel army around them. The battle wasn't physical at all...it was a spiritual battle between good and evil.

Like Elisha's servant, we don't always see what's happening in the spiritual realm. Maybe you pray for a friend to get a job but they keep getting rejections. Perhaps you pray for an aging parent to be cured but they still suffer.

It's easy to become discouraged in these moments and think our prayers aren't working. But just as there was a Holy army around Elisha, there is a Holy army surrounding you, too. God is fighting your battle for you!

## Prayer Points

- Today ask the Lord to pray for your spiritual eyes. That they would be open like Elisha's servant. But also pray for your heart to be full of faith. That even when you don't see clearly that you know the Lord is at work in your life.

## Day 19

# The Persistent Widow

“Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.”

- Luke 18:1, NIV

When Jesus was with his disciples, he told them a story of a persistent widow. This one had been wrongfully treated and she sought justice from a local judge.

The judge in the case was a despicable man who didn't care about anyone but himself. He refused to grant her justice and ignored her cause for a considerable amount of time.

This widow had no one else to take up her cause. She had no lawyer. She had no husband or son to fight for her. Yet she faithfully brought her petition to the judge, each time asking for justice.

Finally, the judge granted her request. He did so not because he cared about what was right or because he had a sudden revelation. He simply wanted the woman gone.

Jesus concluded his story with a powerful question: “And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?” (Luke 18:7)

Sometimes, you may pray for someone else—for them to receive justice in a situation—and it feels like nothing is happening. But God is always working situations out for His glory (Jeremiah 29:11) and our good (Romans 8:28).

## Prayer Points

- Let this prayer time be about prayers you have prayed. I encourage you to pray them again, and again! Keep praying! Sometimes it's easy to lose heart. But God is faithful to answer...



## Day 20

# A Change of Heart

"For seven days they celebrated with joy the Festival of Unleavened Bread, because the LORD had filled them with joy by changing the attitude of the king of Assyria so that he assisted them in the work on the house of God, the God of Israel."

- Ezra 6:22, NIV

Elena was certain she was going to lose her job. Her boss didn't like her despite her efforts to turn in her work on time and help her team. He warned her that when budget cuts came, she would be the first one he would let go.

So when it was time for the annual budget review, Elena was a nervous wreck. She had trouble sleeping and eating. She was a single mom and she worried about how she would provide for her three children without a job.

When she shared her concerns with her mentor, the older woman told her she would pray for her. "Look what happened in Ezra. God changed the heart of king of Assyria so the Israelites could restore the temple of God."

Elena listened to her friend's advice and waited patiently. At the end of the week, she was called into the office of the man who was over her boss. He explained that her boss had been fired and she was moving to another division. Not only had God spared Elena's job but the new position came with a raise, too.

## Prayer Points

- God changes hearts! We see this throughout the stories of the Bible. Today take the time and ask God to change the hearts of individuals you know that need their hearts softened. Pray for a soft heart towards themselves, others, and before the Lord.

- Also, take some time to pray for your heart. Sometimes things happen in our life that can cause our heart to become hard. This can be out of pain or fear. Ask the Lord to soften your heart. That it would be like clay in His hands so He can mold it and shape it.

## Day 21

# In the Breach

But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?"

- Exodus 32:11, NIV

The Israelites had been freed from four hundred years of slavery in a foreign nation. God had rescued His people, leading them into the desert with the understanding that He would take them to the Promised Land.

But then Moses, who was the leader of the nation, was called up into the mountain to talk with God. He stayed there for a considerable amount of time, no doubt in worship and fellowship.

While Moses is gone, an interesting thing happens. The people begin to grumble. They doubt that God is with them anymore.

Aaron, the brother of Moses, commands the people to give him their jewelry. He melts down the gold and creates an image in the shape of a calf. Impressed with his work, he proclaims this idol is the one that rescued Israel from Egypt.

It's tempting to shake your head at the Israelites in this moment. To ask, "How could you do such a thing after God displayed His power so clearly?"

And yet, we're often quick to do the same thing. After years of prayer, God sends you the spouse you've longed for or allows that adoption to go through so you can hold a beautiful baby. He arranges for you to own that house that you wanted for so many years. He makes a way for you much like the Israelites.

In these moments when our deepest desires have been fulfilled, it's easy to look to them as the source of all our joy. We, in essence do the same thing Israel did—we trade the Almighty for an idol. Ouch!

But just like Moses stood in the breach for the people, Jesus stands in the breach for us. He asks God to be merciful and faithful, despite our failings.

## Prayer Points

- In our modern society we really don't see many man-made idols, but that doesn't mean idols of the heart are not around. Take some time and reflect on areas of your life where you put a person or object above the Lord. Then bring this to Jesus. Lay it at his feet and repent.

## Day 22

# Trusting Jesus

"After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry."

- Matthew 4:2, NIV

Josie's plane had just touched down at the airport when she got the call. Her oldest daughter was in the hospital and the doctors didn't know why she was sick or how to help her.

Without stopping at home to change, she went to be with her daughter. She'd just returned from a missions trip, building homes in an area that had been devastated by tsunami. She'd felt God's presence so strongly during her time on the island but when her daughter was sick, she didn't have that comfort.

When a friend stopped by, she shared her fear that God had left her. "I felt such peace while I was there and now I'm just numb."

Her friend reassured her that her feelings were normal. "Satan waited to go after Jesus until after He'd been baptized, and spent forty days praying and fasting. He waited until he knew Jesus was exhausted. Any time you experience spiritual breakthrough, expect to be tested."

Josie's daughter went on to make a full recovery and the experience caused Josie to see Jesus in a different way. "I've always relied on feeling close to God. With my daughter's illness, I had to lean into faith and trust that God was there, even when it felt my prayers for her went unanswered."

## Prayer Points

- Feelings and emotions don't always mean truth. Sometimes we feel nothing when we are praying and powerful things are happening. Today spend time praying for things you have felt like God has abandoned. Ask God to give you the faith to believe that even though you feel this way it's not true.

- Do you know a fellow brother or sister in Christ who is feeling this way too? Lift them up in prayer that even though they may be emotionally drained or numb that they would be able to breakthrough and see God's hand.

## Day 23

# Hearts Revealed

"Then Samuel called on the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the Lord and of Samuel."  
- 1 Samuel 12:18 NIV

When Jessica was thirteen she tried to shoplift a tube of lipstick from the local drugstore. She was caught by a watchful security guard who called her parents. Three years later, she accidentally hit several mailboxes on a residential street. She fled the scene, terrified of the consequences of her accident.

But two hours later, the cops showed up because a witness had gotten her tag number.

"How is it that my sin always seems to find me out?" She asked her parents one evening after her community service.

Her mom replied, "I've prayed that your sins would be seen and exposed, not so that you would be shamed. But so you would always walk in God's path." This is similar to Samuel's prayer for the nation of Israel. They had sinned by asking God for a king. To prove their sin, Samuel prophesied there would be a severe storm in the land and he prayed for it.

When the storm arrived, the people quickly realized their sin and asked Samuel to intercede with them before God.

If you have a friend or loved one struggling with sin, pray that God would open their eyes to their actions. Confronting sin is difficult but it's only when sin is dealt with that people can truly be at peace.

## Prayer Points

- Sometimes the best thing that can happen is something difficult. Dealing with exposed sin is one of them. Today I want you to be brave and pray and ask God to expose anything in your life that is hidden. Yes, the things you don't even see. Ask Him to clean you and change your heart.

- If you have a friend or relative you know who is in sin, pray for that bondage to be exposed and that they would set free by the power of Jesus. And also pray for grace, love, and peace during this time. You are praying for their freedom not for them to be humiliated.

## Day 24

# God Makes a Way

Then he prayed, "Lord, God of my master Abraham, make me successful today, and show kindness to my master Abraham." - Genesis 24:12, NIV

As Abraham was aging, he watched his son, Isaac, walk alone. He knew he would soon pass on and he didn't want his child to be without companionship, so he called his servant to him. For this task, he chose his most trusted servant, a man that would carry out the important task with wisdom and discretion.

So, the servant leaves and travels a good distance. As he enters one city, he prays for God's blessing over his master and for a sign that the woman he talks to would be the right one for Isaac.

When he spots Rebekah, the servant humbly asks for water. Without knowing this weary traveler, Rebekah is instantly helpful. She gives not only the man water but is willing to water his camels as well. This is the sign that the servant asked for and seeing it, he worships God for showing him favor.

Sometimes, we're called to do things that feel overwhelming. But just like Abraham's servant, take the time to stop and pray. Ask God for direction and wait to see how He moves.

## Prayer Points

- Is something going on in your life that you are unsure of? This is the time to not to try to figure things out on your own, but bring Jesus into the mix. Ask the Lord for clarity, wisdom, and guidance. That your path would be made clear just like Abraham's servant.
- Let's now take this same concept and pray for things on a larger scale. Is there things you know that are going on in your church, city, school, business, etc. that needs God's guidance and clarity? If so spend time praying for those things.

## Day 25

# Praying for Others

“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

- 2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV

Jim Cymbala is the pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York. The church has over 16,000 members and 6,000 people regularly flock to the services. There are so many people that the church now has 4 services to accommodate the growing spiritual family.

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir is internationally known. They've won four Grammy Awards and launched the careers of dozens of singers.

But if you looked back at the church decades ago, you wouldn't see some dazzling success. Instead, you'd find a humble man by the name of Jim Cymbala. He wasn't a pastor and he didn't go to seminary school.

The church services weren't filled with people. In fact, the church had a membership of less than 20 people. The congregation couldn't even afford the mortgage for the building they had purchased.

So what's the secret of their success? According to Jim, it's simple: prayer.

In his book *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire* he talks about the church's prayer program and how they pray for people around the world. They pray around the clock for the needs of others and for their own needs, never ceasing to seek God.

## Prayer Points

- Today let's focus on the church globally. Let's pray for a hunger and understanding on the importance and power of prayer. That church would be revived and eager to seek the Lord.

- Pray for your local congregation that the leadership would burn with a passion for prayer.

- Pray for international ministries that their mandate would include prayer for the nations.

- Pray for individual believers to have a heart that is stirred to prayer and intercede.

## Day 26

# Breaking Addiction

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

- James 5:16, NIV

Chelsea had started viewing porn when she was a teenager. She was over at her uncle's house and he didn't have the adult channels blocked on TV. She was channel-flipping one night when she came across it.

As she got older and had computer access, she started regularly viewing it. She felt deep shame over the habit but she didn't know who to talk to. She'd never heard of women dealing with sexual addictions.

When she was in her twenties, she started attending a women's group at her church. After one service, she struck up a conversation with the lady next to her. The other woman revealed a struggle with porn and asked if Chelsea would be willing to be her accountability partner.

According to *Fight the New Drug*, 1 out of every 3 women watches pornography once a week. Although once viewed as only a male problem, porn is becoming increasingly among women of all ages.

Some magazines and media channels promote porn as a good thing claiming that it “empowers” women. But that's simply not true. Porn distorts relationships and destroys marriages. It leaves us in bondage.

## Prayer Points

- Porn is an addiction that is plaguing this generation in both the world and the church. It's heart breaking the toll it takes on people and relationships. Today spend time praying for people who have this addiction. Even if you don't know anyone...pray in general for those who are in bondage. Ask God to set them free.

- If this is something you personally battle...it's time for freedom! Bring this issue before the Lord. Repent, ask God to free you, seek out accountability, and devour literary that will promote your freedom. Don't give up...God will set you free.

## Day 27

# Seek The Lord

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

- 1 Chronicles 16:11 NIV

Zach was at a crossroads in his professional life. He'd spent years working his way up in the family company. He enjoyed working with his loved ones but he also felt a yearning to do something different.

He'd started doing leather crafting in his spare time and he felt this nudge to start his own line of products. But he wasn't sure if he should turn his new hobby into a business or continue with his current path.

His wife encouraged him to take time to seek God's face before making a decision. "What does that even mean?" Zach wondered as he pulled his truck into the parking lot of his apartment complex.

As he came up the walkway, he saw his toddler at the open front door. The boy was waving at his father with the biggest grin on his face as he chanted the word "Da-da" again and again. He waited their patiently as he approached him.

Zach scooped his son up into his arms, realizing God had just answered his question. Sometimes, when you're not sure what the next step is, it can be tempting to rush your decision and make the wrong move.

But as a child of God, you have access to your Heavenly Father. Instead of wrestling with this decision, take it to Him and wait patiently for Him to show you the way ahead.

## Prayer Points

- It's easy to jump the gun and make a hasty decision. But the truth is a good ideas doesn't always mean it's a God idea. Today look at some personal or family decisions that you have been contemplating. Ask Jesus to give you wisdom and patience not to jump ahead but to wait for His leading.



## Day 28

# When You Have Been Hurt

“So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.”

- Job 42:8, NIV

Job's whole world was shattered. He lost all of his children. He lost his flocks and his herds, which in today's society would be the equivalent of losing your job along with any additional source of income.

If that was not enough, Job was afflicted with a horrible disease. He lived in constant pain and even his nagging wife would not comfort him. Three of his friends came to sit with him but after a time of silence, they began to reflect on what happened to Job.

They leveled some ugly accusations, insulting both Job and God. They insisted Job had committed some great sin and that the hardships he faced were proof of this.

When God restores Job, He sends his friends to apologize and beg his forgiveness. He says that Job should offer a sacrifice on behalf of his friends so that their offering would be accepted.

Interestingly, Job's response is never noted. He does offer the sacrifice but there's no record of the conversation with his friends. How easy it would be to proclaim his righteousness in that moment. It would be hard not to gloat about how right he was.

When someone else has sinned, it can be tempting to rejoice in their fall. But Job is an example of how we should treat friends who have failed to honor God. We're not to delight in their sin but humbly ask God to forgive them.

## Prayer Time

- Take some time to reflect and check your heart. Has pride crept in any way? Have you been tempted to believe that you are better than someone or others? Has someone's different opinion offended you? If someone comes to mind or the Holy Spirit reveals something....deal with this. Ask the Lord to forgive you and to help you be soft hearted and humble.

# Day 29

## Perfect Peace

"You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal."

- Isaiah 26:3-4, NIV

Katie had a normal pregnancy. When she went into labor, she called her husband who met her at the hospital. They had prayed over and anticipated the arrival of their first son for months.

But as soon as he was born, doctors ushered the newborn away from his parents. That's when Katie knew something was wrong. The doctor returned a few minutes later to explain that their child was born with deformities and would need a series of surgeries as he grew.

It was months before Katie was able to take her son home. Even then, he had many medical needs and was a sickly child. On the evening before one of his surgeries, she was terrified something would go wrong.

She managed to sleep for a few hours and when she woke the morning of the surgery, she felt deep peace in her soul. She knew whatever happened that her son was safe in God's hands.

It wasn't until after she checked her voicemail messages later that day she understood why. Her friends had organized a prayer vigil and spent the entire night in prayer over her son.

## Prayer Points

- If someone you know is going through a difficult time, you can pray that they would be held in perfect peace. Peace is not the absence of pain but the assurance of God's presence in the middle of it all. Lift them up today and ask the Lord to help them.

## Day 30

# Praying Against Doubt

"Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came."

- John 20:24, NIV

Henry had been a pastor for over twenty years. He loved the little church he ministered over and delighted in serving them. He watched children grow up to become adults who brought their littles on to the Sunday services.

But when his own daughter returned from college questioning her faith, Henry felt like a failure. He searched and searched, trying to understand what he'd done wrong. He was terrified to share his daughter's questions with the congregation.

He finally reached out to a mentor. The older man listened to him as Henry poured out his heart, uncertain of how he should respond to his daughter. Finally his mentor said, "Do you know what Jesus did with Doubting Thomas? He let him to touch his scars. Jesus doesn't shoo away doubters, rather he invites them closer."

When loved ones doubt their faith or question God, it can be upsetting. We worry that we've failed and we wonder how to show them love in the middle of their doubts. Follow Jesus as your example—invite them to bring out their doubts. Let them wrestle through this season. You never know what Jesus will reveal to them.

## Prayer Points

- On our last day of the devotionals let's close with pray for those you know that are struggling with their faith. Ask God to reveal Himself to them, and that the seeds planted within them would be protected and grow. That the enemy would not have a foothold to steal what God is doing in their lives. Also, pray for Christians to become their friends. That they would be surrounded with individuals that bring God's truth and love.



## Closing Words...

30 days have flown by and you have finished this devotional. That means for 30 days straight you have prayed for a ton of people and yourself. Praise God! You are expanding the Kingdom of God with every prayer.

I hope that this devotional has stirred your faith to pray and think outside the box when you do pray. It's easy to create a little routine in prayer. I have had that happen to me. Let the Holy Spirit lead and guide you as you pray and always enjoy His beautiful presence.