

# Lord, Teach Us to Pray

## Calvary Baptist 21-Day Devotion March 16-April 5, 2026

The Bible contains approximately 650 recorded prayers. Through my study of these prayers, I've discovered that they differ significantly from how we pray today. The disciples were captivated by Jesus's unique prayer style and sought his guidance, asking, "Lord, teach us to pray." They observed the prayers of others and Jesus's own, and Jesus' prayers were vastly different from their own prayers.

I invite you to embark on a 21-day journey with me, growing in our prayer lives and learning from the prayers of great people of God. As we approach Easter, I pray that we will draw closer to the Lord and witness His answers to our prayers. Each page will provide an opportunity to journal your prayers and the insights you receive from the Lord that day.

I encourage you to find some days during these 21 days to fast. You can choose to fast the entire period or select specific days for a day or three. Fasting was a revered practice in the Bible and was even encouraged by Jesus (Mark 9:29). Numerous victories have been achieved through fasting.

As we journey toward Easter, let us reflect on Calvary and praise Jesus for His profound sacrifice for our sins. On April 5th, we will celebrate the most significant day in history when Jesus triumphed over death and secured our eternal victory. Embrace this journey and may the Lord bless you as you spend time in His presence.

In Christ's Love,  
Bro. Wade

Quotes by E.M. Bounds, Charles Spurgeon, R.A. Torrey, and D.L. Moody

Day 1: March 16  
“Pray and Don’t Lose Heart”

Read Luke 18:1

We can easily become discouraged in our prayer life. Sometimes, it feels like our prayers are useless, and we question whether God truly hears or answers us. However, the Bible consistently commands us to pray. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 emphasizes the importance of prayer, stating, “Pray without ceasing.” For Christians, prayer is akin to breathing; it is essential for our spiritual well-being, just as oxygen is crucial for our physical health. It is imperative that we dedicate time daily to prayer. Simply talk to God; He delights in hearing from His children. It is crucial to find time for prayer. While making a habit of praying throughout the day is beneficial, setting aside a specific time daily to spend with the Lord is essential for spiritual growth and staying aligned with His will.

Read Luke 18:2-8

Jesus not only instructed us to pray but also to not lose heart. The key is persistence in our prayers. He presents the parable of a persistent widow, demonstrating that even an ungodly judge was moved by her unwavering persistence. How much more will our loving heavenly Father respond to our cries and persistent prayers?

Identify one area of your life that you are burdened about and desire for God to answer. Over the next 21 days, pray persistently for this matter. Write it down on the back of this page in your journal.

“Nothing distinguishes the children of God so distinctly and powerfully as prayer. It stands as the sole infallible mark and test of being a Christian.”  
Bounds

Song of the day: Somebody Prayed by David Crowder  
You can find the songs of each day on YouTube.

Today, take time to ask God to grow your prayer life and strengthen your faith. Let’s embark on this 21-day journey and witness the transformative power of the Lord. Dedicate intentional and quality time to prayer.

Day 2: March 17  
“Not My Will, But Your Will Be Done”

Read Matthew 26:36-39

In the most intense moment of all history, Jesus fell on His face and engaged in a deep conversation with the Father. Our souls were hanging in the balance, but Jesus surrendered completely to the will of the Father. The perfect one was always in prayer, seeking the Father’s will.

In this darkest hour, Jesus turned to the Father. Despite the attacks of Satan, Jesus knew where to find solace. In your own dark moments, may you seek the Father’s presence, fall on your face, and surrender to His will.

One of the most challenging aspects of being a believer is letting go and allowing God to work His will. What are some areas in your life where you haven’t fully surrendered to His will? Have you surrendered your children, future, finances, job, or marriage? The list could go on, but the point is clear: the Lord has a way of accomplishing His will, whether we consent or not. If you give Him your consent, the journey becomes much more enjoyable.

Hebrews 3:7-8 reminds us not to harden our hearts. Our hearts become hardened when we don’t pray and when we do things our way instead of His way. Just as a piece of land needs water to become fertile, your soul needs fresh water from the fountain of prayer.

“When sorrow, darkness, and the desolation of Gethsemane overwhelm us, we should submit patiently and tearfully, if necessary, but sweetly and without hesitation, to the cup pressed by a Father’s hand to our lips. ‘Not my will, but thine, be done,’ our broken hearts shall declare.” Bounds

Song of the day: O Come to the Altar by Elevation Worship or I Surrender All

Pray for those things you haven’t surrendered to the Lord and give them to Him today. Spend quality time in His presence each day.

Day 3: March 18  
“Filled With The Knowledge Of His Will”

Read Colossians 1:9

One of the most profound questions we face is, “What is God’s will?” We seek His will in various aspects of our lives to discern His desires. Paul fervently prayed that the church at Colossae would be filled with the knowledge of the Lord’s will. While there are areas in our lives where we may not be aligned with His will, in some cases, we may be unaware of it because we have unknowingly accepted our own will as His. The closer we draw to the Lord, the more opportunities we encounter for growth and improvement.

Paul concludes verse 9 by praying for the church to be filled with “all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” True knowledge of God’s will requires the wisdom of God. Proverbs emphasizes the importance of pursuing wisdom. The only way to cultivate wisdom is to know the Wise One—the Lord. He is willing to bestow His wisdom upon us for all circumstances, but we must actively seek it and ask for it (James 1:5). I have discovered His invaluable wisdom in His Word and through prayer. God desires to lead us to the treasure of His wisdom, but we must diligently seek it.

In your life, are all areas aligned with God’s will? Are your priorities placing the Lord first? Are you teaching your children to prioritize Him? Today, seek the Lord’s guidance and conviction in areas that deviate from His will. Remember, shortcuts to God’s will will not lead you to the best for you and your family. He operates in a different manner than we may expect, but He works when we align our will with His will.

“Paul’s fervent prayers, commands, and the urgency with which he urged the church to pray serve as the most compelling evidence of the absolute necessity of prayer.” Bounds

Today’s songs are Christ Be Magnified by Cody Carnes and Kari Jobe, and From The Inside Out by Hillsong United.

As we embark on this journey, let us seek the Lord’s guidance and wisdom. Pray for His will to be revealed to us and for us to be aware of areas where we may not be aligned with His plan. Let us pray for the will of the Lord to be done in His church at Calvary.

Day 4, March 1  
“Your Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven.”

Read Matthew 6:9-13

This Scripture contains the Lord’s Prayer, also known as the Model Prayer. This prayer serves as Jesus’ teaching to the disciples about the essential elements of prayer. Today, we will look at verse 10. When we approach the Lord in prayer, we must come with a humble and submissive spirit. Prayer is an intimate encounter with the true and living God. We trust in His divine will and power to guide and influence our lives.

The concept of God’s will being done on earth goes beyond mere prayer; it is a profound desire for the Lord to have complete control over our lives and the lives of His children. It is crucial that we pray for one another to align our actions with God’s will. The church must be in harmony with the Father if we are to effectively carry out His plan. How can we, as the church, become more effective in our mission today? Perhaps it begins with us praying for His will to be done.

We, as the church, are no match for the enemy on our own. However, the enemy is no match for the church that is empowered by the Holy Spirit. Paul’s command in Ephesians 5:18, “to be filled with the Spirit,” can only be achieved through a praying church. This praying church must have a deep desire for God’s will to be fulfilled in their individual and community lives.

What aspects of your life are hindering your relationship with the Lord?

“God is the Christian’s father. Asking and giving are in that relationship.” -  
Bounds

Today’s song: The Lord’s Prayer (it’s yours) by Matt Maher.

Pray for the Lord’s will to be done in His church, starting with you. Pray that you will be filled with His Holy Spirit.

Day 5, March 20  
“Increasing in the Knowledge of God”

Read Colossians 1:9-10.

In the last part of verse 10, Paul prays that the church will “increase in the knowledge of God.” How do we increase our knowledge of anything? One way is to get to know the subject well. How well do you know the Lord? It’s one thing to know about someone and another to know someone personally. I recently read the autobiography of one of my heroes, Junior Hill. As I read about his life, I could hear him saying those words because I knew Bro. Junior in a personal way. He was exactly the man portrayed in the book. I learned things about Bro. Junior that I never knew, and it deepened my appreciation for the man he was. As I read and study the Bible, I learn things about God that I don’t know, but I also read about things I know because I know Him and have experienced the truths about Him.

The more we get to know God, the more in love with Him we become. Paul wasn’t praying this prayer for knowledge’s sake. He was praying for each person to grow in a deeper love of the Lord. How much time are you spending with Him? He loves to hear from His children and to talk to His children. Quality time in the word and prayer are invaluable for the child of God.

“There can be no no substitute, no rival for prayer, it stands alone as the great spiritual force.” Bounds

Today’s song is either Love of God by Brandon Lake and Phil Wickham or The Love of God by Selah.

Take some time to reread Colossians 1:9-10 and pray the same prayer that Paul prayed for himself.

Day 6 March 21  
"I Acknowledge My Sin To You"

Read Psalm 32:1-5.

As D.L. Moody wisely said, "If you go back to the Scripture records, you will find that the men who lived closest to God and had the most power with Him were those who confessed their sin and failure."

Consider Daniel, one of the greatest men ever recorded in the Bible. Despite the absence of any recorded sin against him, he confessed his sin in his old age (Daniel 9:3-20). Similarly, Nehemiah confessed his sin and the nation's sin in his first chapter. The only exception to this pattern is Jesus.

Why is it so challenging to confess sin to an all-knowing God? 1 John 1:9 assures us, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." David, in Psalms 32 and 51, made a heartfelt confession of his grievous sin against the Lord. Despite his imperfections, David's confession was heard by the Lord, and he was forgiven.

We must not wait until we commit a "big sin" before seeking God's forgiveness. Like Daniel, we should approach Him with our confessions, regardless of the size of our transgression.

Confession of sin should be a daily practice in our prayer lives. Living a life of constant repentance is the only way we can walk in right fellowship with the Lord and grow in our faith. On your back, make a list of your sins. Pride, spiritual apathy, lack of prayer, unforgiveness, lust, gossip, anger, and lack of commitment are just a few of the sins that we may excuse and not even acknowledge as sin.

Read Psalm 51:1-4.

Songs of the day: Thank You Jesus for the Blood by Charity Gale and Are You Washed In The Blood

Take some extra time to allow the Lord to reveal areas in your life that need confession. Surrender them to the Lord.

Day 7, March 22  
“When You Fast”

Jesus began His earthly ministry with a 40-day fast. Throughout the Bible, we see examples of the people of God fasting to hear from God or to seek reconciliation with Him.

Read Isaiah 58:5-12 and Acts 13:1-3.

In Isaiah 58, God calls for the people to fast. In this passage, the Lord provides some benefits of fasting that can be applied to our lives today.

The benefits of fasting include:

1. - Loosening the binds of wickedness
2. - Experiencing God’s glory
3. - Having prayers answered
4. - Receiving guidance
5. - Finding satisfaction
6. - Gaining strength
7. - Experiencing restoration

In Acts 13 and other Scriptures, we witness instances where God provided guidance and answers during periods of fasting. Jesus, in Matthew 6:16-18, imparted teachings on how to conduct oneself during fasting.

While the explicit command to fast is absent, the notion of fasting is present. Fasting is not an attempt to manipulate God’s will, but rather a humbling act of self-denial and an intensified hunger for God above all else. When we engage in this practice, God has a tendency to bestow blessings beyond our comprehension.

If you haven’t fasted yet, I encourage you to find some days to fast and seek the Lord during these sacred moments. You may choose to fast for a day, a few days, or even for the next 14 days, abstaining from something that consumes your time. Instead of dedicating that time to such activities, consider using it for prayer. As we approach Easter, reflect on all that the Lord sacrificed for your salvation.

Songs of the day : Lord, I Need You by Matt Maher or I Need Thee Every Hour

Make today a special day to engage in prayer and seek the Lord’s wisdom and guidance for your life.

Day 8, March 23  
“Ask in My Name”

Read John 13:12-15.

This is one of the most profound promises in the Bible, yet it is also one of the most misunderstood. In verse 12, Jesus explicitly states that this promise is reserved for those who have genuine faith in Him. It is not merely a belief in Jesus but a profound and unwavering trust in Him. John 13 is closely associated with John 15, where Jesus teaches us to abide in Him.

Read John 15:1-8.

John 15:7 teaches a similar principle to John 13, but it emphasizes the word “abide.” We don’t approach God with our own authority; we do so on the authority of Jesus. R.A. Torrey provided a compelling illustration to explain this concept. He compared it to going to a bank without an account and trying to withdraw money. The bank would deny the request, stating that the account doesn’t exist. However, if a large check is presented, made out to the bank by someone with the funds, the bank would cash it because the check is backed by the person’s money.

Similarly, when we approach God, we do so in the name of Jesus. We recognize that we have no claims or merit in His sight. Instead, we acknowledge that Jesus Christ has immeasurable claims on God and has given us the right to draw near to Him. Why don’t we pray more and ask more of our Lord? When we pray for His glory and will, He eagerly desires to answer and provide for us.

R.A. Torrey explained that praying in the name of Jesus Christ means recognizing that we have no claims on God and that we have no merit in His sight. It also means acknowledging that Jesus Christ has immeasurable claims on God and has given us the right to approach Him.

Song of the day: I Speak Jesus by Charity Gale

Today, let’s focus on the benefits we have by knowing Jesus. What is one spiritual breakthrough that we need God to accomplish? Pray asking in the name of Jesus for this breakthrough.

Day 9, March 24  
“The Throne of Grace”

Read Hebrews 4:16.

Prayer is a great privilege for the child of God. We can talk to the Creator, Sustainer, and Savior at any time we desire. He is never too busy or uninterested in our conversations. The passage emphasizes that as His children, we can approach the throne of grace with confidence and boldness. Unlike walking up to the office of any King or President and talking to them, we can approach God. We don't come irreverently; we come humbled because we recognize that we have no right to be able to approach His throne. However, because of His grace, we can come into His presence.

Grace, a word we as children of God hold dear, is the foundation of our salvation and sustenance. It is the grace of Jesus that sustains us in our prayers, provides strength when we need it, offers help when we are in need, and cleanses us of our sins. The “Throne of Grace” is a place of profound wonder and awe.

Today, I invite you to reflect on what you need from the Throne of Grace. Is it forgiveness, strength, or perhaps the power to pray?

As Charles Spurgeon wisely said, “True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is spiritual commerce with the Creator of Heaven and earth.”

Songs of the Day: Amazing Grace or Amazing Grace My Chains Are Gone  
by Chris Tomlin

Take a moment today to express your gratitude to the Lord for His grace and the blessings of prayer.

Day 10: March 25  
"Fervent Prayer"

Read James 5:16-18 and Colossians 4:12.

The word "fervent" means intense or passionate. It describes a deep and unwavering commitment to our Heavenly Father. Imagine a child who is determined to get something they want. They persistently ask until they finally receive it. All they can think about is that toy or piece of candy. When we approach our Heavenly Father with this same fervor and pray according to His will, He will answer our prayers. We often have fervent passions for trivial matters, so shouldn't we have the same fervor for seeking God's guidance on eternal matters?

In the Colossians passage, we encounter Epaphras, a man who is described as "laboring earnestly for you in prayers." Elijah, a man like us, demonstrated fervent prayer, and God blessed him with answered prayers. If we want our prayers to be heard, we must pray with faith. We often lack the passion and faith in our prayers, so how can we expect God to move when we pray? Let us seek God's help to develop this fervent passion for prayer in our lives, for our own well-being and for the lost world.

"Prayers must be fervent and passionate. It is the fervent prayer that is effective and beneficial. A cold and indifferent spirit hinders prayer; prayer cannot thrive in a wintry atmosphere. Chilly surroundings stifle petitioning and dry up the springs of supplication. It takes fire to make prayer go."  
Bounds

Songs for the day: Sweet Hour of Prayer and Soul on Fire by Third Day

Make a list of things you want God to answer and ask the Lord to fill you with a "Soul on Fire" for Him. Spend quality time with the Lord today and throughout the day, engaging in conversations with Him.

Day 11, March 26  
“Devote Yourselves to Prayer”

Read Colossians 4:2 and Acts 2:42.

The word “devote” is used at least ten times in the New Testament, often as a command to devote oneself to prayer or the Word of God. Strong’s defines “devote” as “to continue steadfastly in.” How devoted are you to prayer? Throughout history, great people of God have been devoted to prayer. However, in our busy and preoccupied society, we often become too engrossed in our daily routines to pray.

Identify what hinders you from praying. Consider making changes to prioritize and discipline prayer in your life.

One of the great benefits of prayer, as taught in the Colossians Scripture, is that it makes us alert. We must be alert because we have an enemy who is constantly on the prowl (1 Peter 5:8). Ephesians 6:11 commands us to “put on the full armor of God,” and Ephesians 6:18 teaches us to pray and remain alert.

When we neglect our prayer lives, we become easier prey for the enemy. However, when we pray, we become more alert and sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s warnings, leading to greater discernment.

We all have different priorities in life, but is prayer one of them? If we want to see changes in our relationship with the Lord and experience breakthroughs in our lives and families, we must make prayer a priority. This isn’t just about 21 days of prayer; it’s about making it a daily discipline in our lives. Devoting ourselves to anything is challenging, but we do it for the things we want. If it brings us pleasure, happiness, or money, we may find ourselves devoted to it. But what if we could see all that prayer can bring us? Would we then be more devoted to it? As the saying goes, “prayer moves the hand that moves the world.”

“The spirit of devotion puts God in all things. It puts God not merely in our praying and church-going, but in all the concerns of life.” - Bounds

Songs of the day: I Surrender All or Heart Abandoned by The Worship Initiative, Aaron Williams

Pray for a greater devotion to the Lord and a desire for prayer.

Day 12, March 27  
“An Attitude of Thanksgiving”

Read Colossians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Thankfulness is one of the things God expects from us as believers. In a world filled with negativity and challenges, it's easy to become skeptical and critical. However, God has given us countless reasons to be thankful. Take a moment on the back of the page and list your top five things you're grateful for. Remember, the Devil wants to discourage and unfocus us on the goodness of God. When you spend time in prayer, make it a priority to express gratitude for the blessings in your life. It's a good practice to begin your prayer time by thanking God and reflecting on His presence.

Read Psalm 107:1-6 and Philippians 4:6.

“With thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” Just the thought of being able to ask God for something is a reason to be thankful. The Bible teaches us to always be thankful, regardless of our circumstances. As believers, we can do this because we have faith that our Lord is sovereign and loving to His children. Even when we don't understand God's actions, we can trust that He is working everything together for our good.

“If you encounter a beggar who is constantly grumbling and never seems to appreciate what you give, you'll likely close the door on them quickly.”  
D.L. Moody

We are like beggars approaching the King, asking for bread. We don't deserve anything, but when we come with gratitude and thanksgiving, it opens the doors of heaven.

Today's songs: Goodness of God by CeCe Winans and Gratitude by Brandon Lake

Take some extra time to express your gratitude to God for His blessings, salvation, providence, and all the other things He has done for you.

Day 13, March 28  
“Let Your Requests Be Made Known to God”

Read Philippians 4:6-7

Verse 6 begins with a command: “Be anxious for nothing.” But how do we do that? The answer is found in the text: by prayer and supplication. Supplication is making an earnest plea to the Lord, while prayer is seen as communication with Him. Prayer has many elements, and supplication is one of those elements. We come to the Lord and plead with Him to answer our requests. David was a great man of prayer, and he often begged God to answer him.

Read Psalm 4-5

We plead with God when we are desperate. If we could just realize how helpless and dependent we truly are, we would pray more. Instead of trying to fix our problems ourselves, we should let God know our worries, struggles, and concerns.

What is a weakness in your life where you need God’s help? What is a burden in your life that you need God to act on?

Pray in faith, trusting that God will answer your prayers. Surrender your requests to Him and allow His peace to fill your heart.

As Bounds wisely said, “Most, and best of all, faith thrives in an atmosphere of prayer.”

Today’s song is Trust in God by Elevation Worship, and See a Victory by Elevation Worship.

“I sought the Lord, and He heard and He answered!”

Day 14, March 29  
“Praise the Lord”

Read Psalm 148-150.

Praise is an essential part of our prayer lives and worship. David, in his Psalms, seamlessly blended prayer with praise. We serve a living savior who is deserving of our adoration. As believers, we should be the most joyful people on earth, yet we often times are the most miserable. We pray and worship like Eeyore and do our hobbies like Winnie-the-Pooh. We serve a Lord who deserves our praise! When we see into heaven in the book of Revelation, we witness angels praising. As the redeemed of the Lord, we should be more excited than the angels. We have been spared from Hell!

Read Revelation 4:5-11.

Praising is a way of acknowledging God’s greatness. The psalmist made a habit of praising God, and so should we. When we contemplate the awe-inspiring nature of God, it should compel us to praise Him for His attributes and actions. This practice stirs emotions within me, both in prayer and during worship. I am overwhelmed by the goodness of God to me, an unworthy sinner. Don’t be afraid to raise your hand or shout a Hallelujah; we will do so in heaven!

“I will praise Him in life and in death,  
And praise Him as long as He gives me breath.”

Today’s songs: Great Are You Lord by All Sons and Daughters and Good Good Father by Chris Tomlin.

Take time to praise the Lord for who He is and all He has done. Reflect on His greatness and simply praise Him without expecting anything in return.

Day 15, March 30  
“Glorify You”

Read John 17:1-26, focusing on verses 1-5.

John 17 records the longest prayer of Jesus. Today, we begin our journey toward the cross and the empty tomb. Jesus has left the upper room, and Judas has left to betray Him. Jesus is walking toward Gethsemane with the disciples closely following, listening to Jesus’s conversation with His Father. The term “the hour” is frequently mentioned by Jesus in the gospels. It signifies the hour he had come for—the hour he would sacrifice His life for your life. Jesus’s sole desire was to glorify the Father.

When we pray, shouldn’t it be our ultimate desire in life to glorify the Father? We often come to prayer selfishly and not with a genuine spiritual intention. John Philips, emphasizes that this model prayer contains nothing that occupies too much time in our prayers. All its petitions and praises are of a spiritual nature. In Galatians 6:14, Paul clearly states that his sole purpose was to glorify Christ and boast in the cross. We must constantly check our motives to ensure that we are serving the Lord for His sake and not for our own gain. Are we praying to obtain something from God or to deepen our relationship with Him?

This prayer serves as a model for effective prayer. When we examine its elements, we see Jesus at the center, above all desired to glorify the Father. We must seek the Lord’s help to cultivate the same attitude as Jesus. While we may not be Jesus, it should always be our goal to emulate His qualities in our daily lives.

Bounds states that, “Jesus expects us to be like Him, to do as He did, and to glorify the Father as He did.”

Songs of the day: Holy Forever by Chris Tomlin and Down at the Cross

As we embark on this Passion week of 2026, let us take special time to focus on the cross and seek the Lord’s guidance to help our lives glorify Him.

Day 16, March 31  
“Perfected in Unity”

Read John 17:22-26

When you read John 17, did you notice that Jesus prayed for you? Even as Jesus was about to be betrayed and crucified, He had you in His thoughts. In these final verses of John 17, Jesus prays for the unity of the church. The unity of believers is crucial for the advancement of the Gospel and maintaining a right relationship with the Lord. We observe in Acts how the early church was united around the message of the cross. Are you a uniter or a divider? As believers, we must learn to set aside our differences and work together to point people to Jesus. John 13:35 reminds us that “men will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another.” We cannot love one another and be divided.

The second thing we discover is that Jesus prayed for us to be in His presence. As I grow older and deepen my faith in Christ, I eagerly anticipate the day when I will be with Him. This world is not our permanent home and offers nothing to the child of God. Instead, we are here to help the world recognize and follow Christ.

The third thing Jesus prayed for is that His love would reside within us. The greatest challenge for us is to love like Christ, but that is precisely what He has commanded us to do. We must earnestly ask for His love and grace to fill our hearts. Remember, we are the only Jesus that the world will ever encounter. What kind of Jesus are you portraying to the world?

“The unity of God’s people was to be the sole credential that would reveal the divinity of Christ’s mission on earth. Let us all honestly ask ourselves, are we praying for this unity as Christ prayed for it?” Bounds

Today’s songs: King of Kings by Hillsong Worship and This I Believe (The Creed) by Hillsong Worship

These three elements of prayer should be an integral part of our daily prayers. Pray to the Lord for His guidance in bringing unity to others. If you find yourself in discord with Him or another believer, seek His intervention to mend the relationship. Express gratitude for the promise of heaven and ask for His love and gratitude to fill your heart. Remember, we are united by the cross.

Day 17 April 1  
“Pray That You May Not Enter Into Temptation”

Read Matthew 26:36-46 and Luke 22:39-46.

In the most intense moment of history, Jesus, in the midst of His coming crucifixion, asked His disciples to pray. Yet, they were too exhausted to do so. How often do we find ourselves too tired, too preoccupied, or too distracted to pray? Jesus often prayed throughout the night (Luke 6:12-13). If our Lord required such devotion, it would be reasonable to expect us to recognize the significance of prayer in our lives. Even as Jesus was just a stone's throw away, praying and under attack by Satan, the disciples were asleep.

Satan's plan to attack us is formidable, and the only weapons we possess to defend ourselves are the Word and prayer. It's challenging to comprehend the immense battle Jesus endured as He gazed upon the cross and implored the Lord's will to be fulfilled. In prayer, Jesus discovered the strength to endure the hours ahead and make the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. The cross remained before Him, and He surrendered His will in the Garden of Gethsemane. None of us can predict the challenges that lie ahead, so we must prioritize finding time to converse with the Lord for His strength and guidance in our lives. The disciples were no different from us; they were vulnerable and susceptible to failure. In the coming hours, they would falter and regret their shortcomings in letting the Lord down. I wonder how many problems we could avert if we devoted more time to prayer and sought the Lord's deliverance from temptation. In the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), Jesus earnestly prays, “and do not lead us into temptation.”

Songs of the day: The Stand by Hillsong United and What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Pray for the Lord's assistance in the areas where you struggle and reflect on ways to prevent yourself from stumbling. Write down the areas that tempt you and pray over them for the Lord's strength today.

Day 18, April 2nd  
“Father, Forgive Them”

Read Luke 23:34

The concept of forgiveness is profound, but it becomes truly challenging when it's your turn to forgive. In this most intense moment, Jesus' first words on the cross were “Father.” In this moment of profound anguish, He cries out to the Father. He doesn't seek anything for Himself but for those who were responsible for His crucifixion. The Jewish leaders, the Roman guards, and yes, even us. We are all guilty of having Christ crucified. It was for our sins that He laid down His life!

The Bible instructs us to forgive as Jesus did. This is exemplified in the life of Stephen in Acts 7:60. Ephesians 4:32 emphasizes the importance of forgiveness, stating, “just as Christ has forgiven you.” We've all experienced hurt in life, some of it profound, but none as severe as Jesus's. Is there someone you need to forgive? Take some time today to pray for them and seek God's grace to forgive them. We have a choice in life: to be a victim or to triumph over our circumstances.

Read Isaiah 53:1-12

In this passage, known as the Suffering Servant, we witness the announcement of Jesus's coming death for our sins. Over 700 years before Christ and before crucifixion was known, God revealed the exact plan for His son's death for us. Yes, He loves us, and nothing demonstrates that love more than the cross! Embrace His love today and express gratitude for His forgiveness.

Jesus spent His earthly ministry in constant prayer. It's no surprise that the first thing He did on the cross was address the Father. “How perfectly does His prayer on the cross for His enemies align with all He taught about love to our enemies, mercy, and forgiveness to those who have wronged us!” Bounds

Songs of the day: How Great Thou Art and O Praise The Name by Shane and Shane

Pray for forgiveness from those who have hurt you and cultivate a forgiving spirit like Jesus. Express gratitude for the cross and His love for you.

Day 19, April 3  
“My God, My God, Why”

Read Matthew 27:46

The pain was excruciating. Can you imagine the physical agony Jesus endured? However, the spiritual pain was even more profound. The disciples had abandoned Him, leaving Him alone to die for the sins of the world. God the Father had been with Him every step of the way, but now only Jesus could bear this punishment and shoulder the sins of humanity. The loneliness was real, and in this lonely generation we inhabit, we have a friend in Jesus who we can confide in. You don't have to be alone to feel lonely. You may feel like no one understands or even cares about you, but there's some good news: Jesus does.

Read Psalm 25:16-22

David sought the Lord in his loneliness and asked for His help, and the Lord helped. Today, you should reach out to the Lord if you're feeling lonely or misunderstood or need a friend. Jesus and David were surrounded by crowds much of their lives, yet they still experienced loneliness during some of their darkest moments. Christ endured the cross, so you'll never have to be alone. At any time and place, you can talk to Him. As the darkness enveloped the land as Jesus was dying, light was about to triumph over the darkness, ensuring its ultimate defeat. Today, Jesus endured the cross so that we could experience His victory forever. Rest in His grace for eternity. He was forsaken so that we wouldn't have to be forsaken (Hebrews 13:5).

“How touching the prayer and how bitter the cup! How dark and desolate the hour as He exclaims, ‘My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?’”  
Bounds

Songs of the day: At The Cross (Love Ran Red) by Chris Tomlin and You've Already Won By Shane and Shane

Pray today, asking Him to help you if you're struggling with loneliness or feeling misunderstood. Also, express gratitude that you never have to be alone and that He was forsaken for you.

Day 20, April 4  
“I Commit My Spirit”

Read Luke 23:46

Surrendering is not an easy task for us. In life, we have a choice: to surrender to the Lord or to fight Him. In Jesus' final words, He surrenders Himself to the Father. We all will face our final moments in life, but the good news is that we don't have to face them with uncertainty because Jesus has already gone ahead of us and prepared the way. We must learn to follow Him and surrender to Him in the days we have left.

Read John 14:1-6

Jesus makes a promise to His disciples about eternity and even tells them that He is making the way possible for their salvation. On the cross, Jesus took all of our sins upon Himself so that we can be forgiven and spend eternity with Him. The sinless one became sin so that we could become righteous (2 Corinthians 5:21). The gift of the cross is immeasurable, but one day in eternity, we will look upon Him who died on our behalf and worship and serve Him for eternity. Take some time today to reflect on eternity and what the Lord has prepared for you. The Bible teaches in Romans 8:18 that what we experience now is nothing compared to how great it will be in eternity. We don't deserve heaven, but Christ willingly went to the cross to provide the way. All that Christ gave up for you, don't you think He deserves our very best? Be encouraged by the future and give thanks to the Savior for dying for you!

In His final words, He speaks to the Father, “May we spend our days talking to the Father.” Bounds

Songs of the Day: Sunday is Coming by Phil Wickham and The Old Rugged Cross

Pray today and surrender yourself to Him and enjoy the fellowship you have with the Father because the Son made the way.

Day 21, April 5, Easter  
“It Is Finished”

Read John 19:30

Today marks a momentous occasion, a day we set aside to commemorate the most significant event in history—Jesus’ resurrection! *The Greek word “Tetelestai”* encapsulates the essence of this moment, signifying the completion of a task. Jesus had fulfilled the mission entrusted to Him by the Father, a mission that no one else could undertake. As the only perfect being, the divine-human figure, Jesus triumphed over the Devil, vanquished death, and brought an end to Satan’s reign. Although Satan appeared victorious, he was aware that Sunday was approaching, and his days were numbered. The Book of Revelation tells the story of the end, where Christ will return for a second time to claim the victories He has already secured. This world, as we know it, will undergo profound transformations, and those who have cherished this world will face the judgment of a just God. While the cross stands as a testament to God’s boundless love, it also embodies His unwavering justice. God’s wrath had to be appeased, and Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself on the cross to fulfill this purpose. However, those who reject His payment for sin will bear the consequences for eternity.

As a believer in Christ, we have been bestowed with the most precious gift, and He deserves our utmost devotion. There are two things that the Lord truly desires from us. Firstly, He desires our lives. Have you wholeheartedly surrendered your life to Him? Does your life reflect a sacrificial commitment to Him? Secondly, He desires our time. In these 21 days, I hope you have grown in your relationship with the Lord, but I also hope this serves as the beginning of a life dedicated to prayer and selflessness for our Lord. Don’t you yearn to reach the end of your life with the assurance that you have served Him well? Remember, He gave everything for you!

Spurgeon expressed his thoughts on “*Tetelestai*,” stating, “It would require all the other words ever spoken to adequately describe it. It is an immeasurable entity, beyond my comprehension. It is profound, beyond my ability to fathom.”

Songs of the day: Living Hope by Phil Wickham and Arise My Love by Newsong

Today, let us celebrate the resurrection and the profound promise of eternal life by praising the Lord. Let us embrace this day with excitement for the incredible achievements of Christ and the future He holds for us.

**JESUS IS RISEN!**

