

An American flag is shown on the left side of the page, with the stars and stripes clearly visible. The rest of the background is black.

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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 will forgive their sin  
and heal their land.

”

**2 CHRONICLES**

**7 | 14**

# 40 DAYS OF RETURNING TO GOD

**PRAYER GUIDE**

**1st** BAPTIST CHURCH  
**Quitman**

# PRAYER GUIDE

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

**1 Samuel 12:23**

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

**Matthew 7:7-8**

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

**Psalm 146:1-2**

Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**PRAISE**

**THANKSGIVING**

**INTERCESSION**

**PETITION**

**CONFESSION**

**LISTENING | FASTING**

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

**John 10:27-28**

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1 John 1:9**

**40 DAYS OF  
RETURNING  
TO GOD**

**PRAYER GUIDE**

## A MESSAGE FROM Pastor Don Ross

As we embark on a 40 day journey of prayer, repentance, and return to God, we have the privilege and responsibility to intercede for those close to us, our church and our country. While it is true that prayer does marvelous things, sometimes we find ourselves wondering does God even hear us? Henry Blackaby in his *Experiencing God* devotional says, “James says that fervent prayer avails much. Could it be that we are not as fervent in our praying as we should be? Fervent prayer means we do not quit easily. Fervent prayer means we purposefully spend sufficient time in intercession. Fervent prayer means we cry out to the Father, sometimes in tears, with our heart and soul. Fervent prayer comes as the Holy Spirit assists us in praying with groanings too deep for words. (Rom. 8:26)

This journal is to help you get back to following Jesus and praying for that spiritual renewal that is needed in our country. Each day will have a scriptural focus then a short devotion from members of our church.

Our prayer guide will be the hand. The thumb is praying **PRAISE** to our God. Index finger is for **THANKSGIVING**. The middle finger is for **INTERCESSION**. The ring finger is for **PETITION**, the little finger for **CONFESSION** and the palm for **LISTENING | FASTING**.

*Lord help us to commit to a regular time to seek You  
and begin anew in walking in your truth.*

**CONTRIBUTOR Pastor Bobby Strong**

This is, of course, a very “popular” verse anytime one talks about revival in the church. As with any scripture though, I believe we must look at what the whole passage says, in order to get the full message of the one verse.

In 2 Chronicles, Solomon builds a temple for the name of the Lord. This would actually be the home of the ark of the covenant of the Lord. The presence of God would finally have a home! This temple would even be the place of sacrifices for atonement and restoration. It even foretells of the fact that true salvation will not come through a physical building, holding the presence of God, but through a physical human body who IS the presence of God!

This temple would signify God’s willingness to forgive and restore His people!

With that in mind, we get to chapter 7, verses 13 and 14. (We must look at vs 13 as well, since vs 14 is the second half of a sentence that begins in vs 13!) God tells Solomon, “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, 14 if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

God’s people, who He called by His name, had turned from Him many, many times, to go their own way and live how they wanted, instead of how He called them to. Because of their actions, He had brought destruction upon them in many different ways. In these verses, God lets Solomon, and the people of God, know what He will do when those times come, IF they follow what He says in verse 14!

Just like the image of the temple bringing about forgiveness and restoration, God says He will bring forth the same, Himself, to those who will turn from their wicked ways and seek Him.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Read these verses slowly, and ask God to give you a heart to follow the instructions that He has laid out for His people.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Ulna McWhorter**

“Praise the Lord!” is the first and ending phrase in Psalm 146 and emphasizes how important praise is in our relationship with the Lord and how it should permeate our lives. We should not put our trust in mortal man but the eternal God. By believing in the promises of God and having faith in Him, we are blessed beyond measure.

With this thought in mind, we should want to praise Him for all the blessings that He has given us. One way that all Christians can praise God is through music. The psalmist wrote, “I will sing praises to God as long as I live.” We can praise God by joining in the songs of the worship service. By thinking about the words of the music and what they mean as we sing, we are communicating with our Heavenly Father. It is not important that we have a trained voice or read music. Psalm 100 tells us to “make a joyful noise.”

Years ago, there was a man who sang in our church choir. He was a monotone who could not “carry a tune” or match a pitch. The only time that he was on pitch was when the music crossed his note, but he was one of the most faithful members of the choir. He never missed a rehearsal and was always in the loft on Sunday morning. His musical limitations did not stop him from praising God through music. So, let us all follow this man’s example in using singing to praise God, regardless of our levels of musical abilities and emulate the psalmist’s desire to sing praises to God throughout life.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Help me to realize the importance of praising God by participating in the song service of the worship services. May we praise God, as we know He is sovereign and in control of the future of our nation!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Keith Haisten**

In this familiar passage, God delivers Daniel from the Lion’s Den! While there is no doubt that Daniel was indeed thankful for the deliverance, equally important is his thankfulness for the trial itself (we will focus on verse 10 in a moment).

Perhaps what sets this happy ending in motion can be found in verse 3. “Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the Governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm.” The spirit of God was in him (or upon him). Due to jealousy, the governors and satraps sought to harm and undermine Daniel’s authority by attacking his faith (convincing King Darius to establish a decree “that whoever petitions any god or man for thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions”).

Now for verse 10, which reads, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing (the decree) was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his window open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.” Daniel gave thanks for the trial (challenge) that lay before him. It’s easy for us to be thankful for deliverance, but for the trial also? Yes, especially for the trial, for it’s through the trial that deliverance comes! Also, don’t miss “as was his custom since early days”. Our prayers, our frequent prayers, should be our habit. We should be habitual prayers.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Be thankful for the trials.

James 1:2, 3 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.”

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Beverly Gunn**

Many years ago I taught in the Catholic schools of Northern Virginia. I accepted a job for Catholic schools for less than ½ the salary of public schools because a teacher could not say “Merry Christmas.” But, it was there in the Catholic diocese I learned so much more about prayers and those who pray them.

First, I learned about prayers of Thanks. Now, as a Baptist, I knew about lifting a thankful heart to the Lord, and I even learned about the need to pray with a grateful heart. But in those Catholic schools those prayers began with thanksgiving.

I learned about something the Catholics called “Petitions.” In fact, a child came to me to ask me to pray with her for a petition. I found that strange language and as I sat down with her I asked her to explain to me....and as usual the clarity of a child opened my heart to possibilities in our prayer life.

While in the Catholic schools I was often the one the teachers would seek out to ask me to pray with them. I learned that intercession is something we should seek to hone with the Lord, as He is in mighty need, in our times, to pray to Heaven the prayers that will bring Heaven down to earth and fulfill that which the Lord desires.

I reckon all these years later, I learn more about prayer each day on this earth, and we will grow to unity as we intercede for our nation during these 40 days of prayer.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Intercession is a gift from God given to us to allow Believers the opportunity of seeing God work until the life of others, our country, our church, in daily matters. It is a real privilege given to us.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Brenda Kelley**

In this scripture, Matthew teaches us how to pray (and how not to pray) & how to petition God. So, what exactly is a petition? Petition is defined as a request or appeal to someone in authority. Since a petition is requesting of someone in authority, who better to petition than God?

How do we petition God? We petition God through prayer, requesting that God fulfill a need. Prayer is a result of an intimate relationship with God and is simply talking to Him one on One. This relationship further results in an act of faith that God is both willing and able to grant the petition.

Relationship: Think about a marriage for a moment. If you are married, you would obviously talk to your spouse about things that concern you. Not discussing these concerns would be like ignoring his or her presence in your life and in the relationship. So it wouldn't be at all surprising if you found yourself on different paths from each other, going your own ways and pursuing your own agenda. This would lead to discord and lack of unity. If communication is this vital in a relationship, is it not even more important to communicate with God and petition Him through prayer?

Now, back to Matthew, giving us an example on how to pray and petition God. There are several petitions in these verses that relate to us, our families, our churches and our nation. A few of those include:

- Petition for God's kingdom to come soon and His Will to be done now on earth. (v.10)
- Petition for meeting our needs (and the needs of our nation) (v. 11)
- Petition for forgiveness and the ability to forgive (v.12)
- Petition to resist temptation and be rescued from evil (v.13)

Remember that prayer is a result of your intimate relationship with God and He is the ultimate authority who we should petition with our needs and concerns. Your faith will give you the ability to believe that God is able and willing to answer your petitions.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Use Matthew 6:10-13 to guide you in petitioning God for specific needs in your life as well as concerns for your family, church and nation.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Clyde Graves**

The thing that struck a chord in me when reading this passage was how amazing God’s love is for each of us, and how amazing it was for David. God had showed David great favor and blessed his life in so many ways, just as He has in my life. Yet, there have been times when I disobeyed Him, acted out against His will and sinned against God in Heaven. For me, and for David, there were dire consequences for our disobedience. There is one special thing about David, the times when he failed God and sinned, he also repented sincerely and genuinely, and he strived to not repeat it. Now honestly this is where I have struggled. Although I was sincere and genuine in my repentance, I still have struggled at times with repeating certain sin. David found forgiveness in the Lord but he also reaped the consequences of his sin, and his seed reaped consequences for generations.

As I’ve grown older, I have sought to walk closer with the Lord and to listen to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit, who guides me. I have found more favor and the Lord has been faithful to bless my life. Others may look at me and my life and not see all the ways that God blesses me, but the most important thing is that I see it and I am greatly appreciative of His mercy and grace. This passage of scripture describes a very tough lesson that David had to endure. However, I believe we can draw strength and wisdom from his situation.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Praise be to God for every trial and every blessing that He brings to our lives, amen.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**FOCUS**  
**LISTENING**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING**  
**Deuteronomy 5:23-33**

**DATE**  
**Oct**  
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**CONTRIBUTOR Debra Wear**

The Lord our God always listens to our prayers, and we carry Him in our heart. He died for our sins, so we could have ever lasting life. God desires the welfare of us all, even sinners. When we look death in the face, the only way to be happy is to be holy. Listening to God is my peace. I know He will guide me as long as I listen to Him.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

I pray that we all read our bibles and listen to our Heavenly Father everyday!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Buddy Harlin**

I'm intrigued that the more we focus on, what is seemingly a rather simple instructional verse, the more depth we can find in it. When I think about how we as people handle things, I feel the order of this verse is very intentional. First off, if you are troubled, pray. When we pray we open up to God. When we cast our cares upon Jesus, we lighten our load. We put ourselves in a better frame of mind in which to praise Him. It's far too easy to just go through the motions of praise when we are preoccupied with our problems. A fresh exercise of our faith through prayer and acknowledgment that God is in control and has a plan, leads us towards the happiness that let's us open more fully in praise.

When we dig into praise we come across synonyms and definitions for recognition of admiration, to glorify, or to celebrate. When I relate to people how I think praise should feel, sometimes I'm a bit saddened that the best examples they probably relate to occur in the secular world. I mention the excitement and shouts when a pro athlete does something extraordinary. I think back to the black and white videos of people going bonkers seeing Elvis or The Beatles. Or closer to home that overwhelming sensation when a child does something that makes your heart swell and you just want to jump up. Afterall, shouldn't the knowledge that God sent His son to die for our sins so that we may have eternal life, feel like one of those special gifts that overwhelms you, sets your pulse to racing, that makes you stammer when you try to speak?

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Carrying our troubles around pulls us down spiritually and emotionally. Giving them to the Lord in prayer exercises our faith and frees us to praise Him as he truly deserves. We, personally, as well as a nation, need to practice this.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Dominique L. Faulkner**

Often what we say or how we speak to others and ourselves can affect our witness and faith. Believers are told how and what we should speak in Ephesians 5. When we take the time to make a conscious effort of our words or what we say, we can be controlled by the Holy Spirit. Being controlled by the Holy Spirit will allow us to speak to others and ourselves using the songs of our heart, instead of useless, hurtful or unwholesome talk. What we talk about with others should reflect our transformed heart and glorify God while we rejoice internally, hearing and reflecting on God and all his goodness. According to BibleRef.com, “believers can both sing with their voice, and live with a “song” internally. God instills joy within those controlled by the Spirit.” So grab a song and make a melody in your heart always.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

That our words would be used to encourage others and ourselves, and always glorify God.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Chris Mason**

For many of us the word FAST is associated with starving ourselves for a set amount of time. What we see in Daniel 1 verses 8-16 however, is that fasting is a powerful tool. For Daniel, this fast was a way for him and the other Israelites to honor God. It was Daniel's desire to not be defiled by the kings' food. In his fast, Daniel shows us modern day exiles a few things. One, fasting is about the posture of our hearts not what we are withholding. The power and effectiveness of fasting comes from the deep desire to please and serve God. When we posture ourselves in a manner that glorifies our King, it pleases Him. Two, fasting removes worldly things that would draw us away from God. Daniel uses his fast to give up food that God had declared unclean and even some food that was just plain good! Daniel does this so his focus stays on God and is not drawn and fixed upon the things of earth. So, brothers and sisters, what things are causing you to shift your focus away from God and to this world? How can you be a Daniel in your home, workplace, and even church? Be encouraged to take the posture Daniel took. Let us fast from things of this world so as to not defile ourselves!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Fasting. Choose one thing of this world to fast from. It can be one day or multiple. When you feel yourself drawn to it, stop and pray and give glory and honor to God.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Debbie Person**

I especially like Dictionary.com's second definition of the word "Petition".

2. "A request for something desired, especially a respectful or humble request, as to a superior or to one of those in authority; a supplication or prayer." I believe the key words here are:

- Request
- Desire
- Respectful
- Humble

Nothing speaks to me as more respectful or humble than Matt. 6: 9-13, "The Lord's Prayer."

Broken down: Following the pattern of The Lord's Prayer is a;

1. Statement of Praise, a commitment to hallow/honor God's holy name
2. Gives reference to God's spiritual reign
3. Desires God's perfect purpose
4. Both in this world and the next
5. Acknowledges that God is our Sustainer and Provider
6. Shows us that we need to forgive, as we were forgiven and
7. Asking God to help us recognize temptation, and that we need Him to give us the strength to overcome it.

With that in mind, if we go before Him with our petition, humbly using the Lord's Prayer as our model, with thanksgiving, then He will give us peace and rest for our souls.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Be humble, respectful and thankful as you bring your requests and desires before the Lord.  
Phil. 4:6, Jer. 6:16

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Kenny Murphy**

What an awesome promise we have in this verse! Jesus has made it so easy for us to be free from the guilt, bondage and punishment of sin. So, why would we hesitate to confess our sins? Shame? Pride? Ignorance? Embarrassment?

If you are a follower of Christ, you once realized you were a sinner, confessed that sin to Jesus, accepted His forgiveness and began a new life with His Holy Spirit as your constant companion. The sacrifice of His life paid the price for the sins of all who will confess and follow Him. So, why do we need ongoing confession if the price has already been paid?

Well, sin will be a problem for us as long as we live on earth. However, the Holy Spirit will not allow us to be comfortable in our sin. Unconfessed sin can feel like a wall between us and the Father. Confession can restore communication with the Father and allow us to move forward with His power and strength to overcome that sin.

When Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer as a guide, He included confession. He didn't have any sin or trespasses, but He knew we would. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Daily confession is a reminder of our constant need for the Father and a reminder to show others the same grace that we've been shown by Him. Don't wait. You can be free today from the heavy burden of sin.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Be in prayer for our country and our leaders. May they humbly ask for God's direction and forgiveness.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Pastor Bobby Strong**

Jesus instructs us that when we fast....wait, what did that say? When? Are you sure? Not IF we fast???? As Jesus' followers, we are to fast! And when we do, we are instructed to not make it look like we're fasting! We are not to look in a way, or act in a way that will bring attention to the fact that we are fasting. That includes just nonchalantly bringing it up in conversation and then acting like we didn't mean to say it. But who would do that, right?!

Jesus says that those who make it known that they are fasting, get their reward, and in full! That's because their reward is people knowing that they're fasting! That's all they really wanted out of it anyway. That's the motive of their heart for fasting! Having other people view them as more holy since they're fasting!

But for those who are serious about fasting, who are doing it to seek the Father and His will, they will be fasting, and no one will even know it! They will be doing it "in secret." They will be going about their daily routines and might even go out of their way to make sure no one recognizes them as being in a fast. And for those followers of Christ, God will reward!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Ask God to reveal our heart's motives for when we fast, and to give us a right heart that doesn't want to brag about fasting!

Ask God to lay on your heart WHEN to fast and what to fast from!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Georgia Cameron**

God is worthy of our praise, and we all have many reasons to give Him praise!

As I think of all the glorious things our Lord has done and continues to do, I am thankful but also put to shame for not expressing my gratitude to Him more often.

Not only has He forgiven me of my sins and given me eternal life in Christ Jesus, He continues to make His presence known to me. Prayers answered, that leave me in awe of His desire to have a relationship with me. I have watched Him calm a storm, load a 2400 pound bull into a trailer, direct my path to find a diamond that had fallen out of my wedding ring, deliver provision for jobs, bring healing from illness of loved ones, and give protection from injury.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

In this day of turmoil, we need to give our LORD praise, for He is worthy! The verbal praises to our LORD will also be a beacon of light directing others to the One who holds tomorrow in His hands!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Adam & Jeni Daliva**

We have so much to be grateful for in this life every single day. But the reality is that sometimes the constant demands, hardships and worries give us more room for defeat, rather than to be thankful. In the midst of being busy and under life's pressures, we forget to just stop and pause for a min, and be thankful for all that God has done for us and continues to do in our daily lives. Ok, so do you ever feel like He has nothing to offer? You're struggling, you're mad about things, or you just feel like God has let you down in some way. He really doesn't care about what is troubling you, and you're spiraling out of control. I know that I have been in this exact spot. I've financially struggled and I have struggled with my children, my health, my marriage and most of all, my faith. Here is what you can do to make a lasting difference. We have a choice everyday to give Him thanks. And with thanksgiving we can realize that, with no matter what we face in life, He doesn't work to change our situations or problems, He does more. He changes our hearts. Colossians 4:2 says, "Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving." When He changed my heart, I felt like my life wasn't so small anymore, and there wasn't anything I couldn't face with Him, His love, His support and His guidance. He knew the answers that I didn't yet know, but would see. As when I saw my heart beating with such joy, that the problem wasn't so bad after all. Giving thanks and being thankful continues to open doors of blessings.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

God pours out His Spirit in us who are thankful. As Colossians 3:15 says: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful."

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Toni Cole**

I was 51 years old when I learned firsthand the power of praying on behalf of others. I had been diagnosed with Stage 3 Ovarian cancer. The “silent killer” they call it. By the time my treatments were started, people were contacting me and my family daily to let us know we were being prayed for. When I would go out, perfect strangers would come up to me and tell me their church was praying for me. It was a very humbling experience. Who am I that our Lord would show favor to me, one who felt so unworthy? But show favor He did. I am now five years cancer-free and I owe it all to my Lord and my community, who prayed without ceasing. It took a life threatening disease to open my heart and mind to the idea that I should be praying not just for myself and my loved ones, but for my enemies as well. Jesus prayed for His transgressors – every one of us. What better way to honor Him than to pay it forward.

Our country is in turmoil right now. Our President is under attack, and local governments have had to make unprecedented decisions due to the threat Covid-19 presents. Satan’s influence is visible everywhere you look: riots, looting, vandalism, protests. It’s difficult to understand the actions of those who instigate these events. I don’t approve at all – but I will pray for them. Just as instructed.

Ephesians 6:18 (NIV): “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.”

Dr. David Jeremiah has a sermon entitled “Overcoming Everything with Prayer”. If you haven’t heard it, I highly recommend it.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

If ever the Lord’s people needed to come together and overcome, it is now.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Kristie Gaby**

As a child, my family went to church occasionally. When I married, my fervent prayer was that my husband and I would find a church home. A church that we could raise our children in, where they felt comfortable and loved, and knew they belonged. I thank God that He answered that prayer, and went above and beyond my prayer by blessing us with a family church where our children learned that Jesus died for their sins and lives today! It was a precious church that rejoiced with us when our girls accepted Jesus as their savior, a group of people that truly loved our family and blessed us through many years.

To petition, is the action of asking or begging for something earnestly or humbly. God answers prayers. But we have to realize that He answers prayers according to His will. If we are walking in His will, we can be sure that what we ask, He will hear and answer. He may not answer in our time or to our understanding, but we can be confident that our loving Father hears and answers our heartfelt prayers.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Consider prayers that God has answered for you. Be sure to thank Him for His loving response to your petitions.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Pastor Don Ross**

When I was a boy growing up on the farm in the panhandle of Texas, after the planting season of wheat or corn, we would pray for a soaking rain. If we received a good one often my dad would load us up and we would head to the mountains. His favorite was Red River N.M. There we would have a fun time while he would stare at the mountains. He often said that after a blessing it was just so much fun to tell God how greatly he was blessed, and how he loved Him.

Henry Blackaby said it well. "Thankfulness is a conscious response that comes from looking beyond our blessings to the source." Now... I understand a lot more about being thankful. Joel Gregory shared why we give thanks. (1) Because of God's affection, (2) out of our spiritual satisfaction, (3) because of His protection.

While we desire spiritual highs often the greatest blessings are those that just stir our hearts. So how about doing what this scripture says and come on an adventure in thanksgiving. Think on the big things God has done for you. Then pause to reflect on those things that you experience without even realizing how important they are.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

What do I have to be thankful for?

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Emily Strong**

What are you listening to? Are you caught up with the words of today's news channels? Are you listening to the gossip from your coworkers, family, and celebrities? How much time do you take out of your day to listen to God speak to you? Do you allow His voice to take precedence over the voices of this world? Brothers and sisters – take time, give ear, and give attention to God's voice. He is wanting and trying to speak to you. As a believer in Christ, we have the amazing gift of being able to talk to God, and to have Him speak to us!

Be encouraged. Don't let this world consume your thoughts...let the words from God and the Word of God consume them. Open your ears and your eyes and give God your full attention. He wants to guide us and walk with us every day, every second of our lives. Let the peace of God overwhelm you!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Thank you that you speak to us, and that you want to speak to us. I pray that we will have the desire to want to hear your voice. As the days go on, and the hope in this world seems to fade, I pray that we remember that we have hope in you. I pray that we will incline our ears to you, as you do for us. Father, I pray that we won't let the voices of this world take over our thoughts, that we will put those voices out of the paths of our hearing and that we will have a sharp and straight focus on yours! I pray that we as a country will turn to you, now more than ever. Use us, Father, as a beacon for you. Let our words be your words. Let our thoughts be your thoughts. I pray for encouragement and for peace among my brothers and sisters. Thank you for your love. We love you, and we want to glorify you in all that we do. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Pamela Galloway**

It boggles my mind to view the vastness of God's great creation when I gaze into the night sky and see the work of His fingers. And yet consider David describing those same fingers knitting together David's body within his mother's womb.

GOD... from the macro to the micro! Isn't it amazing that God knows every minuscule detail of our bodies? That He would even care to know us in such an intimate way? Like David, we can praise God for His creation around us and His workmanship within us.

As God would have it this week, I listened to Christian radio in route to work.

I heard David Jeremiah quoting the lyrics to a song composed by Don Wyrzten based on this very passage!

***Fearfully and Wonderfully Made***

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, I'm unique, one of kind.  
Fearfully and Wonderfully made, My beginning was God's design.

He was with me before my birth and formed my being with care.  
I'm a person of infinite worth, A Masterpiece beyond compare.

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, I'm woven as His Tapestry  
Fearfully and Wonderfully Made, I'm created for Eternity.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Throughout this month, take time to Worship God; from His mighty work of Creation to the tender ways he creates us as His "Masterpiece beyond compare".

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Dolores Galley**

Being thankful in ALL things, as the scripture says, may sound quite difficult. We have all been through storms and difficulties in our lives, but did we remember to thank God during those times? Our prayers are usually filled with requests for His help. We must remember He is with us through all things.

We receive so many blessings daily. We should remember to thank Him for all of them. I had a dear friend who lived to be 100. On her 90th birthday she made a list of 90 things that happened in her life for which she was thankful. She made copies of the list and shared it with her friends. She was thankful for God's salvation first of all, and everything from running water, beautiful flowers, family and friends, and her church. This list was a blessing to many.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Look around you every day and count the blessings God has given you, and give Him thanks. Also thank Him for being with you during the storms of life.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Pastor Bobby Strong**

Since this verse begins with the word “likewise,” we must look before this verse to see what the writer is “liking” this verse to! The passage prior to verse 26 mentions how we hope for things that we do not see. Because “hope that is seen is not hope. (vs 24) So we hope for the return of Jesus and for Heaven, and we wait patiently for it! “Likewise,” or in the same way, the Spirit of God helps us in our weaknesses. This is the Holy Spirit, the Helper, whom Jesus told the disciples, and us, would come once He ascended to the Father.

Have you ever had a time when you just didn’t know what to pray??? There are situations in life that occur, and we have NO IDEA how to pray for it! “God, I don’t even know how to pray for this right now.....” Hard times, problems that we don’t have a solution to...they can leave us speechless.

Honestly, there’s times I don’t know what to pray right now, with the way the country is... I know what I want to happen. I just want everything to get better and everyone to get saved and praise the Lord! But I know our Bible tells us that that won’t happen. And things will get worse in the end times. So what do we pray for? How do we pray in these times? Well, I take comfort in knowing that if ever I don’t know what or how to pray, the Holy Spirit of God is interceding for me and for us!

Take note that the verse even states that we, indeed, DO NOT KNOW what to pray! Maybe ever! We can rest assured that in our inability to not know what to pray, the Spirit Himself has taken care of it for us! He’s got us covered!! Praise the Lord!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Ask God what to pray for and how to pray for it! But thank Him and praise Him for the Spirit working on our behalf! Pray God’s will be done in our lives, our church, and our country!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** Toni Ogg

I remember as a child, money was tight from time to time, and my parents did the best they could. I always had everything I needed. They would do their best to get me things I may have wanted, like a new toy, or the yellow and black Adidas jacket that was in style. There were times that I may not get it when asked, but they always came through. They always knew what I needed, but I had to share with them my wants and desires.

God is our Heavenly Father. He can provide the things we ask for. When we do ask Him for things, ask with thanksgiving in our heart and in a humble way. As His children, He wants us to have things because He loves us and cares for us. No matter how small or big, God knows what is best for us and He will provide.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

As you pray, be sure to thank God for what He has given us and has done for us already. Thank God for what He will give us. Don't be afraid or timid for what you ask. God knows what is in our hearts, but He still wants us to ask Him for things.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Brenda Potts**

“Refreshing!” What a great word. Especially in the context of this verse. I’ve known this feeling and have been blessed beyond measure to receive it, just by the act of confession and repentance. Turning away from a sinful act or thought, and turning our hearts and minds to God instead, gives us an immediate refreshing. Close your eyes, feel the renewing of your mind and the gentle caress of God’s hand upon your face, and soak it in. Bring this feeling to mind whenever you stumble. Then repent, ask for forgiveness and receive the cleansing from your sins and the refreshing of your spirit that only the Lord can provide.

References:

- Acts 2:38
- Luke 3:3
- Acts 26:20
- Psalm 19:7

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Pray with me.....

“Lord, I confess my sins to You now and ask for forgiveness. Thank You for loving me enough to send Your Son to die, so that my sins may be forgiven. Thank You for the refreshing of my soul. Thank You for all those special moments in which You reveal Yourself to me. I treasure those moments dearly! In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Doug Cameron**

Define "Fasting"- Abstaining from all or some kinds of food or drink as a religious observance

In our text, a word or vision was revealed to Daniel. So heavy was the vision that Daniel started to mourn, fast, and pray. He did not want to allow certain things of this world, in this case delicacies, meat, or wine, to hinder his prayer time with the LORD. GOD honored his true prayers and worship by sending a heavenly messenger to inform and comfort him about the vision he was given.

As we pray for our nation to turn back to GOD, what things of this earth should we fast from to bring us closer to HIM. Could it be certain types of food or drink, social media, a hobby, or something else?

Focus on the FATHER. Ask Him to reveal the things in our life that keeps us from HIM.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Focus on GOD, fast from the things of earth that hinder our prayer and worship.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Adolphus Harrison**

Hello Church!

First of all I want to take this time to say thank you for the love and care you have shown my family and I.

Pslams 34 talks about us all coming together as one family to worship. It's always a pleasure to worship with you guys whenever I get the chance to!

This is my passion. This is what I love doing, and I know this is my calling. My desire is to lead God's people to the throne of grace, in worship and telling my testimony. No matter if I'm in Africa or America, wherever He leads me that's where I'm going!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

God, I thank you for your love for me. I don't deserve it at all. I thank you for being the God that you are every day. No matter if I'm having a good day or bad you're still with me. May I not forget you who are in my every day life. I thank you for your word of encouragement in this time of chaos. Thank you for being you. Amen.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Roger Speed**

In our lives, there are troubles we face that negatively affect every aspect of life, stealing joy and taking our focus off the Savior. Over the years there have even been times when I've walked into the sanctuary as the church service began and my heart was somewhere else. I was prepared mentally and spiritually to worship—but emotionally, I was struggling with some devastating issue. It was through those moments that I experienced something extraordinary. As the band and the congregation began to sing, my heart would respond to the words of those hymns.

In 1 Chronicles 16, King David had the ark of God brought into the tent that he had pitched for it. After the offerings, he appointed some of the Levites as ministers before the ark of the LORD to sing a psalm to thank and praise the LORD. After the Psalm of Thanksgiving was finished, all the people who had gathered on that memorable day shouted "Amen!" and praised the LORD.

Do you see how praises of thanksgiving can change a gloomy outlook into one of joy?

I once heard Charles Stanley tell that what he does when he feels an attack by Satan, is to just start "praising the LORD!" Firing off praises and thanksgiving to an almighty God is something that Satan cannot sit around and listen to. It turns the tables on the accuser; it drives the enemy away! Another way I've found to express gratitude to God is to write down your blessings: from special ones unique to you, to those most people take for granted. Usually, by the time I finish, God has filled me with satisfaction and supernatural peace. Giving thanks restores my perspective like nothing else can.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

What kind of role does "thanksgiving" play in your daily life? In other words, how faithful are you to thank God for the blessings He has given you?

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Vincent Ogg**

We all have a lot going on in these times, with the pandemic, movements, upcoming election, and our own personal stressors. While all of these things need much prayer and focus, we need to make sure we take time for ourselves so we can pour into others. Intercessory prayer is where we focus on lifting others up to God. I can sit here and encourage you to find time to pray for your loved ones, your friends, those in our community, our church and every other church out there, those experiencing and fighting this pandemic, those in the election, around the world, etc. Which of course I do encourage this, but I would like to focus on today's prayer.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Hey God, I want to thank you for every day that You bless us with. Each day holds a new set of challenges, varying in many shapes and sizes, but You never fail to stand right there with us. I know that every single person out there is being affected by everything that is going on, but You are in control, Father. While I continue to lift up everything going on in my life, I want to lift up my neighbor. Not just the ones in the house next door, or around the block, I'm talking about every single person out there. I don't know what they are fighting or what is going on in their life, but I do know the power of Your love and Your wide-open arms. Thank You God. In Your name I pray, amen.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Molly Murphy**

We may neglect praise, confession, thanksgiving, intercession, listening, and fasting, but when we are in need, we're pretty quick to run to the Father. Today's passage may seem to characterize God as a genie in a bottle, willing to grant our every wish. While God is able, He hasn't granted my every wish. I'm so thankful for that. The valleys of my life—that I begged to avoid or escape—have produced the most growth in my relationship with the Father and the empathy needed to comfort others who will walk the same path.

Jesus compares God's gifts to those that a loving father would give his children. Children often come to their parents with their needs and wants. Loving them often requires giving them something different from what they've asked for, or giving them nothing at all. Loving parents know their kids—what they need and what they don't need. So much more so, our loving Father knows us and what we need.

So, what should we ask for? Just as parents hope for open and honest communication with their children, I think God wants open and honest communication with us. Because of Christ, we can boldly bring our needs and wants to the Father. He is big enough to sort them out. I don't want to miss out on a God's gifts—whether help, healing, provision, peace, comfort, joy—because I didn't ask. When you bring God into the equation through petition, you can have peace in the interim and peace with the outcome.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Father, our desire is to see Your good, pleasing and perfect will be done in our nation. We won't be surprised or downcast when you allow suffering and fear to bring individuals and nations back to You. As your church, we stand ready to welcome them. We will continue to love You, love one another and spread the good news of Jesus, regardless of what happens in the world around us. We will trust You in the interim and with the outcome.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Margaret Briem**

***Confession***

It's all about the simple words,  
"Confession is good for the soul."  
Sin and guilt, they take a toll,  
Confessing to our Lord is the ultimate goal.  
Sin brings sadness.

It's all about freeing the weight,  
Unchaining the burden, clearing the slate.  
Our Lord has the power to forgive,  
And bless us so that we might live.  
Confession brings happiness.

Seek forgiveness from our Lord,  
You will receive a heavenly accord.  
Let none of your transgressions go unexplored,  
Shout his praises; reap heavenly rewards.  
Forgiveness brings joy.

Be with our Lord; He is the hiding place,  
Talk with him and feel His grace,  
Uncover your sins; He does not judge,  
A beautiful gift, our Lord's everlasting love.  
God brings blessings.

Confession. Forgiveness.  
God's Blessing. Unconditional Love.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Jean Chancellor**

The book of Samuel opens with Samuel's mother, Hannah, praying for a son whom God could use. She asked God for a child that she could dedicate to the Lord's service. And when he became of age, putting feet to her prayers, she took Samuel to the Tabernacle, and gave him over to Eli the priest.

In our passage today we begin to look at Samuel's life while he is serving the Lord under Eli. On an ordinary evening, after Samuel has gone to sleep, he hears a voice calling him. Thinking it must be Eli, he runs to Eli and says, "Here I am." But Eli tells the boy, that he had not called him. Samuel, going back to sleep, hears the voice again. And once again, he runs to Eli who again tells him he did not call him.

Once more a voice calls to Samuel, after having gone to sleep again. But this time when Samuel goes to Eli, Eli perceives that the Lord, God Almighty is calling Samuel, and he encourages Samuel to respond with "Speak Lord, for your servant hears."

We, as Christians, need to be more like Samuel. We need to listen to God when he is calling, but more than just listening, we need to say, just like Samuel, "Speak Lord, your servant hears."

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Allow time in your prayer life to listen to God when he speaks. Quit doing all the talking—just listen and then respond!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Pastor Bobby Strong**

“Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.”

A “sacrifice of praise” is a phrase used many times in the book of Psalms. In the Old Testament, this would have included a sacrificial animal. Today, though, since we have the blessing of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for our sins, our sacrifice of praise is, “the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name.” It is us speaking praises to the name of our great God! It is us acknowledging His name, acknowledging who He is, and praising Him because of it!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

I encourage you today to use your voice to praise the Lord for who He is, for what He’s done, and especially for Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross for our sins!  
Lift up a sacrifice of praise to God for what He’s done in our nation, and for what He’s going to do. May we be ready to praise Him through whatever he brings our way as a nation!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**FOCUS**  
**THANKSGIVING**

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING**  
**Philippians 4:6-8**

**DATE**  
**Oct**  
**28**

**CONTRIBUTOR Jennifer Sikes**

Isn't it easy to rejoice when it comes to weddings, holidays, birthdays, and of course babies?! However, isn't it difficult to rejoice during pandemics, elections, wars, and difficult times in our personal lives? Of course it is! Pray often! It is too easy to become ANXIOUS! Pray often! God says to let our gentleness be evident to all and display a sense of self-control. Pray often! It is so much easier to yell, post on social media, and turn our backs on those we disagree with. Pray often! Anxiety comes with fear, but REJOICE that we know the ending to the story. HIS story!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Present to HIM all that you have in your hearts and minds and REJOICE knowing HE LOVES YOU enough to HEAR every word, tear, and whisper.  
GOD IS!!!!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Lee Rainwater**

In Paul's closing notes of his letter to the church at Colossae, he mentions a brother who faithfully lifts up their congregation in prayer. Epaphras is not merely a passive "I'll pray for you" sort of Christian, but a follower of Christ whom Paul characterizes as one who "struggles" or "contends" on the behalf of those for whom he prays. Epaphras comes before the throne as an advocate for the Colossians, specifically that they may achieve maturity and assuredness in their faith.

There are two things which we may observe from this. Firstly, that we should progress towards maturity and confidence in our faith. If we fail to take our spiritual growth seriously, we will be like the subjects of Hebrews 5:12, who ought to be mature and able to lead and instruct others—yet they are immature and still in need of spiritual milk. Achieving spiritual maturity is a journey that one must consciously take, and is facilitated by those like Epaphras who pray on our behalf.

The second thing to note is the example that Epaphras provides for us. He likely did not consider himself a "fully matured Christian", but was far enough along in his journey to realize the need to lift up his brothers and sisters in prayer and encourage them in their walk. We should likewise not wait until we have achieved some self-imposed "mark of maturity" before we seek to lift up and encourage others.

Well done, Epaphras. In your humility, you sought to be a light to others. Two thousand years later, there are likely followers of Christ who can trace their spiritual lineage through you.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Father, I thank you for those who humbly served to lift me up in spiritual growth through their prayers and encouragement. Help me to be mindful to do likewise for others, so that both they and I can continue to grow more mature spiritually.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Shelley Chance**

A prayer of petition is a prayer that includes personal needs and the needs of others.

It's important during this time before the election to pray for our country, and that the Lord would guide you in how to vote. It is also crucial to be praying for the Lord to bring the right man to lead as pastor of our church. For ourselves, we should pray for wisdom and discernment. Wisdom is the ability to see all of life from God's perspective and to act accordingly.

In 1 Samuel 1:27, God had answered Hannah's prayer and she named her son Samuel, which means, "Heard by God," since she had asked the Lord for him. She never gave up hope that God would hear her prayer.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Lord, we humbly ask you to guide our country during election time. Give us wisdom and discernment as we select a president and a pastor to lead our church.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Cheryl Moore**

Our walk with God is not intended to be something that we try to do alone. We come together to help each other, encourage each other and pray for one another as James states in this passage. We are supposed to be involved in each other's lives spiritually. We are to bear one another's burdens. We are a spiritual family, the household of God. We live in a broken world. We are to share our lives together in the good times, and in our struggles through life. We need to be open and honest with each other. If we can't be open and trust each other, then where will we ever find the help we need for us to bear each other's burdens? There is no way that we are going to confess our sins to each other and pray for each other if we do not have relationships with each other, so that we feel safe to do that. We need to have certain people that we have such a relationship with, so we can confess our sins and pray for each other, helping each other and bearing one another's burdens. We are a spiritual family. Let us take our sins to the Lord and call for one another to pray for us so that we will not be hardened by sin, but transformed in holiness as children of God. Our prayers produce wonderful results!

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Pray for the spiritual needs of our fellow Christians.  
Pray for unity among believers.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Roger Stagner**

A petition is an appeal to a person in authority for a favorable decision regarding an important matter of concern. In the Parable of the Persistent Widow the plaintiff feels she has been wronged and goes before a judge to plead for justice. Although he is indifferent to her request, she repeatedly returns until he becomes exasperated and finally capitulates.

The widow exhibits several noteworthy traits in this account. She is tenacious, assertive, tireless, and she has faith in a successful outcome.

In Luke 18:6 Jesus admonishes us to “Learn a lesson from this unjust judge,” and stresses the value of the widow’s determination in our own prayer lives. If the apathetic judge granted her request, how much more will a loving and holy Father give what is right to His children, whose prayers are sincere and resolute?

Philippians 4:6 says, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Jesus ends the parable with these words; “But when the Son of Man returns, how many will He find on the earth who have faith?”

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Prayer is a dialog. Tell God the desires of your heart, trusting He has heard your petitions. Then, spend some quiet time in anticipation of His response.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Bill Galley**

As my Mother was reaching the end of her life, she expressed concern for one thing from me. She had a list of people for which she prayed in their name daily and knew the importance of prayer even to those who may not pray for themselves.

I did not realize the length of her prayer list until I had agreed to continue her daily prayers after her passing. I've added to that long list as time goes by. My prayer time has increased dramatically and in my talks to God, there have been times I didn't feel up to the task but God aided me through.

Prayers for each person in my and my wife's families for several generations continue daily. Many of these would not know me if they saw me but I pray for them by name each day. There are others who receive prayer by name that I receive requests in our church family and community, those that I have never met, those that are leaders of America, as well as those that may be our enemies.

The one thing in common among all those I pray for each day is: that my God is the same God over each of them, whether they accept Him or not, and each will be judged like me by Him, whether they accept Him or not.

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Prayers can save marriages, homes, lives, churches, nations and the world. We all want to go to Heaven and have as many people we've met to go also.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR Cary Butler**

Riots and unrest everywhere! Multiple storms, flooding and huge wildfires! Dirty politics, confusion, and Covid 19! Who can find, or how can anyone find a reason to give thanks and praise?

Read Revelation 5! Look now at verses 12 & 13: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing! And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth...and all that is in them, I heard saying, ‘Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever.’”

Brothers, Sisters, believers, how can we ever cease to praise our Creator, Healer, and Savior? Our praise is our testimony. Psalm 126:2 says, “then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nation’s, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’”

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Father, on this election day we pray for Your perfect guidance. We pray that what we do today and every day will bring honor and glory to You. Father, please use our praise and joy in You to bring others into Your everlasting Love. Thank You for that amazing Love. Thank You for Your Son, Jesus, our Savior. It is only in His Name that we can pray. Thank You.

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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**CONTRIBUTOR** **Pastor Bobby Strong**

2 Chronicles 33 talks about a king named Manasseh. It says that "...he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord..."(vs 2). Then in verse 10, it says that, "The Lord spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention." It's no wonder he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, since he never listened to God, or paid attention to Him when He spoke!

I wonder how often the same can be said about us.... I wonder how often God speaks to us, but we pay no attention to Him or His words! How often does God speak to us, and we don't listen! Maybe we even HEAR Him speak to us, but we don't actually LISTEN to Him! Or maybe even the opposite. We LISTEN to Him speak to us, but we don't really HEAR what He is saying to us!

You know, I'm a pretty good prayer! I'm really good about running to my Father when I'm in need, or when I think I know what needs to happen in a situation! I love to pray for other people and ask God to work on their behalf. And most of the time, I even "Enter into His presence with thanksgiving and praise!" Yep, I'm a really good prayer...if "prayer" is me just talking TO God!! But what if prayer is me talking WITH God??? That includes God talking back to me! Does God even still speak today?! And if He does, would He have anything to say to ME?! The answer is, ABSOLUTELY!!

Just like with Manasseh, God wants to, and IS speaking to us today! We must make sure that we are taking time to listen to Him! And when we do listen, we must make sure we actually pay attention, and follow in obedience!

May it never be said that, "The Lord spoke to Bobby, but he paid no attention."

**PRAYER FOCUS**

Pray that the Lord will speak to you what He wants to tell you, and pause in silence and listen for His words! Pray that our church, our community, our state, and our nation would do the same. Forever, but especially in this crucial time, as we move forward from the election!

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**WHAT I HEARD FROM GOD TODAY | PRAYER NEEDS**

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