

Deeply Rooted

Prayer Book



Jeremiah 17:7-8

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About this Prayer Book

*"Our prayer must, in real and sincere humility, take no account of ourselves; it must rely solely and confidently on the promise of grace, in the firm trust that God will hear us, as He has commanded us to pray and has promised to hear us."*¹

Martin Luther



Living a life of prayer is not easy, and it certainly does not come naturally to many people. While prayer is central to the Christian faith, it is only deeply formed in the life of a believer through **practice** and **intentionality**. *Why do you pray?* This question is to help unearth our deepest motives for why we pray. Do you pray because you need something, or perhaps *want* something? Do you pray because you find yourself in a difficult situation that requires a supernatural intervention? Do you pray because you're told to pray as a Christian?

Why do you pray?

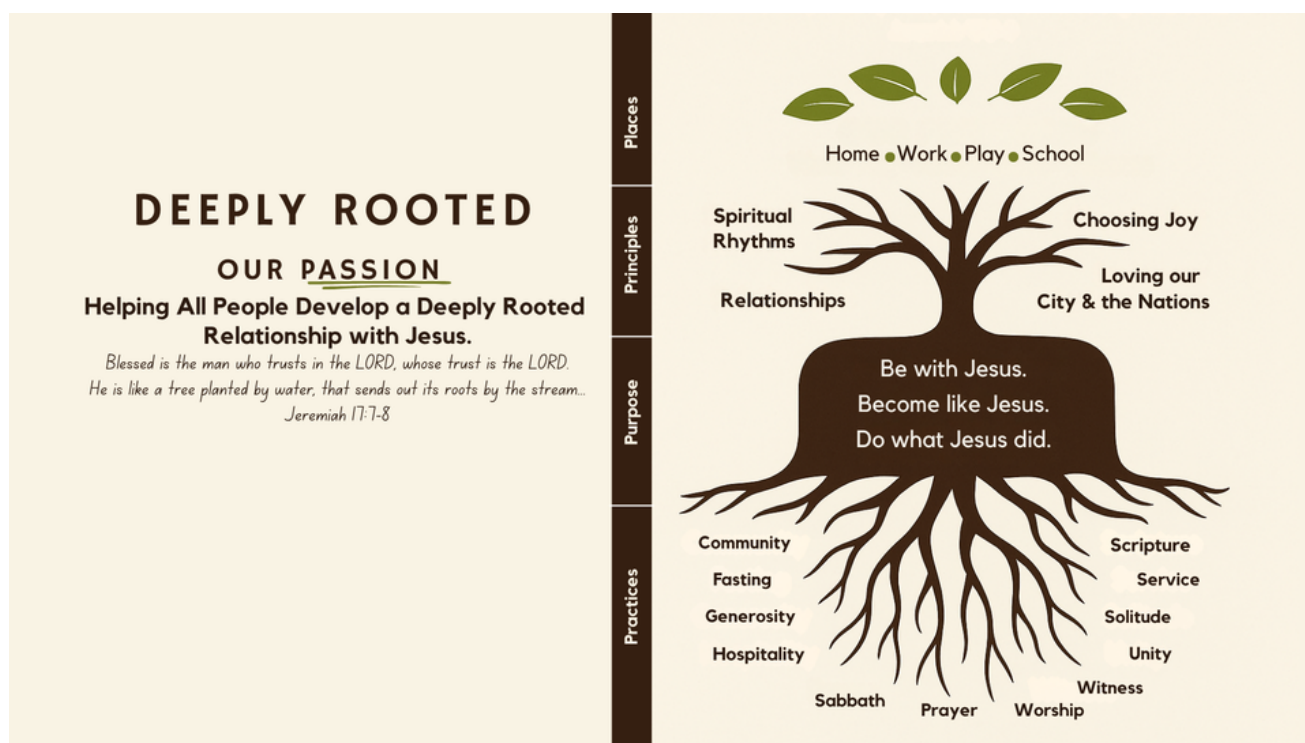
At the heart of prayer is the profound understanding that this is a communion with the Creator of the heavens and earth, and not simply a transactional exchange between the Cosmic and the finite.

The purpose of the *Deeply Rooted Prayer Book* is to create a framework by which you can pray, and more importantly, by which the entire community at Turning Point Open Bible can pray **together**. The journey ahead will guide you through scriptures, prayers, and practices that keep us tethered to the source of life, Jesus.

Let's live the deeply rooted life together!

Pastor Josh

The Five P's at Turning Point



At Turning Point Open Bible, there are five primary focuses of our discipleship journey to Jesus. The purpose of this framework is to help you understand that your life must be rooted in Jesus alone. Jeremiah 17:7-8 gives a beautiful imagery of a tree planted, sending its roots out to the stream, and bearing fruit regardless of the season or drought.

Pray the mission (Passion) itself. Ask that your life would be deeply rooted rather than having shallow soil, and that Turning Point would be a place where people's roots go down before their branches spread out. This is the prayer the whole book rests beneath.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live your lives in him,
rooted and built up in him,
strengthened in the faith as you were taught,
and overflowing with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:6-7

Pray with Purpose:

Like our passion, this statement may be simple, but the width it encompasses is greater than can be expressed in a statement. Consider this purpose as the trunk of a tree, simple, strong and central, sourced from a deeply rooted passion and rising up to branch out to everything we do as followers of Jesus.

Three core purpose statements keep us as believers grounded to Jesus: **be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did.** This is a transformational process in the life of a disciple. There is never an “arriving,” but always continued growth in all three purpose statements.

PURPOSE



**Be with Jesus.
Become like Jesus.
Do what Jesus did.**

Be with Jesus

This is about being present with Jesus, rather than doing things for God. Simply being at the feet of Christ and resting in Him.

John 15:4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

Luke 10:39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

Jesus,

You ask that I sit with you to receive from You before I do anything. Help me to be more like Mary, who sat at your feet, even when there was so much to do. You commended her for choosing something better. I want to receive Your limitless love today, knowing that I don't have to do anything to be loved by You – because You love me as Your child.

Amen.

Pray with Purpose (continued)

Become like Jesus

Ask the Holy Spirit to help form you over time into God's character, surrendering to the work of transformation.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate^[a] the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

Romans 8:29 *For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

Jesus,

I want to look more like You each day. May my words, actions, character, and mind look more like You, as I learn to submit my life to Your way. Holy Spirit, give me the strength to walk this path, because it is not easy. When I look like You, Jesus, people will not see me, but they will see You through me. As John the Baptist said, "Less of me, and more of You!"

Amen.

Do what Jesus did

Ask for the power and compassion to do His works: spreading the Good News to the poor, helping those who are held captive by the power of sin, speaking God's healing Words into the life of another.

Luke 4:18 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."*

John 14:12 *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."*

Jesus,

Give me the strength to put into action what you have called me to do and to be as a follower of You. May I not wait for others to do what You have asked me to do. Holy Spirit, may both my words and deeds be pleasing to You!

Amen.

Pray that your branches would grow:

Our principles are the largest branches growing from the trunk and represent what we prioritize. They keep our hearts centered while considering how to fulfill our purpose.

1. Choose Joy

Joy is a chosen strength rather than a mood. Confess when you are grumbling and complaining. Ask for gladness to be rooted in God rather than in circumstances.

Nehemiah 8:10 Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

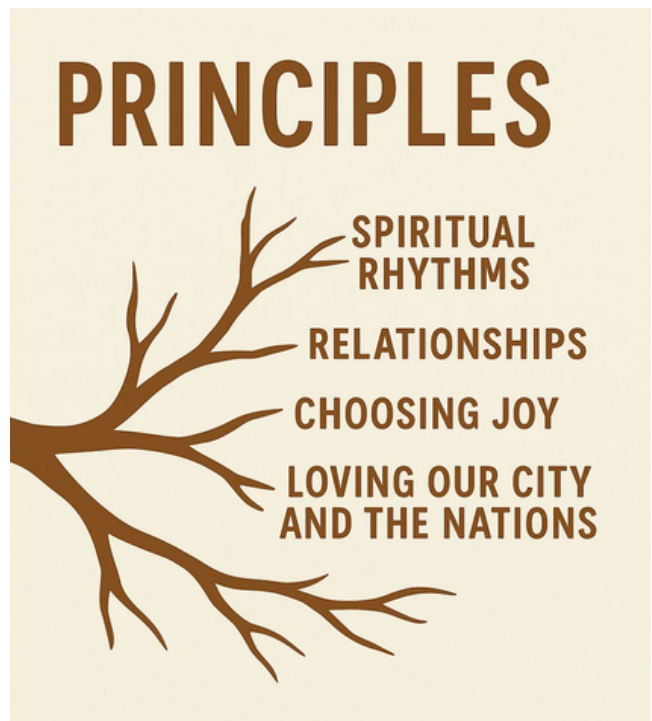
Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

2. Relationships

Ask God to help you have a patient, forgiving, honoring love, and that people would know you by it. You are meant to live in community!

John 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

Colossians 3:12-14 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



Pray that your branches would grow (continued):

3. Spiritual Rhythms

We prioritize discipleship and the practices of following Jesus in our lives. Ask God to help you to continue spiritual rhythms in your life as a trellis for abiding, not as a law. It is about having communion with God.

1 Timothy 4:7 Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.

Joshua 1:8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

4. Loving Our City and the Nations

Intercede for Spokane city and the nations. This is where we are missionally sent. Pray that Turning Point Open Bible community would establish 30 missional communities throughout Spokane County. Engaging communities that are far from God. Reaching the 58% of people that are unchurched. Ask God to give you the courage to live a missionally sent life.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jeremiah 29:7 "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Jesus,

Help me to grow my branches: choosing joy, relationships, spiritual rhythms, and loving my city and the nations. It is my heart's desire to honor you in these areas, even when I don't feel like it. Give me your heart today for people, and help me rejoice each day, regardless of the circumstances I find myself in. You alone are

worthy!

Amen.

Pray that you would make a difference with your life:

“Only with ‘gentleness and reverence’ will people be able to see, verify, and be persuaded to respond to what we have to say.”²

Dallas Willard

PLACES



We are sent into places of work, play, living, and influence

One of the most essential parts of living a deeply rooted relationship with Christ is that we bear fruit in any season. This includes some of the most challenging moments in our lives. Bearing fruit doesn't mean, that we have it all together – it means that we are connected to the source of life that sustains us. There is a vision at Turning Point to plant 30 missional communities throughout the Spokane community. Pray that you would be a part of reaching the 58% of unchurched people through intentional relational evangelism and discipleship.

John 20:21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Father,

Help me to embrace my calling as a disciple of You in all of the areas of influence that I have. Give me favor among those that I connect with and give me the courage to share my story of faith. Help me to love on people well first by inviting them to sit with me at my table.

Amen,

Building a Foundation

“Because You made us with Yourself as our goal, and our heart is restless until it rests in You.” — Augustine of Hippo (354 to 430)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in **prayer**.”
Romans 12:12

Approaching prayer with intentionality is important because it keeps us focused when the mind is distracted or the heart wants to wander. Building a foundation for your prayer life keeps you anchored in Christ. There are four main ideas to consider for creating a rooted prayer life: adoration and worship, confession, thanksgiving, supplication and intercession.

Adoration and Worship

In the very beginning of your prayer, take the time to praise God for Who He is rather than for what He gives. Praise Him for His holiness, beauty, and worth as Creator, Sustainer, and Savior.

“Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”
Psalm 95:6

“And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’”
Isaiah 6:3

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”
Revelation 4:11

Father,
I pause to be still before You. I praise You, for You are holy. No one is like You. You created the heavens and the earth through Your word. You breathed life into humanity, and it is only through You that life is sustained. I praise Your name, that Your name is kept Holy.
Amen.

Confession

“We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.” – Book of Common Prayer

Moving from adoration and worship now into confession. Confession helps us to be honest with God about what is happening in our hearts, what we are thinking, and the things we have done. When we confess our sins honestly and plead for mercy, He is faithful to cleanse us. Confession also keeps us humbled and fully dependent on God. God cannot use an unconfessed and prideful person. *What do you need to confess to God today?*

Read the following Psalm 51:1-12 slowly. Then reread the Psalm and identify key words that the Holy Spirit is drawing you towards. *Why does a particular word or phrase speak to me?*

“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.”

Psalm 51:1-12

Jesus,

I confess that I am a sinner in need of Your mercy today. I come before You humbly asking that You cleanse me from all unrighteousness, purifying me and making my heart right before You. Thank you for your mercies that are new every morning.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

“The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.”³ – Mother Teresa

Thanksgiving, or another way of saying it, *gratitude*, has the power to reorient someone’s entire mind and heart on things that are eternal, holy, and life-giving. The Apostle Paul encourages the believer to **think** in his final words to the church in Philippi: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is **true**, whatever is **noble**, whatever is **right**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **admirable**—if anything is **excellent** or **praiseworthy**—think about such things.” Philippians 4:8

Thanksgiving helps Jesus followers keep their minds and hearts directed toward the beauty and faithfulness of God.

There are a few ways you can practice thankfulness. Keep a running list of things you are thankful for and add to it daily or a few times a week. Second, this may be the hardest thing to do: to give thanks in **all** circumstances. I mean all – even the really tough ones. This doesn’t ignore lament or diminish suffering, but it does give God praise regardless of the circumstances that you might find yourself in. Giving thanks is praising Jesus regardless of the circumstances, and it means thanking Him for His faithfulness, grace, holiness, mercies, and salvation.

*Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.*
Psalm 103:1-5

Lord,
Help me today to keep Your Name holy, and may I never forget all that You’ve done for me. That You forgave my sins, healed me, gave me purpose regardless of how short or long my life is, placed on me the power to love and serve with compassion, and gave me the strength to live this life one day at a time for You!
Amen.



Supplication and Intercession

“Jesus Christ carries on intercession for us in heaven; the Holy Ghost carries on intercession in us on earth; and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men.”⁴ – Oswald Chambers

“God of all goodness, grant us to desire ardently, to seek wisely, to know surely, and to accomplish perfectly Thy holy will, for the glory of Thy name.”⁵
St Thomas Aquinas

Bring your requests to God, intercede for others by name, and pray that heaven would meet earth. When you tell someone you are praying for them, PRAY! Truly, come before the One who can right every wrong and has the power to heal, restore, and save. Consider keeping a prayer log of the request, dates prayed, and how it was answered.

Praying with supplication and intercession is praying with faith and ultimately surrendering your trust that God will accomplish His will according to His purposes.

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*
Philippians 4:6

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.
1 Timothy 2:1-2

Here is a list of areas that you can intercede over in your prayer time:

- The global church, its leaders, and followers of Christ
- The persecuted church
- The unreached people groups and those who are far from God
- Government and authorities
- The poor and the hungry
- The sick, dying, and grieving
- Marriage and families
- Orphans, widows, elderly, and the lonely
- Work and vocation
- Your own calling and spiritual growth
- Justice and mercy
- Global needs



Our Practices

“I go through life as a transient on his way to eternity, made in the image of God but with that image debased, needing to be taught how to meditate, to worship, to think.”⁵ —Donald Coggan



Deciding to run a marathon requires training and endurance. The same is true of our Christian walk. In 1 Timothy, the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, a young pastor leading a church in Ephesus.

Paul writes the following, “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, **train** yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance. That is why we **labor** and **strive**, because we have put our **hope** in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.” (1 Timothy 4:7-10) Godliness holds immense value, and taking the time to grow your understanding of these spiritual exercises and the tools that come with them will energize your relationship with Christ.

At Turning Point, we have 12 practices that represent the roots that keep the tree from toppling over. Each of the following practices is a means to an end: Jesus. We believe every follower of Jesus is constantly practicing (training) and growing in each of these pursuits over time.

The goal of these practices is not to conquer *something*, but to be transformed through the power of Jesus as we learn to pray, worship, serve, fast, and so much more.



Sabbath

“You show me a nation that has given up the sabbath and I will show you a nation that has got the seed of decay.”¹

– Matthew Henry

Praise the God who rested after creation. The Lord rested not because He needed to, but to show us that rest was commanded by Him as a day to honor His glorious name and to take delight in Him.

Confess your hurry and the pride in treating rest as weakness. Our society prides itself on accomplishing much, and hurry is seen as a medal to wear.

Ask God for grace to cease (stop), to worship Him with your trust, resting your body, soul, and spirit, to delight in His unfailing love and contemplate all that His goodness.

Mark 2:27 *“Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”*

Matthew 11:28-30, *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

Hebrews 4:9-11, *“So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. For all who have entered into God’s rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. ¹¹So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.”*





Prayer

“The one concern of the devil is to keep the saints from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, he mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.”⁸

– Samuel Chadwick

We need to be eager to have the disciples’ same request: Lord, teach us to pray.

Prayer changes everything!

Turning our hearts, minds, and voices toward prayer will revolutionize the way we live our lives. Too often, we are quick to go to someone for help, advice, or simply to process with before going to God. In these moments, we are hoping for a magical answer to our problem or a solution that gets us moving forward. While processing with others can be helpful, it must not be our first step.

Before we do anything, we must pray first.

Seeking God in all things must be our first response, before we go to a counselor, pastor, or friend. Ask the Spirit of God to help you, even when words run out or the challenge before you persists.

*“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you,
my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land
where there is no water.”*

Psalm 63:1

*“In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before
you and wait expectantly.”*

Psalm 5:3

Slow down. Breathe slowly. Still yourself before the Creator of all. Pray the Lord’s Prayer or a scripture. Share what is on your mind today and trust Him!





Scripture

“The words of God which you receive by your ear, hold fast in your heart. For the Word of God is the food of the soul.”²

– St Gregory I

Ask for a hunger and delight in reading or listening to the Word of God. Taking time to read the Scriptures should not feel like a duty, but **nourishment** to one's soul.

Pray to be planted with deep roots in the Word, and ask the Spirit to make the Scripture text living in your life and to help you obey what God commands of you.

Read Scripture slowly, prayerfully, and in shorter amounts. Scripture becomes formation and not merely information to absorb.

*Blessed is the one
who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,
but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
and who meditates on his law day and night.
That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.*
Psalm 1:1-3

Memorizing God's Word will help you to keep in step with His Spirit's leading, as you live according to His purposes and commands. Taking time to meditate means more than just reading, but letting it read your life – living out what the Scriptures call us to become, more like Christ.





Solitude

“The more any man loves Christ, the more he delights to be with Christ alone. Lovers love to be alone.”¹⁰

– Thomas Benton Brooks

Following Jesus into the quiet does wonders to your soul. We live in a world with noise, confusion, busyness, and competing attention. Solitude gives you the space to settle yourself before the Lord – giving Him your unhindered attention.

Confess to the Lord that you may fear silence over the cacophony of a noisy world, because we may use the noise to avoid God and ourselves. Ask the Lord to help you hear His **gentle whisper**, as in the story of 1 Kings 19.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”

Mark 1:35

“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

Matthew 6:6

*“Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Psalms 46:10

Consider taking 10 minutes each day to be silent- no phone, no speaking, no distractions – just quieting yourself before God. Learning to listen in silence and solitude.





Community

“For the whole Church which is throughout the whole world possesses one and the same God.”¹¹

– St Irenaeus

Take time to thank God for the body of believers. You are a member of a body that is Christ. You are needed, and you need the community of Jesus' followers to be able to walk the journey of life together. You were never meant to do it alone, but in relationship with others who can pray for you, encourage you, and challenge you to grow in your relationship with God.

Confess your self-reliance and the habit of consuming church rather than belonging to it.

Ask God to help you keep a relational devotion to the body of Christ, the patience to love people where they are at, and humility to share **life together**.

The following Scripture is a picture of community that God continues to call us into:

Acts 2:42-47 *“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

Consider taking time each day to pray for people by name. Ask how you can pray for them, and keep a prayer journal that records people’s names and requests.





Witness

“We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding.”¹²
– William Franklin (Billy) Graham

Ask for the Spirit’s power to come into your life each day, to help you be a witness for Christ. Oftentimes, we think witness is a megaphone and a judgmental person on a street corner. Unfortunately, many within the world view Christians with this unloving imagery. However, witness is simply the telling of what you have experienced and seen. When you witness the life-transforming Gospel of Jesus, you can’t help but **share your own story**.

Confess your fear and silence when it comes to witnessing. Ask God for forgiveness for ignoring the promptings of the Holy Spirit to share your life story with someone who is far from God.

Pray to witness in the actual places you are sent: work, play, school, and life. It is Turning Point’s vision that we, as a community, would plant 30 missional expressions in various neighborhoods where people can experience the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Consider keeping a list of neighbors, co-workers, friends, and family who need salvation in Jesus, and ask God to give you boldness to share your own story of redemption and new life in Jesus.





Hospitality

“Hospitality is a test for godliness because those who are selfish do not like strangers (especially needy ones) to intrude upon their private lives. They prefer their own friends who share their life-style. Only the humble have the necessary resources to give of themselves to those who could never give of themselves in return.”¹²

– Erwin W. Lutzer

Thank God who welcomed us while we were strangers. The Lord is calling His people to do the same. Inviting people who are very different than you, to sit at your table. Having people gather around your table, will give you an opportunity to **listen** to someone's life, **learn** about their griefs and dreams, and **love** not from a distance but close enough to pass the bread.

Confess when you desire comfort and control that keep you from opening up your home to those you may disagree with.

Pray that Christ would be seen and felt within your home when the outsider comes to share a meal with you.

Hebrews 13:2 “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

Romans 12:13 “Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”

Consider inviting someone over to your home to share a meal with you, ask that God would give you the courage to listen, learn, and love – just like Jesus.





Unity

“Division has done more to hide Christ from the view of men than all the infidelity that has ever been spoken.”¹³

– George MacDonald

When the most powerful prayers spoken within the Scriptures is when Jesus prayed to the Father that the church would be one, just like He and the Father are one. Ephesians gives us the challenge that Christians “*must make every effort to keep unity,*” and this can only be accomplished through the Spirit of God. Humanity can be fiercely independent, stubborn, and prideful. Unity is difficult to achieve when we care too much about own agenda, and neglect the Kingdom agenda.

Confess pride, faction, and the small secondary kingdoms we build. Ask for a spirit of humility that will guard the unity of the Spirit. Pray that the church would be truly one as Jesus and the Father are one.

Ephesians 4:2-3 “*Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*”

John 17:20-23 “*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*”

Remember- when the **church is unified**, the world will see Jesus.





Worship

“If worship does not change us, it has not been worship. To stand before the Holy One of eternity is to change. Worship begins in holy expectancy; it ends in holy obedience.”¹⁴

– Richard J. Foster

Adore God for who He is and not just what He gives you. Worship is more than just songs and music; it is a posture of your heart. Romans invites us to lay our bodies at the altar as a living sacrifice. This is a spiritual act of worship – giving your whole self over to the Lordship of Jesus is worship, and it requires not just a one-time decision, but daily.

Confess your divided worship and lesser loves. Ask God to help you worship him in traffic, just as much as you do in the sanctuary. Worship Him when no one is looking, with or without music; **worship Him** with your trust!

Romans 12:1 “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

John 4:23-24 “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Consider going through the Psalms and highlighting every word related to worship. Here is a list of attributes that describe worship:

Wholehearted | Praise | Bless | Give Thanks | Sing | Shout | Rejoice | Exalt | Magnify | Glorify | Extol | Worship | Bow Down | Kneel | Clap | Lift Up Your Hands | Seek | Fear | Tremble | Boast | Proclaim | Remember | Meditate | Dance

This is not an exhaustive list, but it will give you a great starting point as you discover the power of worship.





Generosity

“God has given us two hands—one for receiving and the other for giving.”¹⁵

William Franklin (Billy) Graham

Generosity keeps you from greed. Greed holds you in bondage. Bondage keeps you from your purpose and from making a difference.

Jesus taught that whatever the Lord gives us is to lavishly bless others and extend the Way of His kingdom. So what does the Lord give us? While finances are an easier measure, He also gives us our time and our talents. Each day is a blessing from God; each breath we take is His. Every talent, or skill, is a gift from God meant to minister to the world by stewarding these gifts well. God has a way of multiplying provision when we use what He's given us for His purpose.

Confess the grip of fear of not having enough or the need to accumulate more. More never satisfies what Jesus alone can.

Ask for an open, cheerful hand, and to hold money as a stewardship rather than ownership. A good place to pray into the congregation's generosity is Turning Point Open Bible's centennial vision to be debt-free. This allows more money to be allocated toward ministry, church planting, and mission support.

2 Corinthians 9:7 *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Proverbs 22:9 *“The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.”*

Start small. This can be a percentage of your income, volunteering with a ministry, using your skills to bless others. The key is to being, and trust God with the rest!





Fasting

“When the stomach is full it is easy to talk of fasting.”¹⁶

– St Jerome

John Wesley once quoted in a sermon the following: “I fear there are now thousands of Methodists, so called, both in England and Ireland, who, following the same bad example, have entirely left off fasting; who are so far from fasting twice a week... that they do not fast twice in the month!”¹ Fasting is a serious and important spiritual practice for followers of Jesus.

Fasting is a practice of offering your whole self to God. A full embodiment of the mind, soul, and body. When you fast, it reminds you of what you are interceding for, what you are believing God for, and how you are growing in holiness. The hunger pains are reminders to pray, **to trust God**, and to receive the Bread of Life.

The disciples attempted to cast a demon out of a young boy, but it did not work. The boy’s father brought his son to Jesus, pleading for Him to heal his son, and Jesus did. Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they couldn’t cast the demon out. Jesus replied, “This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.” (Mark 9:29 NKJV) Prayer and fasting are powerful tools when engaging in spiritual warfare.

*“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every
yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him, And not hide yourself from your own
flesh? Then your light shall break forth like the morning,
Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before
you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the
Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’”*

Isaiah 58:6-9





Service

“To be truly human, one must serve.”¹⁷

– Ernest Boyer

Serving people was an example Christ gave all His followers when He gathered His disciples the night He was betrayed. Jesus, the King, knelt to lowly places, wrapped a towel around His waist, and washed their feet. I (Josh) don't like feet, and I find this example of Jesus remarkable. First-century people lacked access to their local pedicure spa. Imagine the kind of feet that Jesus had to clean. This act of service has given the church a picture of doing things that are not always easy or pretty. However, there is real blessing in serving people where they are at. It doesn't always mean that you have to wash someone's feet, but it does mean **stepping into the unpleasant** parts of their life in the healing name of Jesus.

Confess your hunger for recognition and accolades. Jesus desires that you serve people without others knowing, so that you may receive your reward someday when you stand before King Jesus.

Pray that your heart would continue to grow to serve the least of these and to see Christ in them.

Mark 10:43-45 *“Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

John 13:14-15 *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”*



Scriptures for the Gathered Church

1 Baptism

“No athlete is admitted to the contest of virtue, unless he has first been washed of all stains of sins and consecrated with the gift of heavenly grace.”¹⁸

– St Ambrose

Romans 6:3-4 *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

Matthew 28:19 *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*

2 The Lord’s Table

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 *“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.”*

Luke 22:19 *“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*

3 Child Dedication

1 Samuel 1:27-28 *“I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.”*

Mark 10:13-16 *He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”*

4 Wedding

Genesis 2:24 “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.”

Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.”

5 Funeral and Graveside

*“We are healed of grief only when we express it to the full.”¹⁹
– Charles R. Swindoll*

John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”

6 Pastoral Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12 “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.”

7 Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

2 Corinthians 13:14 “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Jude 24-25 “To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— ²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”

8 For the City

Jeremiah 29:7 “Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”

Matthew 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

9 For the Lost

1 Timothy 2:3-4 “This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”

Matthew 9:37-38 “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

10 For Justice and Mercy

Micah 6:8 “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

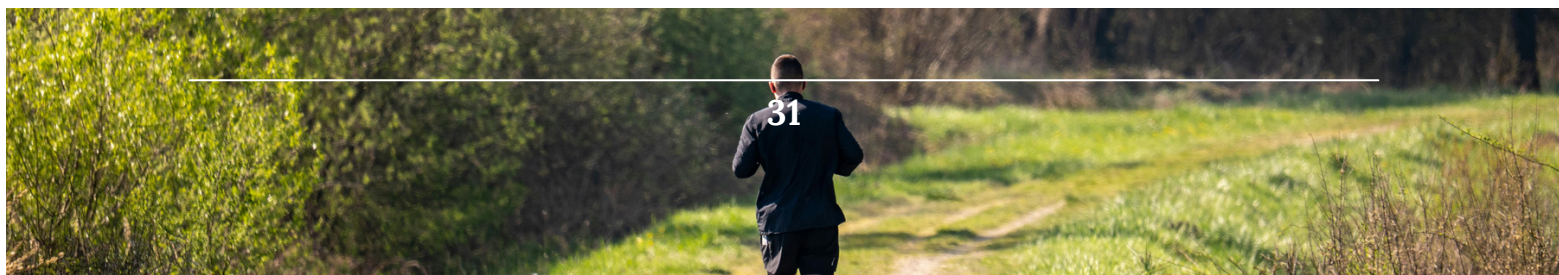
Isaiah 58 “Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins. For day after day they seek me out; they seem eager to know my ways, as if they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say, ‘and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?’ “Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one’s head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. “If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. “If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob.” For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Prayer Exercises

Prayer can be challenging for many people, regardless of their background. The act of praying can be seen as mysterious, opaque, and even uncomfortable. When one finds themselves on bended knee, and for whatever reason, there can be doubts and questions that arise – *Does God hear my prayer? What do I say, and how do I say it? I don't feel comfortable praying out loud! It feels like my prayers are inadequate. Can I approach God confidently?* Even the disciples of Jesus recognized their own need for instruction on how to pray. One day after Jesus finished praying, one of the disciples asked him, "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1) People have struggled with the spiritual practice of prayer for centuries. In fact, many throughout church history have written about their personal battles with prayer, and other authors have offered guidance for those on their journey to develop a prayer life.

The good news is that you do not have to figure this out alone, and you certainly do not have to invent something new. The 24/7 Prayer Movement has gathered 29 spiritual exercises and made them available to you. Some of these practices reach far back into the soil of church history, shaped by believers who prayed through plague and persecution and through the ordinary Tuesday afternoons in between. Others are more recent, born from people in our own moment who knelt down with the very same questions you carry. None of them are formulas, and none of them will earn you a better hearing with God, because you already have His full attention. They are simply doors. Some will swing open easily for you and others will feel like they stick, and that is perfectly fine. Nobody is asking you to fall in love with all 29. Scan the QR code, look through what is there, and begin with the one that makes you curious about the journey of prayer.

Prayer Toolshed
Resources



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