



**"If you help the poor, you
are lending to the Lord and
He will repay you."**

Proverbs 19:17

Prayer Journal **DAY 29**

Jesus said during his ministry that the poor will always be among us, and that is still true today, as there are many people in the Jonesboro area who are in need. Jesus was compassionate toward the poor, and we are to follow His example and have that same tender heart toward those who are struggling with the basic necessities of life. God makes a promise in this passage that if we help those in need then He will repay us.

Let's challenge ourselves to have that same compassion as Jesus and be compassionate and give generously to help those in the Jonesboro area who are struggling so much just to have food and shelter. God promises He will repay us, and I know that to be true. God never fails on His promises, as He is the creator and sustainer of all things.

P R A Y E R

Father, you are the one and only Lord God Almighty, and we love and adore you. Open our eyes to see those in our community who need help to meet the basic things in this life. May we have the ability to help those in need by the generosity of Southwest Church. May your Spirit move in our lives to give above and beyond so that we can bless others in our community and show them your love and compassion. In Jesus' blessed name we pray, amen.

Written by: Jim Kellett





1 Thessalonians 5:18

Phillippians 4:6

PRAYER

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



**SOUTHWEST
CHURCH**



"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."

Lamentations 3:22-23

Prayer Journal

DAY 31

These verses remind us that God's love is faithful, it is steadfast. Not only are His mercies endless, but they are created new every morning. It's easy to go through our days and weigh ourselves down with yesterday's burdens, to try to carry all of our burdens alone. Maybe even feeling lonely and abandoned by others. We're not alone. We can begin every day "afresh" with God's mercy. There is a song by Elevation Worship called "Do It Again" that reminds us that God will never fail us and that we can trust in Him. I encourage you today to listen to it.

PRAYER

Father, help us to trust completely in you. May we feel your presence today. May our burdens and guilt be lifted from our heart and soul. Help us to share with others today a smile, a word of encouragement and the joy that we find in your faithfulness. Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Written by: Ken McAlpin





“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.”

Hebrews 13:15

Prayer Journal

DAY 32

What are you doing to help others worship our Almighty God in all aspects of their lives?

PRAYER

While we would like a place to gather communally to worship you, please help us focus on you, not the place. You are the reason for our existence and should be the reason for our thoughts and our actions. If it is your will, Southwest Church would like to create a place for all people to gather and learn about you and then to worship you in a manner that pleases you. Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Written by: Cindy Nobles





"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit."

Colossians 3:16

Prayer Journal
DAY 33

What are you doing to further God's Kingdom on earth?

PRAYER

May we always remember to focus on you as we learn more of what you desire for our lives. You want only good for us so that we may grow closer to you, and I pray that whatever your plans are for Southwest Church, that we will do that, always honoring you. Amen.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Written by: Cindy Nobles





Prayer Journal

DAY 34

“As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

1 Peter 2:4-5,9

The darkness of the world is undeniable, evident when we review the daily news or when we experience it directly. The darkness can have an unbearable weight when we don't have a safe place – a refuge, a shelter from the storm, a home. While all humans are image and likeness bearers of God, Christians are blessed and called to be so much more.

Christ offered Himself as a holy sacrifice to redeem us and to serve as an example for His disciples. Christ followers are chosen and expected to practice spiritual disciplines and holy sacrifices to God. When we offer daily sacrifices, we honor Christ and provide a shelter for fellow believers and refuge for the world from Satan's oppression. All of our disciplines – prayer, service, worship, meditation, fasting, fellowship, study, evangelism and stewardship – bathed in love reflect the light of Christ and shape us into living stones of the church, the bride of Christ.

PRAYER

Holy Father, Son and Spirit, may you convict our hearts, move our souls and shape our identities in Jesus Christ our Lord. May our holy sacrifices become a daily blessing and sweet aroma to you, Lord. Humble our hearts that our daily disciplines reflect only the glory of Christ and build a kingdom outpost at Southwest as a safe haven from the evil one. Amen.

Written by: David Handwork





“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Isaiah 40:31

Prayer Journal

DAY 35

Many times, the demands of the world can become overwhelming. It can be hard to turn down a request to add something else to our already busy schedule. Take time to pray to the Lord for guidance before making a decision. Building a foundation of prayer can bring rest to the weary and renew their faith.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for giving us strength and courage that only you can provide. Please guide us in building a foundation of faith to serve you. In Jesus' name, Amen

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Written by: Tracy Polluck





Prayer Journal

DAY 36

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God’s mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God’s ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.”

Ephesians 6:18-20

This passage tells us how to pray (“in the Spirit,” “stay alert,” “be persistent”) and when to pray (“at all times and on every occasion”). It also tells us for whom we should pray (“all believers everywhere,” including himself). In addition, Paul tells us what he desired from their prayers (“ask God to give me the right words” and “that I will keep on speaking boldly for him”).

These verses tell us several things about prayer: 1) Prayer flows from life in the Spirit. 2) Prayer thrives when we are spiritually alert and do not give up. 3) Prayer becomes a way of life when we make it our default in every situation and on every occasion. 4) Prayer is passionate about the spiritual life and mission of our fellow believers. 5) Prayer most longs for fulfilling the mission of God – to speak the good news to others with wisdom and boldness.

Where do you need to grow in your prayer life? How do you need to sharpen your focus? How will you respond to this passage?

PRAYER

Dear Father, please forgive me for those times when I get distracted, walk without you and allow my prayers to be only about me. Help me to walk in the Spirit, to be spiritually alert and persistent in prayer and to pray for your people – both saved and lost. May my prayers be filled with passion for your kingdom to come. In the name of the crucified and risen Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit and to the glory and praise of God the Father. Amen.

Written by: Jimmy Adcox





Prayer Journal DAY 37

"Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Psalms 90:1-2

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."

Psalms 91:1

What does it mean for the Lord to be our dwelling place? The words certainly sound pretty, but what does it really mean to find our shelter in Him? If you read the rest of these two psalms, particularly Psalm 91, what you'll find is a beautiful description of the blessings that come from those who dwell in the Lord. So beautiful in fact that some scholars on the psalms refer to Psalm 91 as an "Amulet Psalm." They point out that ancient people would cling to these verses the way the pagans clung to amulets for their supposed healing and protective powers. The Hebrew people held tightly to promises like v. 10, "No harm will overtake you" and believed that they were invincible if they found the shelter and dwelling in the Lord. Obviously, the goodness of God and His promises look nothing like some phony magical amulet. Much of the Psalms could be a case for disputing that ideology; the Psalmists often are crying out to God because they're facing harm or struggle.

So, what are these verses saying about dwelling in the Lord? I believe it's not so much that we will be spared pain and strife when we shelter in Him, but rather that we will be sustained. We may face trials, but we will not be overtaken. Here's what I've found in my own life. I often wonder why I feel drained in the difficult seasons of life, why I feel as though I may be "overtaken" by pain, grief and struggle." I find that when that's the case, I've more often than not viewed God as a refuge instead of my dwelling. There's a difference in those two, isn't there? A refuge is where we run when we're scared or in danger. Our dwelling is where we call home. It's where we rest and find peace. And that's exactly where the Psalmist says we find the greatest blessings of God – when we "dwell" in His blessed presence and promise.

PRAYER

Father, today may I see you as more than a safe place to run when I'm in need. Lord, may I find myself at home in your goodness. May I find myself resting daily in the comfort of your capable and loving arms. Amen.

Written by: Adam Brewer





Prayer Journal **DAY 38**

"If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person? Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions."

1 John 3:17-18

Love is an action word. Read 1 John 3: 17-18 and notice the action words – live, sees, shows, say, love and show. In the beginning of this chapter, John reminds us that we are called to no longer live in sin but to live a righteous life following Jesus. Here, he reminds us that compassion is the catalyst for our actions that lead us to live righteously, and by doing so it is our proof that we are believers. Compassion stems straight out of love, and without love our faith is dead.

Love is an action word. Over and over, scripture boldly tells us to love one another. Jesus proclaims it most important in our faith second only to loving God our Father. Hearts of compassion require us to live in such a way that we see those who are hurting and in need. Through God's grace and mercy, we can show his love by not only what we say but in what we do. James tells us that faith without works is dead. John reminds us that works are meaningless without compassion. So often, we give or donate to those less fortunate, and there is no heart posture at the root of it.

Giving ourselves to Christ requires giving ourselves (or resources) to others with a heart posture of compassion that flows from acknowledging we would have nothing without God's love and provision. How much of a weight is lifted if that is the perspective when serving others in need? A big one. Today, as you walk out into your faith journey, consider this, too. Not only does our Heavenly Father call us to love with compassion, but He is our creator that wired humans right down to our neurons, for our brains to find physical joy in serving others with a compassionate heart posture.

What an awesome God we serve! Love is an action word that fuels our perfectly created design so that we can be the people we were called to be.

P R A Y E R

Heavenly Father, thank you for blessing us with all that we have. Teach us to open our hearts and hands to those in need. Help us to see our brothers and sisters with compassion and to act with love and truth, not just in words but in deeds. As our church family learns to see needs, may our collective efforts reflect your generosity and bring hope to those who are struggling. Unite us in purpose, reminding us to rely on you and let this campaign be a light that points others to your love and provision. Amen.

Written by: Rachel Thompson





Prayer Journal

DAY 39

"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all of your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Phillipians 4:7

Trusting in the Lord is active. It requires that I place my complete confidence in Him. I make a conscious decision to rely on who God is and what He has promised to everyone who believes. With all of your heart encompasses not just emotions, but your mind, will and inner being. This represents total commitment and devotion where I surrender every aspect of my life to His guidance and wisdom.

Lean means to support and prop yourself up with your own understanding. We are being warned against relying on ourselves, rather than the firm foundation found in God's wisdom. When I can rely/acknowledge God in all parts of my life, He will guide me. This kind of trust will give me peace. I do not have to understand the 'why?' of life. I can trust God's wisdom and His plans. I can rejoice in the good and the bad because I trust in the Lord.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to keep these words in my heart so that they might guide me daily. Help me to rely on you in every season and with every aspect of my life, no matter whether the circumstances are good or bad. Help me to lean on you and your word, knowing that you will give me calm and a peace in all of the storms of life. May I trust you with my time, my talent and my treasures, knowing that they are yours and that you will always take care of me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Written by: Gail Hudson





Prayer Journal

DAY 40

“Then David said to the whole assembly, ‘Praise the Lord your God.’ So, they all praised the Lord, the God of their fathers; they bowed down, prostrating themselves before the Lord and the King.”

1 Chronicles 29:20

When something seems out of place, we notice it, don't we? That's why this ending to King David's prayer grabbed my attention. He doesn't end his prayer with Amen! What's the deal, David? Didn't anyone teach you how to pray in Sunday school?

The way David chooses to end his prayer is actually quite beautiful. Instead of the prayer ending with an amen, it launches into a call to praise and worship. The communion with God isn't over when the prayer concludes, it's just beginning. I love the scene that scripture paints.

The leaders have listened to David pray, hanging onto his words of humility as he recognizes how blessed we are to be able to serve and give to the Lord. David calls the people to recognize grace, but that recognition turns into something – praise.

As we wrap our time of prayer over these last 40 days, let's not let the time with our God end here. We're just getting started, church; let the praise for our good and gracious God begin, and may it never end!

Read David's prayer (1 Chronicles 29:10-19), then take some quiet (or not so quiet) moments to give praise to the Lord.

Written by: Adam Brewer

