



Prayer Journal

40 DAYS OF PRAYER

The Hebrew writer makes a proclamation that changes the dynamic between the created and the creator. We have no place in God's presence; we're too sinful and lowly. Yet Hebrews 4 proclaims that we have a "Great High Priest" in Jesus—one who goes before us and cleanses our iniquities, bringing us before our God! For that reason, Hebrews says we have the opportunity to do something incredible.

"Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Hebrews 4:16

Over the next 40 days, I want to challenge us, like Hebrews 4:16, to approach the throne of grace. I hope that these 40 days will be more than just an activity attached to a campaign. I pray that God will stir us through His word and Spirit. I pray that He will make us restless in areas where we've grown complacent, encourage us in areas where we've grown hopeless and motivate us to engage in our role in His kingdom mission of making disciples through His church. The material you have is filled with reflections on God's word and prayers from your brothers and sisters here at Southwest. Let these be a starting point and guide for your journey. Prayerfully meditate on the scripture and engage with the prayers, but don't let your journey stop there. Open yourself up to where God wants to lead you. I'm confident God is going to work in big ways in us through this process. After all, it took Him seven days to create the universe. What might He do in our hearts if we give Him 40 days to work in us?

So, let's do this together, church! I'm committed to 40 days of prayer. Will you join me?

Adam Brewer



Prayer Journal

DAY 1

"...We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne or the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by man. Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already men who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Hebrews 8:1b-5

It is an amazing thought that we have our High Priest, the one and only Jesus Christ. The priests who served in the earthly tabernacle were mere men doing their best to do what God desired. Men fail. Our heavenly High Priest does not die, He never changes, He does exactly what God desires. The sanctuary that Moses set up was just a copy, like a shadow, of the heavenly sanctuary where Jesus reigns. Moses did his best to construct the sanctuary just as God directed, but, at best, it was made of material that rotted and was destroyed. Not so is the one where Jesus sits as our High Priest; it will never be destroyed or decay. Even though we live on the earth for a few short years, we belong to the heavenly kingdom. I want to go there, don't you? [taken from thoughts by P. Brinkley]

PRAYER

We praise you, our Father who is in heaven. Thank you for making a plan to save us. Thank you for sending Jesus to the earth to see how we live. Thank you for offering Him to die to be the sacrifice for our sins. Thank you, Father, for raising Jesus from the dead by your majestic power. And thank you that He sits in heaven in the eternal sanctuary as our High Priest, to offer us mercy and love and help here on the earth as we ponder heaven. In Him, Amen

Written by: Fielden Allison





Prayer Journal

DAY 2

"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."

Hebrews 4:12

The more I read, the more I am convinced that God, Christ and the Holy Spirit are just as active now as ever. God is still attuned to His people. 'He is the same yesterday, today and forever.' As I read through the books of the Bible, I underline statements which assure me of His presence, power and involvement in our lives now. Have you ever been hesitant to pray, 'Lord, your will be done?' I certainly have; what if His will is not my will?" [copied from P. Brinkley]

PRAYER

I praise you, my Father. I want to do your will and not mine. Give me the heart of Jesus who always sought your will, even to a horrible death. Crush Satan and his power in my life today and make me strong – strong enough to stand tall to do what you want. By Christ's power I pray, amen.

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Written by: Fielden Allison





Prayer Journal

DAY 3

"Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made."

Psalm 118:19-24

No matter what we are building, whether it is our homes, our church building or our hearts, there is only one foundation. Jesus Christ was rejected for our sakes and for our salvation. Because of this rejection, this sacrifice, He has offered Himself to us as an eternal foundation. What is your foundation? Are you guilty of daily rejecting Christ Jesus, or do you live each day with Him as your foundation? How do you begin each day? Do you recognize each day as a gift from our Lord? Let us be reminded daily that our lives individually and as a family of believers must be built upon the Rock, the One and Only Foundation, our Savior Jesus Christ. He is the only foundation for eternal life.

PRAYER

Dear Father, please forgive me for the times that I allow my life to be centered upon or focused on things of this world. May my faith be based upon the foundation of Jesus Christ. May Jesus be the cornerstone of my life. May my daily walk reflect Him as my foundation. In Christ's name, Amen

Written by: Kevin Box





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

Phillippians 4:6

Prayer Journal

DAY 4

Each day I struggle to take control of my life to some extent. I know to allow God to take control and take me where he wants me to go or be, but by human nature, I want to direct my ways knowing if I allow God to have his way I will end up feeling better and in a better place than I normally would by trying to lead myself. It is amazing that when I do submit to God's will and allow Him to lead, guide and direct me, I have this eternal peace that is so rewarding.

PRAYER

God, help me give you all my worries and do your will in my life.

This image shows a blank 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: Rhett Butler





"So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

Matthew 7:12

Prayer Journal

DAY 5

As I associate with people that I don't know on a day-to-day basis, I tend to be a bit distant and non-engaging. I need to pray to God that I am more personal to strangers and that they see God in me. I know I am blessed to have a quality that people are attracted to, whether I know them or not, and I just need to work harder to share that blessing with everyone.

PRAYER

God, help me love those and treat them as I want to be treated and forgive me when I fail.

[illegible]

Written by: Rhett Butler





“Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done.”

Proverbs 19:17

Prayer Journal **DAY 6**

When we often think about the poor, we think about those who are poor in finances. And while God wants us to care for those poor in finances, I believe it also requires us to look at something we don't always consider: the inner person. Is this person poor in spirit? Lacking in hope? How can we help them have more hope? Are they poor in faith? How can we help their faith? How can we add to their joy? How can we add to their peace? Love? Kindness? We can give money or other needed items, and that seems easy to do because we can just give that portion and be done. We feel good that we've helped meet that need, but looking beyond the material needs to a person's spiritual or emotional needs sometimes requires us to walk alongside someone. We should be available emotionally, and it requires us to invest our time in them. While that can seem like a daunting task, like one more thing to add to our plate, we should look to Jesus. What did Jesus do? His actions were certainly not self-centered. Proverbs 19: 17 reminds us to look deeper. We are lending to God, and God is faithful.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, remind us to be kind to the poor – poor in finances, poor in spirit, poor in hope. Remind us to look deeper and to lend of ourselves in the areas where you show us need. Help us to walk alongside these people and to be willing to invest our time in them. Remind us to look to you and ask: “What would Jesus do?” Because Proverbs 19:17 tells us that if we lend to the poor you, you will reward us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Written by: Tami Carter





Prayer Journal

DAY 7

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

Phillipians 4:4-7

Rejoice...Always? Are you sure? Even in sickness? Pain? Loss? Trials? Grief? Hurt? Suffering? Yes, even more so in these times, because God is near. He is with you. He lays his peace on you and guards your heart and your mind.

Don't be anxious? How can I do that when I find myself amidst unknowns, uncertainty, doubt, chaos or change? As Paul tells us, it is only through prayer and petition that we can be calmed by God's peace, which transcends all understanding.

God not only dwelt among his people, He lived among them through his son, Jesus Christ. And He still lives among them, us, through the Holy Spirit, whom he sent to us. God is near to us even when He feels far away. He understands us, even when it feels like no one can. Therefore, in all of life's events, the hard and exciting times, rejoice, be thankful and talk to God. He is ready to cover you in His peace and love. He will protect and provide.

PRAYER

Most gracious Father, you know all, see all and comprehend all. I pray that you guide me in all ways. When challenges enter my life and I lose sight of your goodness or I become anxious, please softly help me to see your daily provisions in my life. When I seem to not understand, help me to lean on your understanding.

Written by: Zach Charette





Prayer Journal

DAY 8

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other."

John 15:16-17

Jesus clearly states the purpose for which we have been chosen in this scripture, "I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit." The idea of bearing fruit is used throughout the Bible and is often used synonymously with good works. In John 15, Jesus uses the analogy of the vine and the branches to describe our relationship the Him. Jesus describes himself as the vine, we are the branches. The vine provides everything the branches need for bearing fruit. Apart from the vine, the branches can do nothing (verse 5).

I like to consider myself a gardener – I dabble – and I know from experience that if the branches of my crop are not receiving nutrients from the vine, the fruit will not produce. It may look pretty on the outside but be rotten in the core, or it may look as bad on the outside as it is on the inside. But, with a solid connection to the vine and the intake of good nutrients, the branch will produce abundant fruit, which in return provide nutrition for those who partake of it.

Spiritually speaking, we are told in Galatians 5 to walk in the way of the Spirit (in keeping with what the Spirit desires) and the fruit (good works) is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. When we are solidly connected to the vine (Jesus), He provides for the branches (us) all our needs to produce healthy, beneficial fruit for us to share with all who are in need.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I pray that each day I choose to partake of you and the goodness you provide in order to fulfill my purpose in your kingdom. I pray that my heart stays pure, my mind remains on you and your purpose and my deeds unselfishly show the fruits of your Spirit. Amen.

Written by: Deb Cook





Prayer Journal

DAY 9

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:15-16

Self-sacrifice – what a powerful theme. What is it? It is the sacrifice of one's personal interests or wellbeing for the sake of others or for a cause. Sacrificing your life for someone else is probably the most noble thing anyone can do.

Francis of Assisi once wrote this: "Above all the grace and the gifts that Christ gives to his beloved is that of overcoming self." And that's the key, isn't it? Overcoming yourself to let another live. In the Bible we have this inspiring verse from Jesus: "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command." –John 15:12-14

There is no greater love than to sacrifice yourself for another. Thank God that Jesus freely gave up his life for us. He died on the cross as our substitute – he took our sins upon his shoulders, dealing with the sin problem once and for all. That is true sacrifice.

PRAYER

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
–Hebrews 13:20-21

Written by: David Cunningham





"We will not hide them from their children but tell the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that He has done."

Psalms 78:4

Prayer Journal

DAY 10

Southwest provides wonderful teaching programs for All Generations represented in our church, but it is critical that each of us tell the coming generations that we serve a powerful God who loves us and sacrificed his Son so that our sins may be forgiven. We must pass this message on by the words we say and the way we live our lives. Each of us must decide what kind of legacy we want to leave and how we want to be remembered.

In 2 Timothy 4:6-7, Paul sums up his legacy: "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time of my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." He doesn't mention his education, all the places he traveled or the letters he wrote. He wanted his legacy to be as "faithful."

It is never too late to start a legacy. So, whether you come from a long heritage of faith or are just starting a journey of faith, what matters is what happens from this point on. Let's make our legacy one of telling the story of Jesus to the generations to come.

PRAYER

Father, give us the wisdom and desire to tell the story of your Son and strive to make disciples who will make disciples.

Written by: Charles Griffin





"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Luke 10:2

Prayer Journal **DAY 11**

There is a mission beyond the walls of our church building we are called to – the mission of seeking lost souls like Jesus did and introducing Jesus the Savior to them. Our prayer within the church walls is to be encouraged, equipped and empowered to go into our community and our city in order to shine the light of Jesus into the dark places.

Oftentimes, I focus on the first part of this verse, but I want us to focus on the second sentence, which is asking the Lord to send out workers. We know there is work to be done, souls to save and lost people to find, and this can't be done on our own. We must ask the Lord to encourage, equip and empower us and our church body to labor the harvest.

P R A Y E R

God, send out workers into your harvest field. Prepare our hearts, ready our minds, steady our hands and make straight our paths. For your glory and kingdom we want to reach those who do not know you, introduce your Son to those who hate you, and shine your light into the dark places of our hearts and community. Encourage us when we are low, equip us with your Spirit and empower us with your power. Amen

Written by: Lane Luttrell





"Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!"

Psalms 150:6

Prayer Journal

DAY 12

This 2024-25 school year at WolfLife, we have been quoting this verse nearly every Wednesday and keeping it top of mind and written on our hearts. This is our pursuit, our goal and our mission on the campus of A-State, and I share this now with you as a church family. The Books of Psalms end with psalms of praise. In a way, they leave us with a purpose and mission, to "let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Let every soul, every family member, every friend group, every Shadrach's employee, every struggling teen, every ailing adult, anyone who draws breath now use every breath in their lungs to praise the Lord. It's what we have been created and called to do. May we, as God-Praisers (a term I just made up), have the goal of letting everything in our lives, either at work or home, playing or praying, singing or in silence, praise the Lord and teach others to do the same.

PRAYER

God, we praise you, we worship you, we follow you. Let every breath in our lungs praise you, and may we teach those around us to praise you, as well. There are those in our community, city and church who are hurting, broken and letting sin reign in their lives. Come into our lives and our lungs and may we praise you always. Amen

Written by: Lane Luttrell





Prayer Journal

DAY 13

"Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless, cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you: if words, let it be God words; if help, let it be God's hearty help. That way Gods bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he will get all the credit."

1 Peter 4:8-11

As a church family, we have been blessed with strong leadership and loving members that have set an example of reaching out to the community around us – when others are in need and we provide food through our food pantry, counselling through the Better Life Counseling Center, share our building with others who are striving to do God's work, or provide a home for those who are recovering from a life of addiction. How do we continue to support and grow these programs of outreach to our community? By giving of ourselves in service and giving of our blessings, which have been a gift to us from our God.

PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, you are the giver of all things bright and beautiful – please help us to look for ways to serve the community around us. There are needs that are great; through our words and actions, show us how to help as we can. Please keep our eyes and ears open, our heart ready to serve and our mind and body ready to spring into action. Thank you for our church home and the examples our members show us and provide for us a way to get involved. In Jesus' name we pray these things. Amen

Written by: Deb Maglothin





"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Prayer Journal **DAY 14**

Throughout the Scriptures, God reminds us of the ways He cares for us and is present with us in every situation. First Peter 5:7 encourages, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

My friend, whether it's your child, your career, a conflict or a condition that you're concerned about today, do not fear or be dismayed. Hear God's reassurance that you do not have to be anxious — but if you find that you are, cast those anxieties onto Him. Ask Him to help you walk confidently into every room and face every situation with calm in your heart, knowing He is present with you. The One whose peace transcends all understanding is upholding you with His righteous right hand.

P R A Y E R

Dear God, thank you for your presence and the peace you extend to me in every situation. May I be fully aware of it, accepting of it and assured in it. Your word sustains me, and I know I'm in good hands. In Jesus' name, amen.

Written by: Barbara McDaniel

