

*Jesus said....."My house shall be called a house of prayer."
Matthew 21:13*



Prayer Devotions

August

Luke 18:1

Pray Always and Never Give Up

Daily prayers for August...

Tuesday, August 1st: There's a running joke that if all else fails, read the directions! That holds true for life; we've been given an instruction manual that can make things fit together and run properly as they were designed to if we will only make it a priority to read His directions first. What a great way to start every day – hearing from the designer. Begin today by reading *aloud* and meditating on Psalm 143:8. **Psa. 5:3; Jer. 29:13; Prov. 8:17**

Wednesday, August 2nd: Pray for those who serve us as police officers and firefighters. Pray for their protection as they daily are willing to put themselves in harm's way in order to protect us and our property. Also pray for their families as the hours and stress can be wearing on relationships, and ask that they would find their strength and peace through a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. **Psa. 5:11; Psa. 121; 1 Tim. 2:4**

Thursday, August 3rd: Lift up all of the pastoral staff and their families for health and protection against attacks from the enemy. Pray for peace and understanding in their relationships, sweet times of intimacy with the Father, and an ever deepening sense of His presence and call upon their lives. Pray **Psalm 91** over them.

Friday, August 4th: Every place we set our feet is a mission field, whether it is on foreign soil, at the grocery store, or on the Pure Heart campus! We are surrounded daily by those who are perishing for lack of truth and grace, and we are called to share the answer with whoever God puts in our path and prompts us to offer His solution. Remember that the **battle** field is against the enemy – the **mission** field is those created in His image. Ask Him to show you who and how, reaching out in love and compassion. **Titus 3:3-7**

Saturday, August 5th: Always remember to pray for those who lead us in worship - both those onstage and those who are responsible for the audio and visual support. They usher us into the presence of God. Pray that He would bless them in their dedication to offer up true sacrifices of praise and blessing to the One who is so worthy of our praises, and pray that we would joyfully enter into His Presence. Heb. 13:15; Psa. 95:1-2

Sunday, August 6th: It's been said that the opposite of love is not hate – its apathy, and that all it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing. God is pretty clear about how He feels about indifference and laziness. We have been given a beautiful gift with a future and a hope. This is not something to be hoarded or hidden; we must recognize, rejoice, respond and reproduce. Show Him and others that you genuinely care! Rev. 3:15-16; Matt. 5:16; 2 Tim. 4:3-4

Monday, August 7th: Paul wrote that out of faith, hope, and love, the greatest of these characteristics every Christ follower needs is LOVE. Why is love greatest? Because love is Christ alive and active in us! Faith is a choice we make. Hope is an attitude we cultivate. But LOVE is the words we speak, the steps we take, and the lives we touch. LOVE IS A VERB. Jesus' love was never one of just ideas, it was action. Pray that we would follow His example and let our actions show our love. 1 Cor. 13

Tuesday, August 8th: The chief priests and Pharisees of Jesus' time claimed to love God, but their words were hollow -- their actions showed that they loved themselves and their position more, and Jesus called them out on it. Pray continually that we would all be protected from complacency and self-focus in our faith life, and instead constantly reveal Christ to the world around us with our actions. John 5, Matt. 21

Wednesday, August 9th:

We don't say it much, but sometimes living out Christ's love for us and the world can be exhausting! It's not difficult to find ourselves worn out from our walk... and that's when we know we have been trying to go on our own steam. Pray that we would constantly rely on the power given to us by the Holy Spirit, so that we can continue to reveal Christ's love in every way. Gal. 6

Thursday, August 10th: Lift up the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) which begins today. Ask that He would oversee every detail from technology to theology imparted, and pray that those in attendance would come to understand where God has called them to lead and to agree with Him in how to carry it out. 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Matt. 25:14-29

Friday, August 11th: GLS

Saturday, August 12th: Just as there are sometimes “those certain members of the family” that seem not quite to fit in, we can have parts of our physical bodies that we would like to work on. That doesn't make them expendable! Bodies, and families, are made of many different parts and each has a function. God created us that way, and if you ever doubt the importance of each one, read through the first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles. It is endless genealogies, but God frequently interjects they were able men for His service. We all “fit” somewhere, and each one is valuable in the Creator's eyes. Pray for unity. Eph. 4:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-14 ; Rom. 12:5

Sunday, August 13th: Praise and thank God for the blessing we have to freely gather together to worship Him every week. Pray that we would continue to see many come to know Him, and that those who have trusted Him would grow deeper in their relationship and seek to walk out their faith in a way that positively impacts those around them for the building up of the Kingdom. Col. 3:16; Heb. 10:23-24

Monday, August 14th: It's easy to walk into our sanctuary on Saturday night or Sunday morning and take for granted the beauty and comfort of our worship environment ... but we should remember that there are some amazing people who make it that way. Pray for those who serve our church by cleaning, preparing, and maintaining our campus that they would be encouraged and appreciated for their service -- it is yet another example of love in action! Heb. 6

Tuesday, August 15th: We get to encounter some amazing leaders in our worship services, but there are many more excellent leaders throughout our church, striving to follow the examples of Jesus and our Pastors as they lead those other vital ministries. Pray for all the leaders in our church, that they would follow the good examples before them, and continue to become good examples for others to follow, and that all would be striving to follow Christ. 2 Thes. 3

Wednesday, August 16th: As we each seek to walk out our faith, we need to remember that we walk a narrow path. Part of the action of love is knowing and obeying God's boundaries in our lives. Pray that we all are keenly aware of the temptations that surround us, and that our words and actions reveal Christ in us to the world we inhabit. Eph. 5

Thursday, August 17th: Living out the love of Christ in this life is a joy and a privilege, but never forget that it's a battle too! Satan does not want us revealing God's love and grace to this world, so he is guaranteed to put up a fight when we do. Pray that we will always be prepared to face the enemy when he tries to distract or destroy our efforts to bring Jesus' love to our world. Eph. 6:10-20

Friday, August 18th: The world will not always respond positively to our efforts to love as Jesus did, and it's easy to get discouraged and feel weak, and not up to the challenge. Pray that we all rely fully on God's strength, which we receive through the Holy Spirit, to motivate and energize us. 2 Cor. 12

Saturday, August 19th: Baptisms

Sunday, August 20th: Jesus gave us an example of serving rather than being served, and each of us has been gifted in some way that can be used to build up the body of Christ through service. Pray for those who volunteer to be filled with the blessings and power of the Holy Spirit, and pray for each of us to follow Jesus' example in employing our gifts. Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 4:10

Monday, August 21st: It's usually pretty easy to speak words of love, but sometimes we leave it at that and don't follow through with actions that reveal the truth of our words. Remember, what we do speaks much louder than what we say. Pray that we not only act on the words of love we speak, but that we also love actively even without having to speak the words. 1 John 3

Tuesday, August 22nd: Jesus was asked what the greatest commandment was... the most important aspect of humanity's relationship with God. He made it really simple: love, and love some more. Love God with your entire being (action), and love everyone else just as much as you love yourself (action again). Pray that we never forget that love is not just a feeling or idea, but an active, purposeful way to live. **Matt. 22, Luke 10**

Wednesday, August 23rd: Paul had quite a bit to say about love, and all of it used action words. When he described love, it was never in passive ways, but in powerful, active language. Pray that our love for each other and our world would be obvious, passionate, and dynamic. **Rom. 13, 1 Cor. 13**

Thursday, August 24th: SW School of Chaplaincy

Friday, August 25th: Our Creator made us, and loves us with a depth and passion we will never understand on this side of eternity. Our Savior loves us so much that he chose the most brutal of deaths to secure our place with Him forever. These are not passive or idealistic concepts. Love is ACTION. When we seek to follow Christ's example, we must understand that to love means to move, to do, to give... just as He gave His all for us. Pray that His passionate love for us will continue to be the same love that we give back to Him, to each other, and to the world that so desperately needs Him. **John 3, Rom. 5**

Saturday, August 26th: Pray for all of our services this weekend: that the message speaks clearly to the hearts of all who come; the worship is in spirit, in truth, and is honoring to God; the presence of the Holy Spirit is powerfully demonstrated and embraced; and the kingdom of God is advanced. Pray also for many to draw near through the extended night of worship. **Psa. 119:18; Rom. 15:13; Psa. 22:3**

Sunday, August 27th: D. L. Moody once said, "A man ought to live so that everybody knows he is a Christian... and most of all, his family ought to know." If each of us is making Jesus Christ our first love, then our families will be the first to experience the blessing, and they will become a priority because relationship is the foundational in His teaching. 2 Cor. 5:17-18; Col. 3:18-24; Matt. 22:37-40

Monday, August 28th: The Golden Rule has seemingly become an over-used cliché in our modern age, but we would do well to remember that those life instructions came directly from Jesus. It's not complicated, but it's also not easy at times. "Do for others" implies that action is part of the equation -- it's required. Love means doing what you would want others to do for you. It doesn't mean they will, but that part isn't up to you. Pray that we all live out the truth of that simple instruction from Jesus... to love first.
Matt 7

Tuesday, August 29nd: Pray for the plight of the homeless, the hurting, those down on their luck. Pray they would find hope and relief, they would be protected from the elements and from those who would seek to take advantage of them, and they would be motivated to seek out the resources of the Christian community as a way to *overcome* their situation rather than merely endure it. Then pray they would find true deliverance in God. Psa. 107:5-9; Matt. 6:31-33

Wednesday, August 30th: College campuses are a hotbed for "free thinking" and the temptation for independence to be expressed in the rejection of what is perceived as "old fashioned" ideas and morality. Pray for sound Christian student organizations to have profound influence on the campuses and for Christian students to be empowered and emboldened through the indwelling Spirit. 2 Tim. 4:3-4; Rom. 1:21-23

Thursday, August 31st: Ask God to give you a heart for the lost, to truly understand the gravity of their situation, to have a deep compassion for them, and to pray that they would find the One who can give them the words of eternal life. Then pray earnestly for their salvation and for opportunities to share the good news. **John 6:68; John 3:17**