

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



Prayer Devotions

November

*Luke 18:1
Pray Always and Never Give Up*

Daily Prayers for November

Corrie Ten Boom once said, *“Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.”* Pray that through intentional acts of the will, we will see the warming of hearts – those of both the forgivers and the forgiven.

Wednesday, November 1st: Oh that we would hunger for the glory of the Presence of God! For the most part, we have lost sight of, or at least diminished, our understanding of the magnitude of His glory and majesty. We can certainly catch a glimpse of it in the beauty and power of nature (Romans 1:20), but as awe-inspiring as that is, it cannot compare to the presence that caused Moses’ face to so shine in Exodus that the people could not even look upon it. We need to exercise the discipline of resting in Him, waiting on Him, and being quiet until we truly have fellowship with Him through His Son. It is in knowing Him and giving Him the honor and recognition that only He is worthy of. **Ez. 1:26-28; 2 Cor. 4:6; 1 Ki. 8:10-11**

Thursday, November 2nd: *“Look out for the good of others”* (1 Corinthians 10:24b NCV).

Kindness always begins with the eyes — the way you observe the world and are sensitive to the needs of other people. In Luke 10:33b, it says of the Good Samaritan, *“When he saw [the man’s condition], his heart was filled with pity”* (GNT). Notice that “he saw.” That is the starting point. If you want to learn to be a kinder person, you’ve got to change the way you look at the world. You’ve got to become more observant of the needs around you.

Friday, November 3rd: Intentional – an adjective meaning deliberate; done on purpose. Pray that those attending tonight’s Intentional Love Marriage Conference will purpose to become the partners God has designed and desired for them to be and that they will come to realize that they must have realistic, God-based expectations. Happiness is a personal choice, and it takes effort and partnering to create a successful marriage. **Col. 12-14; Prov. 3:5**

Saturday, November 4th:

In Luke 11, Jesus' disciples ask him to teach them to pray; "Lord, teach us to pray." It's not that they didn't know how to pray. At this point in their lives, they knew how to pray. They had heard many rabbi's pray. They had heard Jesus pray before. They themselves had said a few prayers (I mean, they were fishermen!) But what they were really asking was, "Jesus, teach us to pray like you. With the boldness and the authority you pray with." It was like Jesus knew the Father, really, really well. And He did. Intimacy with God (Circle Maker Workshop) is taking place today, a great opportunity to learn praying in a more intimate way.

Sunday, November 5th: When we think about peace, we often assume that it is merely the absence of conflict. The Biblical perspective, however, goes deeper than this. The Hebrew root *slm*, from which we get *shalom*, means "to be complete or sound; to live well" and denotes being in right relationship. It is absolutely impossible to live in peace with someone if we harbor unforgiveness toward them, just as we could not have an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father without forgiveness. We don't just accept the wrong against us, we choose to extend grace and forgiveness, and the result is God's beautiful peace in the midst of it all. **John 16:33; Phil. 4:6-7;**

Monday, November 6th:

Realize nobody's perfect.

Enjoy God's unconditional love.

Let God handle things.

Act in faith, not fear.

Exchange your perfectionism for God's peace.

Perfectionism destroys peace. Jesus says in **Matthew 11:28-29**,

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. . . . Learn the unforced rhythms of grace" (The Message). What a deal!

You're going to fail a lot in life. But you don't have to worry about it if you've received God's grace. In fact, there's only one failure you ever need to worry about: *"Be careful that no one fails to receive God's grace"* (Hebrews 12:15a NCV). Receive it right now, and then relax!

Tuesday, November 7th: “Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures” (1 Corinthians 13:7 NCV).

The world is so negative that the last thing kids need when they come home is more negativity. Colossians 3:21 says, “Do not nag your children. If you are too hard to please, they may want to stop trying” (NCV). Are you an unpleasable parent? If they get C’s, do you want B’s, only to want straight A’s when they get B’s? Do you really want your kids to give up, like the Bible says? Unpleasable parents produce insecure kids. So, how do you raise confident kids? The Bible says in **1 Corinthians 13:7**, “Love patiently accepts all things. It always trusts, always hopes, and always endures” (NCV). If you want to raise confident kids, you’ve got to build them up more than you tear them down. You’ve got to give more cheers than you give jeers.

Wednesday, November 8th: “And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him” (Colossians 2:6 NLT).

The Bible often compares life to a walk, because life is a journey; we’re not sitting still. Throughout the New Testament, we are told to walk in wisdom, love, light, and obedience. We’re told to walk as Jesus walked. We’re also told to walk alongside other people. Here are three reasons we need to walk with other people:

It’s safer. Have you ever walked alone at night through a dark alley or down a lonely country road? It’s a little scary. But if you have another person with you, you feel safer.

It’s supportive. Life is not a 50-yard dash; it’s a marathon. Walking with other people gives you the energy to keep on going until the end.

It’s smarter. You learn more by walking with others than by walking alone. If you’re walking alone in the wrong direction, you may never realize it. But if you have a friend beside you, one of you is likely to recognize you’ve veered off the path and need to find the right direction.

We also learn some important lessons when we walk alongside other people. We learn how to get along and cooperate with others.

Thursday, November 9th: This coming Saturday is Operation Home Away from Home to fill care packages for those serving in the military who are deployed. We owe such a debt of gratitude to the men and women who are willing to lay down their lives to defend our lives and our freedom. Pray for their encouragement, protection, and their mental and spiritual health. **Is. 41:10; Psa. 18:31-36**

Friday, November 10th: A healthy, solid marriage doesn't just happen – it's the result of diligence and intentionality, hard work and humility, self-sacrifice and occasional silliness. Ask God to draw couples to choose to honor and nurture their marriages through the Intentional Date Night, and pray that they would truly enjoy one another and find ways to strengthen their own marriage and encourage others. **Col. 3:12-14; Rom. 12:9-12**

Saturday, November 11th: What could possibly be better than entering into a deeper, more intimate relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? This is what happens when we offer up to Him a sacrifice of praise – the praise which He so richly deserves. Pray for a desire in our body of believers to commune with Him, to honor Him, and for this to become our lifestyle. May the sanctuary be filled tonight with passionate worshippers! **Psa. 95:1-6; Psa. 146:1-2**

Sunday, November 12th: It has been said that unforgiveness is like drinking a cup of poison and expecting the other person to die. Our Father knows the horrendous price of such an attitude not only to us personally but to the body of believers and to all relationships. Our forgiveness cost Him dearly, and we are expected to reflect the nature of the One who cancelled our debt. **Eph. 4:30-32; Matt. 6:14-15**

Monday, November 13th: There's a difference between being a peace maker and a peace keeper. The latter seeks to maintain peace at all costs, often enabling others to continue in self-destructive behaviors that are contrary to God's best. Peace makers, on the other hand, are those who take into account God's perspective and seek His ultimate good for everyone, even when achieving that peace may be uncomfortable and costly. After all, our own peace came at great cost. **Rom. 14:19; Psa. 34:14; Zech. 8:16**

Tuesday, November 14th: Love is something you do. The Bible says, “*Let us stop just saying we love people; let us really love them, and show it by our actions*” (1 John 3:18 TLB). Every day God puts opportunities around us to demonstrate love. The problem is most of the time we’re too busy. How many times have you thought, “I need to make a call; I need to encourage that person at work; I need to help my neighbor,” but then you missed the opportunity because something else came up? Love takes advantage of opportunities to serve others. Pray that God would help to take advantage of opportunities to love others.

Wednesday, November 15th: “*God has made everything beautiful for its own time*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11a NLT).

Life is full of contrasts. We go through mountains, and we go through valleys. We go through successes, and we go through failures. We have wins, and we have losses. In weather, there are four seasons. But in your life, there are dozens of different seasons. And every season of life includes both good and bad times. Pray that God would give you the grace that is sufficient for the season you are in.

Thursday, November 16th: There’s still time to donate provisions for the Family to Family Thanksgiving meal collection this Saturday. Often we take for granted “our daily bread”, but we can’t ignore our mandate to share what we have with those in need. Our generosity in providing food for a family can lead to thanks to our Lord for *His* provision, not only in satisfying our physical hunger, but in being our true source of life. Let us graciously demonstrate our thanks to Him. **Prov. 22:9; Is. 58:10; Ja. 2:14-18**

Friday, November 17th: God has called men to be strong and courageous leaders, but also to be humble and compassionate. This is a pretty tall order, and it is one that is not humanly possible – it can only be accomplished through the equipping of the Creator. May He richly and abundantly fill the men attending this year’s Men’s Retreat with His divine wisdom, power, and presence to the end that they will be transformed from glory to glory and become radiant reflections of Him. **2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Micah 6:8**

Saturday, November 18th: We know we are commanded to speak the truth in love and to be open and honest with one another, but this isn't always an easy thing to do. Fear of man, fear of wounding a friend, or even fear of looking foolish may cause us to refrain from confronting serious issues, but only through openness and seeking to honor Him can any relationship thrive. We can rest assured that in those conversations He has prompted us to have He will also equip us to communicate His heart, and that is always for our good! **Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 4:6; Prov. 27:5**

Sunday, November 19th: Join in celebrating with those who are professing their faith in Christ and committing their lives to following Him through baptism. What a blessed and joyful time! These are our new brothers and sisters; let us encourage them, love them, and help them embrace the newness of life! **Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:26-28**

Monday, November 20th: One of Satan's most powerful weapons is convincing us that we are self-sufficient. In *The Bondage Breaker* Neal Anderson writes, "Satan's ultimate lie is that you are capable of being the god of your own life, and his ultimate bondage is getting you to live as though his lie is true." It is for freedom that Christ set us free, but we must stand firm in His strength and authority, giving all glory and honor to Him. Only then will we experience true sufficiency. Reject the lies, read the Word, rejoice in His freedom and truth. **Luke 14:11; Is. 45:9; 2 Chron. 20:6**

Tuesday, November 21st: ***"The Lord is good to everyone who trusts in him, so it is best for us to wait in patience — to wait for him to save us"***(Lamentations 3:25-26 GNT).

When life seems to be falling apart, your most "spiritual" decision may be a surprise: Get alone with God, and wait. The Bible says in Lamentations 3:28, *"When life is heavy and hard to take, go off by yourself. Enter the silence. Bow in prayer. Don't ask questions: Wait for hope to appear. Don't run from trouble. Take it full-face. The 'worst' is never the worst"* (MSG). What does it mean to wait on God? You sit down, close your mouth, and just listen to God. You may read your Bible. You may pray. But most all, you're quiet in front of God.

Wednesday, November 22nd: *"For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and self-discipline. 2Timothy 1:7 "*

Lord, grant me tenacious winsome courage as I go through this day. When I am tempted to give up, help me to keep going. Grant me a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way. And give me courage to do whatever needs to be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thursday, November 23rd: No matter what your circumstances may be, there is always a place for gratitude and giving thanks. Many of those things we take for granted are things for which others are praying. We need to focus on what we *do* have rather than what we *don't* and realize we could always have less! Above all, don't dwell on whether the cup is half full or half empty – be thankful for the cup! Let your thanks and joy be contagious, and rejoice in being a child of God. Remember, your Father owns the cattle on a thousand hills. **1 Thes. 5:18; Col. 3:15-17; Psa. 9:1-2**

Friday, November 24rd: You are my rock, and I run to you today, believing that you will lift up my heavy arms, that you will fuel me for the tasks you've given me, and that your joy will completely consume the weakness of my life and make me strong again. I don't want to stay grounded, crippled by limitations and failed attempts. I'm tired of feeble efforts. Lord, I want to mount up with wings like an eagle and not just fly. I want to soar. Renew my strength, Lord. Fill me with your supernatural power to overcome each obstacle in my path. With my eyes on you, Lord, with you walking beside me, working through me, I can make it. Thank you, Lord!

Saturday, November 25th: Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. PSALM 141:2

God wants to be the center of our life: the center of our conversation, the center of our entertainment, and the center of our relationships. Prayer keeps Him in the center of all we do. Years ago I could have told you that I prayed an hour every day. But now, I couldn't even determine how long I pray, because I just pray every time I see or feel a need. I pray while driving. I pray while working, and while relaxing. Sometimes I just stop what I am doing and praise God, and that is prayer too. I cast my cares on Him and say, "Lord, I am not going to worry about anything today; I am giving it to You. Prayer should be like breathing, natural to do anywhere we are.

Sunday, November 26th: We read in the Bible that we are both responsible *to* others and *for* others. The trick is in distinguishing where the boundary lines are. Galatians 6:2 tells us to bear one another's burdens. The Greek word is *baros* and implies extreme heaviness or trouble. Galatians 6:5 says that each will bear his own load or *phortion* which denotes the consciousness of faults. Only through His word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit can we know what is ours alone, what help we can offer to and accept from another, and what is strictly God's domain. **Rom. 12:1-2, 17-18; Titus 2**

Monday, November 27th: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. "Luke 5:31-32

We need Jesus because we are sinners. That isn't confined to the small "easy to fix" sins. That applies to ALL sins. We put so much pressure on ourselves, but the truth is that we need Christ. We need him because we absolutely cannot live the way we are called to live on our own.

Tuesday, November 28th: "After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel. Judges 3:31 (NIV)

Tucked into this one verse, we see three things Shamgar did that resulted in his life having extraordinary impact: 1. He offered God his willingness, 2. He used what God had given him, 3. He stayed true to who he was. In doing those three things, it was enough. God used him to save the nation of Israel. Oh, how Shamgar's story stirs my soul. He was an ordinary person, in an ordinary place, doing an ordinary job. The thing that made him extraordinary wasn't anything external. It was his internal drive to do the right thing and be obedient to God, right where he was. His job was to be obedient to God. God's job was everything else. The same is possible for us. If we are obedient to God in the midst of our ordinary lives, extraordinary impact is always possible. I love that God's hand is never limited by what we have in ours. Do you long to live a life that has extraordinary impact? Pray that you will grab hold of the encouragement found in Shamgar's story.

Wednesday, November 29th: "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." - Psalm 147:3

Over and over in scripture, God reminds us that He heals. That He alone has the power to restore us, redeem the painful times we walk through, and make all things new again. Yet often, when we find ourselves right in the midst of the battle, or in the heat of hard times; when we've felt wounded and hurt, rejected or broken; we may begin to wonder if God Himself really cares. Don't doubt for a minute that He sees and knows the pain you feel. He understands what it is to be betrayed. He knows what it is to feel loneliness, rejection, and huge grief. He cares about every moment that you have felt deep loss and hurt. He too was wounded, yet far beyond what we could ever comprehend. Whatever hardship you've faced, your story has a greater purpose. It doesn't have to end with the wound. Don't allow the enemy to label you with the struggle you've faced, or allow you to get stuck in your pain. For God has far better in store. Keep pressing through the battle. He promises to carry you through, and bring you forth as gold.

Thursday, November 30th: “I have set the LORD always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.” Psalms 16:8, NIV
No matter what you go through, you can experience unshakable peace, and declare, “I will not be shaken!” as the psalmist did in **Psalm 16:8**. God knows what you have been through and what you are going through. He promises peace to each believer through Jesus. Part of our unsettled nature is that we try to cling to the things of earth – to the “American way” of living – to the here and now. When we put our trust in things of this world, we give anxiety, fear, jealousy, discontentment, greed, and insecurity open access to our lives. **1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Friday, November 31st: *“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:1-6*

This well-known Psalm is so rich with peace and blessing for all our days. Yet often we can become so “familiar” with popular verses and chapters of God’s word, that they can almost lose the important message that He is wanting to instill within our hearts. Praying God’s words back to Him, and meditating on them verse by verse, can help us to remember his goodness, and be strengthened by his truths.