

21
DAYS

We are a
People of Prayer

 Elim

We are a People of Prayer



Dear friend,

I invite you to join me on a journey into the pages of scripture
Come with me as I show you a prayer life that is richer
A life that is in constant communication with our Creator
Instead of relegating prayer as something you'll do later
Instead of talking to him only when you're in desperate need
Instead of crying out only when trials make you bleed

Could I show you through the layers of the prayer he taught us
Could we join our hearts together in a unified chorus
As we lean into the act of praise to discover a joy that is undignified
As we petition heaven to experience favour that is magnified
As we fall to our knees in repentance, discovering the warmth of mercy
As we stand to our feet in resilience, pushing back against the enemy

Joy, favour, mercy, and power are yours if only you would see
All that God wants to show you on this 21 day journey

Love,

Darcie

What to Expect in This Devotion Book:

Every day, there will be a short devotion to read that ends with some type of action - a call to pray, a moment to journal, a challenge to accept, or a question to ponder. The devotions are written in such a way to take you on a journey through the pattern we find within the Lord's Prayer: praise, petition, pardon, and protection.

However, in writing these devotions, I felt to highlight these themes not by the actions you will take or the types of prayers you might pray but rather by what you will experience when you pray in this way.

- *The Joy of the Lord*
- *The Favour of the Lord*
- *The Mercy of the Lord*
- *The Power of the Lord*

Each theme mentioned above will have a 5-day focus that includes 4 devotions followed by 1 day of meditation. My hope is that by the end of this 21 day journey you will have created a habit of daily prayer and developed greater intimacy with God.

If we become intentional about incorporating prayer and meditation into our lives, then we will see a positive change in our spirits, our brains, our hearts, and even our bodies. If taken seriously, this journey should change you in some way.

In fact, an active lifestyle of prayer should transform us into becoming more and more like Jesus. They say you become like the company you keep, right? Well, if you want to become more like Jesus, then you need to get in his company daily.

For an added challenge, I invite you to fast. The practice of fasting is a way to humble ourselves in our weakness, as we develop a deeper hunger for God and a heightened awareness of our need for him. Given that this devotion is broken into 5-day increments, if you are new to fasting, then I encourage you to try fasting for 1 or 2 of the 5-day segments.



Ways to Fast:

- All meals - only drink water, juice, and other broths
- Some meals - eat only 1 meal a day (e.g., fast all day until 6pm)
- One meal - skip 1 meal a day and spend that time praying
- Altered diet - like a Daniel fast (only fruit, vegetables, nuts, legumes)
- Non-food fast - give up what you turn to for comfort and instead turn to God in prayer

Practical Tips:

- Set an alarm in your phone to remind you to engage with the devotions each day (e.g., 6:00am - Meet with God).
- Decide where you will keep this devotion book and your Bible for easy access each day.
- Create a group chat with your friends or family for accountability and for sharing what God is teaching you or showing you.
- If you fall a day behind, don't quit! Just keep going! Pick up where you left off, and God will still meet you there.

DAY 1: INTRO



Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

These words from Jesus came just after some warnings to not pray like the hypocrites who pray in public to be seen by others as righteous and also to not pray like the pagans who were known for babbling and believing the more noises, sounds, and frenzied, unintelligible utterances they made, the more that their false gods and goddesses would hear them. Some might describe babbling in this context as a vast swelling of words that are completely empty in meaning - an endless string of words that produce nothing but noise.

Knowing this, we should recognize that the journey we're going on for 21 days of focused and intentional prayer is not meant to be a big show of our righteousness that we scream to the public. We're also not trying to make meaningless, empty noise that is simply louder than the noise of this world.

Rather, we are creating an incense of prayers as an offering.

Psalm 141:2-3 NIV

May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

Jesus told us that the Father both sees and rewards what is done in secret. So, let that be a reminder to you as you meet with him each day. This is a journey that we take collectively as the wider church of Elim, but this is also a daily meeting between you and God where your words drift up to the heavens like the smell of incense - sweet, aromatic, fragrant, and pleasing. Not noisy. Not loud. But rather an intentional rising of faith that stirs up in the secret places of our homes, changing our hearts, and then the fragrant scent of our offerings will fill our cities with the captivating smell of revival.

Revelation 8:4 ESV

...and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.

*THE JOY OF
THE LORD.**

DAY 2: ENTER HIS GATES



Psalm 100

*Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

In ancient Israel, the temple was the central point where the Jewish people would gather to worship and offer sacrifices to God. It was here at the temple that God's presence was known to dwell. It was here in Jerusalem where God's people were invited to gather as a united body for annual feasts and festivals.

Imagine for a moment you've finally ascended the hill to reach the place where the temple sits. Friends and family are gathered all around you, arms carrying children, carts carrying the first fruits of the harvest that you're bringing as an offering, and hearts carrying expectation to enter his gates once again.

This psalm served as a powerful reminder as to how one should approach this place of worship - in unity with other believers, filled with joy to be in the presence of God, and overflowing with gratitude for all that he's done in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Let the same tone mark our journey through prayer as a church.

Today, I invite you to pray a blessing over every Elim church as we stand united in prayer.

Pray for joy to overflow from every believer in the coming weeks. And let gratitude be on your lips in every waking moment: Thank you God for another day... thank you God for this precious child... thank you God for this job... thank you God for this chance to contribute something good to the world... thank you, thank you, thank you.

ELIM LOCATIONS NEW ZEALAND

NORTHLAND/AUCKLAND

Whangārei
Henderson
Auckland City
Botany Downs
Papakura
Manurewa
Pukekohe

BAY OF PLENTY

Tauranga

HAWKES BAY

Hastings
Napier

MANAWATŪ-WHANGANUI

Whanganui

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH/WEST COAST

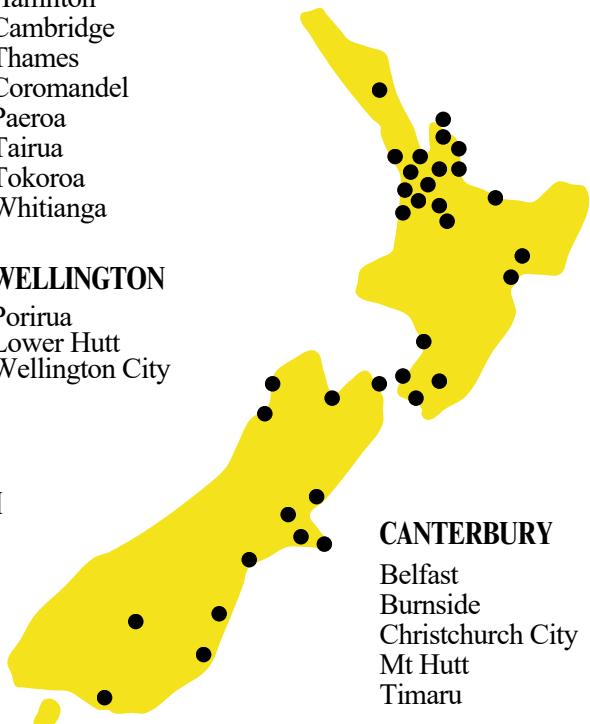
Blenheim
Nelson
Greymouth
Westport

COROMANDEL/WAIKATO

Hamilton
Cambridge
Thames
Coromandel
Paeroa
Tairua
Tokoroa
Whitianga

WELLINGTON

Porirua
Lower Hutt
Wellington City



CANTERBURY

Belfast
Burnside
Christchurch City
Mt Hutt
Timaru

OTAGO/SOUTHLAND

Alexandra
Dunedin
Invercargill
Oamaru



DAY 3: REVERANCE & WONDER

When the people of Israel would gather at the temple, reverence was like a current that rippled through hearts and minds. Reverence, meaning deep respect, was the overwhelming sensation one would experience as they stepped into the place where God dwelled. Every design feature echoing his majesty. Every practice done in an effort to honour his name. Every tradition layered with humble obedience.

Over time, I think this same level of reverence has been lost in some ways. Without the annual festivals, we can forget to make the pilgrimage to go and intentionally meet with him and his people. Without the layered traditions, we can easily fail to remind ourselves of the wonder and the majesty of a God who works miracles and is fully present among us.

So, today, I invite you to step outside to reignite your sense of wonder. Prayer isn't limited to one specific chair in your house. Prayer isn't limited to one specific time in your day. Prayer is being in constant communication with God who no longer dwells within one temple in Jerusalem. If you're a believer, he dwells in you.

Every design feature of the human body echoes his majesty. Every practice we take part in should be done in an effort to honour his name. Every waking day has an opportunity to be layered with your humble obedience.

So, step outside and look up, as you read **Psalm 8** out loud.

Then, ***sit with God*** and the sounds of his creation, ***as reverence and wonder fill your soul once again.***





DAY 4: ALIGNMENT & SURRENDER

Two days ago, we read the words “we are his people” in **Psalm 100**. Is that evident to the people around you? If your colleagues or your family or your neighbors found out you were Christian, would they say, “Oh that makes sense” or would there be more shock in their tone as they say, “Oh I never would have guessed”?

Their answer suggests your true alignment in life. If we want to be holy, we can’t also be worldly. If we look and act and talk in a way that is fully aligned with the culture of our world, then it suggests that we are not fully in alignment with a holy God.

To be holy is to be set apart. To be holy is a daily sacrifice and a continued surrender to the work of the cross.

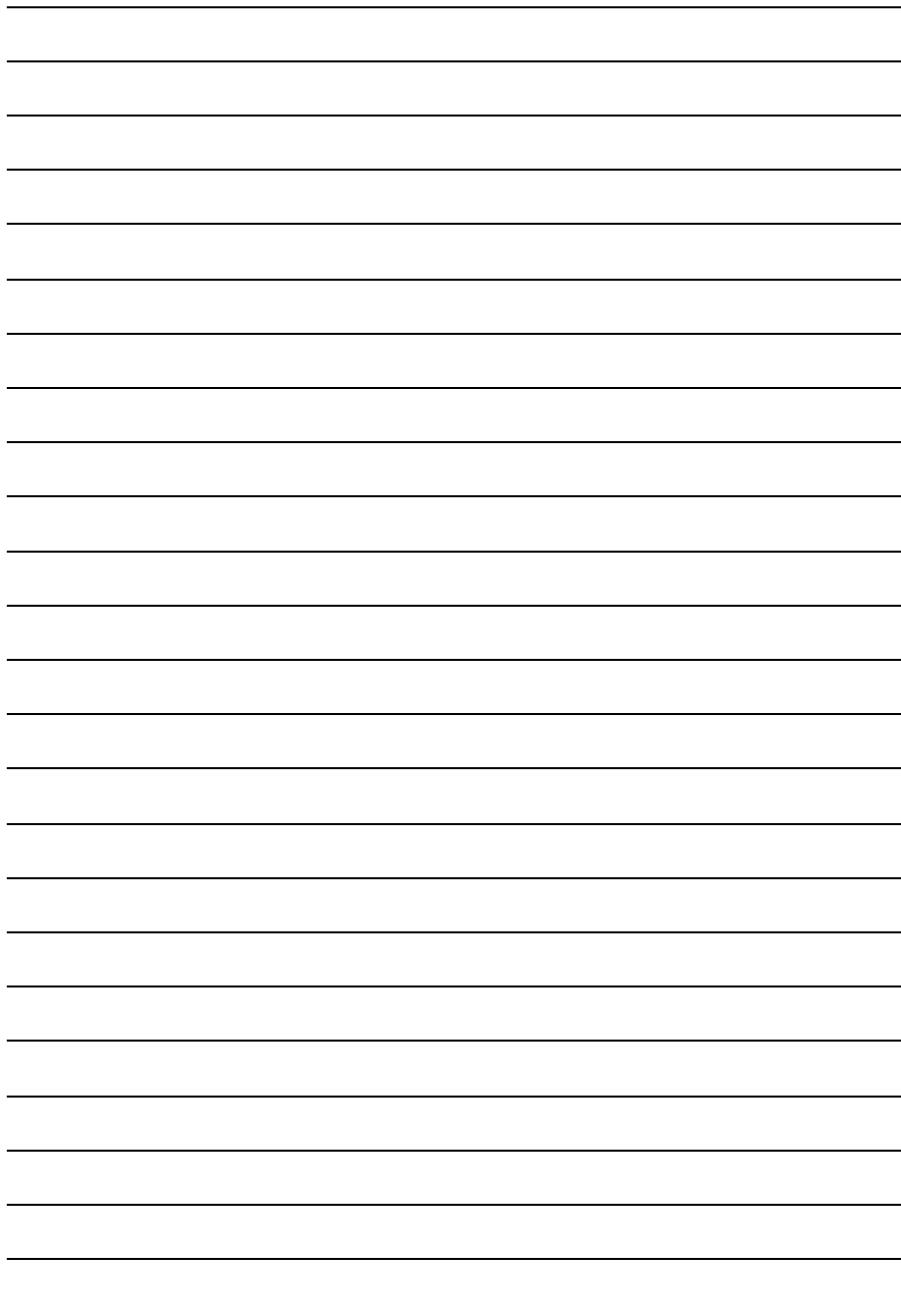
You know what alignment with Jesus looks like? It looks like crucifying the old you, so that you can live as a new creation who follows Jesus.

Galatians 2:2 CSB

I have been crucified with Christ, ***and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.*** The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Ask God today if there is anything in your life that isn’t truly in alignment with Jesus, and surrender it to him today.

Use these lines to write out a prayer to remind yourself of this alignment with the cross when you’re feeling weak and start to step off the path of righteousness in that area. Alignment and surrender is a **daily** conscious choice not a one time decision.



DAY 5: GARMENT OF PRAISE

Isaiah 61:3 NIV

[He has sent me...] to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

In biblical times, when someone was in a state of mourning or repentance, they would rub ashes on their heads or their bodies as a visible symbol of what was going on in their hearts. They would wear rough sackcloths as a physical symbol of their emotional discomfort. They would then forgo oil, as oil was not only comforting to the skin but also celebratory in nature when used for anointing and an expression of gladness.

Throughout these 21 Days of Prayer, my hope is that you would see this prophetic scripture come to pass over your life. As you draw closer to God, you'll see that his arms are holding out to you a crown of beauty. As he places it on your head, he will lovingly wipe the ashes from your face. He has fresh oil ready to pour over all that feels dry and barren. And like a loving Father, he has made you a special piece of clothing - **a garment of praise**. In exchange for your despair, he is offering you gladness. In exchange for heaviness, he is offering you joy. In exchange for a broken spirit, he's offering you a new, brightly coloured, undoubtedly splendid garment of celebration.

Today, would you make that exchange?

Before we continue on in our journey of starting to petition the gates of heaven with bold, courageous prayers, would you get yourself dressed for the celebration that is to come?

And once you get that garment of praise on, then I invite you to have your own personal praise party today. Just like David, get a bit undignified as you dance in your home, in your car, or with your kids.



Praise Party Playlist

Songs to start:

- Garment of Praise / Undignified by Brooke Ligertwood, Passion
- Let the Church Sing by Tauren Wells, gio., Elevation Rhythm
- Praise You Anywhere by Brandon Lake
- Dance Like David by Circuit Rider Music
- Can't Steal My Joy by Josiah Queen



DAY 6: MEDITATION

Welcome to the first day of meditation. Meditation is one of the most powerful ways to exercise your brain and also your understanding of scripture. Would you believe me if I told you that 12 focused minutes every single day could actually change the health of your brain thus changing your overall life? Studies have proven it, but how we do meditation as Christians matters.

There are approximately 20 references to meditation in the Bible, and when it's referenced in scripture, it means "to mutter or speak quietly".

If you look at the original Hebrew word hâgâh it means to murmur and mutter it throughout the day, as if you're quietly saying it to yourself over and over. It means to speak it out and study it, as your mind examines and lingers on every word. It means to talk to both God and people to gain greater understanding. It means to ponder and imagine... and sometimes to mourn and roar.

This is the practice of biblical meditation, which I invite you to partake in once every 5 days in our journey of prayer. After 4 devotions with a particular theme, I'll give you 1 scripture to meditate on for the 5th day in that theme. Carry this devotion book around with you for reference, screenshot the scripture page and make it your lockscreen, carry your Bible with this scripture highlighted, or write it out on a notecard. Keep it in front of you all throughout today, and by the end of 21 Days, you will have memorized 4 scriptures that you've meditated on.



May these words of my mouth
and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight, **Lord,**
my Rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 19:14 NIV

Want to understand more about Christian meditation and its incredible impact on your brain? Check out these episodes on Carry Confetti Podcast:

How 12 Focused Minutes Could Change You for the Better | Ep. 7



How Understanding God as Compassionate Changes the Way You Pray | Ep. 8



MEDITATE, MUTTER, MEMORISE

As you meditate on this scripture, pray for salvation of souls. Pray that the sound of praise pouring out of our lives and our churches would draw in people hungry to have the same joy we have in Jesus.

Let the sea and ***everything in it shout his praise!*** Let the earth and all living things join in. Let the rivers clap their hands in glee! Let the hills sing out their songs of joy before the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with fairness.

Psalms 98:7-9 NLT

THE FAVOUR OF THE LORD



DAY 7: DAILY BREAD

When Jesus shared the famous words within the Lord's Prayer, what did he mean when he said, "Give us today our daily bread"?

In Exodus 16, God starts to rain down manna from heaven for the Israelites in the wilderness. He gives them enough for each day, and on the 6th day, he gives them enough for two days, so that they take a day of rest with nourishment already provided the day before. This was a response to the grumbling of the people. This was God reminding them that he is their ultimate provider. In verse 12, he said, *"In the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God."*

Later, when the people gather this manna for the first time, it says everyone gathered as much as they needed. But the catch was you couldn't store it up and hoard it. It would either melt away in the sun that day or rot in your tent by the next morning. This was an ultimate act of trust with God, as if he was saying, "Do you trust me not just today but tomorrow too? Do you trust that I will always have more to give? Do you trust me to take care of you daily in the wilderness?"

God provided this manna to them daily for 40 years. They never went without, even while wandering in the wilderness.

What manna do you need from God today? This isn't just about bread; it's about daily sustenance physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. As we begin 5 days focused on asking God for provision and favour, let's begin by asking God for our daily bread.

What do you need to sustain you today? Is it food on the table? Is it peace in your mind? Is it a friend to talk to? Is it a ride to work? Is it comfort from the Holy Spirit?

Ask him, and then trust him to provide.

DAY 8: ABUNDANCE

The beautiful thing about God providing daily bread is that overtime it adds up to abundance. Sometimes, we can't see that at first, because the daily bread might seem small and insignificant... kind of like a single piece of confetti which is actually called a confetto. One confetto on its own doesn't seem like much... but if it got added to daily, then all of a sudden your hands are filled with the abundance of confetti spilling over.

Imagine gathering all the flakes of manna sent to the Israelites from over 40 years just to see the miraculous abundance of God's provision. You would be swimming in a visible symbol of accumulating provision! Maybe manna was the original confetti? One flake on its own didn't seem like much, but altogether it brought sustenance to an entire nation until they reached the Promised Land. They even kept a jar of this manna with the tablets of the covenant law as a reminder of God's abundant provision, so that they could tell future generations all about it!

Today, I invite you to first reflect on all the "manna" that's been provided to you over your lifetime.

Praise God for that provision! Then, start to pray for the younger generations that they would learn from older generations of God's goodness and that they would experience God's abundance to an even greater degree. Take time to pray over every age group that is younger than you. Pray for a daily hunger for the Word of God. And then find someone older than you today and ask them to tell you about what "manna" God has provided abundantly in their life.

DAY 9: MIRACLES



Every miracle story is a testimony of God's continued involvement with his creation. What I mean is God didn't simply set the earth into motion and then go hands-off with his creation. Yes, he allows the laws of physics and the laws of nature and even free will to play out within our earthly world. However, he also hears our prayers and our pleas for him to intercede, to get involved, to change the direction of an outcome, or to defy the laws of nature.

And every miracle story shows us that he doesn't just hear and tolerate our prayers; instead, he delights in them and takes joy in being actively involved with his creation.

When Jesus sent out his disciples in **Matthew 10:8**, he told them, *“Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.”*

You are now one of his disciples, so I challenge you to pray with the same boldness for miracles of healing, miracles of salvation and resurrection life, and miracles of freedom.

Write down anything or anyone you feel prompted to pray for:

If you're feeling brave, go pray for people in person today. Jesus also said in **Matthew 10:19-20**, “*...do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*”

DAY 10: BE THE HANDS & FEET

What I see all throughout scripture and all throughout personal experience is that God often likes to work powerfully through someone who is a humble, surrendered vessel in order to reach someone else with his love, his grace, his healing, and his provision.

You might have heard the phrase “be the hands and feet of Jesus” before, and this is a powerful illustration as to what we are meant to do as believers. We’re not meant to only pray from the comfort of our homes or in the quiet of our minds; rather, our feet are meant to mobilise us to go where he leads us, and our hands are meant to be instruments of our work as disciples - instruments used to serve, love, and provide for whoever God leads us to.

It’s one thing to pray that God would provide for you and your family or pray that God would provide in abundance for your church, but it’s an entirely different level of faith to now posture yourself before God as ready-to-be-used hands and feet for provision.

Here’s what I mean... Ask God to highlight someone to you, write that name down.

Now, ask God what do they need?

How could you provide for some or all of it this week?

You following through with this in faithful obedience might just be the way that God wants to provide daily bread, abundance, or a miracle to someone else.

Did you know that giving activates the “Happiness Trifecta” of feel-good neurochemical drivers (dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin)? So when you choose to give to others in any way, you are boosting your own joy and wellbeing in the process. It’s no surprise that giving is a core principle that God wants us to learn, he designed our brains with intentional rewards when we do!

DAY 11: MEDITATION

Meditate, Mutter, Memorise

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, ***he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.*** Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God.

2 Corinthians 9:10-11 NLT

*THE
MERCY
OF THE
LORD.**



DAY 12: FORGIVE US

“Forgive us our debts...”

Do you know the weight of debt? Perhaps you have a student loan debt, maybe you owe a friend or family member money, maybe you’re paying off a car, or perhaps you have a pretty big mortgage to your name. Imagine for a moment what it would feel like if someone fully paid off that entire debt that you owed, and the balance went to \$0.00 in a single moment. Imagine the shock, the relief, and the gratitude that would swirl up inside you, as someone told you that your debt has been cleared.

That’s what happened for humanity the moment Jesus went to the cross for us. His life was the payment for our sin. His blood spilled and body broken was him writing off any debt that sin had accrued since the origin of time and for the foreseeable future. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, your debt has been cleared. Not just part of it - all of it. Every mark of sin on your life has been washed by the blood of Jesus. You are a new creation - a born again believer - if you accept the incredible gift of forgiveness that Jesus extends to you. Now, when God looks at you, he sees you as righteous in his eyes.

Becoming a believer doesn’t mean we never sin again; it’s a constant, daily battle against the desires of the flesh. We have to daily choose Jesus and remember the power of this blood spilled out for us.

So, today, I invite you to **choose Jesus**
again.

Take a moment to reflect on the work of the cross, and ask the Holy Spirit to identify any area of your life where you haven’t yet surrendered it to God. What areas of your life do you still hold control of with a tight grip? Or what sin has a tight grip on you? Or what have you locked away in a file in your heart and haven’t yet given God the key out of guilt and shame?

Write it out:



Now, ask for forgiveness, as you lay these areas at the foot of the cross.

Then, I invite you to get a red pen if you have one (or use black) and cross it out. Write **“DEBT PAID”** next to it, and then live today in that freedom of forgiveness.

DAY 13: AS WE FORGIVE THEM

“...as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

We can't forget or brush over the second half of this sentence in the Lord's Prayer. Jesus freely extends grace to us, and all too often, we withhold grace from others. Jesus shovels forgiveness over our lives, and then we pull out a teaspoon of forgiveness for others but only if they say they're truly sorry.

Right after the Lord's Prayer, Jesus says, *“For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”*

Just yesterday, you wrote **DEBT PAID** next to your own debts, and you felt the freedom and the immense gratitude that came with that! Today, could you now extend that same forgiveness to those that have hurt you? Would you be willing to follow in Jesus' footsteps and allow his blood to cover their debts they owe you?

Too often we walk around with a grievance story about how others hurt us, broke us, and betrayed us. These grievance stories get laced with bitterness and offense... yet at the same time, we share a testimony about how God has radically forgiven us for our mistakes!

It's like when my own son asks his sister to share her food (and she does), and then he doesn't extend the same favour back to her when she asks later in the meal for an extra chip. He received generosity and then withheld generosity all within the span of one meal. Let's not be greedy kids at the table of the Lord.

I invite you to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to identify any grievance you're holding against someone else:

Then, extend forgiveness. Get a red pen if you have one (or use black) and cross it out. Write **“DEBT PAID”** next to it, and then let them live today in that freedom of forgiveness.

Want to understand more about this topic of forgiveness? Check out these episodes on Carry Confetti Podcast:

The Psychology and Theology of Forgiveness (Part 1) | Ep. 13



The Psychology and Theology of Forgiveness (Part 2) | Ep. 14





DAY 14: BREAK MY HEART

Have you ever prayed the dangerous prayer: “Break my heart for what breaks yours”? I say dangerous, because these 7 words will alter the way you see the world. These 7 words, if spoken with genuine permission to let God show you his heart and the world through his eyes, will develop a deeper well of compassion and mercy in your soul.

It means you won’t be numb to current events.

It means you won’t be numb to violence.

It means you won’t be numb to tragedy.

It means you will see humanity with greater depth.

It means you will see the pain of sin and feel the weight of its effects on a broken world.

It means you will not be able to live a cushioned, comfortable, and cozy little life where you can turn a blind eye to the pain in your community.

It’s true that the world is hurting, and it’s also true that God’s heart is hurting for his creation. God doesn’t desire for us to live in pain or to suffer, but pain and suffering are consequences of sin entering a perfect creation. This is the reality that so many people wrestle with as they toil over the age-old question: If God is good, then why does he allow pain and suffering?

Today, I invite you to pray these 7 words: Break my heart for what breaks yours. I invite you to see the world through God’s eyes, to ask for greater understanding as you wrestle with the age-old question above, to sit in his company as you listen to him share his heart, and to then pray for any people group, current event, world issue, community pain point, natural disaster, unexpected tragedy, or other thing he highlights to you. Let your heart break as you fall to your knees. Weep with the God who weeps.

DAY 15: LEAD ME TO LAMENT

If you truly engaged with yesterday's devotion and found yourself weeping in prayer and wrestling with questions, then you would have experienced what's known as lament - a passionate expression of grief or sorrow. And this, my friend, is where we can find a new depth in our intimacy with our Creator.

Does God want our joyful praise?

Absolutely.

Does God want to know how he can help us with provision in our lives?

Of course.

Does God also welcome our pain and our questions?

Yes, in every possible way... yes.

One third of the psalms are prayers of lament; they're songs and poems filled with questions and complaints, yet those psalms never set up camp in the pain. In fact, they tend to follow a familiar pattern where the writer turns to God, complains quite candidly, asks for help of some kind, and then puts confident trust in the God they're praying to - understanding that despite their current circumstance, they serve a God who is good and all-knowing and forever working behind the scenes of our lives.

So, today, I invite you to be fully honest before God. Honesty and vulnerability will precede your healing and your breakthrough. Lament gives you permission to talk about your pain with God, while also leading you to a place of confident trust in God even when you can't see the whole picture.

1. Turn to God and fix your eyes on him. Put on worship music or soft instrumental music to center your heart.
2. Candidly complain, ask your questions, get the pain off your chest. God is listening to every word.
3. Ask for his help, his intervention, his healing, his perspective, his peace, and his comfort.
4. Now pivot to place your trust in him and declare that trust with your words, with singing, with your posture, and with every action you take today. God is in control, and he's got you.

Psalm 142:1-2 NIV

I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.

DAY 16: MEDITATION

Meditate, Mutter, Memorise

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24 NIV

After spending time reflecting and meditating on the verse above, I invite you to take communion today either on your own, with your family, with those in your household, or with your church Small Group.

Give thanks for the bread and the juice, and pray that God would bless it. The bread represents the body of Christ, broken for us. When you eat it, remember Christ's love for you. The juice represents the blood of Christ. The cup is the new covenant, the fulfilment of the promises of God - a reminder of his sacrifice and his blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Pray this prayer or make up your own:

God, thank you for sending your Son, so our sins could be forgiven, so we could know you, and so we could spend eternity with you. Thank you for the incredible gift of your mercy and grace. I'm so grateful that you embrace me in my mess, in my wrestle, in my pain... and you love me all the same. May I truly learn to live and love like you. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

THE POWER OF THE LORD



DAY 17: HELP ME OVERCOME

Has anyone ever told you, “God won’t give you more than you can handle”? Sometimes, people like to say this when you’re in a moment of suffering, pain, or facing a really testing trial in life. It sounds comforting, right? It sounds kind to say this... but the reality is it’s a misinterpretation of scripture.

1 Corinthians 10:13 NLT

The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

Paul isn’t talking about suffering here; he’s talking about temptation. Now, temptation might be intermixed with suffering, because suffering often leads us to a place of complete and utter weakness. And it’s in experiencing that weakness that we often find temptation so appetising and appealing - temptation to sin, to crave to an addiction, to revisit a past version of ourselves, to uncover unhealthy habits, to walk away and quit on faith, on God, and on people that love us most.

As we enter these final 5 days of 21 Days of Prayer, I want you to start finding a new strength within you - a deeper level of grit - because we are entering spiritual warfare and a period of intercession for our families, our communities, our churches, our cities, and our nation.

Today, as you start to pray, I want you to first recognise where you most often get tempted in moments of weakness and in moments of pain. What has the enemy identified as pain points to push you towards temptation?

A poet named Robert Frost said, “The best way out is always through.” Now, ask God to show you the way out - the way through the pain, the way through the suffering, the way through the trial. Ask for strength to endure until you make it to the other side.

Then, take a moment to pray for the young adults of our generation and all those wrestling with temptation. Pray that they would have a greater revelation of God in the midst of trials, peace in the midst of suffering, and clarity of the way through in the midst of cultural confusion.



Battlecry Playlist

Songs to start:

- As For Me And My House by Cochren & Co
- LION by Elevation Worship
- Stand My Ground by Zach Williams
- Don't Tread On Me by We The Kingdom
- Fear of God by Brooke Ligertwood



DAY 18: PROTECT ME FROM EVIL

The enemy won't like that we're starting to identify his tactics, the pressure points that he's been pushing for years. The enemy won't like that we're praying over the minds of our young people and interceding for them. The enemy won't like a church that's rising up with the roar of a lion in our lungs.

But it's time to take back what the enemy has stolen. So, suit up and put on your holy armour (**Ephesians 6:10-18**). Recognize that the Holy Spirit has given you the power to trample snakes!

Luke 10:19 NIV

I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Sometimes, we forget we have this authority when we feel cornered by the enemy. He'll try to corner us with the pressure of culture, with the pressure of uncritical tolerance, and the pressure of people in our world telling us how to be a loving Christian even when they don't believe in God themselves.

Rise up, my friend. You have the authority to overcome all the power of the enemy. And you have a responsibility to spiritually fight for those that are too young to fight for themselves.

Today, we intercede for all our children and youth. From babies in the womb all the way to Year 13s in college, we must pray for their protection from the evil agendas of this world. Put your shield of faith around them to cover them from the fiery arrows of the enemy. May our children see the power of our God at work in our lives as we confidently guide them in the ways of Jesus, and as they mature, may they come to know the power of the Holy Spirit at work in their own life.





DAY 19: STANDING IN THE GAP

Ezekiel 22:30-31 NIV

I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Imagine for a moment a fortified wall protecting a beautiful city. The wall seems strong and sturdy as you look around, until you see it... a gap... a place where the stones have crumbled and now exposed the city that lies within... a weak point where the enemy can gain access and bring death.

You see the gap... now what will you do?

Will you run and hide somewhere safe in the city? Will you find some stronger soldiers and identify the problem to them? Will you ignore it and just hope that no one finds this point of entry?

God is looking for people that are willing to not just see the gap but also stand in the gap - people to actively place stones there rebuilding it with eyes outward focused on the approaching enemy, building with one hand and holding a weapon in the other just like in **Nehemiah 4:17**.

Where has the wall crumbled in your home? Rebuild and stand guard.

Where has the wall crumbled in your church? Rebuild and stand guard.

Where has the wall crumbled in your city? Rebuild and stand guard.

Where has the wall crumbled in your nation? Rebuild and stand guard.

Stand in the gap with your prayers of intercession! Whatever the Holy Spirit has highlighted to you today as an entry point for the enemy, start to rebuild what's been broken with bold and courageous prayers of faith.

DAY 20: PROPHESY FREEDOM

“Deliver us from evil...”

These final words in the Lord’s Prayer are acknowledging that evil DOES exist - an evil enemy with evil agendas carried out by demonic forces.

Ephesians 6:12 NLT

For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

These words in the prayer that Jesus gave us as a model for prayer not only suggest that we all need deliverance but also that God wants us to experience the freedom only he can give us. He doesn’t just want us to rebuild fortified walls of faith in our lives, he also wants us to recognise if any squatters made it through the gap before we rebuilt it. A squatter is someone who will sneak onto a property unseen and will start to claim “squatter’s rights” within that home. Until they get exposed and evicted, they will continue to affect the internal structure and culture within the walls of that home.

Today is a day where I prophesy freedom over you and your family! I prophesy freedom over you and your house! I prophesy freedom over you and your church!

If you want to see your family find freedom, let it start with you.

If you want to see your friends find freedom, let it start with you.

If you want to see your neighbors find freedom, let it start with you.



Pray this prayer or say it in your own words:

Dear God, I come to you to confess and repent of (name any gaps / open doors you've identified).

I pray that you would remove any evil spirit from me that came through when my guard was down. I renounce any agreement I have made with the enemy, and I cast it out in Jesus' name.

Holy Spirit, I invite you to fill me and heal me from the culture that's been created in my flesh. Renew my mind. Restore my soul. I belong to the kingdom of light! And I rebuke the kingdom of darkness, in the name of Jesus! Amen.

Now, that you've experienced freedom, become a beacon of light that leads other people to Jesus, our deliverer. Because Jesus didn't say "deliver me from evil", he very intentionally said "deliver us" meaning it was never meant to be a self-centered prayer. Who in your life needs freedom? Pray for them by name. Prophesy freedom!

DAY 21: MEDITATION

Although this has been a self-guided devotion, these 21 Days of Prayer were always meant to unify the wider body of believers as we collectively lift up our praises and experience his joy, as we collectively knock on the gates of heaven and receive his favour, as we collectively fall to our knees in repentance and experience his mercy, and as we collectively stand our ground as an army of soldiers all across New Zealand and see his mighty power at work in our land and in our lives.

Today, I invite you to finish this journey with God by praying that sounds of freedom would echo throughout our nation this year as we now share his joy, his favour, his mercy, and his power with anyone and everyone we meet.

MEDITATE, MUTTER, MEMORISE

I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; ***I will take hold of your hand.*** I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Isaiah 42:6-7 NIV

Let it be done.



