

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

DAY
15

WEEK 3

PRAYER AS PETITION

Give us today our daily bread.

This week, we will be focusing on prayer as petition. The Scripture says that our Lord is our Heavenly Father who knows all our needs even before we ask Him. Yes, that is one of the reasons Paul says, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Phil.4:6). 1 John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." As we ponder over prayer as a petition, our focus is to meditate on God's faithful nature to hear our petitions, His justful nature to validate our petitions, and His sovereignty to fulfill our petitions. What is our role and action as we bring our petitions to Him?

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GOD IS FAITHFUL

EXODUS 34:6; DEUTERONOMY 7:9-11; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:4-9

Have you ever had an extended conversation with someone you met for the first time? For most of us, it tends to be an awkward encounter. The subject matter usually remains at the surface level. There's no trust developed to go any deeper than what we do for a living.

Unfortunately, that is a posture that many take with knowing God. People guard their hearts and avoid vulnerability. They may feel free to trust Him with provision of their needs, but is He trustworthy with those painful areas of our lives?

God is always faithful to supply our every need, and He gives us the choice to remain at that level of relationship. However, His desire is to go much deeper. God was faithful to meet the physical needs of the Israelites as they wandered the desert. As for Moses, that wasn't enough. He longed to experience the fullness of God at the deepest level; he ultimately wanted what Adam and Eve experienced before the Fall.

Because of His death and Resurrection, Jesus has taken out the prohibitions to knowing who He truly is. Within the Trinity, there is love, delight, security, and acceptance. The invitation is not just to be a bystander craving that kind of relationship; it is to fully take part in that relationship.

Action: Meditate on John 15:9. Ask God to reveal the places in your heart where you haven't opened up to Him. What is He asking of you in response?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father,

You see the deepest part of my soul. You understand me better than I understand myself. You consistently prove Yourself to be faithful, and the love that You have expressed to me can be found nowhere else. Yet, how often do I find myself holding back? I don't want to keep anything from You. I long to experience the fullness of Your love for me. I want to know what it means to be united with You. Jesus, thank You for making the way for this to be available to me. And it's in Your name I pray, amen.

MEET THE NEEDS OF THOSE IN CIVIL UNREST

PSALM 32:7, 34:4, 107:6; ISAIAH 43:18-19; 1 JOHN 4:4

The world around us is filled with constant pain—from overseas conflicts where the mighty attack the weak to our own backyard filled with violence against the innocent and children. How do we approach God amid this injustice and unrest?

It is good and right to weep with those who weep and to mourn with those who mourn. It is being like Christ who had compassion and wept with Mary and Martha over Lazarus though He knew Lazarus would rise by His hand. It is good to cry out to God and grieve the pain and destruction in our world.

God has also called us to be a people of prayerful petition, asking Him to protect children, those who are being wronged, and our Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering. We claim the promise of Psalm 32:7: “You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Further, we should give thanks that even while evil is at work, God is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4) and is doing a new thing. He is making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland (Isa. 43:18-19). We claim these truths and pray that God will overcome evil with good. We pray that He will send His people to bring peace, restoration, and justice to the places in our world thirsty for the hope only Christ can bring.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Take a current event in our world and pray over the situation with God; grieve with Him over the injustice of it. Pray for God’s protection of those facing trials by name or group.

Ask Him to make a way in the wilderness, to make streams in the wasteland.

Ask Him to bring the love, hope, and peace of Jesus Christ to the people walking through this hard reality of life, that the name of Jesus would be lifted up for all to see. Thank you for walking beside them in prayer today.

MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MARGINALIZED & IMPOVERISHED

EXODUS 22:22, 23:6; LEVITICUS 19:15;
DEUTERONOMY 10:18; LUKE 10:25-37

Read Luke 10:25-37. Do you want to feel good, or do you want to be an answer to prayer?

We've heard the Good Samaritan parable many times. It was in response to a ruler who felt good because he had the religious answers about how to obtain eternal life—love God and love your neighbor—but was the ruler willing to really answer the question, “Who is my neighbor?”

There are many in our communities, in our world—and, yes, right next to us—who are hurting, trafficked, forgotten, starving, abused, and living in poverty for whom Jesus is the answer. Take a moment today and pray for them specifically. Pray that they will find healing, stability, purpose, food, comfort, shelter, sustenance, and employment. Maybe even go a step further and become the answer to the prayer.

Theologian Miroslav Volf states, “There is something deeply hypocritical about praying for a problem you are unwilling to resolve.” Part of a good prayer life is aligning our thoughts and desires with the heart of God. While you and I may not have a Jericho-road experience as in the parable, we can begin to see others as God does as we intercede spiritually, materially, and physically on their behalf.



REFLECTION PRAYER

The chorus in Brandon Heath's song “Give Me Your Eyes” will serve as the reflection prayer today:

“All those people going somewhere, why have I never cared?

Give me Your eyes for just one second.

Give me Your eyes so I can see everything that I keep missing;

give Your love for humanity.

Give me Your arms for the brokenhearted,

the ones that are far beyond my reach.

Give me Your heart for the ones forgotten.

Give me Your eyes so I can see.”

MEET THE NEEDS THROUGH OUR CREATIVE OUTREACH

JEREMIAH 1:7; MATTHEW 25:35-40; MARK 16:15

“Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘Now, I have put my words in your mouth.’” –Jeremiah 1:9

God’s Word encourages us with stories of people who, on the exterior, may not appear to be likely candidates to spread the good news of the Kingdom; but their interior life tells a different story. People God uses in Kingdom advance are not favorites; they are intimates who take the hand of the Father in prayer.

One of my fondest memories of my “steelworker” Dad was of him walking me to school during kindergarten. Each day, he would take my hand and walk me to the Juniata Terrace Elementary School. At the end of the day, he would be there again to take my hand, hear what I had learned, and walk me home. It’s the same when we take the hand of the Father in prayer. When we are intimate with God, we sense His presence and hear His promptings, which come to us in prayer. When we move into prayer that is intimate conversation with our Father, we take His hand just as Jesus told us to do, praying, “Our Father in heaven. . .” In the presence of the Father, we bring our petitions to Him and then respond to His promptings to take His Word to a lost world around us. What is your petition today? Will you take the Father’s hand and ask?



REFLECTION PRAYER

Use this simple prayer pattern to take the Father’s hand today, sensing His presence and hearing and responding to His promptings.

Father,

You are great, and You are good.

I need Your help.

They need Your help.

Heal me and forgive me.

Thank You.

In Jesus’ name, amen.

(Taken from *Before Amen* by Max Lucado)

MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR EMPTY SOULS

PSALM 23:2, 119:11; MATTHEW 4:4; ROMANS 10:17

Where do you run when your soul is empty? When you are worn and weary, do you seek fulfillment from your own power, effort, and plans, or do you run to Jesus and seek the comfort that comes from knowing Him and His Word? Matthew 11:28 says, “Come to me, all you who are weary. . . and I will give you rest.” It’s natural for us to try to find satisfaction in other things (it’s been the case since Adam and Eve), but the only thing that can truly make us whole is Jesus.

The closer we run to Jesus, the more we will know Him and His Word, and this will keep us from sin. Jesus Himself turned to Scripture to rebuke Satan’s temptations in Matthew 4, and as the psalmist writes in Psalm 119:11, hiding His Word in our hearts keeps us from sinning against God.

Jesus calls Himself the *Good Shepherd* and says that like sheep, His followers will know His voice (John 10:27). As David writes, “He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul” (Ps. 23:2–3a).

Do you know the Word of the Lord? Can you discern the voice of the Good Shepherd? The more time we spend with Jesus (the incarnate Word) and in our Bibles (the written Word), the clearer His voice becomes, and He will restore our empty souls.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father in heaven,

We confess and repent of all the times we have tried to treat our emptiness under our own power and through worldly means. We acknowledge that You, and You alone, are the key to a fulfilling, whole, and satisfying life.

Lead us to a greater appreciation of Your written Word and a greater desire to study it and know it because knowing the Word allows us to know You better; and in knowing You, we can find rest. Amen.

Please reflect on Psalm 23 again as you end your prayer time.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST

PSALM 23:1; MATTHEW 6:33; JOHN 15:5

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall [lack nothing].”—Psalm 23:1

God provides for all humans and creatures, but He is a shepherd only to His people. As shepherd, He’s always there to take care of His sheep, and they will lack nothing. Jesus is our Good Shepherd (John 10:11). He looks after our whole being—spirit, soul, and body.

Jesus wanted His disciples’ hearts to be occupied by Him and His Kingdom. He did not want them to worry about the things of this world. He said, “But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matt. 6:33). For those who set King Jesus before them, God makes sure that they have all they need.

As believers in Christ, we depend on Him for all things. He said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man abides in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). The assurance for the branch to always bear fruit is in abiding in the vine. The Father, the farmer, is looking for fruit on the branches—fruit that comes only from the farmer’s vine. Only these fruits bring glory to Him.

We are to produce Christ’s fruits—His character. Let us look to our source, our enabler, our sustainer, our true vine. He will never disappoint us.



REFLECTION PRAYER

Father,

We thank You, for You are our Shepherd, our Provider. Help us not to worry about little things. Help us to trust You and Your Son.

As Your Word says in John 14:1, “Trust in God; trust also in Me”; we want to continually believe in and depend upon You. We want to be fruitful. We want to produce Your character. Help us. Help us to get the order right: You before us and the things we need behind us. Occupy our hearts with You and Your Kingdom. Let our prayer always be “May Your Kingdom come.” In Jesus’ name, amen.

40 DAYS OF *prayer*

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

ELIAT APONTE

Eliat Aponte was raised in a Christian home in Puerto Rico. He has been married to Debra for 32 years, and they have two daughters, Keila and Keizah, and a son-in-law, Kenny Tran. Eliat loves reading and construction and serves the Lord with gratitude in the Alliance Spanish Eastern District.

SYLVIA BENNETT

Sylvia Bennett is a loving wife, daughter, sister, and friend. She is also a United States Army chaplain and a devoted child of the Most High God!

MEICA CAMPBELL

A Pacific Northwest native, Meica Campbell has lived and served in Kentucky for her adult life. She currently serves the Ohio Valley District as the ordination/consecration and leadership development/Greenhouse coordinator. She is a consecrated minister with The Alliance and along with her husband, ministers to a small congregation in Georgetown, Kentucky.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

CHARLES CHAPMAN

Charles Chapman serves as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions where he connects with and helps prepare prospective international worker candidates for long-term service opportunities. Charles, along with his wife, Liz, and children, Julia (12) and Marcus (9), live on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

CAESAR (CHAVO) CHAVEZ

Caesar (Chavo) Chavez was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Iraq. He holds a BA in philosophy from Kansas State University and an MA in intercultural studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. He currently serves as the associate pastor at Hope (C&MA) Church in Aurora, Colorado.

GRACE CHEON

Grace Cheon grew up in New York as a second-generation Korean-American, graduated from Alliance Theological Seminary with an MDiv in missions, and now works as the church multiplication coordinator at the U.S. Alliance National Office. She is married to Jonathan.

KATERINA COOK

Katerina Cook is an insurance agent who is deeply involved within her church. She directs Sunday school ministries and also leads the women's ministry and outreach programs within her church.

BEN DOUGLAS

Ben Douglas is the lead pastor of Faith Community Church on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

JUSTIN DUBOSE

Justin Dubose is the lead pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, Texas. He is also a CH (MAJ) in the USAR serving as chaplain for the 7th Psychological Operations Group (POG). A husband to Alanna since 2005, they have five beautiful children. Justin has his PhD in organizational leadership and is passionate about equipping God's people to mobilize and train present and future Kingdom leaders.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

PAUL GARCIA

Paul Garcia is a Navy chaplain serving Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He has been with The Alliance for 13 years. He and his wife, Heather, have been married 20 years; they have four boys, Isaac, Rylan, Jude, and Liam.

DARIA HASTIE

Darea Hastie is the director of family ministries at Long Hill Chapel in Chatham, New Jersey, where she has served for the last 10 years. She has a heart for connecting people, our next generation, and her community. Darea loves to spend time with her husband and their two teenage children.

JERRY HENDERSON

Ch., Capt. Jerry Henderson currently serves as an Active Duty United States Air Force chaplain serving at Holloman Air Base, New Mexico. Jerry and his wife, Joanna, have been serving in Christian ministry for more than 15 years and together have been blessed with six children.

EDEN KRAHN

Eden Krahn is a second-generation Hmong American Christian and Michigan native. She owns a small business, creating apparel that advocates the joy of prayer and the importance of inner work and spiritual development. Eden currently resides in Georgia with her husband and three daughters.

KRISTA LAIN

Chaplain 1st Lieutenant Krista Lain recently joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve and will serve 30+ days each year at Moron ARB in Spain. Previously, she served alongside her family overseas in Spain and Mongolia for 10 years with Envision/CAMA. Currently, she ministers at Arise Christian Fellowship in Lafayette, Indiana.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

GABE LAWSON

Gabe Lawson is an Active Duty Air Force chaplain (Capt.) currently stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Prior to his active duty service, Gabe served as an Alliance pastor in Kentucky for eight years. He is joined in ministry with his wife, Mary, and their four children.

RUFUS MCDOWELL

Rufus McDowell is a native of Griffin, Georgia. He served in the United States Army for twenty years and received his MDiv in pastoral ministries at Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary (Lynchburg, Virginia) and his DMin at Luther Rice Seminary (Atlanta, Georgia).

LES MCMAHAN

Les McMahan has been serving as cohort director for the LEAD program for the past six years after having graduated from the program. He was also co-director of Men's Ministries for the Central District and served as a bi-vocational pastor and youth pastor.

JEFF MILLER

Jeff Miller and his wife, Pam, graduated from Alliance University in New York, New York, and have journeyed together in ministry for 37 years. He is currently the Ohio Valley District superintendent. Jeff and Pam reside in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters.

BETTY MOREJON

Betty Morejon serves as the youth director at Iglesia Alianza Cristiana y Misionera de Kissimmee in the Spanish Eastern District.

ANITA MORRISON

Anita Morrison is a Bible teacher and speaker who attends Hope Alliance Bible Church in Maple Heights, Ohio, where her husband, Ronald, is the founding and senior pastor. Anita leads worship, teaches a women's Bible study, and is the tutoring site coordinator for the church's after school program. She holds an EdM degree.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

CHINH NGUYEN

Chinh Nguyen is the senior pastor of Washington Metropolitan Church and the secretary of the Vietnamese District. He and his wife, Xuan-Lan, have three children, Caleb, Rebecca, and Priscilla.

AARON PFAHLER

Aaron Pfahler has served as the Worship Arts pastor at First Alliance Church in Columbus, Ohio, since September 2020. He is passionate about leading people to authentically encounter Jesus and inspiring the Church to become more engaged in advancing the Kingdom.

BRIAN SCOTT

Brian Scott has been married to Susan for 30 years. They live in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters, Payton (24) and Jordan (22), and one son, Bryson (20). Brian works in the Ohio Valley District Office.

JOEL SMITH

Joel Smith has been a church planter and lead pastor in The Alliance for 30 years. He now serves the National Office as the dean of EquippingU Max and the Metro District of The Alliance as coaching team lead in the Church Health Department. Joel is also the founder of dalahcoaching.com.

TODD SOVINE

Todd Sovine grew up in The Alliance as a pastor and professor's kid. He has served in the local church for 16 years and in the Central District Office as the director of church multiplication for 16 years.

SPENCER SWEETING

Spencer Sweeting is the lead pastor of North Springs Alliance Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He's married to Beth and is a dad to Lucy, Josie, and Emma. Spencer is also a part-owner of the Green Bay Packers (the only publicly owned franchise in the NFL).

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

KORA TAUBE

Kora Taube is an Alliance international worker serving in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is married to Mark and is a mom to three kids. Kora loves that her work includes teaching English, working with kids, building relationships, and helping people consider Jesus. She longs to see people walking the way of Jesus together.

JUSTIN THORNTON

Justin Thornton is a desperate son of Jesus, a husband to Anne, and a father to three children, Selah, Anabelle, and JD. Justin planted churches for 12 years before becoming the director of multiplication for the Great Lakes District. He is also the author of *The Preacher*.

CHRIS VENA

Christopher Vena is a professor of theology and dean of the School of Christian Ministries at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia. He is also ordained with The Christian and Missionary Alliance. A life-long sports and outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys sharing these activities with his wife and four daughters.

LISA VOGAN

As a consecrated disciple-making specialist for the Northeastern District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lisa Vogan spends her time coaching, consulting, equipping, speaking, and facilitating leadership growth across the district and the United States. Lisa's greatest passion is encouraging, equipping, and empowering ministry leaders for Kingdom impact.

WANDA WALBORN

Wanda Walborn is an associate professor of spiritual formation at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York, New York, and the director of Empower, a certificate program for women of the Metropolitan District. Wanda is passionate about training leaders to advance the Kingdom of God.

BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

HANG WONG

Hang Wong grew up in New York City and was saved by Jesus in high school. He serves in the Candidate Recruitment & Development Office of the C&MA working with Alliance Theological Seminary students who desire to join the ministry of The Alliance. He is married to Kathy, and they have three young adult children.

GLORIA YANG

Gloria Yang is a wife, mother, and small business owner whose life is a testament to God's faithfulness and healing power. She is passionate about motherhood, writing, worship, and capturing moments in time. In all that she does, Gloria's desire is to tell the story of God's goodness.

DANIEL ZEWDU

Daniel Zewdu serves as a pastor in an Ethiopian congregation in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Cherie, are blessed with two sons, Theo (19) and Eyosi (15), and one daughter, Nanette (9). Daniel and his family came to the United States to serve this church in 2008.