

Grow, Pray, Study for the Week of November 2, 2025

Weekly Prayer

Monday, November 3

Scripture: Romans 12:1–2

So, brothers and sisters, because of God's mercies, I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your appropriate priestly service. Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is—what is good and pleasing and mature.

Observation

The Apostle Paul reminds us that following Christ begins with surrender. We are not our own. Everything we are—our bodies, minds, gifts, and time—belongs to God. This surrender isn't about loss but transformation. When we stop trying to shape our lives around the world's expectations and instead offer ourselves to God, we find the truest form of freedom. John Wesley's Covenant Prayer echoes this same truth: life in Christ is not ours to manage or control. It is a daily offering of trust.

Application

Today, pause and reflect: What areas of your life do you still try to control? Your schedule? Your image? Your relationships? Invite God to take those parts of your life and transform them for divine purpose. Write on a card or sticky note: *"I am no longer my own, but thine."* Place it somewhere you'll see often as a daily reminder of surrender.

Prayer

Gracious God, thank you for your mercy that makes surrender possible. I offer myself to you today—body, mind, and spirit. Shape me, use me, and make me wholly yours. Amen.

Tuesday, November 4

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord sitting on a high and exalted throne, the edges of his robe filling the temple. Winged creatures were stationed around him. Each had six wings: with two they veiled their faces, with two their feet, and with two they flew about. They shouted to each other, saying:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of heavenly forces!
All the earth is filled with God's glory!"

The doorframe shook at the sound of their shouting, and the house was filled with smoke. I said, "Mourn for me; I'm ruined! I'm a man with unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips. Yet I've seen the king, the LORD of heavenly forces!" Then one of the winged creatures flew to me, holding a glowing coal that he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips. Your guilt has departed, and your sin is removed." Then I heard the Lord's voice saying, "Whom should I send, and who will go for us?" I said, "I'm here; send me."

Observation

When Isaiah encounters God's holiness, his first response is surrender. He doesn't negotiate his role or ask for details—he simply says, *"Here I am; send me."* Wesley's prayer echoes that posture: "Put me to what thou wilt." This is not passive resignation but active willingness. It means letting God write the assignment and trusting that wherever we are sent, God goes with us. In Methodist theology, this is grace at work—God's prevenient grace prepares us, God's justifying grace forgives us, and God's sanctifying grace empowers us to serve.

Application

Where might God be calling you to say, "Here I am"? Maybe it's serving in a ministry, reconciling a relationship, or offering kindness to a stranger. Listen for God's nudge today. Pray Isaiah's words at least three times today: *"Here I am, Lord; send me."* Watch for an opportunity God places before you and then act.

Prayer

Holy God, give me ears to hear your call and a heart ready to respond. Use me in your service wherever I am needed. Amen.

Wednesday, November 5

Scripture: Philippians 2:1–5

Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort in love, any sharing in the Spirit, any sympathy, complete my joy by thinking the same way, having the same love, being united, and agreeing with each other. Don't do anything for selfish purposes, but with humility think of others as better than yourselves. Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others. Adopt the attitude that was in Christ Jesus:

Observation

The world ranks people by success, wealth, and influence. But in God's kingdom, greatness is measured by humility and service. Wesley's line, "Rank me with whom thou wilt," is a prayer of radical equality. Whether we are placed in positions of leadership or obscurity, God's purpose remains the same—to glorify Christ in all things. To "adopt the attitude of Christ" is to live without comparison or competition, content to serve wherever God places us.

Application

Ask yourself: Am I content to serve quietly, even when no one notices? True surrender means letting go of status and embracing humility. Do one act of kindness or service this week that no one else will know about. Let it be between you and God alone.

Prayer

Loving God, help me to live with the humble heart of Christ. Place me where you need me most, and teach me to serve with joy and gratitude. Amen.

Thursday, November 6

Scripture: James 2:14–18

My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, "Go in peace! Stay warm! Have a nice meal!"? What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. Someone might claim, "You have faith and

I have action.” But how can I see your faith apart from your actions? Instead, I’ll show you my faith by putting it into practice in faithful action.

Observation

Faith is not merely belief—it’s embodied action. Wesley emphasized practical divinity: a faith that works through love. When we pray “Put me to doing,” we open ourselves to serve in whatever ways God chooses—feeding the hungry, teaching children, advocating for justice, visiting the lonely. Every act of service, no matter how small, becomes an expression of worship. Surrender is not just internal devotion; it’s lived out in visible, tangible acts of love.

Application

Consider one way you can be “put to doing” today—something that meets a need, blesses a neighbor, or brings healing. Make a simple list of three ways you can serve others this week—one at home, one in church, and one in your community. Then act on at least one today.

Prayer

God of grace, thank you for calling me to active faith. Strengthen my hands for service and my heart for love, that I may show your grace through all I do. Amen.

Friday, November 7

Scripture: 1 Peter 4:1–13

Therefore, since Christ suffered as a human, you should also arm yourselves with his way of thinking. This is because whoever suffers is finished with sin. As a result, they don’t live the rest of their human lives in ways determined by human desires but in ways determined by God’s will. You have wasted enough time doing what unbelievers desire—living in their unrestrained immorality and lust, their drunkenness and excessive feasting and wild parties, and their forbidden worship of idols. They think it’s strange that you don’t join in these activities with the same flood of unrestrained wickedness. So they slander you. They will have to reckon with the one who is ready to judge the living and the dead. Indeed, this is the reason the good news was also preached to the dead. This happened so that, although they were judged as humans according to human standards, they could live by the Spirit according to divine standards. The end of everything has come. Therefore, be self-controlled and clearheaded so you can pray. Above all, show sincere love to each other, because love brings about the forgiveness of many sins. Open your homes to each other without complaining. And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God’s diverse gifts. Whoever speaks should do so as those who speak God’s word. Whoever serves should do so from the strength that God furnishes. Do this so that in everything God may be honored through Jesus Christ. To him be honor and power forever and always. Amen.

Dear friends, don’t be surprised about the fiery trials that have come among you to test you. These are not strange happenings. Instead, rejoice as you share Christ’s suffering. You share his suffering now so that you may also have overwhelming joy when his glory is revealed.

Observation

To pray “Put me to suffering” is one of the boldest lines of the Covenant Prayer. Wesley did not glorify pain, but he understood that following Christ often means walking the hard road of love—choosing forgiveness, standing for justice, and bearing the cost of compassion. Suffering, in the Methodist understanding, can become a means of grace—a way God forms us more deeply in Christ’s likeness. We don’t seek it, but when it comes, we trust that God can redeem it.

Application

Reflect on a difficult season in your life. How did God meet you there? What compassion or wisdom grew out of your suffering? Reach out to someone who is hurting and offer a word of comfort or prayer. Be a presence of God's grace in their pain.

Prayer

Suffering Savior, when life is hard, help me to not turn away from you. Teach me to trust that you are working even in the struggle. Use my pain for your purpose and the good of others. Amen.

Saturday, November 8

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God." Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Observation

Mary's words echo the heart of Wesley's prayer: "*I am no longer my own, but thine.*" She didn't have all the answers, but she trusted the One who called her. True surrender isn't a one-time event—it's a daily "yes" to God's will, whatever it brings. Like Mary, we are invited to say yes to God's purposes—yes to the unknown, yes to serving others, yes even when the path is uncertain. Such surrender is the birthplace of grace.

Application

What would it look like to say "Let it be with me" to God today? Consider one area where you've been resisting God's direction. Offer it back to God in prayer.

Prayer

Faithful God, help me to live with Mary's courage and Wesley's surrender. Let my life be a living "yes" to you. I am yours—now and always. Amen.