



WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT

Grow, Pray, Study for the Week of February 15, 2026

Prayer for the Week

Loving God, today I bring my fears, grief, and challenges to you. Meet me here in the midst of my struggles, open my eyes to hope, and help me see how even hardship can become opportunity. Breathe your Spirit into me now. Amen.

Monday, February 16

Scripture: Romans 5:1-6

Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope. This hope doesn't put us to shame, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people.

Observation

Paul wrote this letter to the Roman Christians, a community he had never visited in person, around 57 CE. Many in Rome were experiencing social pressure, persecution, and internal conflicts. In this context, "trouble" (Greek: *thlipsis*) refers to external pressures, hardships, and persecution that were very real threats to early Christians' survival. Paul reframes suffering not as meaningless, but as a spiritual forge. Endurance isn't just passive waiting; it is a learned ability to hold firm in faith amid opposition. Character, in this sense, reflects the formation of moral integrity and resilience, shaped by lived trials. And hope emerges, not as naïve optimism, but as a conviction rooted in God's faithfulness and history of saving God's people.

Application

When we long for a quick exit from hard seasons, God invites us to stay present. Instead of

asking “Why me?” you can ask “What is God teaching me?” Notice one way your struggles are shaping your strength or compassion this week.

Prayer

Faithful God, when life tests my patience, shape my heart with endurance. Transform my challenges into character and my character into hope. Amen.

Tuesday, February 17

Scripture: Romans 8:18-28

I believe that the present suffering is nothing compared to the coming glory that is going to be revealed to us. The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God’s sons and daughters. Creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice—it was the choice of the one who subjected it—but in the hope that the creation itself will be set free from slavery to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of God’s children. We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. And it’s not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn’t hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don’t see, we wait for it with patience.

In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don’t know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God’s will. We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Observation

Paul wrote this to a community in Rome that was living under imperial rule, where Christians were often marginalized or persecuted. “All things” (ta panta) would have included imprisonment, poverty, discrimination, and the uncertainties of life in a sprawling empire. Ancient audiences would have understood that “good” is not always immediate or obvious; it is a long-term, redemptive process. God’s activity is likened to a skilled weaver taking threads that seem broken or chaotic and weaving them into a purposeful, beautiful design.

Application

In difficult moments, try naming one thing you believe God is refining in you—compassion, patience, courage. Let that become your anchor for the day.

Prayer

Loving God, help me trust that you are weaving all things—even hard things—into a tapestry of your good purposes. Amen.

Wednesday, February 18

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-9

But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

Observation

Paul is writing to the Corinthian church, a community facing internal divisions and external challenges. Corinth was a bustling Roman city, a commercial hub with social inequalities, religious pluralism, and political instability. Paul uses a series of contrasts (trouble but not crushed, perplexed but not in despair) to mirror the tension of Christian life in that setting. The metaphor of "being knocked down but not destroyed" would resonate with audiences familiar with Roman spectacles of struggle, gladiatorial contests, and public shame. Paul's point: even in extreme adversity, God's sustaining presence prevents ultimate collapse.

Application

When your day feels heavy, remind yourself: I may be knocked down, but I am not destroyed. Let God's presence be your stability.

Prayer

God of steady presence, when I feel knocked down, remind me that I am not destroyed. Sustain me with your peace and strength. Amen.

Thursday, February 19

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-17

Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that the things that have happened to me have actually advanced the gospel. The whole Praetorian Guard and everyone else knows that I'm in prison for Christ. Most of the brothers and sisters have had more confidence through the Lord to speak the word boldly and bravely because of my jail time. Some certainly preach Christ with jealous and competitive motives, but others preach with good motives. They are motivated by love, because they know that I'm put here to give a defense of the gospel; the others preach Christ because of their selfish ambition. They are insincere, hoping to cause me more pain while I'm in prison.

Observation

Paul is writing this from prison in Rome, likely under house arrest, around 60–62 CE. Early Christians would have understood that imprisonment often carried stigma, danger, and uncertainty. Yet Paul reframes his confinement as an opportunity. In Roman culture, prisoners were usually powerless; Paul transforms this disadvantage into a platform for witness. His words demonstrate a radical trust that God can work through the very

limitations imposed by adversity. His confidence is not a boast of immunity to hardship but a declaration of God's faithful presence within it.

Application

Think of a hard experience you're living through now. How could God be using it—not to harm you, but to help someone else see love, courage, or compassion? Look for one small way to share that hope this week.

Prayer

God of unexpected opportunity, help me to see how even hard places can become venues for your love and truth. Amen.

Friday, February 20

Scripture: Isaiah 43:14 – 21

The Lord your redeemer,
the holy one of Israel, says,
For your sake, I have sent an army to Babylon,
and brought down all the bars,
turning the Chaldeans' singing into a lament.
I am the Lord, your holy one,
Israel's creator, your king!
The Lord says—who makes a way in the sea
and a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and battalion;
they will lie down together and will not rise;
they will be extinguished, extinguished like a wick.
Don't remember the prior things;
don't ponder ancient history.
Look! I'm doing a new thing;
now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it?
I'm making a way in the desert,
paths in the wilderness.
The beasts of the field,
the jackals and ostriches, will honor me,
because I have put water in the desert
and streams in the wilderness
to give water to my people,
my chosen ones,
this people whom I formed for myself,
who will recount my praise.

Observation

Isaiah was writing to the Israelites during the Babylonian exile, a time of displacement, despair, and cultural upheaval (6th century BCE). “Wilderness” here is both literal and metaphorical—a land of emptiness and uncertainty, where life seemed impossible. God promises renewal: rivers in the wilderness, a new path forward. To the exiles, this was counterintuitive—they were surrounded by ruin—but God’s message was clear: even in desolation, divine opportunity emerges. The Israelites were called to watch for it and participate in it.

Application

Identify a “wilderness moment” in your life—loss, transition, or uncertainty. Look for a “river”—a small but real sign of new life, growth, or possibility. Let it remind you of God’s sustaining work.

Prayer

God of new beginnings, even in the wilderness, open streams of hope. Help me to see the life you are bringing forth. Amen.

Saturday, February 21**Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11-14**

I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope. When you call me and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you search for me, yes, search for me with all your heart, you will find me. I will be present for you, declares the Lord, and I will end your captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have scattered you, and I will bring you home after your long exile, declares the Lord.

Observation

Jeremiah wrote this letter to the Jewish exiles in Babylon, around 590–580 BCE, a people uprooted from their land, culture, and temple life. God’s promise of hope and a future was countercultural—they were living in uncertainty and suffering. In Hebrew, hope (tiqvah) implies both anticipation and patient expectation. God’s plan is not abstract, it includes the welfare of the exiles, a restoration of life and relationship. The promise is both personal and communal: God’s vision for their future exceeds their present pain.

Application

When fear or doubt whispers that the future is bleak, speak this promise aloud: God’s plans are for my hope, not disaster. Let it guide your courage and choices for today.

Prayer

Hope-giving God, remind me that your plans for me are for life and hope. Shape my steps with courage as I trust in your future. Amen.