

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

## WEEK 6 EVANGELIZE NOW

*2 Corinthians 6:2*

Queen Esther risked everything to go before the king to help bring salvation to her people. There was a point when she said it was time to act. Her mentor, Mordecai, said, "Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). In our world today, people are desperate for rescue from empty lives and fears that plague them. 2 Corinthians 6:2 says that the time of God's favor and the day of salvation is now. Let's pray powerful prayers asking God to use us for such a time as this in our society to share His salvation, that people will receive His love for them.

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## FREELY FORGIVEN

ISAIAH 55:6-7

Dreaming is interesting. In some dreams, we possess gifts we don't actually have, like powers that allow us to fly, great wealth, or fame. In other dreams, the gifts we take for granted are taken away.

We've all had a dream where something was chasing us while we were unable to run away. Or what about the dreams where we want to warn someone or cry out for help, but our voice doesn't seem to work?

Personally, these are the dreams that affect me the most. Unable to flee from the evil that is pursuing me, I feel powerless. When I call for help and no one hears my call, I feel hopeless and fearful. That is what makes this passage so beautiful.

Forgiveness, while a truly amazing gift, is not the only gift present in the passage. It is not even the first gift given to us. God, in His provisional grace, gives us the ability to seek and call Him. Who are we that we can seek the eternal Creator and Judge and find Him? Even more, who are we that He listens when we call? Why should a holy God hear the calls of those who act as His enemy?

According to His character, His gifts continue to come. God gives an invitation for the wicked to turn from sin and receive compassion, not justice. Wow! The all-knowing and all-powerful Judge invites the guilty to receive a pardon.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, we thank You that You may be found by those who seek You. Though there are many who are lost, that are hopeless, fearful, and powerless, You can still be found by those who seek You. We thank You that You hear us when we call. We give You glory and praise! Amen.

## BRINGING MANY

DANIEL 12:3

While growing up, my father often shared with me one of his favorite Bible verses, Daniel 12:3:

“Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”

“Julie, win souls to Christ!” he often exclaimed.

My earliest recollection of his evangelistic zeal was when I was 12. One Saturday morning, I experienced his “waffle evangelism.” My father had met a family at a department store and brought them home with him. “Julie, grind the wheat. It’s time for a waffles!” Eventually, the whole family of eight came to know Christ.

As I watched my father more closely, I learned his strategy.

It all started with fervent prayer. Even after he retired, my father woke up early in the morning and began to pray fervent prayers for “divine appointments.” Dad befriended people at supermarkets, department stores, or just on the street. There, he would meet people open to the gospel and lead them to Christ.

When international students and refugees started arriving, things became really wild!

In 1979, a member the king’s Cabinet from a far-off country fled to Omaha. My father befriended the majority religion leader and eventually, his daughter came to live with us. In the evenings, she would often read the Bible with me. Here was a young lady from a 99 percent majority religion country reading God’s Word with me. Recently, one family member came to Christ and was baptized.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I realize that the urgency of prayer is crucial in reaching the lost. In John 15, You ask Your disciples to abide; if we abide in You, we bear fruit. Apart from You, we can do nothing. Father, as I abide in You, I pray for divine appointments, that You rescue people out of darkness into light! I ask You persistently! In Matt 7:7-8, the verbs are continuous actions: “Ask and keep asking, keep and keep seeking, knock and keep knocking.” I petition Your throne of grace on behalf of my friends here and around the world! Amen.

## SAVED THROUGH FAITH

EPHESIANS 2:8-10

Ephesians 2:8-10 makes simple the reality of the good news of Jesus. It cannot be earned in any way. It is a gift of grace, the unmerited favor of God. A gift must be received from the giver—in this case, through faith in the Gift Giver, Jesus.

How do you know that you have received this gift via grace instead of striving in human effort? Verse 10 makes this plain—a transformed life. In Jesus, by grace and faith, we become God's workmanship or masterpiece. He molds us to become in all ways like Jesus, and this is the evidence that we are doing so by grace, not works.

I once read that only grace can change us in the consistent way we desire. Putting off the old self and its propensity towards works is critical to growth in grace, which only comes by grace in the first place. This truly is a wonderful gift of grace that saves us but also sanctifies us.

We can never embrace grace too much nor can we be too ruthless to eliminate any sort of works mentality we may have. This personal experience radically impacts our attitude and motivation towards evangelism. Having drunk from the well of grace, we cannot help but tell others. If evangelism is lacking in your life, look to grace. It will change your practice in amazing ways.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for Your gift of grace. Help us to drink this gift deeply and in so doing, find a compelling reason and a transformative message to give to friends, family, and coworkers. The message of Your grace is given through the gospel. Help us to eliminate a works mentality from our lives so that we can find the freedom of being transformed. Amen.

## LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

MATTHEW 5:16

I work part-time as a housekeeper at a local hotel; it's a fairly new gig for me. Admittedly, it's a task that requires more humility than I tend to possess . . . especially when I first began. I was elbow deep in a mess that wasn't my own, complaining about the carelessness of guests, and arguing in my spirit about having such a menial job when the Lord simply asked, "Can you make beds for my glory?" I said, "Yes," hastily, but "How, Jesus?" was my immediate rebuttal.

You see, the goal of a housekeeper is to remain rather unseen. We quietly invade a space just long enough to make it welcoming again. The only thing that should linger is a fresh scent! So, aside from the bedside Bible, I didn't know what inspiration was to be found in fluffed pillows or hospital corners. Is it even possible to share the good news of Jesus when nobody is present to receive Him?

Well, I'm beginning to understand that nothing is wasted in God's economy! Our Lord makes Himself visible in all sorts of ways, including the inconspicuous deeds of a housekeeper. For wherever we shine our light, that place is illuminated, even if only one's spirit is able to perceive it. When there are no words exchanged to convey our faith, our willingness becomes our witness. The works of our hands point to the heart of Jesus, for service speaks of God's love in a language that every homesick soul can understand.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Father, help us to seek Your glory, and may You make Yourself evident in all our deeds. Please soften our hearts to serve one another in genuine love and humility. Oh, Lord, that You would make us bearers of Your light in every task, we pray. Amen.

## PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

ROMANS 10:15-17

In this passage, Paul was quoting from Isaiah 52:7, where we read: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the one who brings glad tidings, who announces peace, who brings good news, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion: ‘Your God reigns!’”

God could have chosen any way to bring the message of salvation—perhaps with an angelic messenger or by working directly without a human preacher. However, God’s “normal” way of bringing people to Jesus Christ is through the preaching of the gospel, and He has chosen you to do it.

We rejoice with all those who have been saved by Jesus around the world. But still, it’s not enough. A lot of work still needs to be done. Let me show you some numbers related to this topic. The total world population is near eight billion people. A French researcher, Sebastian Fath, estimates that there are 2.5 billion Christians around the world, and only 660 million are considered evangelical Christians.

People’s rejection of the gospel is no excuse for us to not proclaim it. It does not take away our responsibility to preach to every creature.

Paul also says in 2 Timothy 4:1–2: “I urge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the Dead in his manifestation and in his kingdom, that you preach the Word; that you urge in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all patience and doctrine.”



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Almighty God, forgive me for not trying hard enough to preach Your Word outside the Church. Help me bring the good news of salvation to my family, the neighborhood, and to those places where the gospel has not yet reached. Father, even if people reject me, don’t let me stop from sharing the salvation that we only find in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.