



The Pattern **PRAYER**

Pastor Mason Phillips| August 9, 2026

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Day 1: Aligning With the Father's Heart

Devotional: Prayer is not a transaction. It is a conversation between a child and a Father who already knows what you need. Jesus opens the pattern prayer not with a request but with a posture -- one of reverence, trust, and alignment. Before you bring your list, bring yourself. Ask God what He sees in your situation that you cannot. Ask Him what He thinks about your decisions, your relationships, your direction. Real prayer begins when your will bends toward His. When you stop telling God what you want and start asking Him what He intends, prayer stops being a wish list and becomes a living conversation.

Reading:

Matthew 6:9-10 NKJV

“In this manner, therefore, pray:

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven.

Reflection: In what area of your life have you been telling God what you want rather than asking Him what He wills?

Practical Application: Begin your prayer time today by simply saying, "God, here is my situation. What do you think?" Then wait in silence for two minutes before making any requests.

Day 2: Seeking the Kingdom Before the Need

Devotional: Jesus did not say seek the kingdom after everything else fails. He said seek it first. There is a divine order to the life of faith, and prayer reflects that order. When provision, protection, and comfort become the starting point of prayer rather than the destination of a kingdom-focused life, something gets misaligned. The promise of Matthew 6:33 is not that God ignores your needs. It is that when your pursuit is rightly ordered, your needs get rightly covered. God is not withholding from you. He is waiting for you to want what He wants first, so that what He gives you will actually be what you need.

Reading:

Matthew 6:33 NKJV

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Reflection: Have you been seeking provision more urgently than you have been seeking the kingdom? What does that reveal about where your trust truly rests?

Practical Application: Write down your top three prayer requests. Next to each one, write how fulfilling that request could bring glory to God and advance His kingdom in your life or the lives of others.

Day 3: Trusting God When the Answer Is No

Devotional: Paul prayed three times for his thorn to be removed. God said no. But God's refusal was not rejection -- it was redirection toward something greater. The apostle who wrote much of the New Testament did so while carrying an unresolved affliction. God's no was not a closed door. It was an open window to grace that Paul could not have found any other way. When God declines your request, it is not because He is indifferent. It is because He sees what you cannot. Learning to praise God in the middle of an unanswered prayer is not denial. It is the deepest form of trust.

Reading:

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 NKJV

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Reflection: Is there a prayer you have prayed repeatedly without the answer you hoped for? What might God be revealing or developing in you through that silence?

Practical Application: Write a prayer of surrender today. Lay down a specific request and tell God in writing that you trust His answer, whatever it may be, because His will is good.

Day 4: The Weight of Unforgiveness

Devotional: Jesus emphasized one thing above all others in His teaching on prayer: forgiveness. He did not elaborate further on daily bread or temptation. He returned to forgiveness and explained it. That is not accidental. Unforgiveness is not simply a relational problem. It is a spiritual one. It blocks the flow of grace between you and God, and it opens a door for the enemy to operate in your life. You cannot receive with closed hands. When bitterness fills your grip, there is no room for blessing. Forgiveness does not excuse what was done to you. It releases you from carrying it -- and it releases God to move on your behalf.

Reading:

Matthew 6:14-15 NKJV

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 NKJV

Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Reflection: Who have you been holding a debt against? What would it cost you to release that debt today?

Practical Application: Identify one person you have not fully forgiven. Pray specifically for that person today -- not for your feelings to change immediately, but for God to work in their life. Release the debt in prayer and ask God to fill that space with His grace.

Day 5: Praying With Confidence and Clean Hands

Devotional: The one who ascends the hill of the Lord is the one with clean hands and a pure heart. This is not about perfection. It is about posture. When you approach God having aligned yourself with His will, asked for what you need in the context of His kingdom, and released the unforgiveness that once blocked your connection with Him, something changes. Prayer stops feeling like it is bouncing

off the ceiling. There is a confidence that comes from knowing you are in right relationship with your Father. The peace Paul describes in Philippians 4 is not the absence of difficulty. It is the presence of God guarding your heart when you have learned to pray with nothing held back and nothing held against.

Reading:

Psalm 24:3-5 NKJV

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?

Or who may stand in His holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,

Nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive blessing from the Lord,

And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Reflection: What would your prayer life look like if you approached God daily with aligned will, honest requests, and a heart free of unforgiveness?

Practical Application: Using the pattern Jesus gave, write out a full prayer today. Begin with God's will and His kingdom. Then bring your needs. Then release anyone you have held anything against. Close by declaring that the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to Him. Return to this written prayer throughout the week and notice how your perspective shifts.