

Prayer is Talking with Our Father

Devotional Thought

One of the most comforting and inviting realities of prayer is that we are speaking with our heavenly father. Prayer is not petitioning an unknown or temperamental deity. Rather, it is communing with our father who intimately knows us and infinitely loves us.

How does God love us? He loves us in the same way he loves his only begotten Son, Jesus. How is it possible for God to love us like he loves Jesus? Because of the cross! With our sins paid for by Jesus and his perfect righteousness covering us, we are now in right standing with the Father and he delights to hear us pray! *“The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.”* – Proverbs 15:8 (NASB)

***“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven...”
Matthew 6:9 (ESV)***

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God that he is your Father and that because of Jesus you have a right relationship with him.

-Ask God to make this truth of him being your Father more of a reality in your life.

Reflection & Journaling

- What is your view of God as you go to him in prayer?
- Do you fear that you are displeasing to him? Or come to him knowing that he is your loving father?
- Do you view your prayers as an annoyance or a delight to God?

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Devotional Thought

God is worthy of our worship and as we come to him in prayer we are exhorted to do so. However, in the busyness of life, the trials of life, and the dryness of our hearts, we often don't feel like worshipping.

One of the reasons we struggle to worship in prayer is because we have forgotten all His benefits. Remember how he saved you and delivered you from darkness to light. Remember how he daily provides for all your needs. Remember how he has answered specific prayers for you in the past. Remember!

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits;” Psalm 103:2 (ESV)

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for who he is and all he has done for you.
Ask him to help you remember the great things he has done for you

Reflection & Journaling

- What has God done for you both big and small?
- What prayer has God directly answered for you in the last week, month, year?

Practical Prayer Prompt

Read a Psalm and pray it back to God. Psalm 103 is a good place to start..

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Devotional Thought

God is not a cosmic vending machine that we can dial up whenever and whatever our hearts desire. He is the sovereign God of the universe and we have the great privilege of coming into his throne room and talking with him. But as we do this, our heart posture should be one of humbly seeking his will, not our own. Jesus perfectly modeled this as he prayed before his crucifixion asking God to remove the cup of suffering but ended his prayer with *“Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”* May God help us to submit our own wishes and seek his will.

***“Your kingdom come, Your will be done” Matthew 6:10
“Nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 11:42***

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to align your heart with his will.

Ask God to help you to ask with open hands... “Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

Reflection & Journaling

- Are there things in my life that I'm not submitting to God's will?
- In prayer am I seeking my own will or seeking God's will?

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Prayer is Asking

Devotional Thought

One of the greatest privileges we've been given is that we are invited to ask the God of the universe for what we need!

Jesus instructs us to pray *"give us this day our daily bread"* Matt 6:11.

In Matt 7:7 Jesus plainly tells us to *"Ask and it will be given to you"* and in verse 11 he says *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"*

So what needs do you have? Spiritual? Physical? Emotional? Relational? Material? Have you asked him? Peter encourages us to *"cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you"*. 1 Peter 5:7 So ask him. He cares for you.

"Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven..."
Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God that he cares for you and that he wants you to ask him for what you need.

-Ask for forgiveness if you've become worried and anxious about your needs rather than taking them to God in prayer.

Quote for Reflection

Thank God that he cares for you and that he wants you to ask him for what you need.

Ask for forgiveness if you've become worried and anxious about your needs rather than taking them to God in prayer.

Surrendered Stewardship

Devotional Thought

Stewardship begins with a shift in ownership. When we grasp that God owns everything and we are His stewards, our attitude toward money changes. It's no longer about how much we can keep, but how faithfully we manage what's His.

Psalm 24 reminds us that everything we have — time, treasure, talent — is His. Today is a chance to ask: Am I holding God's resources with open hands or closed fists? True stewardship isn't about obligation, it's about trust and worship

“The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.” Psalm 24:1 (ESV)

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for His provision.
- Confess areas where you've clung to control over money.
- Ask God to grow a generous heart in you.

Reflection & Journaling

- Where do I struggle to trust God financially?
- How can I honor God with my resources this week?
- Is there anything God is prompting me to give or let go of?

Practical Stewardship Prompt

Today's Challenge: Review your budget or bank statement and highlight where your heart is reflected in your spending. Make one intentional change this week toward generosity.

Divine Unity

Devotional Thought

Have you considered the perfect unity of the Trinity?

Throughout all eternity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have been in complete harmony, fellowship and cooperation with one another. So when we, the church, demonstrate unity and show grace to others, we are behaving like God!

Even though each member of the Godhead is a distinct person with a unique role, they constantly honor and glorify each other. When you pray for and support your brother or sister in Christ, it brings glory to God since you are acting like your creator.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God (the Father) and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” II Cor. 13:14

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for the unity of the Trinity!

-Confess where you have been critical of a brother or sister in Christ.

-Ask God to help you love other believers differ from you.

Reflection & Journaling

- How do I handle criticism from other Christ followers?
- Do I choose to forgive them?
- In what way can I build up a brother or sister in Christ?

Quote for Reflection

“The persons within God exalt each other, commune with each other, and defer to one another. Each divine person harbors the others at the center of his being.” Tim Keller

And he shall direct your paths

Devotional Thought

Trust in God can be described in two ways from this passage. The first is the negative, don't lean on your own understanding. Don't trust in your ability to figure it out. Rather, confess your own inability and rely instead upon His infinite ability.

The second description of trust in God is acknowledging him in all your ways. This isn't merely an admission that he exists but a whole hearted dependence upon him in everything. And for those who trust God in this way there is the wonderful promise: he will direct your paths.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God that he guides and directs us.

-Ask God to help you to trust him with everything.

Reflection & Journaling

- Are there areas in my life that I'm leaning on my own understanding rather than trusting God?
- What would acknowledging God in all my ways look like practically in my life?

Love is the Goal

Devotional Thought

Paul reminds us that love isn't just a bonus in the Christian life. It's the target we are all to be aiming for; it's the bullseye. While sin is missing the mark, when we love we are hitting the mark every time. Everything we do as believers should be aimed at producing love rooted in purity, integrity, and real faith.

True love is not shallow, like the love this world speaks of and claims to know something about. Only believers can know authentic love, as God's word tells us in 1 John that we cannot know love outside of knowing God. Love flows from a life transformed by God. It's the first fruit of the Spirit, and love is the fruit of a sincere walk with Christ.

"The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith." 1 Timothy 1:5

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God that His love reached you first through Christ.
- Confess areas where your words or actions have lacked love.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your love for God and others.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas of my life show growth in love? Where do I still fall short?
- Am I pursuing love more than being right, impressive, or productive?
- How can I grow in love that flows from a pure heart and sincere faith?

PRACTICAL PROMPT

Today's Challenge: Find a quiet moment to reflect on someone who may be hard for you to love. Pray for them by name, then take one small step that expresses Christlike love.

Devotional Thought

The starting point for wisdom is to fear him. What is fear of God? A simple definition is acknowledging God and submitting to him in everything. If this is your heart attitude, you are on the path to wisdom.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God that he is the source of all wisdom.
- Ask God to help you to grow in your fear of him..

Reflection & Journaling

- Are there areas in my life where I don't fear God?
- What changes do I need to make to fear him in everything?

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Our Identity as Salt and Light

Devotional Thought

Jesus calls His people salt and light. This is not intended as a goal to achieve, but as an identity we already carry. Salt has a preserving and purifying effect. Light shines in dark places. Salt preserves and seasons, reminding us to live with integrity and grace that draws others toward God. Light reveals and guides, resisting and pushing back darkness with the truth of the gospel. Evangelism begins when we live boldly and visibly for Christ in everyday life, trusting that our presence, actions and words can lead others to Him.

To represent Jesus effectively in this world we must desperately seek to live as Spirit-filled “salty” and “lit” followers of Christ.

"You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.....Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:13-14,16 (ESV)

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God that His love reached you first through Christ.
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- Ask the Holy Spirit to deepen your love for God and others.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas of my life show growth in love? Where do I still fall short?
- Am I pursuing love more than being right, impressive, or productive?
- How can I grow in love from a pure heart and sincere faith?

Today's Challenge

Find a quiet moment to reflect on someone who may be hard for you to love. Pray for them by name, then take one small step that expresses Christlike love.

Devotional Thought

How do we get God's attention? If he were like a president, you might expect that you would get his attention by being someone famous or by giving a sizable donation to his campaign.

But is God this way? No! He tells us here in Isaiah 66 what catches his eye: humility, contrition, and trembling at his word. Dear saints, if you want God to notice you and to hear your prayers, you don't need to be someone special; you need to humble yourself before God, repent of any known sin in your life, and take his word seriously. **Let's commit, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to walk in this way.**

***"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble
and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."
Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)***

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God that He hears prayer.
- Confess any known sin in your life.
- Ask God to help you to grow in humility, contrition, and trembling at his word.

Reflection & Journaling

- Where is pride most evident in my life?
- Is there known sin that I have not repented of?
- Is there any part of my life where God's word is not being taken seriously?

[illegible]

Look Ahead

Devotional Thought

What are some ways we can live with a focus on eternity?

We can realize that we are stewards and God is the owner of all we are and have. A steward is someone entrusted with another's wealth or property and charged with the responsibility of managing it in the other's best interest.

A steward realizes he is not the owner, just the manager.

When we focus on the here and now, we forget that we are stewards and are to use the resources he gives us to invest in eternity.

*"Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting is my life."*

Psalms 39:4

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for entrusting you with time, talents, and material possessions.

-Ask God to help you focus on eternity and his Kingdom.

Reflection & Journaling

- How can I invest in eternity today?
- Have I been using my time and talents to glorify my Savior?

Quote for Reflection

"He who provides for this life but takes no care for eternity is wise for a moment but a fool forever." John Tillotson

Look Ahead

Devotional Thought

Have you ever thought that it might be pretty cool to be rich? We could buy fancy cars and houses. Maybe even a yacht! Yet, all the research shows that rich people are not happy or satisfied. But as Christians we can all look forward to the lasting, satisfying riches of Jesus; riches of grace and kindness.

We also have so many riches mentioned in Ephesians 1.

These include: adoption, redemption, forgiveness lavished upon us, God making known to us the mystery of his will, an inheritance, and being sealed with the Holy Spirit. These are the riches that can never be taken away from us. They can never spoil or fade! Praise God!

"So that in the coming ages he (Jesus) might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:7

PRAYER FOCUS

-Praise God for all the riches we can enjoy as children of the King.

-Ask God to help you be joyful and thankful and to focus on all that Christ gives us.

Reflection & Journaling

- What are some other verses you can find that tell us about our riches in Christ?

Quote for Reflection

“Too many Christians have never “read the bank book” to find out the vast spiritual wealth that God has put to their account through Jesus Christ.” -Warren Wiersbe

[illegible]

God Leads the Humble

Devotional Thought

We all need leading and direction from the Lord. But who is it that God will lead and direct? The humble! Humility creates a channel by which God's blessing will be poured out upon us.

Pride, on the other hand, does not receive God's blessing but rather his opposition. Let us be a people who walk in humility before God and before one another. And as we do so, the Lord will guide and direct us in what is right.

"He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way." Psalm 25:9

*"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
James 4:6*

PRAYER FOCUS

- Confess any pride in your life and ask God to help you to walk in humility.
- Ask God to lead you in what is right.
- Ask God to lead our church in what is right.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas of my life is pride most manifested?
- Is pride hindering me from being led by God in any area of my life?

Devotional Thought

Therefore, as Christ followers, we are to unconditionally love others, in good and bad times. I don't know about you, but that is often very hard for me! In fact, it is impossible unless I am surrendered to the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER FOCUS

-Ask God to give you His heart in loving others.

Reflection & Journaling

- -In what specific way have I failed to love others?

Practice Love Prompt

Today's Challenge: Think of someone you know who is hard to love. Spend time in prayer asking God to give you the desire and opportunity to show love to that person.

Quote for Reflection

“To love the Lord my God with all my heart will involve a spiritual cost. I’ll have to give Him my heart, and let Him love through it whom and how He wills, even if this seems at times to break my heart.” Helen Rosevere

Look Ahead

Devotional Thought

Where do you turn when you need wisdom? The world will gladly fill you with its wisdom. Universities, social media influencers, YouTube, etc. are all too eager to pour into you their wisdom. All these boast of their so-called wisdom and yet 1 Corinthians 3:19 says “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.” (NIV)

If the best that the world has to offer is actually foolishness, where do we find wisdom? We find wisdom in God himself. “For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;”

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;" Proverbs 2:6

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to grow in you a deeper dependence upon him.
- Ask God to help you to be discerning and to not be influenced by the world’s wisdom.

Reflection & Journaling

- Are there areas in my life where I’m believing the world’s wisdom rather than God?
- What changes, if any, do I need to make to fill my mind with God’s wisdom rather than the world’s wisdom?

Having Salted Speech

Devotional Thought

Evangelism isn't just about sharing truth; it's about how we say it. Paul calls us to speak with wisdom and grace, making the gospel both clear and appealing. Conversations seasoned with salt reflect a heart full of love, kindness, and respect.

This passage also challenges us to be intentional with our time. Every interaction, every relationship, and every day is a chance to reflect Christ's grace and truth. In a world full of harsh and hollow words, gospel speech, loving, bold, and seasoned with salt, can make all the difference in a person's life. Let's be ready and intentional, with voices that cut through the noise of our day with clarity and compassion, and trusting God to use even small words to open big doors.

Read Colossians 4:5-6

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for giving you the words of life to share with others.
- Confess any careless or unkind words that may have hurt your witness.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to give you grace-filled boldness in every conversation today.

Evangelism Prompt

Today's Challenge: Start or continue a gospel-centered conversation with someone God has put on your heart—speak graciously, clearly, and prayerfully.

Reflection & Journaling

- What does it mean for my speech to be “seasoned with salt”?
- Who in my life needs to hear a kind but clear word about Jesus? How have I used my words this week to bless both believers and non-believers around me?
- On the other hand, how should I not use my words this week?

Work Together**Devotional Thought**

The work always goes better if we have a mind to work, and if we use our weapons (See Ephesians 6), and remember our God is great and awesome. They also cried out to God in prayer (Nehemiah 4:4,5) Nehemiah certainly had enemies who tried to discourage him. They wanted Nehemiah to stop the work and meet together with them.

He was wise and resisted their request 4 times. The enemies were telling lies too and tried in every way to stop the work. May we be like Nehemiah and refuse to give up when God has called us to advance his kingdom.

“So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work. Each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome.” Nehemiah 4:6, 14, 17

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank you Lord that you have work for each of us to do to build your kingdom. Help me not to give up when hard times come.

Reflection & Journaling

- What is the work God is calling me to do today?
- Where is my focus when things get hard?
- What part of the armor of God do I need today?

Joy Filled Giving

Devotional Thought

Do your thoughts often turn inward when you have time to think about anything you want? Are you consumed by the things concerning you – your schedule, your job, your kids, your parents, your savings, or that one thing you’re hoping to buy?

In Matthew 13:44, Jesus paints a picture of someone so overjoyed by what they've found that they gladly give up everything to get it. This isn't forced sacrifice – it's joyful surrender. Why? Because the treasure is worth it.

Joy-filled giving flows from seeing Jesus as the treasure above all treasures. When He captures our hearts, generosity becomes a delight, not a duty. True stewardship starts with joy, not guilt.

Read Matthew 13:44

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to help you see Jesus as your greatest treasure.
- Pray for joy to overflow in your giving, not obligation. Confess areas where you've clung to possessions rather than clung to Christ.

Reflection & Journaling

- What are you currently treasuring most?
- How does joy – not fear or guilt – show up in your giving habits?
- What’s one thing you could release to experience greater joy in Christ?

Practical Stewardship Prompt

Give something today not because you “should,” but because you truly want to. Let it be an act of worship. Write down how it made you feel to give with joy.

Preserve Unity

Devotional Thought

As believers, we are not called to be creators of unity.

Because of what God has done for us in Christ, we already have unity. We all are equal at the foot of the cross, sinners in need of mercy. And as a result of placing our faith in Christ we have been brought into the family of God and are brothers and sisters in Christ.

We are, however, exhorted to preserve unity (vs 3). How do we do that? “With all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love.” (vs 2) Let us seek to walk according to verse 2 and as we do we will be doing our part to preserve unity in the church.

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2. with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3. being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” Ephesians 4:1-3

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to help you to walk according to verse 2.
- Ask God to help our church to preserve unity.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas do I need to grow in to better live out verse 2?
- Is preserving unity a priority in my life? Is it a priority in my prayer life?

Devotional Thought

And **third**, God leads us. How comforting to know that the Good Shepherd, who has laid down his life for the sheep, (John 10:11) is the one who leads us!

The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. John 10:3

- Thank God that he knows you by name and that he leads you.
- Ask God to help you to better hear his voice and follow him

- Am I resisting or ignoring God's leading in any area of my life?
- Are you being intentional about seeking God's direction for your life and if not, what changes need to be made?

He leadeth me: O blessed
thought! O words with heavenly
comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still
'tis God's hand that leadeth me.
(Joseph H. Gilmore)

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

*The Great Cover Up*Devotional Thought

I like to cover up my physical flaws. We use paint to cover up our houses and cars. We like to hide any clutter or trash. Jesus commands us to love one another, and when we do, we cover their sins! What a wonderful thought. We certainly don't want to bring out in the open the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters!

I Peter 3:8 says, "Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind." Our heavenly Father not only covers our sin, but has removed it as far as the east from the west (Psalm 103:12). His love is so amazing! May we love like He does.

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." I Peter 4:8

PRAYER FOCUS

- Forgive me for finding fault with others. .
- Help me to love people earnestly and have a tender heart towards them.

Reflection & Journaling

- What are some ways I can show love to my family, friends, and even my enemies?

Quote for Reflection

"Only when we understand how much God has loved us will we be able to love one another as we've been commanded." David Jeremiah

Need Wisdom? Ask

Devotional Thought

I like to cover up my physical flaws. We use paint to cover up our houses and cars. We like to hide any clutter or trash. Jesus commands us to love one another, and when we do, we cover their sins! What a wonderful thought. We certainly don't want to bring out in the open the weaknesses of our brothers and sisters!

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“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.” I Peter 4:8

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for being a generous and faithful Giver.
- Confess any pride or unbelief that keeps you from asking for help.
- Ask boldly today for wisdom in a specific area of your life.

Reflection & Journaling

- Where do I most need wisdom right now?
- Do I believe God is willing and ready to answer when I ask?
- What would it look like in your life to seek God's wisdom daily?

Practical Prompt

Take 5 minutes today to ask God specifically for wisdom. Ask Him for forgiveness and the faith to believe Him if you find yourself doubting. Write down any Scripture or insight that comes to mind.

Devotional Thought

Jesus didn't come simply to give us better behavior. He came to bring us from darkness into light. In John 8, He stands and boldly declares, "I am the light of the world." That statement means that when we follow Him, we no longer stumble blindly in confusion, fear, or sin. We walk with the light of life burning within us.

Also, Jesus didn't just light our path, He lit us up. His life becomes our light. His mission becomes ours, and evangelism is simply the overflow of walking closely with Jesus. To evangelize is to reflect His light into places of darkness in people's hearts.

It means bringing the light and truth and love of Christ into everyday places in our community; into our homes, schools, jobs, and neighborhoods. As we look to Him, we become more like him each day (2 Cor. 3:18). As we follow Him, we carry His light into our relationships and communities.

Read John 8:12

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank Jesus for calling you out of darkness and giving you the light of life.
- Confess areas where you've strayed into spiritual dimness or hidden your faith.
- Ask God to help you reflect His light to someone who is struggling to find their way.

Reflection & Journaling

- What does it mean for me personally to "have the light of life"?
- Where might God be calling me to shine more clearly and boldly?
- How can I reflect the character and presence of Jesus in the relationships I already have?

Evangelism Prompt

Today's Challenge: Bring Christ's presence to a dark space in your community through prayer, presence, or action this week.

Devotional Thought

There are many things in this life that make us feel insecure and downright frightened. Maybe your financial situation is uncertain. Maybe your health or the health of a loved one is not good. Maybe relationships are disappointing and discouraging you. So many times in scripture God tells us not to be afraid.

Isaiah 41:10 says, *“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God.”*

Isaiah 41:13 says, *“For I, the Lord your God, hold your right hand.”*

Hebrews 13:6 says, *“The Lord is my helper, I will not fear...”*
We can put our faith firmly in our Father who has promised to be with us always.”

“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”
Psalm 91:1, 2

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank you Father for your presence, protection, provision, and power.
- Help my faith to grow stronger, Lord Jesus!
- May I rest in all your strong promises.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas of my life are troubling me right now?
- What are some verses that I can meditate on to make my faith stronger?
- Who can you pray with you to help you lean on our Father more?

Running Over

Devotional Thought

How much stuff is enough? Do you ever feel like the world has sucked you into its trap, alluring you with more and more stuff? What can neutralize this acidic temptation for more? Giving it away! Specifically, investing it in eternity!

Giving away our resources frees us from the pull toward materialism in our hearts. The resulting joy and freedom will be running over!

“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put in your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” Luke 6:38

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God that He gave Jesus for us! (2 Cor 9:15)

-Ask God to give you a heart like His.

Quote for Reflection

“Giving isn’t a luxury of the rich, it’s a privilege of the poor.”

Randy Alcorn

Reflection & Journaling

- What did Jesus give up for you?
- What can I give up (coffee, Netflix, eating at restaurants) so that I can invest in eternity?
- Write out 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Devotional Thought

There is nothing that will divide like selfishly demanding our own way and there is nothing that will unite like lovingly putting others first. The way of love demands us to die to self and consider others first.

We have the perfect example of this is Christ who laid down his life for us even to the point of dying for our sins. And because of his great love for us we can be united with him. Let us follow in his example and draw others to Christ as we lovingly lay down our lives.

“Love does not insist on its own way” 1 Corinthians 13:5

***“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”
Philippians 2:3-4***

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank Jesus for laying his life down for you.

-Ask God to help you to lay your life down for others.

Reflection & Journaling

- What areas in my life am I insisting on my own way?
- How can I live out Philippians 2:3-4 in my family, in my workplace, in our church?

The Spirit Will Guide You

Devotional Thought

Have you ever thought “I wish Jesus were here so I could ask him _____ or so he could tell me exactly what I ought to do in this situation?” The reality is God has provided something even better.

He has given us his Holy Spirit, the Helper, and one of his roles is to guide us into all truth. If you need direction, humbly ask God to show you and the Holy Spirit will guide you.

“But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you...But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;”
John 16:7, 13

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for giving us his Holy Spirit.

-Ask God to make you more aware and more sensitive to the Spirit’s presence in your life.

Reflection & Journaling

- In what ways has the Holy Spirit led and guided you in your life?
- Are there any areas in your life where you are resisting or quenching the Spirit’s leading?

*God's Love is the Standard*Devotional Thought

What is our motivation to love others? If we look for motivation within the recipients of our love, our love will almost certainly wain because everyone, us included, are fallen and sinful people who at times are very hard to love.

But God points us to an entirely different motivation; he points us to his great love for us. When God's love for us is the motivation to love others, we will never run out of reasons to love because his love is infinite! If you want to see his love in action towards you, just look to the cross.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." John 16:7, 13

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for his great love for you.
-Ask God to help you to love others in the same way that he has loved you.

Reflection & Journaling

- What are some specific ways that God has shown love to you?
- What are some specific ways that you can show love to others this week?

*Walking in Wisdom*Devotional Thought

Wisdom in the Bible isn't just about knowing things; it's not just filling our minds with biblical or theological information or doctrine; it's about living well before God with that knowledge. Paul prays that believers would be filled with spiritual wisdom to live lives pleasing to the Lord.

Praise God that we can live in such a way as to be pleasing to God, like the Father said of Jesus, "this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." That kind of life, and that kind of wisdom, comes from knowing God's Word, listening to His Spirit, and walking it out in everyday life. May we walk in wisdom, and show good fruit in our lives.

"...that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him..."

Colossians 1:9-10

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for making His will and wisdom available through Christ.
- Confess areas where you've leaned on your own understanding.
- Ask the Spirit to fill you with wisdom to walk in a way that honors Jesus.

Reflection & Journaling

- In what areas of life am I most in need of spiritual wisdom right now?
- What does it mean to me to walk in a manner "worthy of the Lord"?
- How would my decisions change if I sought God for wisdom first?

Practical Prompt

Before making a decision today, pause and ask God for wisdom. Read a verse from Proverbs, like 3:5-6, reflect on how it applies, and then practically apply it.

Staying Salty

Devotional Thought

Salt matters, and stands out, because it brings flavor, and preserves what would otherwise decay. Salt that blends in loses its purpose and meaning. It is easy to blend in to those around us and get lost in the busyness, monotony and challenges of life. But when we lose our identity in Christ and our single-minded focus on “Thy Kingdom come and Thy will be done”, and when we focus on our own little kingdoms, we blend in instead of stand out, and sadly our witness fades. **As followers of Jesus, we’re called to remain distinct in our Christ-centered living, and in our love, truth, and unity.** Staying salty means living faithfully and at peace with one another so our witness as a family of faith shines. A unified, Christ-centered community of those belonging to Jesus speaks louder than any single voice. That kind of church can transform a community for the glory of Jesus.

"Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." Mark 9:50

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for setting you apart through Christ.
- Confess any compromise or conflict that may have dulled your spiritual distinctiveness.
- Ask the Lord to restore your passion and strengthen the unity of your church's witness.

Reflection & Journaling

- In what ways have I felt tempted to lose my saltiness or blend into the culture?
- How does living in peace with other believers strengthen our evangelistic impact?
- What specific step can I take to pursue reconciliation or greater unity in my church?

Practical Prompt

Encourage or serve someone in your church this week. A unified church is a powerful witness to a divided world.

*Not a Nobody*Devotional Thought

Do you ever feel like you are a nobody? But who are you, really? Not who your neighbor, your boss, or your mom or dad, or even your spouse, says you are. But, who are you in the deepest recesses of your soul? God says you are a priest! **A priest in the Old Testament was someone who had access to God.** Ability to go into his presence! And so do you, but even more so! Since Jesus died for you and his Holy Spirit indwells all of his children, you have access to God anytime. That's 24/7 attention from the Creator of the universe! Wow! And perhaps most amazing is this: God desires you to fellowship with him!

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession.” 1 Peter 2:9a

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for your identity!
You are actually a priest!
-Confess your sin of not believing who God says you are, and staying stuck in that condition.
-Ask God to give you the strength for one day to live out your identity, and thus live in God's presence.

Reflection & Journaling

- How can my actions mirror more closely my identity?
- What newfound freedoms can you discover when you meditate on who you are as a priest of God?

Quote for Reflection

“In the Old Testament period, God's people had a priesthood; but today, God's people are a priesthood. Each individual believer has the privilege of coming into the presence of God.” -Warren Wiersbe

Worthy Worship

Devotional Thought

Would a young lady like to receive an engagement ring with fake diamonds from a discount store? We would all like to think that we are more loved than that! And so does God! David clearly told Araunah that he would not offer God an offering that cost him nothing.

So it is to be in our lives! Isn't it incredible that God calls us to give to His kingdom so that more people will join us in heaven? And it's important that we sacrifice as a part of our giving. Otherwise, how will our hearts know that we love God? Let's worship God with all of our lives, including our offerings!

“But the king replied to Araunah, ‘No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.’ II Samuel 24:24

PRAYER FOCUS

-Lord, help my love for you to be reflected in all of my life and my giving..

Reflection & Journaling

- How can I worship God this week in my giving?
- What does sacrificial giving look like? Do I practice it?

Practical Worship Prompt

Choose today to sacrifice something in your life and give it to God. It doesn't have to be large, or even monetary. Just surrender a gift to God because you love him!

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Devotional Thought

The unity of believers is not based upon the externals, what we wear, where we live, our income, our hobbies & interests, etc. Nor is the unity based upon agreement on secondary issues. Rather, the unity we share is based upon our common Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heaven will be quite diverse with people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. But we will all be united in one thing; we will all be there as brother's and sister's in Christ rejoicing together for all that God has done for us in Christ.

“Make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” Phillipians 2:2

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for uniting us to Christ and to his body, the church.

-Ask God to grow within us a greater love and appreciation for his people, no matter how different they are from us.

Reflection & Journaling

- Do I tend to focus on the differences I have with other people rather than the unity we share in Christ?
- What can I do to keep my focus on what unifies us rather than on our differences?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

God Leads in Love

Devotional Thought

God's leading in our lives always flows from his steadfast love for us. When he leads us into green pastures and still waters, his love is not hard to see.

But what about when he leads us into difficult trials? Do we see his love there? God is always true to his character and he is always leading us in his steadfast love, even when it is through trials and difficulties.

You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. Exodus 15:13

PRAYER FOCUS

--Thank God that he always leads us in love.
--Ask God to help you to trust his leading even when things are difficult.

Reflection & Journaling

- Do I doubt God's love for me when things get hard?
- What can I do to remind myself of his love for me when I begin to doubt and question his love?

Authentic Love

Devotional Thought

Real love isn't soft, shallow or sentimental; it's strong, sincere and active. It is sacrificial and self-giving, as our Savior loves us. Paul calls believers to a kind of love that clings to good, hates evil, and lifts others up above ourselves. Paul yearned with a love for fellow believers "with the affection of Jesus" (Phillipians 1:8).

This love isn't based merely on emotions or preferences; it flows from a heart that lives near to the heart of Jesus, and that values what God values. When we honor others and seek their good before our own, we reflect the kind of love Jesus showed us. Authentic Christlike love, "as I have loved you," is our goal.

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor." Romans 12:9-10

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God for His genuine love that never fails.
-Confess any area where your love has become selfish or fake.
-Ask God to help you honor others in word, heart, and action

Practical Prompt

Do something today that honors or loves someone else, something that encourages, helps, or uplifts them. Don't wait or hope to be noticed or recognized—just reflect the love of Christ.

Reflection & Journaling

- Is my love marked more by convenience or sacrifice for others?
- Who is one person I can choose to honor today, even if it costs me?
- What does it mean to 'abhor what is evil' in my relationships?

Godly Wisdom & Conduct

Devotional Thought

A hypocrite can be full of knowledge and yet not walk in the light of that knowledge. Paul says knowledge puffs up. (1 Cor 8:1) But Godly wisdom will always result in Godly character. There is no filling up on Godly wisdom without it affecting our conduct.

If there is strife, jealousy, and selfish ambition, there is an absence of Godly wisdom. (James 3:14-16) But where Godly wisdom is present it will produce fruits of purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, and mercy. (vs 17) May God fill us with his wisdom and may we be examples of Godly conduct.

***“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom...But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” James 3:13, 17
(See James 3:13-18 for full passage)***

PRAYER FOCUS

- Ask God to fill you with his wisdom.
- Ask God to help you to be faithful in Godly character.

Reflection & Journaling

- Is my walk consistent with what I know and believe or are there areas of hypocrisy in my life?
- In seeking God for more wisdom, am I being faithful to walk in the light that he has already shown me?

Shining the Light of the Gospel

Devotional Thought

We are daily in a spiritual battle between light of the truth of Jesus and the powers of the devil and spiritual darkness. Evangelism is spiritual warfare. It's not just about sharing information; it's about shining light into blindness, into hearts that have been veiled by the lies of the enemy. Paul reminds us that the gospel is often hidden from people not because it's unclear, but because they're unable to see it—until God breaks through.

The gospel shines brightest in the darkest places, and there is no place darker than the human heart. Though spiritual blindness is real, and with men it is impossible, God is still doing the impossible and opening eyes through the message of the Gospel of Christ. We are called to reflect that light, and share the light that shines within us, trusting that God will do the work of revealing His glory in the face of Jesus in hearts.

Read Corinthians 4:3–4, 6

PRAYER FOCUS

- Thank God for shining His light into your own heart through the gospel.
- Pray for those who are spiritually blind in your life, that God would open their eyes.
- Ask for renewed courage to keep sharing Christ, even when results seem slow or unseen.

PRAYER FOCUS

Share your testimony with someone this week. Keep it real, simple, and centered on Jesus. God can use your story to bring light to others.

Reflection & Journaling

- Who do I know that seems spiritually “veiled”?
- Am I trusting God to shine through me, even in small acts and conversations?
- How does knowing that God does the heart work change the way I approach evangelism?

The Lord, Our Helper

Devotional Thought

We have good days and we have bad days. We cruise through the good ones without a thought, but the bad days are a different story. Situations at work, relationships at church, and family upheavals can bring us to a breaking point.

Are we able or willing to ask for help from the Lord? God wants us to come to him first with all our struggles, big or small. “Come to Me all who are weary or heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt 11:28) He has given his word to direct every aspect of our lives. Being in his word opens us up to following the Holy Spirit's prompting. Seek him. Trust him

“I lift up my eyes to the hills, From where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm. 121:1-2

PRAYER FOCUS

-Thank God that he is your helper and that he wants you to come to him.

-Ask God to help you to come to him with all of your struggles.

Reflection & Journaling

- Is it a struggle for me to ask help from the Lord?
- Do I believe that God wants me to come to him with all my struggles, big or small? Why or why not?

[illegible]

*Immeasurable Riches***Devotional Thought**

Have you ever thought that it might be pretty cool to be rich? We could buy fancy cars and houses. Maybe even a yacht! Yet, all the research shows that rich people are not happy or satisfied. But as Christians we can all look forward to the lasting, satisfying riches of Jesus; riches of grace and kindness.

We also have so many riches mentioned in Ephesians 1.

These include: adoption, redemption, forgiveness lavished upon us, God making known to us the mystery of his will, an inheritance, and being sealed with the Holy Spirit. These are the riches that can never be taken away from us. They can never spoil or fade! Praise God!

“So that in the coming ages he (Jesus) might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.” Ephesians 2:7

PRAYER FOCUS

--Praise God for all the riches we can enjoy as children of the King.

-Ask God to help you be joyful and thankful and to focus on all that Christ gives us.

Quote for Reflection

“Too many Christians have never “read the bank book” to find out the vast spiritual wealth that God has put to their account through Jesus Christ.”

- Warren Wiersbe

Reflection & Journaling

- What are some other verses you can find that tell us about our riches in Christ?
