

WA WILSHIRE AVE

21

DAYS *of* PRAYER

HELPING PEOPLE
Find & Follow
JESUS

We are so glad that you are joining us over the next 21 days through this prayer guide. Prayer is essential to our growth in becoming more like Jesus and we hope that you will find this guide helpful in connecting you with God's Word and spending time with Him in prayer.

Each day you will find a daily scripture to read and a short devotional on the topic of prayer. Then you will find a few questions or prayer prompts to help guide you in your prayer time.

I would also encourage you to spend some time journaling what God is teaching you and how He is working in your life during this time.

Blessings to you on this journey!
Pastor Bryan Maxwell

Devotional adapted from material published by Westland Baptist Church.

DAY 1

Making Prayer a Habit

God's Word for Today

Colossians 4:2-6

Most of us realize that prayer is important, but we often struggle to make it a priority. Busy work schedules, the distractions of technology, and the demands of daily life can make it difficult to set aside time for prayer. How can we be more successful in devoting ourselves to prayer?

Some people find that praying at set times in the day is helpful. I read about someone who set an alarm on her watch several times a day to remind herself to pray. She was surprised to find that after doing this for a while she no longer needed the alarm to remind her. What began as a regimented routine soon became a cherished habit.

Many people find it helpful to read prayers that others have written. Did you know that the book of Psalms is sometimes called “the prayer book of God’s people”? For many of us, reading the Psalms or other prayers recorded in the Bible energizes our devotional life.

Then there is the value of praying with others. Gathering with other believers for prayer and fellowship is a great way to build one another up and grow closer together in the Lord.

God is pleased with every effort we make to devote ourselves to prayer. The creator of the universe wants to spend time with us, and he loves to hear from us. That thought alone can inspire us to make prayer a greater priority!

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to help you make prayer a priority in your life.
2. Ask God to reveal the things that distract or at times keep you from prayer.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 2

Habits for Holiness

God's Word for Today

Philippians 4:8-9

For many people, the word “discipline” has a negative connotation. We tend to associate the word “discipline” with the idea of punishment.

But discipline is not the same as punishment. To discipline someone is to train them to develop a pattern of behavior or shape their character. It often happens by developing habits so that doing a task becomes a regular part of our life, something we do almost without effort.

Many people today learn how to type at a computer keyboard. At first, the practice of making the smallest finger on your left hand move from the q to the z on a keyboard seems awkward and difficult. But the more you practice, the more natural it becomes. If you work at a computer keyboard often, you probably don't even think about the movement of that finger anymore. The skill of typing has been produced in you through disciplined practice.

In our text for today, Paul instructs the Christians in Philippi to practice habits that will help them experience God's peace. He asks them to learn to seek God through disciplines such as prayer, worship, and the study of all that is true and right. They are to develop habits that may initially seem awkward and difficult but will help train them so that they may develop the character that God intends for them.

It's Time to Pray

1. Reflect on your relationship with God from when you first became a follower to now.
2. What things/habits in your life have changed and have helped your relationship with God?
3. What things/habits are still at times holding you back that you need to surrender to God?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 3

Spiritual Awakening

God's Word for Today

Revelation 3:14-22

What is a spiritual awakening? For there to be an awakening, there must have been a time of slumber or sleep. You wouldn't need an awakening if you were already awake. The church at Laodicea was like that (Rev 3:14-22)—in a time of spiritual laziness and sloth. That church really needed revival or an awakening, but what about today? What does a spiritual awakening look like? Can we start one? I think we know that this must be a work of God, but there are things we can do, and that is to humble ourselves.

That's the beginning of having an awakening. It's having the realization of Who God is and who we are, and seeing ourselves as falling so far short of His glory (Rom 3:10-12, 23) that we could never be reconciled back to God without God Himself intervening on our behalf (John 3:16; Rom 5:1, 8:1). Step one is to humble ourselves before our God, and to ask Him to revive us and renew us into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Ask for a renewed hunger and thirst for God. Sometimes, a spiritual awakening might be brought on by an emergency, either a personal one or a nation-wide one, and this could bring a renewed hunger for God and a more passionate desire to live a holy life before Him. We might find ourselves less on the phone, TV, or Internet, and more in the Bible and in relationships with others and in prayer.

An awakening gets us off the couch of life and into the mainstream of being salt and light. In the 1700's, there was a Great Awakening in the U.S., perhaps in part from George Whitefield's itinerate preaching. As a result of this awakening, millions were saved.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray for an Awakening inside of you. Ask Him for strength to overcome our spiritual laziness.
2. Pray to walk humbly before God.
3. Ask God what actions He wants you to take everyday for the next 3 weeks to overcome your weak area.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 4

Revival

God's Word for Today

Acts 2:42-47

Revival refers to a spiritual reawakening from a state of dormancy or stagnation in the life of a believer. It encompasses the resurfacing of a love for God, an appreciation of God's holiness, a passion for His Word and His church, a convicting awareness of personal and corporate sin, a spirit of humility, and a desire for repentance and growth in righteousness. Revival invigorates and sometimes deepens a believer's faith, opening his or her eyes to the truth in a fresh, new way. It generally involves the connotation of a fresh start with a clean slate, marking a new beginning of a life lived in obedience to God. Revival breaks the charm and power of the world, which blinds the eyes of men, and generates both the will and power to live in the world but not of the world.

The evidence of revival, a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers, is changed lives. Great movements toward righteousness, evangelism, and social justice occur. Believers are once again spending time in prayer and reading and obeying God's Word. Believers begin to powerfully use their spiritual gifts. There is confession of sin and repentance.

Want a revival in your life? Here is how.

Evangelist Gypsy Smith, was asked what the secret of revival is. He said, "Go home. Take a piece of chalk. Draw a circle around yourself. Then pray, 'O Lord, revive everything inside this circle.'"

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray that God will reveal His requirements for genuine revival in your life and in your church.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed.
3. Are you using your spiritual gifts? It is a must for revival!
4. Are you confessing of sin and repentance? Begin that today.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 5

Revival Pattern

God's Word for Today

2 Chronicles 7:13-14

Revival is the visitation of God, which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God's near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow.

- J.I. Packer

Revival is a divinely initiated work in which God's people pray, repent of their sin, and return to a holy, Spirit-filled, obedient, love-relationship with God.

- Henry Blackaby

Revival is a renewed conviction of sin and repentance, followed by an intense desire to live in obedience to God. It is giving up one's will to God in deep humility.

- Charles Finney

It's Time to Pray

1. Do you notice a pattern? Revival begins with recognition of our sin. Doesn't God already know our sin? Of course He knows. Repent!
2. Repenting is just agreeing with God that we recognize our sin and confessing it as sin to him through prayer. Pray for a soft heart for God so He can do His work.
3. Pray for humility towards God. Acknowledge your need for Him daily.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 6

My Attitude

God's Word for Today

Titus 2:9-10, Matthew 5:13-16

A man had a habit of grumbling at the food his wife placed before him at family meals. Then he would ask the blessing. One day after his usual combination complaint-prayer, his little girl asked, "Daddy, does God hear us when we pray?"

"Why, of course," he replied. "He hears us every time we pray."

She paused on this a moment, and asked, "Does He hear everything we say the rest of the time?"

"Yes, dear, every word," he replied, encouraged that he had inspired his daughter to be curious about spiritual matters. However, his pride was quickly turned to humility at his daughter's next question.

"Then, which does God believe?"

As you pray, and seek to reach out to those who need Jesus in your circles of influence, we must seek to represent Jesus. Jesus said in Matthew that we are "the light of the world". The 'light' doesn't get days off because he or she is upset. I don't see where Jesus said it's okay not to be the light at times.

Although we all drop the ball on this at times, may we always seek to make things right.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray and ask God humbly if you need to go to someone and make things right. Seek forgiveness from those whom may have felt hurt by your actions.
2. Ask God to reveal to you anything in your life that might hinder others from choosing to follow Him.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 7

Why Pray?

God's Word for Today

John 17

CS Lewis was the author of the widely read children's books, *The Narnia Chronicles*, as well as many novels for grown-ups and books on issues surrounding the Christian faith. The movie *Shadowlands* (directed by Richard Attenborough and produced in 1993) tells Lewis' story, focusing in particular on his relationship with his wife, Joy Gresham. Gresham and Lewis meet while Lewis is at Oxford University.

After Joy is diagnosed with cancer the couple marry. The movie invites us to witness their love, their pain, their grief, their struggles with faith and God. Eventually Joy dies.

At one point in the story a friend says to Lewis, "Christopher can scoff, Jack, but I know how hard you've been praying; and now God is answering your prayers."

Lewis replies "That's not why I pray, Harry. I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, it changes me."

- CS Lewis

In John 17, we have a glimpse of Jesus praying. It is interesting that Jesus would pray to the Father. Jesus didn't just pray for himself, but He prayed that others would know Him and have eternal life.

He then prayed for the disciples, and then He prayed for us.

It's Time to Pray

1. Consider how Jesus prayed. CS Lewis found that praying for others changed him. Jesus knew that too. How should your prayer life change after reading this?
2. God is at work, 24/7. He never sleeps and never stops for breaks. He is at work. Know that God is seeking our prayers. If you want someone to be saved or healed, ask God daily. It will change you. Who do I need to pray for?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 8

Daily Devotions

God's Word for Today

Mark 1

In the 1880s a young man who was an earnest Christian found employment in a pawnshop. Although he disliked the work, he did it faithfully as unto the Lord until a more desirable opportunity opened for him. To prepare himself for a life of Christian service, he wrote on a scrap of paper the following resolutions: "I do promise God that I will rise early every morning to have a few minutes—not less than five—in private prayer. I will endeavor to conduct myself as a humble, meek, and zealous follower of Jesus, and by serious witness and warning I will try to lead others to think of the needs of their immortal souls. I hereby vow to read no less than four chapters in God's Word every day. I will cultivate a spirit of self-denial and will yield myself a prisoner of love to the Redeemer of the world." That young man was William Booth, who later led thousands to Christ and founded the Salvation Army.

It sounds so simple. Just a daily routine of talking and listening to God changes everything. Here are 5 things to do everyday that can help you take the next step of spiritual growth as you have your daily devotion.

1. Spend time in prayer
2. Study God's Word
3. Love those closest to you
4. Make a difference in someone's life
5. Take care of yourself

It's Time to Pray

1. Try adding to your prayer time and study time. We must always be taking the next step in our spiritual walk.
2. How can I show extra love to those closest to me today?
3. Who is someone I can encourage to make a difference in his or her life?
4. How can I take care of myself physically today?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 9

Thanksgiving & Gratitude

God's Word for Today

Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.
- Psalm 66:16

Quite often, we are led to give thanks after giving honor and adoration to God in our prayers. We give thanks for the amazing things God has done—for this world, for his people, and for us in our personal lives.

Notice how Psalm 66 moves from adoration to thanksgiving. In the first four verses the psalmist declares how awesome and glorious God is. Then in verse 5 we see a transition to “come and see what God has done.” From this point on, the psalm reads like an inventory of God’s gifts and amazing help. The psalmist describes how God saves and watches over his people, even in the context of trouble and disappointment, and the psalmist shares what God has done for him personally as well.

Psalm 66 teaches us the value of being specific when we give thanks to God. Many people like to keep a prayer journal that helps them pay attention to what God is doing in their lives. They keep a running list of God’s blessings and work for them, and they review their list in thanksgiving to God.

In our prayer life, gratitude can grow in many ways. God is incredibly gracious and generous. As we read in James 1:17, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father. . . .” The one who gives so abundantly is most worthy to receive our abundant thanks.

It's Time to Pray

1. Spend time reflecting and thanking God for who He is, what He has done and what He will do.
2. Thank God for His son Jesus and that through Jesus we can go directly to God in prayer.
3. Pray for your heart to be open and aware of the blessings God has given you.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 10

First Love

God's Word for Today

Hebrews 13, Philippians 4:13

The story is told about an old farm couple who were driving along in their pickup when the wife said, “We never sit all snuggled up in the truck like we used to.” The husband looked at her and said, “I haven’t moved.”

When we discover as a church or as individual believers that we aren’t as close to God as we once were, understand this, He didn’t move, we did.

It is comforting to know that we can always trust God because He is always there. He is not a moving target. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:7, the author encourages us to have a mentor or role model as someone to imitate. Look at someone who is mature in their faith that loves Jesus with all their heart. Imitate what they do to stay close to Him.

It's Time to Pray

1. Thank God for his faithfulness. He is still on the throne.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed.
3. We talk a lot at Wilshire about our “8-15” as the people in your sphere of influence from family and friends to neighbors and coworkers. If you don’t already have a list of your “8-15,” write some names down now. Keep this list nearby and pray today for these people by name—for the people who have yet to believe in Christ as Savior.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 11

Surrendered Lives

God's Word for Today

Romans 12

Jim Elliot, along with four of his missionary colleagues were killed on January 8, 1956 while trying to establish contact with the Auca Indians in Ecuador (now known as the Waodani people). Jim Elliot, Nate Saint, Ed McCully, Pete Flemming and Roger Youderian had been working to make friendly contact with the Auca tribe which they had seen from the air. Though they had only met one tribesman face to face, they had participated in trades with the Auca from a plane to ground system. When Elliot and his friends landed on a river beach on that fateful January day they were slaughtered by the waiting men.

Their deaths were not in vain though. The widows continued to try and make peaceful contact and eventually won the hearts of the tribe. God has used this recent missionary martyr story to inspire new generations of missionaries willing to give their lives for what they believe.

Though God may not require you to lay down your physical life for His cause, His call to salvation is a call to lordship. Jesus is Lord. We are His servants. We need to be prepared to obey His every command because we love Him. And we love Him because He first loved us and gave His life for our salvation.

It's Time to Pray

1. Thank God for all the mercy and grace He has shown to you.
2. Ask God what He wants you to do today to apply what He has revealed. What actions will you take?
3. Pray today by name for a person or group who has yet to believe in Christ as Savior.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 12

Faithful Walk

God's Word for Today

Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean,
 scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.
 Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,
 set these once-broken bones to dancing.
 Don't look too close for blemishes,
 give me a clean bill of health.
 God, make a fresh start in me,
 shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.
 Don't throw me out with the trash,
 or fail to breathe holiness in me.
 Bring me back from gray exile,
 put a fresh wind in my sails!
 Give me a job teaching rebels your ways
 so the lost can find their way home.
 Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God,
 and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.
 Unbutton my lips, dear God;
 I'll let loose with your praise.

- Psalm 51:10-15 (The Message)

Psalm 51 is a great cry out to God for holiness. Our lives can get so busy and messy. Busyness can be used by the evil one to keep our thoughts and prayers away from God. Staying close to God is what our lives are to be about.

It's Time to Pray

1. God desires us to have a clean heart. His desire it to make us clean. Pray this Psalm to God.
2. What has God spoken to you today through this passage?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 13

Renew My Strength

God's Word for Today

Isaiah 40:28-31

One of the great benefits of a close relationship with God is how He gives us strength. This life on earth has ups and downs. When we are down, God does what only God can do, He comforts us and gives us strength.

In the passage from Isaiah, we see God not only give us strength, but strength to “soar on wings like eagles.” What a great God we serve.

Never take for granted what you see God do. He is always at work, 24/7. I love vs. 28 in this passage. It seems as though God is bragging about his goodness.

God wants us bragging on Him and what He has done for us.

“Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
The creator of the ends of the earth”.

It's Time to Pray

1. Is strength something you need today? Is soaring what you need today?
2. Can you recall a time when you felt God's comfort and strength? Thank God at this time for that.
3. What is God leading you to do today in response to this?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 14

The Blessings of Obedience

God's Word for Today

John 14:15-23, Matthew 7:21-27

Thoughts for Today

Hasn't Jesus made some wonderful promises to us? He has promised the Holy Spirit as our Counselor who will never leave us alone. He has promised us life in Him and in the Father. When we love Him and obey His commands, the Father will love us and Christ will reveal Himself to us. When we love and obey God, He takes up residence in our lives to live in us and with us! Did you notice the importance of obedience in all those promises? Those who do not obey, do not love Him. And their experience with God will be very different.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the parable about the two builders. One built his house on a rock, and the other built his on sand. When the storms came, the house on the rock stood firm and the other was destroyed. He said our lives are like those two builders. Those who obey are wise like the man who built his house on the rock. When the storms of life come, we can remain strong through the tough times. Those who do not obey are foolish like the man who built his house on the sand. People like that cannot remain strong when the storms of life rage around them.

It's Time to Pray

1. If obedience is such a big deal to God, how am I doing in living this out in my life?
2. How can I specifically be obedient to God in a way that I am not obedient now?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 15

Pray Without Ceasing

God's Word for Today

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

- Luke 18:1

Why do so many Christians often struggle to pray? Just as there are pitfalls in communications between people, there are sometimes disconnects in our communicating with God.

We might liken prayer to a buffalo surrounded by a pack of wolves that dash in when the great beast's head is turned. Slashing with their fangs, the wolves seek to hamstring the buffalo or to get at its throat.

And what are the wolves? Well, one of them can be impatience with the timing of God's answers. For example, we might pray for the healing of someone we love. But if they are not healed right away, or if they die, we might, in our grief and despair, give up believing that God can heal or that our loved one can receive a better healing in God's presence. The wolf of unbelief nips in and out, working skillfully with the wolf of impatience.

Another wolf can be the drying up of our impulse to read the Bible. In prayer we talk to God, and in his Word he speaks to us. If we falter in prayer, however, and if we seldom read the Bible, God's voice becomes fainter and fainter, and our response is less grateful, less soul-searching, and less frequent.

Another wolf can be busyness, or a mind that wanders even when the words of prayer are on our lips. In all of this, remember what Jesus says: Keep on praying; don't give up.

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to reveal some of the things that keep you from prayer.
2. Why is it so important for us to be praying continually? Ask God to help you in this area.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 16

My Baggage

God's Word for Today

1 Samuel 10:9-24

When God led Samuel to appoint Saul as king, the people were thrilled to finally have a king like the other nations had. Samuel warned the people what a King would require from them. A king would take your sons and your daughters and make them serve him. A king will also take your horses and chariots. He will take the best of your cattle and flocks.

The people refused to listen to Samuel and wanted a king. So a king they got. Sure enough Samuel was right about everything.

The first king of Israel was named Saul. When Samuel anointed Saul, Saul was afraid and overwhelmed. In fact, the first time Saul was introduced as King, they couldn't find him. Eventually they found him "hiding in his baggage" according to verse 23 in our reading. Why was he hiding? Fear!

In our lives we have many obstacles. God wants us to face them head on. He wants us to face our fears and not hide in "our baggage".

Why do we sometimes let fear and frustration get the best of us? Is it a lack of trust in God? A lack of faith in God? Something from our past (baggage)?

It's Time to Pray

1. Ask God to show us how we respond to frustration and fear in our lives. Do we respond negatively because of our baggage?
2. Pray for God's guidance as we grow in walk with the Lord?
3. Ask someone close to you about areas of growth in your life.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 17

My Strength

God's Word for Today

1 Samuel 17

The story of David and Goliath is a very well-known story. There are so many aspects of this story that we can apply to our own lives. However, the main focus of this story always leads to our admiring David's spiritual strength.

David walks through the battle lines of Israeli army with such a confidence. He doesn't understand why the soldiers won't fight this guy who "... defiles the armies of the living God".

Oh what I would do to have the kind of strength to stand before a giant with just a sling and a stone. To walk as a spiritual victor has great appeal for followers of Jesus.

We are all faced with our own giants in life.

The Israelites were helpless against Goliath. They were afraid, They had no plan. They allowed themselves to be intimidated and they had forgotten that God was on their side.

Why did David think he could fight and beat Goliath? His confidence comes from his experiences where he has seen God working and his faith in God. Have we forgotten how to face our giants? We are not to be afraid, God has a plan, we have no reason to be intimidated because God is on our side.

It's Time to Pray

1. Pray for strength as we face our own giants.
2. List the giants in your life that you need to face. Pray for God's wisdom and strength to overcome these giants.
3. Who do you know that needs help facing their giants? What can you do to help?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 18

Facing My Fears

God's Word for Today

Matthew 14:22-33

This well known passage in Matthew. 14 shows us a lot about Peter. He often speaks first and thinks second. We all have those moments in our lives. How many of us can identify with Peter? He was always outspoken and doing things that he shouldn't. Also, he was someone who was willing to take risks.

Peter's confidence of walking on water tells about his faith in Jesus. None of the other disciples walked on water, only Peter.

What did you think made Peter sink? Was it because his focus shifted from Jesus to his circumstances? Maybe because his fear was greater than his faith. The right answer is probably a lot of both.

The one thing we all admire about Peter is that at least he stepped out there. You know all of the other disciples wish they had the faith to step out like Peter.

Often, we are most like the disciples. We like the safety net of the boat. We are comfortable there. What if Jesus is calling us to step out of our boat onto the waves? Are we willing to do it or do we want to stay where our comfort is?

Oh what I would do to have the kind of faith to step out of the boat I'm in, onto the crashing waves. To get out of my comfort zone because that is where Jesus is.

It's Time to Pray

1. Where is God leading me to 'step out of my comfort zone'?
2. What keeps you in the boat or cause you to sink?
3. Pray for God's power to help you step out of your comfort zone.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 19

What Does It Cost?

God's Word for Today

Matthew 16:13-28

Matthew 16:24 is a verse we often read fast so we don't have to focus on it. It's a tough verse.

What do you think this verse means when it says '...deny ourselves'? If we really pray through this, God will show us what He wants us to do.

What do you think this verse means when it reads '... take up your cross'? That passage means that you and I are willing to die in order to follow Jesus. That is where Jesus wants us.

How often does Jesus say that we should deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him? Daily.

Following Jesus is easy when life runs smoothly; our true commitment to Him is revealed during trials. Trials will come. Discipleship demands sacrifice, and Jesus never said it would be easy.

Living daily for Jesus is going to take a commitment to begin every morning by praying and seeking God in His Word. That is when you will see God at work everyday.

It's Time to Pray

1. What would help you take the next step in your life? Do you need to correct some of your misconceptions for who Jesus is?
2. Do you need to start with the basics—prayer, Bible reading, etc.?
3. Do you need to confess your faith publically?

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 20

Confidence

God's Word for Today

1 John 4-5

The story is told of a young girl who accepted Christ as her Savior and applied for membership in a local church. "Were you a sinner before you received the Lord Jesus into your life?" inquired a deacon. "Yes, sir," she replied.

"Well, are you still a sinner?" he asked.

"To tell you the truth, I feel I'm a greater sinner than ever," the little girl said.

"Then what real change have you experienced?" the deacon asked.

"I don't quite know how to explain it," she said, "except I used to be a sinner running after sin, but now that I am saved, I'm a sinner running from sin!" she was received into the fellowship of the church.

The passage reading today can give us confidence to know we are His. When Jesus comes into our lives, it is for our own good. As we learn to follow Him and begin to read scripture, our lives transform to become more like Jesus.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

- 1 John 5:21

Friends, let us love one another, for love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God and knows God.

- 1 John 4:7

It's Time to Pray

1. Gaining confidence in our faith is a must for Christ followers. God wants us to be growing. Growing means knowing where I am in my walk and taking a step to know His Word. Where are you in your walk with God?
2. What is my next step?
3. Pray for what God wants you to do to grow.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

DAY 21

Next Step

God's Word for Today

2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2

Max Lucado, one of the great Christian authors of our day, wrote the following in his book, *Just Like Jesus*:

“God loves you just the way you are, but He refuses to leave you there. He wants you to be just like Jesus.”

It's a simple, easy to understand statement.

No doubt God loves each of us. Scripture is full of such expressions. It is easy to talk about God's love. It is comforting and reassuring. God's love is easy to embrace. Unfortunately, far too often we neglect the second half of Lucado's statement. We are not nearly as comfortable with change. It can be difficult to conform our lives, not to the world, but rather to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and obedience to the Word of God. But God loves us far too much to leave us where He found us at salvation. Salvation is simply the first step, albeit the most important step, in a journey that will last a lifetime. God wants you to continue to take the next step in your relationship with Him.

As we finish 21 days of prayer, keep pursuing and communicating with God through prayer. Keep a journal and do the following things each day.

It's Time to Pray

1. Spend time in prayer.
2. Study God's Word.
3. Love those closest to you.
4. Make a difference in someone's life each day.
5. Take care of yourself.

Spend some time reflecting and journaling.

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- DAY 13
- DAY 14
- DAY 15
- DAY 16
- DAY 17
- DAY 18
- DAY 19
- DAY 20
- DAY 21