

# DAILY DEVOTION

## Prayer, Our Forgotten Weapon

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**Golden thread:** God's Spirit empowers us to pray at all times, to be alert to all schemes, and to fight for all saints.

**Memory Verse:** ...praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18

### Monday, Sept 14th

#### Another Amazing Gift

The Gospel is the Good News about what God has done for us through Christ. Most people focus on Jesus' work on the cross - and that is Great News! But the Gospel is so much bigger than the cross.

One of God's blessings is the assurance that He will always be with us. Christ says that even until the end of the age, He will walk with us (Matthew 28:20). God does this by giving His disciples His Spirit. His Spirit actually lives within us. And since He is with us, He can help us with everything...and that includes our prayer life.

**Read: Romans 8:26, 27**

#### Journal:

1. Write down two encouraging truths that you have learned from this passage. (If you've studied this passage before, write down two things that God's Spirit brought back into your mind.)
2. Take some time right now to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you, to bring people or situations to your mind or to pray for you if you don't know what to pray.

**Table Questions:** When we believe in Jesus, God gives us His Holy Spirit to live inside of us (Ephesians 1:13). How do you think we can pray now that God lives inside of us?

Pray - Jesus. Thank You for Your Gospel. It is Good News of what You've already done for us on the cross. You didn't just die for my sins, You gave me Your righteousness and so much more. Holy Spirit, today I confess that I've often forgotten about You. Please forgive me. Thank You that You dwell inside of me. You lead me in prayer and often You even pray when I don't have the words to say. Help me to trust that You are leading me. Help me to hear Your voice as I pray. And please give me confidence to pray more often. This week I want to pray because I know that I'm in a battle. Please change my heart so that I can pray for Your kingdom to come...on Earth as it is in Heaven. - Amen

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## Tuesday, Sept 15th - Pray at All Times

One of the great things about Christianity is the fact that God wants us to pray. We can talk to Him at any time without having to wonder if He cares or if He's listening. What a gift! Yet most of us take this gift and put it on the shelf. We start to take for granted the fact that the Creator of all things, our loving Lord, our Savior, is right there with us waiting for us to pray to Him.

We might occasionally feel guilty, knowing we don't pray as much as we should. We see it as a responsibility for Christians, a task we should perform, to please God. We have times when we regularly pray every morning or night. We have other times when we claim to obey Scripture's command to "pray continually" by just saying things to God throughout the day. But there is so much more to experience through prayer than rigid scheduling or informal sentences here and there. We are called throughout Scripture, and in Colossians 4:2-4, to pray at all times. This has a couple of meanings.

To pray continually, at all times, is to persevere in prayer. To continue steadfastly means in good times and bad, when we feel faithful or faithless, when we feel it matters or it doesn't, we pray. We pray remembering we're in a spiritual battle every moment. We pray to God for the advancement of His Kingdom, of His mission, even when times are bad. When we start to believe that God works through prayer, that He cares about us, and that prayer is a gift, we can truly become people who pray gratefully at all times. Paul encourages us to do this in Colossians, a letter he wrote while in prison.

## Read Colossians 4:2-4 - Journal/Discuss

1. When do you pray right now? What do you pray about or for? What does this show about how you're relating to God right now?
2. Col. 4:2-4 gives a few descriptions and purposes of prayer. It says we should pray steadfastly, meaning we persevere and stick with it. It says we should be watchful (for the Devil's schemes, among other things). It says we should pray with thanksgiving for the ways He has blessed us. Paul also asks to pray for God to make his ministry effective, so he can proclaim the Gospel clearly. Take some time to pray & write through each of these categories for yourself. You could also pray for someone else's ministry & send them a text or note letting them know you prayed for them.

**Table Question:** How often do you pray? What's it like for you?

Pray - Almighty God, loving Father, thank You for the gift of prayer. Thank You for calling me to pray to You. Thank You for listening to my prayers. I need Your help to receive this gift. Please give me a heart that yearns to pray to You continually. Make me grateful for You and watchful against the Devil and my sins. I want to glorify You with my life. Please give me the desire and ability to clearly speak the Gospel to anyone around me. Your love for me is steadfast, You care for me and watch out for me every moment. Open my eyes to Your goodness and the gift of prayer, so I can pray with joy, gratitude, and perseverance. - Amen

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## Wednesday, Sept 16th - Be On Guard

If you've ever experienced water damage in your home - you're probably pretty watchful, maybe even paranoid, about being on the lookout for potential signs of further damage. You know that a tiny leak can easily lead to devastating, widespread damage, especially as time wears on with the issue left unaddressed. The impact of a single instance of water damage to your property is enough to instill almost permanent watchfulness.

Maybe you're not here yet, but one of the biggest life changes is the arrival of a new child. Of course, a baby changes everything...but what really changes is a parent's watchfulness. The baby is helpless and can get injured so easily! And now you're responsible! People will try to prepare you for parenthood, but nothing will smack you in the face like actually being responsible for a tiny life. Our spiritual lives require the same level of intensity. And since Jesus loves us, He often reminds us - be watchful!

## Read Mark 13:33-37 & 1 Peter 4:1-8 - Journal:

1. In Mark 13:33-37, what is Jesus asking us to prepare for and how do we prepare for it? What is so urgent that Jesus would charge us to stay awake 3 times in this short passage?
2. Read 1 Peter 4:1-8. Peter reminds us that Jesus lives completely for the will of God and through His suffering and death, has given us the power to also live for the will of God and not by passions of the flesh. According to the passage, what is Satan's goal? How does Peter charge us to fight against Satan's schemes?

**Table Question:** The Devil wants you to believe that he doesn't exist so that you won't be on guard against his attacks. Think about the ways you have sinned or been tempted to sin these past few weeks. Take time to process and cry out to the Lord knowing that a professional tempter is actively inviting you to turn against God.

**Pray** - Lord, I know that You are with me always and I need Your help! I am so weak and desperately need to see Your strength. Thank You for warning me that the Devil is real and actively working to make me fall asleep spiritually. I am so grateful that his plans cannot prevail because I am Your child and nothing can separate me from Your love. Help me to stay awake and remain on guard that I may continue to live by Your will instead of by passions of the flesh. Help me to stay awake and fix my gaze on You and Your beauty. Thank You for covering me with Your love and praying for me, even when I haven't been praying. I want to see more and more of Your strength through my weakness! - Amen

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**Thursday, Sept 17th**

**Fully Dependent**

When under stress or feeling completely defeated, there's usually two ways people respond: they either cry out for help or they try to muscle through the situations on their own strength. In today's society, we champion the individual who handles everything on their own and we tend to look upon those that are dependent as somewhat weaker.

But our faith is not designed to be done in private. If the Gospel is true, then our righteousness is because of Jesus' life and work. The great news then is that we are fully dependent on God. This means we were never meant to have a faith life on our own strength. And so, God also designed our faith journey to be dependent on His saints. Paul shows us this truth in Romans. As a family of believers, we are to call upon those that share the same faith to pray for us and with us.

**Read Romans 15:30-32**

**Journal:**

1. During distress, is it natural for you to call on others to join you in prayer or do you just keep everything to yourself? What fears do you have if you're the type to internalize your struggle without asking for help?
2. Think of 3 people you can reach out to over the next few days. Give them a call and have no other agenda other than to ask them to pray for you and you pray for them. It can be a time of just worshipping who God is while lifting each other up during this time.

**Table Question:** When was the last time you asked for help in anything (big or small)? What were you feeling after you got the help you needed?

Pray - God, I recognize how much I need You everyday. And God, You are also showing me that I'm not just dependent on You, You've also made me dependent on the people around me. They are my faith family and You want them to help me grow. Help me to trust that You've sent them to help me. If I believe that, I'll reach out to them more. If I believe that You made me part of the same family, I'll share my struggles more freely. Help me to see that my struggles are not to be kept in the dark but that there's freedom in asking others to join me in prayer through my rough times. - Amen

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**Friday, Sept 18th**  
**Selfless Needs**

We started this week talking about God's amazing promise to be with us - even until the end of the age! God does this by giving us His Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, we can be led to pray. We then went through a few days discussing different means and reasons for prayer. Today, we're going to read how Paul once again calls on others to join him in prayer. And what's interesting about these two short verses is that although Paul is asking that they may be protected, his ultimate request is that the Word of God will spread and be honored. It's a totally selfless request, directing all glory to God Himself. Paul didn't end with any expression or request of his own needs, but that only the Gospel will advance.

**Read 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2**

**Journal:**

1. Many of my prayers are wrapped around my immediate needs. And honestly, there's nothing wrong with that if you're in the same boat. But right now, let's take some time to pray that God will be glorified throughout today and over the weekend.
- 2.
3. Like Paul, you may need prayer for protection so that the Gospel can advance. What does that look like to you? Courage to share? Forgiveness to be given or received? Your own agenda and motives to be put aside? Take some time to confess to God, and/or even to someone you want to pray with, these things so that God may be glorified.

**Table Question:** Imagine you are Paul and write out 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2. Now ask God to lead you to ask others to join you in praying that the Gospel may spread through those that join you.

**Pray** - God, I want to see You glorified. Lead me to ask those around me to join together in praying for Your Gospel to be made known. No matter the circumstances we are in right now, You are still on the throne and You are still changing lives and bringing people from all over together in spirit to worship You. May You allow me to be a part of Your works. You deserve all the praise for You are still good. Open my eyes this weekend to see people that You are calling to Yourself. Would You bring people to mind this weekend at Resonate Church and around the world? Would You call me to pray for them? Would You please transform Resonate Church into a praying church because we believe that You are the King. You're in control. God, would Your will be done in the Bay Area as it is in Heaven!

- Amen.