



***WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL***  
***WEEK 1: January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup>***

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## “Scripture Praying”

Communication is essential to growth of any relationship. How much more so in the greatest and most important relationship of all, our relationship with our heavenly Father. Prayer is simply talking to God; the sincere desire of the soul to commune with God.

**Scripture Praying** places focus squarely on our heavenly Father and His promises. It makes us more biblical in our prayers. What could be more appropriate than using God’s Word as a base to interact with Him? This assures that our communication is successful and honors Him. Jesus says, “*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you*” (John 15:7, NASB). Scripture Praying will cause us to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of God, as He delights in answering prayers based on His Word.

So, for this Winter Sermon series on prayer, please join us in the daily prayer devotional dedicated to **Scripture Praying**, and experience what prayer can do.

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

### Prayer of Worship and Adoration

*<sup>11</sup> Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. <sup>12</sup> Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are*

*strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. <sup>13</sup> Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.*

### **1 Chronicles 29:11-13 (NIV)**

**Lord**, I worship You as my Lord Jehovah. You are the great I AM Who I AM. You are timeless, eternal, and unchanging. You are clothed with glory, majesty, and splendor, and You are awesome! Thank You for the privilege of knowing You and being known by You, because everything in the heavens and the earth are Yours. You are sovereign and rule over all things.

*Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer of worship to our Lord . . .*

**Monday, January 29, 2018**

### Prayer for Unbelievers

*<sup>1</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, <sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. <sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. <sup>6</sup> And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his*

kindness to us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

**Ephesians 2:1-9 (NIV)**

**Father**, I pray for (name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior). You are a merciful God and You have great love for the lost. You love them. Because of Your mercy and love, make them alive with Christ.

Help them to understand that it is only by Your grace that they can be saved, that they could never be good enough to earn salvation. Help them realize that we are all saved by Your grace, so that none of us can be proud of anything we've done. Help them to believe so that they can receive Christ.

*Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer . . .*

**Tuesday, January 30, 2018**

## **Prayer for Spiritual Growth and Maturity**

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **John 15:5 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform

you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)**

*Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)***  
*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)***

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! **Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)***

**Father**, I pray that I may humble myself and live as a branch connected to the true Vine. Help me to be a branch empty of self, so that the life of the Vine can be lived in me. Help me to live a Spirit-filled life; a life where I'm being transformed from being a fruit picker to a fruit producer. Help me to bear much fruit for Your glory.

Help me to live so that I don't grieve Your Spirit with my words, attitude, and actions. Instead help me to produce the fruit of the Spirit: the love, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, that is always in season.

*Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer . . .*

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

## **Prayer for Persecuted Christians**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)*

**North Korea** - The main driver of persecution in North Korea is the state. For three generations, everything in the country focused on idolizing the leading Kim family. Christians are seen as hostile elements in society, which have to be eradicated. Due to the constant indoctrination permeating the whole country, neighbors and even family members are highly watchful and report anything suspicious to the authorities. Children are especially vulnerable to the heavy indoctrination. Reports show that some children report their own parents for religious activity. Therefore, many parents prefer not to tell their children anything about their Christian faith until they're older.

If Christians are discovered, no matter if they are heirs of the Christian communities from before the Korean War or found the Christian faith in other ways – e.g. during the great famine in the 1990s (which caused tens of thousands of citizens to seek help in China) – not only are they deported to labor camps as political criminals or even killed on the spot, their families will share their fate as well. Christians do not even have the slightest space in society. Meeting other Christians in order to worship is almost impossible and if some believers dare to, it has to be done in utmost secrecy. The churches shown to visitors in Pyongyang serve mere propaganda purposes.

## **Pray using the following Prayer Points:**

- Leader Kim Jong Un has continued to consolidate his power. No changes or improvements have been seen in the past year. Pray that Kim Jong Un and the country's rulers will come to know the one true God. Pray for change within the regime and that the power of evil in the country be broken.
- The situation for Christians is vulnerable and precarious. They face persecution from state authorities and their non-Christian families, friends and neighbors. Pray for their protection. Pray for Christians who suffer in prison, labor camps and remote areas. Pray that God will give the North Korean church strength and endurance. Pray for healing and restoration to take place in the country.

**Thursday, February 1, 2018**

## **Prayer of Confession**

*Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Philippians 2:13 (NLT)*

**Father**, I offer this prayer of confession to You, in light of this verse. Do I consider others better, more important than I am? Is this evident in my attitudes? All too often it's not, so I ask for forgiveness and help me to be sensitive to this need in my attitude. Search my heart . . .

*Pause to let the Holy Spirit search your heart; silently confess anything He brings to mind, and ask for the strength to turn away from sin . . .*

**Friday, February 2, 2018**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving/Praise**

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. **Psalm 136:1 (NIV)***

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **Romans 8:1 (NIV)***

*It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. **Galatians 5:1 (NIV)***

*Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1:6 (NIV)***

For a few moments, think about your salvation and what it means, in light of these verses. Think about your BC life, your life before Christ. Reflect on what difference knowing Jesus Christ has made in your life.

Now give thanks and praise to God for His grace and mercy shown in choosing to save you. He has saved you from the penalty of sin. He is saving you from the power of sin. He will save you from the presence of sin.

**Saturday, February 3, 2018**

### **Prayer of Surrender**

*<sup>13</sup> Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." <sup>14</sup> Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. <sup>15</sup> Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." **James 4:13-15 (NIV)***

*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)***

**Father**, I offer this prayer of surrender to You. I surrender my life, my plans, my schedule, my agenda, and my family to You. Every day is a gift from You, every beat of my heart, every breath I draw. You are the One who has a plan and purpose for my life, and I yield to your plan.

*Continue this thought with a personal prayer of surrender . . .*