



***WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL***  
***WEEK 2: February 11<sup>th</sup> – February 17<sup>th</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, February 11, 2018**

### Prayer of Worship and Adoration

<sup>9</sup> ... *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*  
<sup>10</sup> *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* <sup>11</sup> *Give us this day our daily bread.* <sup>12</sup> *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.* <sup>13</sup> *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom,*

*and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)*

**Our Father**, it is my great desire that Your name would be feared and revered for who You are: my God, my Creator, and my King. You are the Holy One who, in unthinkable mercy, gave Your only begotten Son, Jesus, to save me from Your wrath upon all my sin. You, O Lord are my Provider, and I thank You for all Your provisions.

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

**Monday, February 12, 2018**

### Prayer for Surrender

<sup>3</sup> *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.* <sup>4</sup> *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.* <sup>5</sup> *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus. Philippians 2:3-5 (ESV)*

**Father**, I offer to You this prayer of surrender. I surrender my attitude to Your will. Help me to consider others better than myself, and to put their needs ahead of my own. I also surrender my mind to You, Lord, and ask for the mind of Christ, for my mind to be controlled by the Spirit.

*Continue these thoughts in a personal prayer of surrender. . .*

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018**

## **Prayer of Confession**

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **Ephesians 4:31 (NIV)***

**Father**, in light of Your Word, I offer this prayer of confession. Do I have a problem with anger sometimes or with resentment or holding grudges? Forgive me when I am quick to get upset. 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 . . .*

**Wednesday, February 14, 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)***

**Sudan** – The persecution in Sudan mainly stems from the government and radical Islam, systematic in nature and reminiscent of ethnic cleansing. Under the authoritarian rule of President al-Bashir and his party, there is no rule of law in the country. Press and media laws are highly restrictive, while freedom of expression has been curtailed drastically. The government strives to maintain a policy favoring one religion, one culture and one language. Because

Islam is so deeply embedded in Sudanese society, many Christians have chosen to move to South Sudan since the declaration of its independence in 2011.

This is an incredibly difficult time for Christians in Sudan. They are losing churches they have gathered and worshipped in for years. The government regularly arrests and intimidates Christian leaders and has demanded on at least one occasion that leadership be handed over to a government-supported committee. When interacting with Sudanese Muslims, Christians must be extremely cautious, as any mention of their faith can be construed as an “act that encourages apostasy against Islam.” Some Christians are arrested on charges of espionage, and many churches have been demolished, with others on an official list awaiting demolition. In areas with ongoing conflict, Christians are attacked indiscriminately.

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

- Pray for Christians in Sudan who face intense oppression and persecution. Pray for protection and opportunities to fellowship with other believers. Pray also for church leaders to stand strong amidst pressure that Islamic extremists place on their churches.
- Pray that the Sudanese government, one of the most dictatorial regimes in Africa, will become more accepting of Christianity and allow freedom of religion. Pray for the Lord’s work in the hearts of the Sudanese leaders, and that the Holy Spirit would convict them to bring justice and peace to the country.

**Thursday, February 15, 2018**

## Prayer for Unbelievers

<sup>13</sup> For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? **Romans 10:13-14 (NLT)**

**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 those who don't know You in the pardon of their sins. You said in Your Word that, everyone who calls on Your name will be saved. I pray Lord that You would speak to (name) that they would call out to You for salvation. I pray Lord that You would use their circumstances and stir in them the real need of knowing You. Use me, as Your vessel, to share with them the good news about Jesus Christ, through a testimony from my life, of how great You are. Lord, I want them to have a relationship with You and experience the abundant life that Christ can provide them.

*Continue this thought in prayer for unbelievers . . .*

**Friday, February 16, 2018**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving/Praise

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. <sup>2</sup> He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams. <sup>3</sup> He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name. <sup>4</sup> Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever. **Psalm 23:1-6 (NLT)**

For a few moments, think back over the last week and see how the Lord has blessed you in the following areas, based on the truths of Psalm 23. How He has provided for your spiritual needs? How He has provided for your directional needs? How He has provided for your emotional needs? How He has provided for your physical needs? How He has provided for your eternal needs?

Now give thanks and praise to the LORD your Shepherd, for all He has done, is doing, and will do in and through you, for His glory. He's worthy to be praised!

**Saturday, February 17, 2018**

## **Prayer for the Church**

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* **Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)**

*<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.* **Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)**

**Father**, I offer this prayer for the universal church and all of its local expressions of faith. I pray for the pastors and leaders that You preserve, protect, inspire, and empower them so that they can be effective in equipping Your saints for the work of ministry and building up the body of Christ. Help the church of today and tomorrow to visibly demonstrate Christ's servant attitude and compassion for those in need, not only in their communities, but to the ends of the earth.

*Continue this thought in praying for Jesus' church . . .*