



WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL
WEEK 4: February 18th – February 24th

goodhope.org

Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
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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 18, 2018

Prayer of Worship and Adoration

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 2 Corinthians 1:3 (NIV)

So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. Isaiah 28:16 (NIV)

Father, I worship You as my Comforter. I am so grateful that You are the Father of compassion, who looks upon me with tenderness. You comfort me in every trial, giving me the grace and strength that I need. For You are the solid Rock on which I stand. The world around me is unstable, but with You as my solid cornerstone and sure foundation, I have no reason to be afraid.

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

Monday, February 19, 2018

Prayer for Unbelievers

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:35-38 (NIV)

Father, I pray for (name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior). As Jesus observed in His time on earth, it is still true today, that

people are being harassed and helpless. They are ignorant of their need for a shepherd, to protect them, provide for them, to guide them, and to love them. Father, Your Son, Jesus, wants to be their Shepherd. I pray, Lord, that You would send someone with Your heart of compassion to share with them the good news about Jesus' love for them, through their words, and show Jesus' love for them, through serving them. Use even me me Lord, for this purpose. Please take away any apprehensions that I may have, so that I may effectively work in Your harvest.

Continue this thought in prayer for the unbelievers . . .

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Prayer for Spiritual Maturity

*⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully. **Colossians 1:9-11 (NIV)***

Father, help me to understand Your will, and to live a life that is worthy of You. May I please You in every way, and live a life that is filled with good work. Help me to know You better every day. Help me to live a life filled with Your strength and power, so that regardless of what happens

each day, I will see it as an opportunity to grow in endurance, patience, and joy . . .

Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer for spiritual maturity . . .

Wednesday, February 21, 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)***

Pakistan – Much of the Christian persecution in Pakistan comes from radical Islamic groups that flourish and expand under the favor of political parties, the army and the government. Both the army and the government make a distinction between the “good” and “bad” Taliban. For the time being, these radical Islamic groups run thousands of madrassas, Islamic education centers where youth are taught and encouraged to persecute religious minorities like Christians. While this puts converts to Christianity at risk as well, the main sources of danger for them are their own families, since conversion from Islam is seen as cause for shame.

While long-standing historic churches have relative freedom in worship and religious activities, they are heavily monitored and regularly targeted for bomb attacks. Churches that are engaged in outreach and youth work face the worst of the persecution, although all Christians suffer

from institutionalized discrimination. Occupations deemed as “dirty” and “shameful” are reserved for Christians, and many believers are victims of bonded labor. Pakistan’s notorious blasphemy laws target religious minorities but affect Christians the most; especially those who seek to evangelize. Discussion of the Christian faith is also known to attract attention from radical Muslims, making it dangerous to engage in faith-related conversations.

Pray using the following Prayer Points:

- Pakistan is an Islamic Republic, and the country suffers at the hands of numerous radical Islamic groups. Pray for the Pakistani government to pass laws that will protect Christians.
- Pray for Pakistani converts from Muslim backgrounds, who suffer the brunt of persecution in Pakistan. Radical Islamist groups see them as apostates, and their family, friends and neighbors see their conversion as shameful to the community.
- Pray for safety and protection for the Christian women and girls in Pakistan who must live under the treat of abduction, rape and forced marriage.

Thursday, February 22, 2018

Prayer of Confession

Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.

Ephesians 4:25 (NIV)

Father, I offer this prayer of confession to You, in light of this verse. Do I ever lie? Or, exaggerate? Or, shade the truth? The answer is, “Yes, I do.” Whether intentionally, or unintentionally, and for whatever reason: to save face, to not give up control, or it doesn’t matter, please forgive me if I fail to tell the truth. I know this is not pleasing to you, no matter the situation or circumstance. 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 23, 2018

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Praise

In God we have boasted all day long, and we will give thanks to Your name forever. Selah. Psalm 44:8 (NASB)

O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. Isaiah 25:1 (NASB)

You've made it to the end of another week. For a few moments, reflect on God's faithfulness and goodness towards you. Create a gratitude list, whether mentally or physically, of the many blessings He has bestowed upon you. Starting now, develop a habit of daily giving thanks to God for all He's done for, is doing in, and wants to do through you, for His Glory! He's worthy to be praised!

Continue this thought in a prayer of thanksgiving & praise to God . . .

Saturday, February 24, 2018

Prayer of Surrender

*For at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords. **1 Timothy 6:15 (NLT)***

*⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast. ¹⁰ For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. **Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)***

Father, I offer this prayer of surrender to You, the almighty God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I come as a servant to my King. As Your servant, Lord, I surrender my right to decide how, when, where, or even whether I will serve Your kingdom. Help me to realize that it is Your will that is to be done on earth and not mine. Help me to realize that You

have saved me and given me life, so that I may serve You. Help me to realize that I serve only by Your grace.

Continue this thought in a prayer of surrender . . .