



WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 5: February 25th – March 3rd

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 25, 2018

Prayer of Worship and Adoration

For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy. **Psalms 61:3 (NASB)**

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous runs into it and is safe. **Proverbs 18:10 (NASB)**

Dear Father, I worship You, as the One to whom I can run and be safe, no matter what I’m facing in life. I can turn to and find comfort in Your name, LORD, that is to Your revealed character. By putting my trust in You, I am as safe as a person hiding from the enemy in a strong tower.

Continue these thoughts in a personal prayer of worship to the Lord, whose name is your Strong Tower . . .

Monday, February 26, 2018

Prayer for Unbelievers

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **Colossians 1:13 (NASB)**

But we do see Him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone. **Hebrews 2:9 (NASB)**

This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, **2 Peter 3:1 (NASB)**

Father, I pray for (name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior). Please bring them out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of Your Son. Help them to understand that Jesus gave His life for them. Jesus died in their place. He gave Himself as a sacrifice for them. Help them to see their need for a Savior.

And Lord, I thank You that You are patient, that You don't want anyone to die without knowing You. You want everyone to understand and turn away from their sins. Reveal the truth of their sins to them and give them the desire to turn away from them in Your strength.

Continue this thought in prayer for the unbelievers . . .

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Prayer for Spiritual Maturity and Growth

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.
Colossians 2:6-8 (NIV)

Father, help me to keep on growing in my relationship with You, that is expressed through my living for You. Make me strong in the faith, and give me a thankful heart because of Your faithfulness. Keep me dependent on Christ, and protect me from thoughts and decisions that are influenced by the world. . . .

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

Wednesday, February 28, 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)**

Eritrea – Both the government and the cultural climate in Eritrea contribute to the persecution of Christians in this country in the Horn of Africa. President Afewerki's regime is known for absolute authoritarianism. The arrest, harassment and murder of Christians accused of being agents of the West is commonplace. At the same time, Muslims, who make up roughly half of the population, are becoming more radicalized, resulting in increased vulnerability for Christians living in their vicinity. Conversion to Christianity is seen as a complete betrayal of community, family and the Islamic faith and brings on severe persecution. The Eritrean Orthodox Church (EOC) also has a long historical presence in the country and persecutes believers who leave the denomination.

In Eritrea, all Christian communities suffer from persecution, although the intensity and sources of persecution vary. Arrests and disappearances of Christians are commonplace, and they are often blocked from access to community resources. Christians from non-traditional church groups, especially converts, face the harshest persecution from the government, Ethiopian Orthodox Church and Muslim community. The government's fear of both radical Islam and Christian evangelicalism has led to the end of virtually all international work among non-governmental organizations (NGOs), as well as restricted

entry for expatriate Christian workers. Many Christians are currently imprisoned for their faith, and many others have been tortured to death in prison, or died for lack of medical attention and outright negligence by prison authorities.

Pray using the following Prayer Points:

- Pray that President Afewerki would find true life and fulfillment in Christ. Pray for God's intervention in Eritrea. Pray that the local church does not pray evil upon their rulers but rather that there would be a change of heart.
- Pray for endurance for our brothers and sisters, who have been arrested and imprisoned over the years, and many who still remain imprisoned, under horrific conditions and that they might be lights to their captors in the midst of it all.
- Pray for God's abundant grace to those who are filling the shoes of imprisoned church leaders. Ask the Lord to equip them for the task of discipling their flocks amidst these difficulties.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would comfort Eritrean refugees who have fled the country due to the high levels of persecution and violence.

Thursday, March 1, 2018

Prayer for Schools

³ and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, ⁴ and if you look for it as for silver and search

*for it as for hidden treasure, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. **Proverbs 2:3-8 (NIV)***

Father, I offer this prayer for schools all over this country. I pray for Your presence in our schools, that those who know You will live for You. I pray that each student grows in knowledge, faith and wisdom. I pray that the schools are a safe place where students can thrive and develop meaningful relationships with teachers and friends that help them feel connected and loved, and inspire them to become productive citizens in our country and in the world, and to discover Your calling on their lives. . . .

Continue this thought in a prayer for teachers, principals, bus drivers, crossing guards, counselors, cafeteria staff, school nurses, janitorial staff, school board, etc . . .

Friday, March 2, 2018

Prayer for Someone You Know Facing Trials

*³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. **2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)** . . . ^{8b} We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. **2 Corinthians***

1:8b-9 (NIV) . . . ^{10b} *On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.* **2 Corinthians 1:10b-11 (NIV)**

For a few moments, think about someone you know who is facing a difficult situation and circumstance, whether physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, or financial.

Dear Lord, I pray for (*the specific names*), in their time of facing difficult situations and circumstances. Thank You for being the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort to them in the midst of their troubles. Reach out to them, so that someday they will be able to comfort others who face similar problems. In all the stress that are felling, help them to rely on You and not on themselves. May they set their hope on You. Help them through all the prayers being offered on their behalf, so that many will give thanks for Your answer.

Continue this thought with a personal prayer . . .

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Praise

² *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ⁴ And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* **James 1:2-4 (NASB)**

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **Romans 8:28 (NASB)**

Always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father. **Ephesians 5:20 (NASB)**

In everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. **1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NASB)**

You've made it to the end of another challenging week. For a few moments, reflect on these challenges and difficulties from this week. Next, reflect on how God's grace, mercy, faithfulness and goodness have brought you through or is bringing you through.

Now spend the next few moments giving thanks to God for His sovereignty in using the challenges, difficulties, and trials in your life to build character in you make you stronger, so that you will shine brighter for Him, for His glory. He's worthy to be praised!

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