



WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL

WEEK 6: March 4th – March 10th

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, March 4, 2018

Prayer of Worship and Adoration

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. 1 Timothy 1:17 (NIV)

Dear God, I am in awe and filled with adoration of You, as the only God. You are unique, because there is no other God than You. There never was, there will never be, because You are God alone.

Continue these thoughts in a personal prayer of worship to the Lord, your King, your only God . . .

Monday, March 5, 2018

Prayer for Unbelievers

If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear. Mark 4:23 (NIV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. John 5:24 (NASB)

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NASB)

Father, I pray for (name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior). Give them ears to hear the truth and help them to think carefully about what they have heard. Help them to hear Jesus’ word and to believe, for those who do have eternal life. May they hear and live. Don’t let Satan blind their mind, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel. Instead, let Your light shine out of

the darkness and into their heart. Give them the light they need to come to Christ.

Continue this thought in prayer for the unbelievers . . .

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

Prayer for Spiritual Maturity and Growth

*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. **1 John 4:18 (ESV)***

*¹⁸ May have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **Ephesians 3:18-19 (ESV)***

*And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **Matthew 22:37 (ESV)***

Pray this prayer for yourself and another believer that you know.

Father, I pray for myself and (*name*). Thank You for Your perfect love. Help us to be aware of Your love, and to experience that love in a real and tangible way. Help us to realize that Your love is so wide, so long, so high, and so deep, that we will never understand it. Yet may we know how much You love us with absolute certainty. Most

especially, help us to return Your love, to love You with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. . . .

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

Wednesday, March 7, 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)***

Libya – For Christians in Libya, the two main causes of persecution are Islamic militant groups and organized crime. Christians in this country are a very small minority, and most are foreigners in search of work or a means of reaching Europe by crossing the Mediterranean. These Christian migrants (most come from sub-Saharan African countries) face substantial religious intolerance and racial prejudice. A state of anarchy and civil war in the country results in impunity for Islamic militants and organized criminal groups engaged in the persecution of Christian believers. The country also exerts a great deal of societal pressure, calling for family members to persecute converts from Muslim backgrounds.

Libyan Christians from Muslim backgrounds face extremely violent and intense persecution, constantly pressured by their families and the wider community to renounce their faith. Christian migrants from other parts of the continent

are also targets of Islamic militant groups and organized criminal groups that kidnap and sometimes kill with shocking brutality. Believers who avoid violent persecution are still harassed and subjected to threats from radical Islamists. Christ-followers who publically express their faith or try to share the gospel face the risk of arrest and violence as well. Because no single central government exists to impose law and order in the country, most crimes against Christians go unpunished.

Pray using the following Prayer Points:

- Pray that God would disrupt the plans of the Islamic State in Libya to show them His mercy, grace and sovereignty over all.
- Pray for the growing number of Christians from Muslim backgrounds in Libya, especially those isolated from other believers. Pray for Libyan believers scattered throughout Europe. Some still face persecution from their families back home.
- Pray that many would hear the gospel through Arabic satellite and web broadcasts. Pray for new believers, for their protection, and for opportunities to cultivate and grow in their faith.

Thursday, March 8, 2018

Prayer of Confession

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, 1 Thessalonians 5:11a (NIV)

Father, I offer this prayer of confession to You, in light of this verse. Am I consistently quick and thoughtful to encourage and build others up? I ask You to forgive me when instead of encouraging others, I bring them down with a word, a look, or an attitude. Forgive me even when I miss the opportunity to encourage someone. 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, March 9, 2018

Prayer of Surrender

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:39 (ESV)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. John 13:34 (ESV)

Father, I offer this prayer of surrender to You. I surrender my heart, the center of my intellect, will, and emotions. Help me to love my neighbor as myself, others in the body of Christ, all people, the way Jesus loves me. Help me to love unconditionally and in a manner that's visible and beneficial to them.

Continue this thought in a personal prayer of surrender . . .

Saturday, March 10, 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 . . .*