



## ***WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL***

***WEEK 7: March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>***

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**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 11, 2018**

### Prayer of Worship and Adoration

*The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.* **Psalm 18:2 (NIV)**

*God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* **Psalm 46:1 (NIV)**

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.* **Deuteronomy 31:6 (NIV)**

**Dear God**, I worship and adore you. You are my Rock! You are my Fortress! You are my Deliverer, and my Shield! You are an ever-present help in times of danger. You are always present with me, wherever I go, so I will not be afraid.

*Continue these thoughts in a personal prayer of worship to God your Shield of protection . . .*

**Monday, March 12, 2018**

### Prayer for Unbelievers

*So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.* **Isaiah 55:11 (NASB)**

<sup>14</sup> *The sower sows the word.* <sup>15</sup> *These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.* **Mark 4:14-15 (NASB)**

*It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.* **John 6:63 (NASB)**

**Father**, I pray for (*name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior*). Lead them to read Your Word, even if they don't understand it; help them to hear it taught. For Your Word will not return empty. Your Word will accomplish its purpose. Your Word is life. Please protect them from the thief. Don't let Satan steal the truth they have heard about the gospel. May Your Spirit open their understanding and give them eternal life.

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

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

### **Prayer of Dependency on God's Word**

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105 (ESV)*

*But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." Matthew 4:4 (ESV)*

*<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)*

**Father**, I thank You that Your Word provides me with all that I need to live a life that is pleasing to You. Help me to spend time daily in Your Word, to strengthen my spiritual man, just as daily food strengthens my physical body. Help me to realize that I cannot live the life of a disciple of Christ

on my own. My limitations and insufficiency are too great. I need Your wisdom and guidance every moment of the day.

Please forgive me for when I try to go it on my own, and fall short every time, without fail. Help me to be ever so mindful that you created me to depend on You, and not live independently of You. . . .

*Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer of dependency on God's Word . . .*

**Wednesday, March 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)*

**Iraq** – In Iraq, numerous groups contribute to the persecution of Christians. Radical movements such as the Islamic State (IS) group target Christians and other religious minorities for kidnappings and killings. Islamic leaders slander Christians in mosques, leading to further persecution. Government officials, both national and local, have threatened Christians, "encouraging" them to leave the country. Political parties who hinder pluralism also contribute to the persecution of Christians in the public space. Moreover, Christians from Muslim backgrounds face serious pressure from their clans, families and communities, who will sometimes go so far as to try to kill them. At the same time, within Christianity, leaders of historic churches

have sometimes thwarted official recognition of newer Christian denominations.

In central and southern Iraq, Christians usually avoid the public display of religious symbols for fear of harassment and discrimination at checkpoints, universities, workplaces and government buildings. Some Christian organizations are threatened with kidnappings and attacks by Islamic militants. Christian believers, especially those who are outspoken, experience discrimination from authorities and non-Christian leaders, with blasphemy laws sometimes used against them if they witness to Muslims. Converts from Islam often keep their faith a secret to avoid persecution from those around them, sometimes losing their rights to inheritance or marriage.

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

- Pray for God to provide good shepherds for the people coming to Christ in the southern parts of Iraq and that He would fill these converts' newfound hunger to know Him.
- Please pray for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the Nineveh Plain who are still stuck – not knowing whether to return to their villages, stay in their current displaced situation, or leave the country entirely.
- Pray for priests and pastors ministering in Iraq, that they might be living examples of Christ's presence. Pray for the Body of Christ to keep hope alive in the country that has endured so much.

**Thursday, March 15, 2018**

### **Prayer for Someone You Know Facing Trials**

*<sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, **1 Peter 1:6-8 (ESV)***

*<sup>22</sup> The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. **Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV)***

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **Romans 12:12 (ESV)***

Think of someone you know, or even you, 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. Though they may feel like they can't see You in the midst of the troubles they are facing, help them to love You and trust Your faithfulness. Help them to believe in You no matter what. Keep their faith from failing. Help them even in this trying time to be filled with joy and hope, and to remain patient and faithful in prayer, expressing their dependence on You.

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

**Friday, March 16, 2018**

### **Prayer of Deliverance/Protection**

*When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.*

**James 1:13 (NIV)**

*No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it. 1*

**Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)**

**Father**, thank You for this wonderful promise of Your Word that You will bring me through every temptation I face. Help me to realize that You do not tempt anyone, but You allow temptations to develop me, for my growth in You. You, Lord, know my weakness and where I struggle to follow You. In Your faithfulness, You always provide a way out of the temptations, so I can grow in Christlikeness. Help me to turn to You whenever I am tempted, so that I can follow Your direction for Your glory.

*Continue this thought in a personal prayer of deliverance and protection . . .*

**Saturday, March 17, 2018**

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

*<sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV)**

**Dear Lord**, teach me to offer You a heart of thanksgiving and praise in all my daily experiences of life. Teach me to be joyful always, to pray continually and to give thanks in all my circumstances. Teach me not to complain or be angry with You, others, or myself about my experiences, because You in control of all things. Teach me to accept my experiences as Your will for my life and say, "Thank You."

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