



31

Days
of
Prayer

Grace
Fellowship Church

HELPS TO INTERCESSION

DAYS 1-31

by Andrew Murray

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DAY ONE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Power of the Holy Spirit**

"When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father. . . . I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit" (Ephesians 3:14, 16 NLT).

Pray for the full manifestation, or *evidence*, of the grace, energy and power of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to remove everything that does not line up with God's will, and to work with mighty power in the church so that Christ may be exalted and many souls will be blessed.

"Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 1:4, 5 NLT).

God has *one* promise to and through Jesus, His exalted Son . . . our Lord Jesus has *one* gift to His church . . . the church has *one* need . . . all prayer unites in *one* petition -- the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for this!

HOW TO PRAY – **As a Child of the Father**

"So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.' For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children" (Romans 8:15-16 NLT).

"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26 NLT).

"So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the devil. Anyone who does not live righteously and does not love other believers does not belong to God" (1 John 3:10 NLT).

If you believe in the salvation of Jesus Christ, you are a child of God. Since children imitate their parents, God's children imitate Him. They live right, love others, and allow God's power to work through them.

DAY TWO

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Heartfelt Prayer**

"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words" (Romans 8:26 NLT).

"Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer . . ." (Zechariah 12:10a NLT).

Evangelizing the world depends first and foremost upon a revival of prayer. Deeper than the need for lots of people to pray is the need for each of us to discover the forgotten secret of heartfelt prayer for the lost souls of this world. The root problem is our failure to fellowship with God. Every child of God has the Holy Spirit within him, helping him to pray. Ask for the outpouring of the Spirit of Heartfelt Prayer for yourself and for your own group of prayer partners.

HOW TO PRAY – **In the Spirit**

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion" (Ephesians 6:18a NLT).

". . . pray in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Jude 1:20b NLT).

On Resurrection Day Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to His disciples, Who helped them to be patient and enabled them to wait for the Day of Pentecost. On that day, when they received the full manifestation of God's Spirit, they were given power to see awesome miracles accomplished through their prayers.

That same Holy Spirit is in us! And it's only through His power, which we acknowledge and yield to, that we can pray for a greater outpouring. Pray to God the Father, through the Spirit in you, and ask Him to give you the power of the Holy Spirit, which He promised.

DAY THREE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For All Christians**

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere" (Ephesians 6:18 NLT).

". . . So it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other" (Romans 12:5 NLT).

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me" (John 17:21 NLT).

Each member of a body -- whether it's an eye or an ear or a foot -- is concerned about the welfare of the entire body and exists to help and complete the whole being. Christians are members of one body and should pray for the welfare of all believers, not just those of their own church or community. Pray first of all for the entire body of Christ and then for the believers around you. This unselfish love is the proof that the Holy Spirit is teaching you to pray.

HOW TO PRAY – **In the Love of the Spirit**

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples" (John 13:35 NLT).

"Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:30 NLT).

"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8 NLT).

When we pray, we must love. The Bible says that love is even greater than hope or faith (see 1 Corinthians 13:13). It's not just super faith that draws the world to God, but it's the love that you show to one another. Prove to God your love for all Christians and especially for those you know personally. Pray for them *fervently* (eagerly and intensely), in the love of the Holy Spirit.

DAY FOUR

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Holiness**

"I am the Lord, your Holy One, Israel's Creator and King. . . . I—yes, I alone—will blot out your sins for my own sake and will never think of them again" (Isaiah 43:15, 25 NLT).

Jesus prayed, *"Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth" (John 17:17 NLT).*

Paul prayed, *"May he, as a result, make your hearts strong, blameless, and holy as you stand before God our Father when our Lord Jesus comes again with all his holy people. Amen" (1 Thessalonians 3:13 NLT).*

"Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again" (1 Thessalonians 5:23 NLT).

God is holy, and His people are holy. Even *you* must be holy. But how? There's only one way, and that's through faith in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for all Christians throughout the Church, that the Spirit of holiness may rule them. Pray especially for new converts, as well as for the Christians in your own community and congregation. Think of their special needs, weaknesses or sins, and pray that God will make them holy.

HOW TO PRAY – **Trusting in God’s Omnipotence**

“Be still, and know that I am God! I will be honored by every nation. I will be honored throughout the world” (Psalm 46:10 NLT).

We often look at the big things we ask for, how impossible they seem, and how insignificant we are. But what is *impossible* with people is *possible* with God! Prayer is not only wishing or asking, but also believing and accepting. Be still before God, ask Him to reveal His power to you, and leave your petitions (requests) with Almighty God Who does wonders!

DAY FIVE

WHAT TO PRAY – **that God’s People May Be Kept from Evil**

“I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them safe in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but that you keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to the world just as I do not belong to the world” (John 17:11, 15, 16 NET).

As Christians, we live in this world, but we don’t belong to this world . . . we belong to the kingdom of God. The night before His crucifixion, Jesus asked God for three things concerning His disciples: that God would protect them, unite them, and keep them separate from the world.

We can ask for that too – and it’s so powerful when we pray as Jesus did! Ask God to protect His people, to make us one, and to keep us separate from the ungodly spirit of this world. Ask the Holy Spirit to help us live sanctified lives.

HOW TO PRAY – **Having Confidence Before God**

“ Dear friends, if our conscience does not condemn us, we have confidence in the presence of God, and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do the things that are pleasing to him ” (I John 3:21,22 NET).

Memorize these words. Get them into your heart! Join those believers who approach God with confidence and a clean heart, knowing that they’ll receive from God what they ask for.

The Bible says to pray for fellow Christians who have sinned: *“If anyone sees his fellow Christian committing a sin not resulting in death, he should ask, and God will grant life to the person who commits a sin not resulting in death. There is a sin resulting in death. I do not say that he should ask about that” (I John 5:16 NET).*

Boldly, and with confidence, pray for your brother or sister in Christ who has sinned: Pray for all believers to be kept from evil, and say often, “. . . we receive . . . whatever we ask because we keep his commandments and . . . please him.”

DAY SIX

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Love in the Church**

"I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. . . . I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them" (John 17:22, 23, 26 NLT).

"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!" (Galatians 5:22, 23 NLT).

Believers are one in Christ, just as Christ is one with the Father. So the very love of God lives in us! Pray earnestly for the Holy Spirit to help believers shine with the love of God so much that the world can see it and be drawn to it.

HOW TO PRAY – **As One of God's Remembrancers**

"I have set watchmen upon your walls, O Jerusalem, who will never hold their peace day or night; you who [are His servants and by your prayers] put the Lord in remembrance [of His promises], keep not silence . . ." (Isaiah 62:6 AMP).

Study these words until your whole being understands that every believer is one of God's special prayer partners. We're supposed to keep watch for other people and to cry out to God on their behalf. God expects us to pray for the world's needs, even if we don't understand them all. The Holy Spirit will teach us how to pray: *"And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words"* (Romans 8:26 NLT).

Praying for others is the most important job we'll ever have.

DAY SEVEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Power of the Holy Spirit on Ministers**

"Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit" (Romans 15:30 NLT).

"And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us. And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers for our safety" (II Corinthians 1:10, 11 NLT).

All of God's ministers need our prayers! They need God's protection, provision and power. Plead for God to give ministers the promise of the Holy Spirit and His power.

"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven" (Luke 24:49 NLT).

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NLT).

Imagine how effective the church would be if all of the ministers were operating in the power of the Holy Spirit! Specifically pray for your own minister, as well as other ministries in your town or community, to be clothed with the power of God.

HOW TO PRAY – In Secret

"But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6 NLT).

"After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone" (Matthew 14:23 NLT).

Pray in secret for God's ministers. Don't just pray in front of others. Realize that when you're alone with God, you're *face to face* with the Creator of the Universe, Who loves you and desires the best for all of His children. Understand that God hears your prayers, and you have great influence. Your prayer and faith do make a difference!

DAY EIGHT

WHAT TO PRAY – For God's Spirit on All Christian Workers

"He will rescue us because you are helping by praying for us. As a result, many will give thanks to God because so many people's prayers for our safety have been answered" (II Corinthians 1:11 NLT).

There's a mighty army of Christians in the world who work in factories, stores, office buildings, hospitals, the military -- every kind of job imaginable. There are young men and women in schools who stand firm in their Christian beliefs. So much could be accomplished for the kingdom of God if each one would live in the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit! When you pray for them, you become a partner in whatever they do for God. You can rejoice in their victories; plus, you'll receive a reward in heaven for your efforts in prayer.

HOW TO PRAY – **With Definite Petitions**

"What do you want me to do for you?' 'Lord,' he said, 'I want to see!'" (Luke 18:41 NIV).

Jesus knew what was wrong with the man, yet He still asked him what he wanted. When you and I voice our specific needs in prayer, there's a definite point in which we are engaged with God. This ignites our faith and creates an expectation of what answer to look for. Pray for the specific needs of the Christian workers around you, understanding that intercession is not just praying memorized prayers that sound good, but faithfully trusting that God will give definite answers and blessings to His children.

DAY NINE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For God's Spirit on Mission Work**

"One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.' So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way. So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit. They went down to the seaport of Seleucia and then sailed for the island of Cyprus" (Acts 13:2-4 NLT).

Pray that in all of our churches, the missions work will be accomplished through worshiping God, fasting and praying, waiting on God, and hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit. A Spirit-filled, praying church sends out Spirit-filled missionaries who are mighty in power.

HOW TO PRAY – **Taking Time**

"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4 NET).

"Now it was during this time that Jesus went out to the mountain to pray, and he spent all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12 NET).

"And after he sent the crowds away, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone" (Matthew 14:23 NET).

We learn more about other people when we spend time with them – and it works the same way with God. We need time with God to learn how He thinks, what He's passionate about, and how we fit into His plan. Through our time in prayer, we can learn to take our place in Christ and pray until we're confident that our prayers will be answered. Take time to pray for the mission work of the church.

DAY TEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For God’s Spirit on Missionaries**

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8 NLT).

The lost world doesn't just need more missionaries to share the good news of Jesus Christ – the world needs missionaries who have the outpouring of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. Think of how difficult missionary work is! Our missionaries are on the front lines of ministry, facing the devil head-on. Yet God gives each of us power equal to the work He has called us to do. Pray for our missionaries and ask God to pour out His Spirit and power on them.

HOW TO PRAY – **Trusting God’s Faithfulness**

"God will surely do this for you, for he always does just what he says, and he is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9 NLT).

"The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!" (1 Thessalonians 5:24 MSG).

God not only *can* answer prayer -- He *will* answer prayer. He is the faithful Father Who delights in blessing His children!

DAY ELEVEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For More Workers**

"So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields" (Matthew 9:38 NLT).

It's remarkable that the Lord Jesus told us to ask God to send more workers into the harvest field. What an honor God has put upon our prayers, and that's proof that God hears them!

We should pray that the students who are in theological seminaries and Bible institutes don't go out to fulfill their missions until God prepares them and sends them. Pray for our churches to train their youth to seek for the leading of the Holy Spirit to give them direction for their lives. Pray for all Christians to be ready to go if God sends them, or to pray earnestly for those who are sent.

HOW TO PRAY – **In Faith, Without Doubt**

"Jesus said to them, 'Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, if someone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. '" (Mark 11:22, 23 NET).

Have faith in God! Ask Him to supply workers wherever you see a lack. Remember, God loves to do the impossible, so He can certainly provide suitable workers where they're needed. Ask God to show you His faithfulness, and be encouraged to pray prayers full of faith, without doubt.

DAY TWELVE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Holy Spirit to Convict the World of Sin**

“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment” (John 16:8 NIV).

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.

Now when they heard this, they were acutely distressed and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “What should we do, brothers?” (Acts 2:36, 37 NET).

God’s overwhelming desire is to take away the sins of the world. That’s why He sent His Son to die on the Cross. The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to convict the world of sin and to convince people that Jesus is the only way to salvation. Pray earnestly that wherever the gospel of Jesus is preached, the Holy Spirit will bring powerful conviction of sin that will cause people to cry out, “What should we do [to be saved]?”

HOW TO PRAY – **Plugged in to God’s Strength**

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6 NKJV).

“Therefore I am content with weaknesses, with insults, with troubles, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ, for whenever I am weak, then I am strong” (II Corinthians 12:10 NET).

Determine to feed your passion for God and to plug yourself in to His strength. The song says, “Little ones to Him belong . . . they are weak, but He is strong.” God is a spirit, so we can’t hold onto Him with our hands. But each one of us is a spirit, and we can access God’s strength through prayer. Know that God delights in giving you His strength, and you can pray boldly for the power of the Holy Spirit to convict people of their sins.

DAY THIRTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Burning**

“Those remaining in Zion, those left in Jerusalem, will be called “holy,” all in Jerusalem who are destined to live. At that time the sovereign master will wash the excrement from Zion’s women, he will rinse the bloodstains from Jerusalem’s midst, as he comes to judge and to bring devastation” (Isaiah 4:3,4 NET).

Those who’ve been washed by fiery judgment are called holy to the Lord. God is extremely interested in the holiness and sanctification of the Church because the power of God to bless the world and the effectiveness of our prayers both depend upon the spiritual state of the Church. Judgment always begins at the house of God. Sin *must* be discovered and washed away by the cleansing fire of God. Pray that God will send the Spirit of burning to destroy sin in the lives of His people.

HOW TO PRAY - **In the Name of Christ**

“And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:13, 14 NET).

When we pray in the name of Jesus, we’re praying as children of God. We’re His heirs, and as such, we have the authority of His name. God desires to bless the world, so don’t be afraid to ask for it! Pray in faith to Almighty God, that deep conviction will enter the hearts of His people and that the Spirit of burning through the blood of Jesus will cleanse the Church of sin. As the Church is blessed, it can be a blessing to the world.

DAY FOURTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Church of the Future**

“Then they will not be like their ancestors, who were a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that was not committed and faithful to God” (Psalm 78:8 NET).

“For I will pour water on the thirsty ground and send streams coursing through the parched earth. I will pour my Spirit into your descendants and my blessing on your children” (Isaiah 44:3 MSG).

Pray, pray, pray for the next generation. Pray for the children in your church, your neighborhood and your community. This generation of young people faces opposition and temptations unlike any generation before them. Pray for their activities and relationships. Pray for their teachers, parents, friends, and anyone else who impacts their lives. Ask for the Holy Spirit of God to hover over them, to protect them and to draw them to Himself.

HOW TO PRAY – **With Your Whole Heart**

“May he grant your heart’s desire; may he bring all your plans to pass!” (Psalm 20:4 NET).

“For you have given him his heart’s desire; you have withheld nothing he requested” (Psalm 21:2 NLT).

“I cried out with all my heart, “Answer me, O LORD! I will observe your statutes” (Psalm 119:145 NET).

God listens to every prayer with His whole heart, and He wants us to pray to Him with our whole hearts. Christ gave all of Himself to God for people, and He wants people to give all of themselves to God as well. Bring your petitions to God through Jesus – and when you pray with your whole heart, you’ll never want to pray any other way. Pray with your *whole heart* for the youth of this country and the world.

DAY FIFTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – For Schools and Colleges

“And this is my covenant with them,” says the Lord. “My Spirit will not leave them, and neither will these words I have given you. They will be on your lips and on the lips of your children and your children’s children forever. I, the Lord, have spoken!” (Isaiah 59:21 NLT).

We can barely understand what a crucial role the educational system has on the future of the Church and the world. While Christians seek to evangelize the unsaved, their own children may be influenced for evil by the secular, humanistic and materialistic curriculum and community in their schools. Pray for the schools and colleges, for the teachers and principals, and for the government that passes laws governing the educational system. Pray that God’s Spirit and His words will never leave the lips of our children, forever.

HOW TO PRAY – Without Limiting God

*“They again challenged God, and offended the Holy One of Israel” (Psalm 78:41 NET)
“And he did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief” (Matthew 13:58 NET).*

“Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14 NIV).

“O Sovereign Lord! You made the heavens and earth by your strong hand and powerful arm. Nothing is too hard for you! I am the Lord, the God of all the peoples of the world. Is anything too hard for me?” (Jeremiah 32:17, 27).

“Now glory be to God! By his mighty power at work within us, he is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope” (Ephesians 3:20 NLT).

When you pray, above all else beware of limiting God! We can limit God not only through unbelief, but also through thinking that we know *how* God can and should answer our prayers. Each time you enter into prayer, first be quiet and worship the sovereign God for Who He is – unlimited, all-powerful, and all-knowing. Then remember your place in Christ, as a beloved child of God. Pray in faith, believing. Then EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

DAY SIXTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Power of the Holy Spirit in Our Children**

“But the Lord says, ‘The captives of warriors will be released, and the plunder of tyrants will be retrieved. For I will fight those who fight you, and I will save your children’” (Isaiah 49:25 NLT).

We *must* recognize God’s desire to work in the lives of our children. Let us surrender ourselves into His hands and pray that He’ll work in us and through us. God wants to pour out the power of the Holy Spirit on our children just as much as on our adults. Pray that our volunteers will be filled with His Spirit and will have a tremendous impact on our children. Pray for the salvation of the children of our church and community.

HOW TO PRAY – **Boldly**

“So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. . . . So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most” (Hebrews 4:14, 16 NLT).

Children need bold prayers because they have bold needs. Believe that God hears and answers prayers – then pray boldly for God to give the children mercy and grace to help with their biggest -- and smallest -- problems.

DAY SEVENTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For Kings and Rulers**

“First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercessions, and thanks be offered on behalf of all people, even for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life in all godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:1,2 NET).

When Paul wrote this to young Timothy, cruel Roman emperors ruled their world. What amazing faith he had in the power of prayer! He knew that when a few committed Christians prayed, God heard them and worked on their behalf.

God ultimately rules the world, and He can order peace and quietness in response to the prayers of His people. Pray for the government of your town, city, district, state, and nation. Pray for all the rulers of the world. When the children of God unite in faith and prayer, they can count upon God to intervene in the realm of the unseen world even more than they realize!

HOW TO PRAY - **With Your Prayer Rising to God as Incense**

“Another angel holding a golden censer came and was stationed at the altar. A large amount of incense was given to him to offer up, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar that is before the throne. The smoke coming from the incense, along with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel’s hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it on the earth, and there were crashes of thunder, roaring, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.” (Revelation 8:3-5 NET).

This is a beautiful picture of how heaven helps us pray: an angel mixes our prayers with a sweet-smelling fragrance and presents them as an offering to God. God hears our prayers and responds to them with tremendous power, altering the course of human events. This illustrates how our prayers, when they enter God’s presence, actually play a part in the history of this earth!

DAY EIGHTEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For Peace**

“He causes wars to end throughout the earth” (Psalm 46:9a NLT).

“The king’s heart is like a stream of water directed by the Lord; he turns it wherever he pleases” (Proverbs 21:1 NLT).

We live in a time when nations pride themselves on their military might -- when at any moment the jealousy and anger of the governments may cause a global war, which could wipe out the entire earth. Our best and only defense against such a horrible prospect is our prayers to Almighty God, Who reigns supreme over all. God can, in answer to the prayers of His people, give us peace. Pray for the leadership of your country as well as others, and ask God to help them rule with righteousness.

HOW TO PRAY – **With Understanding**

“Well then, what shall I do? I will do both. I will pray in the spirit, and I will pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will sing in words I understand” (I Corinthians 14:15 NLT).

We should pray both in the spirit and with understanding. We need the Spirit of God to help us pray powerful, appropriate prayers. Plus, we need to learn as much as we can about those things we’re praying for so that we can petition God intelligently and know what we’re asking for concerning the type, the size, and the urgency of the need.

Also, it’s important to know what the Bible says about the subject, and what God promises to do about it. Let your mind affect your heart, and pray earnestly with faith-filled intercession.

DAY NINETEEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Power of the Holy Spirit on All Christians**

“They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. You must stay away from people like that!” (II Timothy 3:5 NLT).

“I know your deeds, that you have a reputation that you are alive, but in reality you are dead” (Revelation 3:1b NET).

There are millions of people who call themselves Christians, but they act like the devil. Millions more believe they're Christians because of their good behavior, but they've never accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Many things deceive these people and keep them from truly giving themselves to God. Tradition, worldliness, ungodliness, ignorance and indifference can all keep people from recognizing their need for the Holy Spirit's power to help them live righteous lives. Don't just pray for lost souls to come to Christ – pray also for those who call themselves Christians but don't act like it!

HOW TO PRAY – **In Deep Stillness of Soul**

“Be still, and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10a NKJV).

“For God alone I patiently wait; he is the one who delivers me” (Psalm 62:1 NET).

Our power in prayer comes only from God. As we sit quietly and reverently in His presence, in a posture of humility and adoration, God can reveal Himself to us and show us His will. The more time we spend seeking God, the more powerful our prayers will be. As you continue on this one-month journey of intercession, you'll become more and more aware of the importance and greatness of your efforts in prayer.

DAY TWENTY

WHAT TO PRAY – **For God's Spirit on the Non-Christians of the World**

“See, my people will return from far away, from lands to the north and west, and from as far south as Egypt” (Isaiah 49:12 NLT).

“Let Egypt come with gifts of precious metals; let Ethiopia bow in submission to God” (Psalm 68:31 NLT).

“The least of you will become a thousand, the smallest a mighty nation. I am the LORD; in its time I will do this swiftly” (Isaiah 60:22 NIV).

Pray for the unsaved who've never even heard about Jesus. Think about the nations on earth who live in spiritual darkness and whose citizens are dying each day and going to hell. Jesus gave up His life for them – shouldn't we also give up our lives in prayer for them? Even as you spend a few minutes per day in prayer using this 31-day prayer guide, the Holy Spirit will draw you to pray more and more. Do as Christ did . . . take up your cross, and give your life to interceding for the non-Christians of the world.

HOW TO PRAY – **With Confident Expectation of an Answer**

“Ask me and I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here” (Jeremiah 33:3 NLT).

“Thus says the Lord GOD: “I will also let the house of Israel inquire of Me to do this for them: I will increase their men like a flock” (Ezekiel 36:37 NKJV).

Both of these scriptures refer to promises definitely made by God – yet their fulfillment depends upon prayer. Isn't that amazing? Plead God's promises for the non-Christians. Ask God to fulfill His promises to His Son and His Church . . . and expect Him to answer!

DAY TWENTY-ONE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For God's Spirit on the Jews**

“Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died” (Zechariah 12:10 NLT).

“Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is that the Jewish people might be saved” (Romans 10:1 NLT).

Pray for the Jews. Their salvation is divinely connected, in a way we can't comprehend, with tremendous blessings to the Body of Christ and with the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus. And somehow, according to God's mysterious plan, He has based the fulfillment of His promise on the prayers of His people! Don't think that world events are foreordained and that we can't hasten the Lord's return. Pray for Israel, for Jerusalem, and for the Jews, that God's work will be completed in them.

HOW TO PRAY – **With the Intercession of the Holy Spirit**

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how we should pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes on behalf of the saints according to God's will” (Romans 8:26, 27 NET).

In our humanity and ignorance, we often don't know how or what to pray. But the Holy Spirit within us helps us to pray the right prayers. God knows the mind of the Spirit, and the Spirit prays in harmony with God's will. Make it a habit to yield to the guidance of the Holy Spirit . . . pray simple, heartfelt prayers . . . and don't be afraid to believe that God's promises will come to pass. Remember, God's Spirit inside of you is helping you to pray!

DAY TWENTY-TWO

WHAT TO PRAY – **For All Who Are Suffering**

“Remember those in prison as though you were in prison with them, and those ill-treated as though you too felt their torment” (Hebrews 13:3 NET).

Jesus left the throne room of heaven and willingly entered this evil world as one of us. He completely identified Himself with our suffering. How can we, as God’s children, turn a deaf ear to the pain and sorrow that’s all around us? Millions of people are starving. Many more are victims of persecution and prejudice, crime, and slavery. In our own cities and neighborhoods, there’s abuse of every kind. So many people need the Lord’s comfort and help. Have a heart for those who are hurting! Pray more, work more, give more, love more. Be a part of God’s answer for the suffering of mankind.

HOW TO PRAY – **Always, Without Giving Up**

“One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer, and to show them that they must never give up” (Luke 18:1 NLT).

“So don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time” (Galatians 6:9 NLT).

Are you beginning to understand that prayer is the only hope and help for this sinful world? Yet we look at the size of the task and think we could never make a difference. After all, what can our few minutes a day of intercession really do? That’s okay to feel that way because when we’re in that state of mind, we can hear God call us to pray even more. When we learn to depend upon God, and expect Him to work as we pray, then it’s possible for us to pray *always, without giving up!*

DAY TWENTY-THREE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Power of the Holy Spirit in Your Work**

“This is the reason I am working. God’s great power is working in me” (Colossians 1:29 NIV).

Each of us has a special purpose, or work, for which God created us. He chose the time and place for us to be born; but without the help of the Holy Spirit, we’ll never be able to complete what God has called us to do. We *must* depend on the Lord’s power working within us for the strength and guidance to do a good job. That’s why prayer is absolutely vital to our success. But don’t just pray for yourself – pray for those around you to finish their life’s work in God as well.

HOW TO PRAY – In God’s Presence

“Draw near to God and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8a NET).

When we spend time seeking God and entering into His fellowship, then God delights in coming near to us and blessing us with His presence. It’s the nearness of God that gives us rest and power in prayer – then it’s easy to pray in faith!

When you first begin this journey in the school of intercession, you must be trained to love, wait, pray and believe. But if you’ll stick to it until you enter into the presence of God, then you can spread out your work before Him and ask Him to show you what to do next. Pray for the people you interact with every day, and ask God to bless them through you.

DAY TWENTY-FOUR

WHAT TO PRAY - For the Power of the Holy Spirit on Your Own Congregation

“With my authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to me” (Luke 24:47 NLT).

Jesus’ disciples were in Jerusalem, so the work of the church was supposed to *begin in Jerusalem* and spread from there. It’s the same for us. We’re disciples of Jesus, so our work should begin where we are and then expand outward. But it can only happen through prayer!

Each of us should be connected to a church or group of believers, and it’s our *duty* to pray for those around us. Join together with others to pray for your church, and schedule prayer meetings as regularly as you do preaching or Sunday school! *Pray* for your ministers and leaders. *Pray* for individual believers with their own special needs. *Pray* for non-believers to be saved. *Pray* for the power of the Holy Spirit to work in your church services. And when you pray, *expect an answer!*

HOW TO PRAY – Continually

“I post watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they should keep praying all day and all night. You who pray to the LORD, don’t be silent!” (Isaiah 62:6 NET).

“. . . So don’t you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who plead with him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?” (Luke 18:7b NLT).

“We pray earnestly night and day to see you in person and make up what may be lacking in your faith” (I Thessalonians 3:10 NET).

“But a woman who is a true widow, one who is truly alone in this world, has placed her hope in God. Night and day she asks God for help and spends much time in prayer” (I Timothy 5:5 NLT).

The more we give ourselves to prayer, the more God will draw us to pray. When we glimpse God’s heart for lost souls and begin to comprehend the love of Christ, the fire of unceasing intercession will burn within us and ignite our passion for prayer.

DAY TWENTY-FIVE

WHAT TO PRAY – For More Conversions

“So he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Hebrews 7:25 NET).

“But we (apostles) will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word. The word of God continued to spread, the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:4, 7 NET).

To intercede means to “go between” or “intervene.” Christ is the living Mediator between God and man, and His intercession for us is the road to salvation. Now it’s our turn to intercede for unbelievers. Cry out to God for the salvation of sinners. Ask the Holy Spirit to help them find the pathway to God through Jesus Christ. Just like the apostles in the book of Acts, the number of conversions we witness will increase when we dedicate more time to intercessory prayer.

HOW TO PRAY – In Deep Humility

“She replied, ‘That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table.’

“‘Dear woman,’ Jesus said to her, ‘your faith is great. Your request is granted.’ And her daughter was instantly healed” (Matthew 15:27, 28 NLT).

You may feel unworthy and unable to pray. However, going ahead and approaching God in prayer, when you know He’s going to bless you anyway, takes true humility. Don’t for a moment allow your own littleness to keep you from asking God for big things when you’re praying for the unsaved. God’s grace, or unmerited favor, allows for big answers to bold prayers from small people.

DAY TWENTY-SIX

WHAT TO PRAY – For the Power of the Holy Spirit on Young Converts

“As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 8:15,16 NLT).

“It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us” (II Corinthians 1:21,22 NLT).

Receiving the power of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to living and growing in God. Too many young converts don’t have any teaching about the Holy Spirit and don’t know that He’ll help them avoid sin and temptation. Many are weak in their faith, fall into sin, or even backslide entirely because of this. Pray especially for every new convert to learn about and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO PRAY – **Without Ceasing**

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way” (I Samuel 12:23 NKJV).

This passage tells us that it’s actually a *sin against the Lord* to stop praying for others. For Christians, intercessory prayer is just as much a duty as loving God or believing in Jesus! We are called and commanded to pray for others. Ask for grace to help you carry out your calling with joy, and give your life to praying blessings down from heaven.

DAY TWENTY-SEVEN

WHAT TO PRAY – **For God’s People to Recognize Their Calling**

“Then I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you, and I will make your name great, so that you will exemplify divine blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but the one who treats you lightly I must curse, and all the families of the earth will bless one another^{by} your name” (Genesis 12:2, 3 NET).

“May God be merciful and bless us. May his face smile with favor on us. May your ways be known throughout the earth, your saving power among people everywhere” (Psalm 67:1, 2 NLT).

God blessed Abraham to be a blessing. Israel prayed for a blessing so that God’s power might be known throughout the whole world. And Christians today are blessed so that we might be a blessing to others and to promote the kingdom of God.

If every believer lived only for the purpose of advancing God’s kingdom, it would absolutely revolutionize our missions work! Christians would be passionate and desperate in their prayers for the unsaved. Ask God to help believers recognize the work He has called them to do.

HOW TO PRAY - **As One Who Has Accepted for Yourself What You’re Asking for Others**

“But Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I do have I give you” (Acts 3:6a NET).

““Then as I began to speak,’ Peter continued, ‘the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning’” (Acts 11:15 NET).

“And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to argue?” (Acts 11:17 NLT).

You can’t give someone else what you don’t have yourself! So ask God to re-ignite within you the passion of your calling. Yield yourself completely to God, and commit yourself to His service. If you feel uncertain or weak, just let that make you pray even harder! As others are blessed by your prayers, you’ll be strengthened in your faith. Continue to pray for conversions and missions, but also pray for Christians to surrender themselves entirely to God.

DAY TWENTY-EIGHT

WHAT TO PRAY – **That All Believers May Know the Holy Spirit**

“He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn’t looking for him and doesn’t recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you” (John 14:17 NLT).

“Don’t you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” (I Corinthians 6:19 NET).

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for the salvation of people. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help believers live a life worthy of His calling, to experience His power, and to be effective witnesses for God. Without that power living inside of them, it’s impossible for God’s children to live holy, dedicated lives. Pray that Christians all over the world will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

HOW TO PRAY – **Earnestly**

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God” (Colossians 4:12 NKJV).

To a healthy person, working is a delight – especially when he’s passionately interested in what he’s doing! A healthy believer, whose heart is filled with the Spirit of God, labors passionately in prayer for his Christian brothers and sisters to be perfect and complete in the will of God.

Pray for other believers to know God’s will for their lives, to be led by the Holy Spirit, and to lead sanctified lives. Pray that they’ll hear God speak to them clearly and be certain of the direction He wants them to go.

DAY TWENTY-NINE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Intercession**

“You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name” (John 15:16 NLT).

“You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy. Then you will ask in my name. I’m not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you dearly because you love me and believe that I came from God” (John 16:24,26,27 NLT).

When we pray in the name of Jesus, that means we’re taking our place “in Christ” and praying with His authority. Jesus Himself told His disciples to ask the Father, “using my name,” and they would receive whatever they asked for.

With so much power available in our prayers, why don’t we pray as we should? We need the Spirit of Intercession to come down from heaven and convict us of our terrible lack of prayer! We must yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit and His work of intercession in us; then we’ll experience a great revival of prayer, accompanied by the power of God working in the lives of mankind.

HOW TO PRAY – **Remaining in Christ**

“If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want, and it will be done for you” (John 15:7 NET).

“What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” (II Corinthians 5:17 NLT).

To remain somewhere means to live there. When we live “in Christ,” within His protection, His provision, and His power, we have the freedom to go to God and ask Him for whatever we want. This doesn’t mean that we can ask selfishly, from the evil desires of our old nature. When we “remain in Christ,” we’re living in the power of our new nature – our new life. We know that “in Christ” our intercession is heard . . . “in Christ” our prayers are answered!

DAY THIRTY

WHAT TO PRAY – **For Holy Spirit Power Combined with the Word of God**

“For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know that the way we lived among you was further proof of the truth of our message” (I Thessalonians 1:5 NLT).

“They were shown that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things now announced to you through those who proclaimed the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things angels long to catch a glimpse of” (I Peter 1:12 NET).

Too often people read, teach, preach and distribute Bibles in the strength of their own intelligence, and not with the power of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, the ability of the Word to bless the listeners is greatly diminished when people try to do it by themselves. So how can we know when our work will be anointed by God to carry a blessing? *Through prayer!* Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to be combined with the Word of God wherever it is being heard or read.

HOW TO PRAY – **Watching and Praying**

“Be devoted to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving. At the same time pray for us too, that God may open a door for the message so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ” (Colossians 4:2,3a NET).

Can you see how everything depends upon God and prayer? As long as He lives, loves, hears, and works . . . as long as there are lost souls who need salvation . . . as long as there is work for believers to do in spreading the gospel throughout the world – *pray without ceasing!* Be alert and watchful . . . have a thankful heart . . . and pray.

DAY THIRTY-ONE

WHAT TO PRAY – **For the Spirit of Christ in His People**

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5 NLT).

“I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you” (John 13:15 NLT).

Christlikeness. That should be the goal of every Christian. As much or more than we want the Holy Spirit to empower our work, we must desire to be like Christ. We should behave like Jesus – He’s our perfect example! Ask God for the Spirit of Christ to be in you and all of His people. Pray that we’ll have the same nature, character and life as our Lord. Don’t settle for anything less!

HOW TO PRAY – **Striving in Prayer**

“Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:30 NLT).

“For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you, and for those in Laodicea, and for those who have not met me face to face” (Colossians 2:1 NET).

“To strive” actually means “to struggle,” or “make great effort.” Why does it often seem difficult to pray? It’s because the powers of evil are doing their best to keep you from communicating with God. That’s why you must struggle to pray with all of your might! Put your whole heart into it. Don’t stop . . . don’t give up . . . and ask God to give you the grace to *strive in prayer* until you have the victory in Christ!