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21 DAYS *of* DEVOTION

READ / / / / PRAY / / / / FAST | 

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Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way."

Prayer is our lifeline to our Savior, Jesus Christ. It is the way we communicate with the Lord, the Creator. Prayer changes us. If you are new to it, if it is not your strength, or if you simply want variety in communication with God, this guide will give you valuable resources to enrich your intimacy with Jesus Christ through the powerful tool of intentional prayer.





How to use this guide:

Select a specific time and place—The best time to get alone with God is any time you can do it consistently without interruption. Find the time that works best for you!

Mark 1:35, "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place; and there He was praying."

Prepare your heart—Let the Holy Spirit draw you into God's presence. Open your heart to Him, enjoy the closeness of His presence and fellowship.

Psalm 51:10, "God create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Meditate on the Scriptures—Hide the word in your heart! What is the Holy Spirit showing you about God, His plan, and His work in you?

Psalm 19:14, "May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer."


Repent and confess—Let the Holy Spirit bring you into a right relationship with the Father. This is a time of examination and confession through repentance.

Acts 3:19, "Therefore repent and turn back, so that your sins may be wiped out."

Conclude with thanksgiving—God hears the prayers of His people and responds. Always give thanks for what He has done in your life. The Apostle Paul tells the believers in Philippi, "In every situation by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Psalms 9:1, "I will thank the Lord with all my heart; I will declare all your wondrous works."





Ask God to help you be diligent in prayer for these 21 days, and to work in and through your life.

May 2: Unforgiveness

An unforgiving spirit can destroy the joy of the Lord in your life. There are times in our lives that we must spend time in tears and prayer to forgive others. God has forgiven us of much, and we must also forgive others. Who is someone you need to forgive? Who is someone you need to ask for forgiveness?

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ."

May 3: Unbelief

Refusing to believe that God will do what He has promised is to accuse Him of lying. What promise do I think He will not keep? What prayer do I think He will not answer?

Hebrews 11:6 "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him."

May 4: Ingratitude

God designed us to thrive when we are humble, right with Him, and thankful. We cannot have fellowship with Him when we're living in opposition to that, nor can we experience all it means to be created in the image of God. A grateful heart is a happy heart.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in everything, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

May 5: Leaving Your First Love

Consider how devastated you would be if your spouse's or children's love for you was lessened and if they began to love something or someone else. Is there evidence that your love for God has decreased?

Revelation 2:4-6 "But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent."





May 6: Neglect of Bible Reading

Has your daily Bible reading been pushed aside because you've become too busy? When reading, is your mind constantly preoccupied with other things? How long has it been since reading your Bible was a delight? Do you read so casually that you can't remember what you've just read?

Psalm 1:2 "Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night."

May 7: Neglect of Prayer

To neglect to pray is to neglect to breathe. To fail to ask for God's favor and grace upon the day is to rely on our own wisdom and strength apart from Him. Martin Luther said, "I have so much to do today that I'm going to need to spend three hours in prayer in order to be able to get it all done." We don't have time not to pray. We simply cannot afford it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; think about Him in all your ways, and he will guide you on the right paths."

May 8: Neglect of Family

Have you been putting yourself and your needs before the needs of your family? What efforts are you making and what habits are you establishing for your family's spiritual health? Spiritual servant-leaders are to be imitators of Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

May 9: Lack of Concern for The Souls of Others

Standing idly by as friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even family members are living apart from the Lord and not caring enough to even pray for them is the opposite of loving them. What is holding you back from sharing the gospel with and speaking truth to those in your life who need to hear it?

Romans 9:3 "For I could almost wish to be cursed and cut off from the Messiah for the benefit of my brothers, my own flesh and blood."





May 10: Causing Others to Stumble

Are you guilty of causing a fellow Christian to do something they consider to be wrong? Jesus commands us to love one another, and a showing of that love will be a desire not to cause another Christian to sin or cause them to do what they consider sin. Love causes us to build each other up, not pull each other down.

1 Corinthians 8:12-13 "Now when you sin like this against the brothers and wound their weak conscience, you are sinning against Christ. Therefore, if food causes my brother to fall, I will never again eat meat, so that I won't cause my brother to fall."

May 11: Offending Others

Have you treated others in ways you would not want to be treated? Are you loving your neighbor? Are you honoring God with your actions toward others?

Matthew 7:12 "Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them—this is the Law and the Prophets."

May 12: Worldliness

Assess what you own. Do you own your things, or do your things own you? Do you keep a loose grip on the temporal things of this world?


1 John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one's lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God's will remains forever."

May 13: Vanity

Are you spending more time getting ready for church than you are preparing your heart and mind to worship when you get there? Are you irritated or even slightly annoyed if others don't notice your appearance?

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."





May 14: Envy

Are you jealous of those who seem more gifted, talented, or recognized than you are? Do you struggle with hearing others praised? Do you struggle to celebrate when others are blessed?

Ecclesiastes 4:4 "And I saw that all toil and all achievement spring from one person's envy of another. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind."

May 15: Slander

The ninth commandment says, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." Words can do a great deal of damage to someone's reputation. Have you been guilty of making a false verbal statement against someone?

Ephesians 4:31 "All bitterness, anger and wrath, shouting and slander must be removed from you, along with all malice."

May 16: Lying

What partial truths have you told? When have you exaggerated to make yourself look better? When have you withheld truth? Have you participated in anything that is contrary to the truth?

Proverbs 12:22 "Lying lips are detestable to the Lord, but faithful people are His delight."

May 17: Anger

Have you been losing control of your emotions, thoughts, words, and actions? Are you losing your temper or abusing someone verbally? Are you losing patience with family, friends, or co-workers? What harsh words have you spoken lately?

Proverbs 16:32 "Patience is better than power, and controlling one's temper, than capturing a city."

May 18: Arrogance

Forms of the word "arrogant" are mentioned approximately 200 times in the Bible. In practically every occurrence, it is a behavior or attitude detested by God. God promises the arrogant will be punished, but says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

1 Peter 5:5 "In the same way, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. All of you clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble."





May 19: Hypocrisy

Are you pretending to be something you are not? Are you holding others to a standard that you are not meeting yourself?

Matthew 23:27 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every impurity."

May 20: A Critical Spirit

Criticism is the act of judging unfavorably or faultfinding. Our speech should be edifying. Have you been guilty of judging based on hearsay? Have you been dwelling on the negative faults of someone else?

1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

May 21: Complacency Toward God

Have you shown disrespect for God in word or deed? Have you been striving to walk in a manner that is pleasing to Him, or have you carried His name in vain? Do you give God your best when it comes to your time, talent, and treasure or is He getting your leftovers?

Revelation 3:15-16 "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth."

May 22: Lack of Surrender

If we can trust God with our salvation, we can trust Him with every part of our lives. The more fully you relinquish yourself to God, the more you will discover that He has your best interests at heart. We are never truly free until we have fully surrendered ourselves to the word and will of God.

Luke 9:23-24 Then He said to them all, "If anyone wants to come with Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life because of Me will save it."



