

WELCOME TO LOVE ALIVE CHURCH'S 21 DAYS OF PRAYER (2022-MIDYEAR)!

We believe that God is inviting us into a movement of prayer at Love Alive Church and we can't wait to join together for 21 days of dedicated prayer as we prepare for the final months of this blessed year.

Jesus encouraged those following Him to pray and He left us His example by doing exactly that. As we take these three weeks to pray, we are going to intentionally connect with God's Word, just as Jesus did. We are excited to see all God will do as you say yes to the invitation to follow Jesus in this way!

We invite you to pray boldly knowing that there is power when we pray as individuals and even more powerful when we pray in unity.

As we collectively focus our attention on who God is and how He works, we will be equipped to pray specific, confident prayers. As we pray for our church and our community, we will see God work in new ways.

We are praying together with great expectation. God moves when we pray. He strengthens our spiritual lives, and He connects our hearts with His Kingdom. Let us set our intentions for 2022 by seeking God first! We are praying for you, and we are praying with you!

Much Love & Many Blessings,
Pastors Leo & Norma



DAYS OF PRAYER

PRAYER JOURNAL

2022

PRAYER

Prayer is explained multiple times in the Bible as the way humanity communicates with God, and it clearly spells out that He listens when we pray!

In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God explains what He does when His people pray: *“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.”*

In Mark 9:29, Jesus explains the importance of prayer to His own followers after they could not perform the miracle of casting away an evil spirit: *“So He, said to them, ‘This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.’”*

Jesus teaches His disciples (and us) how to pray in Matthew 6 in a way that touches on so many areas of life and relationship with God. Ultimately, it is important that we know just how much God wants communication and communion with us, how He listens and cares about our prayers, and how He has allowed our prayers to be powerful by nature. If we stand on these things and make prayer a faithful discipline and practice, imagine all that could change. God can do more than we imagine, and He invites us to participate with our prayers!

Practically, prayer can happen any time, any place but there is something powerful about setting aside a specific time dedicated to prayer. Just like other disciplines, removing distractions helps us focus better on the task at hand. Adding prayer into our daily habits reminds us to trust God, to bring our needs to Him, and to set Him as a priority in our busyness. It also encourages us to slow down, listen, and allow ourselves to hear God’s voice. Regular, dedicated times of prayer strengthen our relationship with God, renews our hearts and minds, and bring powerful change to people and places that need it.



PRAYER

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

CORPORATE PRAYER

- **Monday - Friday @ 7AM EST/6AM CST:** We will join in prayer with Church of the Highlands, at the following link:
<https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/>
- **Saturdays @ 9AM:** We will have LIVE prayer in-person at Love Alive Church or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/LoveAliveChurch>

WEEKLY FOCUS

Each week, we are focusing on something specific:

- **Week 1: Reverence in the Names of God**
- **Week 2: Who Is God?**
- **Week 3: God's Promises to Us**

PRAYER GUIDE STRUCTURE

This guide includes devotion & prayer for each of the 21 days. We encourage you to take notes, write out your own prayers or responses, and circle or underline anything that stands out to you. The more you interact with God during your prayer time, the more opportunity the Word has to take root in your heart.

You'll notice that each day contains at least one verse from the Bible (and some have many references dispersed throughout as optional further study). We want to pray prayers that align with God's Word. It's a powerful combination to pair Scripture and prayer and we encourage you to do this in your regular practice.

WEEK 1:

PRAYER FOCUS:
REVERENCE IN THE NAMES OF GOD



Week 1 / Sunday / Day 1
Praying God's Word

Whether this is your first time joining us or you've done this before, 21 days of prayer is a life-changing practice that will encourage and inspire you as much as it will challenge and correct you in your pursuit to become more like Jesus in your everyday life.

Prayer begins with a posture of humility and by asking the Holy Spirit to align our minds and posture our hearts to receive what God has for us. While we don't know what the remainder of this year will bring or the joys and sorrows that lie ahead, we can trust that regardless of our circumstances, the Holy Spirit will give us the courage and grace to face every situation and the confidence that God will be faithful.

Praying God's Word is a form of prayer that reminds us of who God is, who we are as human beings created in the image of God, and God's purpose for creation. When we read the Bible, our minds are filled with beauty, truth, and wisdom from above, and our hearts are filled with faith, hope, and love.

Through its vast array of stories, poetry, and teachings, the Bible offers insight and understanding into what it means to truly live a life that pleases God.

We don't want to be a church that merely knows a lot about God. We want to be a church that knows God intimately and seeks to live out God's calling completely.

As you pray through each passage of the Bible over the next week, ask God to show you how to apply it. As you pray God's Word and as you learn about diverse names of God, not only will God's presence become more of a reality in your life, but you will become a conduit for His grace to flow through and into the spaces you inhabit and the people surrounding you.

PRACTICE:

Read this passage 3 times aloud, pausing in between each reading. Ask God to show you how to receive Him as a God where Nothing is Ever Too Hard for Him.

*Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.
Jeremiah 32:17*

REFLECTION:

Week 1 /Monday/ Day 2
Jehovah Jireh (God my Provider)

*"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19*

Every person has needs. Needs show up in many forms such as physical, spiritual, mental, social- the list goes on and on. Sometimes, our "daily" needs move away from being "common" and become "desperate."

There are the moments when it seems that if something doesn't change soon, we most likely will lose our marriage, lose our home, lose our battle with sickness or our mental stability, or moments where we are looking at losing our children to addiction. Regardless of the situations, our needs, whether common or desperate, require provision.

In Genesis 22:14, God reveals Himself to Abraham as the name "Jehovah Jireh." Abraham is obeying God by offering his only son Isaac on the altar of sacrifice. As we read the story, it is clear that Isaac represents and encompasses all of the promises of God for Abraham, yet God was requiring Abraham to sacrifice his son.

Even though it was painful, Abraham took a step to obey. Just before he was about to bring the knife down to sacrifice Isaac, God stops Abraham. Instead of using Isaac as a sacrifice, God provides a ram in his place.

Because God intervened, Abraham called the place Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)

Today, God has the ability to supply all of your needs. He has the ability to reveal Himself to you as Jehovah Jireh- the God that provides. Whatever your needs are, continue to obey God and trust Him and believe that you too, like Abraham, can rename your present location, circumstance, or season after Jehovah Jireh!

As you pray, consider how God has provided for you in the past as you present today's needs before Him.

PRAY:

Pray for the needs of those in your life, that they would see God as their provider. Pray that God would meet the needs of our church and of the Church at large. Pray for God to open our eyes to our own resources, how He can use them to provide for those in our community.

REFLECTION:

Week 1 /Tuesday/ Day 3
Adonai (Lord)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

The name Adonai means "Master" or "Lord." Adonai, is worthy and wise enough to lead and guide our lives as we trust in Him. Consider the top country pop song of 2005, "Jesus Take the Wheel." In this song, Carrie Underwood sings the story of a single mom who almost crashes her car and her life. And in a prayer of desperation, she cries out for Jesus to save her and become the driving force in her life.

That's part of what it means to let Jesus be Adonai. It is a conscious, committed choice to put Jesus in the driver's seat and TRUST him to lead your life and direct your paths.

As we reflect on our own lives, most of our crashes (spiritual, moral, relational, financial, etc.) are the result of driving our own lives apart from God.

Today, as you pray, picture yourself giving Jesus the steering wheel of your life and then boldly declare that you will TRUST Him to lead and guide you as you follow Him as Lord, Adonai.

Consider these questions:

How can learning about this aspect of God help me pray and submit my life to Him? What does the Bible teach me about Him, and why is that important to how I pray? Why is it important to my prayer/devotional/personal life to know this about God?

PRAY:

Pray for those in your circle to have a deeper trust in Jesus and a willingness to let Him be their Adonai. Pray for our church to have a renewed passion for His kingdom to Come and His will to be done. Pray for revival to break out in our city and that more and more people would cry out in desperation for Jesus to save them and become the driving force in their lives.

REFLECTION:

Week 1 /Wednesday/ Day 4
EI Roi (The God Who Sees Me)

"She gave this name to the Lord who spoke to her: 'You are the God who sees me,' for she said, 'I have now seen the One who sees me.'"

Genesis 16:13

Tucked away in Genesis 16 is a beautiful story about the very personal way God sees and wants to interact with us. Hagar, our main character here, was a slave. She had no rights and no authority to make her own choices. She lived at the whims of her masters, Sarai and Abram. Every day, life was decided FOR her.

That's never an ideal position, but sometimes it can go from bad to worse. Her masters weren't just assigning her chores for the day or telling her what to eat; they planned to use her as a surrogate mother for their child. Sarai was unable to conceive, so it was decided that Hagar would bear Abram's child on their behalf.

When Hagar conceived, her plight intensified. Hagar began to despise Sarai and Sarai began to mistreat Hagar so much so that Hagar ran away. Imagine how horrible the oppression would've had to have been for a pregnant woman with no resources to run away into a desert! Hagar had decided that the risk of death was a better option than the certainty of her suffering.

It was there that God found her, comforted her with a promise, and reminded her that He SEES her. He didn't remove her but He did remind her that He was with her.

When Hagar experienced the personal compassion of God, she gave Him the name "EI Roi", meaning "You are the God who sees me." This is the first time in the Bible that God is given a personal name and isn't it amazing that it came from a woman who lived on the margins of society? A woman who was overlooked. Beaten down. Struggling internally and externally with her life. Can you relate to her?

Whatever situation you're facing today, know that our God is the God who SEES you. You are not alone in your struggle. Even if you feel that you're in a desert, He can meet you, even there. Call out to Him today.

PRAY:

Pray for someone in your circle of influence who needs to be reminded that God SEES them and is with them in their struggle. Thank God for His personal care and intimate knowledge of everything that is going on in our church, both with individual lives and organizationally. Pray for the people in our city who feel overlooked and marginalized. Pray that they would come to know EI Roi, the God who SEES them.

REFLECTION:

Week 1 /Thursday/ Day 5
The Prince of Peace

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Phil 4:6-7

For a lot of us, the last two years have been some of the most challenging, stressful, and anxious years of our lives. We've all probably been craving this kind of peace that Paul talks about in his letter to the Philippians, "Peace which exceeds anything we understand", yet it seems so elusive.

When we look back at Jesus' last day before He was crucified, we can see how much He agonized over what was to come. He was sweating blood and asking God to relieve Him of this task. It doesn't seem like He was experiencing peace that surpasses all understanding.

There's obviously no comparison between what we are facing today and an impending crucifixion, but we should find relief and comfort in knowing that even Jesus, wasn't beyond the stress and anguish we feel.

The difference isn't in His experience; it's in His response. In the midst of Jesus' agonizing pain, the Father did not relieve Him of His pain or fate. Instead, He sent an angel in order to strengthen Jesus.

Maybe you've found your default reaction to most uncomfortable situations is to escape. But those spaces are often where God is most at work in us. That desire to escape the discomfort might also be "escaping" from the miraculous works and provision of God in our lives.

The words from Paul in Philippians 4 is not an immediate escape from anxious thoughts but instead an invitation to bring God into our frustration, stress and discomfort, to share with Him in the tensions of our lives, and to allow Him to bring peace as He strengthens us from within.

PRAY:

Pray for your friends/family who need peace. Pray peace over our city during these divided and difficult times.

REFLECTION:

Week 1 /Friday/ Day 6
Abba Father

"For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:15

As important as it is that we understand God as a Father, it is also, for most of us, complicated. We tend to view fatherhood through the lens of our personal experience. Some of us had fathers who were absent, some had fathers who were abusive, and even those of us who had present, loving fathers didn't have one that was perfect.

We are broken people being raised by (and raising) other broken people. Thank God for the way He redeems.

Seeing God as a perfect Father encompasses a wide range of qualities. He is kind, disciplines in love, is just and good, and He is present. But we need to also understand Him as "Abba." It's an Aramaic term, that denotes an intimate, close, comforting and obedient relationship. It is familial. It is relational. It is a gift to us.

Whatever our parentage, we need to understand God as our very personally involved Father. We need Him in a way no earthly father, however good or bad, could satisfy. And we are invited, through God's great love for us, into a Father-child relationship with the Creator of the whole world.

He doesn't intend for us to go through life alone. He doesn't intend that we'd meet all of our own relational needs. He intends that we would cry out to Him and that like a perfect Father, He'd meet us with all that we didn't even know to request. He is that good.

When we pray, we can approach Him as Father, and we can cry out for His help, His comfort, and His guidance, knowing that He loves us as His children.

PRAY:

Pray for someone in your circle or community that could use God's presence as a Father right now. Pray that our church would seek closeness with God as Abba Father both as individuals and as a congregation. Pray for the fatherless in our city and pray for our church to care for them with the heart of Abba, God.

REFLECTION:



WEEK 2

PRAYER FOCUS:
WHO IS GOD?

Week 2 /Sunday/ Day 8
Praying with Confidence

As we continue this practice of prayer, fasting, praying God's Word, we are going to continue to focus on Him. We began by learning some of the ways we can address God, and we will move into observing His character.

The more God becomes our filter and our focus, the more aligned our prayers are with Him. The more we understand who He is and how He works, the more drawn we are into His presence.

When we study and pray through what the Bible says about God, it should increase our awe of Him. He is far above and beyond anything we could imagine. And yet, He is perfect and beyond us.

He has given us the opportunity to come to Him with boldness. We can pray in confidence that God will hear us, that He cares, and that He will move on our behalf. The all-powerful God invites us to approach Him. If we ponder this phenomenon for any amount of time, gratitude begins to overflow.

When we pray, especially as we invite God's Word into our prayers, we can know that there is power in our words. God has given us His Spirit, and that Spirit is with us when we pray. He has given us the ability to speak life and death over situations. We should never forget to whom we are praying. He holds all power to

redeem, bring life and make things right just for us. This is not a time for weak words. Be encouraged to pray bold prayers. Lift your head and ask God for the confidence you need to pray for His Kingdom to come in your life, in our church, in our city, and in the world.

PRACTICE:

Read this passage 3 times aloud, pausing in between each reading. Ask God to show you how to receive Him as our High Priest who hears our prayers.

"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. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 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

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Monday/ Day 9
God is Redemptive

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever. Has the LORD redeemed you? Then speak out!" Psalm 107:1

One of the greatest characteristics of God is that He is a Redeemer. To redeem is to reclaim a person or a thing. In the Bible, it was also defined as the act of buying the freedom of a slave by paying a ransom.

This one truth about who God is can drastically transform the way we see our past and the way we pray today. The Scriptures teach us that though we were designed to live in full freedom as sons and daughters of God, our sins have broken that relationship - earning us eternal separation from God as our Father.

However, the scriptures also describe God as being abundant in redemption (Psalm 130:7), which was primarily displayed when Jesus took our sins upon Himself and gave us back our rights as children of God.

God is therefore able to take all our brokenness - our own sins and the ones committed against us - and leverage it for good. He redeems it.

So, whether it is your first time or hundredth time, take a few minutes today to acknowledge to God out loud the areas that you desire Him to redeem in your life.

A broken relationship, a sinful habit, a wound from the past, an addiction that has brought shame to you- whatever comes to mind, ask Him to free you from it and redeem it for good.

God not only wants to reclaim you as His child, but He also wants to take your pain, your sins, your sorrows, and mistakes and redeem them - bringing good out of each one of them.

PRAY:

Pray for God's redemptive work in the lives of those in your circle. Be specific and ask Him to free them from their past and to leverage all that's happened to them for His purposes. Pray that our church would live with deep gratitude for what God has done and boldly tell others that He is a Redeemer. Pray that those who live in slavery to sin in our region would turn back to God and allow Him to reclaim them as His children.

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Tuesday/ Day 10
God is Wise & All-Knowing

"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. Believers who are poor have something to boast about, for God has honored them." James 1:5-9

Have you ever stood at a fork in the road and needed God's wisdom to know which path to take? We'd often like to know God's instructions before we take a step so that we'll be sure to get it right. Yet often that's not how it works because our relationship with God is just that, a relationship. We can ask God for guidance and wisdom at the outset, but it's often WHILE we're moving that the way becomes clearer.

Faith is what helps us move forward with Him. If we see all the right places to step before we start moving, then it doesn't require much faith on our part, does it? God's wisdom doesn't make us all-knowing. It's not a spotlight but more like a lamp to guide our next steps.

There is an access point between us and God, and that

access point is faith. We can pray and choose to trust in the goodness of God. Choose to believe that, as He has promised (Psalm 32:8-9, 37:23-24; Prov 3:5-6), He will walk beside us and provide us with the wisdom we need as we go.

PRAY:

Pray that God will show you how to model faith for those around you to be open about not knowing the answers but trusting God to guide you. This way, not only do you experience God walking with you as you figure it out, but others get to see your authenticity as well and be encouraged in their own journey. Pray for guidance in how you can step out in greater levels of faith with your Love Alive community. Giving, serving and being in groups are all areas where God may invite us to trust him at greater levels. God has promised to continue to give wisdom and guide your steps as you trust in Him. Pray for Love Alive to find new and innovative ways to stand in the gap for our cities. Pray for our church to continue moving in cooperation with the wisdom of God to meet needs and love those around us.

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Wednesday/ Day 11
God is Faithful to Forgive

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." Isaiah 43:25

Many Christians, at some point, have reached a point in their lives where they struggled with the decision to follow Jesus. Many of them could have asked questions like, "Does God forgive?" "Will he forgive me?" "Is true forgiveness possible?"

Maybe you struggle with some of these questions. This line of questioning can weigh heavily on a new believer. Even thinking thoughts like although I'm making this incredible decision to follow Jesus, sooner or later God was going to see the true and real me. He is going to figure me out- the "me" that's been hiding behind some really ugly feelings and mean-spirited thoughts and then, "Can God love me but not forgive me."

That is how we as humans process forgiveness. We tend to compare God's character with ours. We think because we compartmentalize what gets on the forgiveness line first, next, and later that God forgives us this way, too. Not so!

When we approach forgiveness, it's natural for us to selectively forgive someone based on an incident. And this can influence the way we assume God forgives us.

In reality, God is a faithful God, so His forgiveness is not displayed on a case-by-case basis, but simply because it is a part of His character. Rather than being withheld, God's forgiveness is given freely.

As you process through this, trust that God not only loves you, but also, He is near and faithful to forgive you, no matter what you have done.

PRAY:

Pray for your friends and loved ones to forgive as Christ has forgiven you. Pray for our church, that we will model the same forgiveness that we have received. Pray for our city to begin to see and receive the forgiveness of God in every believer that they meet.

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Thursday/ Day 12
God is Just & Righteous

“Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?' 'And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'” Mathew 25:44-45

We want the oppressor punished, the weak and innocent protected. Human beings being sold, the elderly scammed for money, the abusers getting off Scot free or with a slap on the wrist, all makes us cry out, "We want justice!"

Do you know that our sense of justice comes from God? We are made in His image, and like us, He hates it when the innocent is falsely accused and the guilty go free (see Prov. 17:15) and when people do nothing about the needs around them. He hates injustice because He loves every person so much. Jesus takes it personally when injustice occurs.

In Matthew 25, Jesus rolls out the heavenly welcome mat to the ones who show compassion, kindness, and generosity to those who are hurting, while those who refuse to help are punished.

Why does injustice and suffering still happens and why doesn't God just zap it all away? We don't have the answers to that, but we do know that He is a fair and

just God, that we can trust in and one day He will make all things right, that we will see perfect justice carried out by a merciful God who simply cannot be unjust.

Until that day, we should strive to be like him and to practice justice, love mercy, and walk humbly Him (Micah 6:8).

PRAY:

Pray for someone in your life who is lonely or hurting and ask God how you can serve them. Pray that we as a church will be carriers of God's goodness and justice in practical ways to our community. Pray that Christians would rise up to positions of leadership in our cities, that just laws would be enacted, and programs would help those in need.

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Friday/ Day 13
God is Love

"Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!"
1 Corinthians 13:4-8

In a culture that throws the word "love" around, using it in so many different facets, it can be confusing for our brains to understand the difference between the love for our job, house and local coffee shop compared to love for our friends, kids, and spouse. Although it is the same word coming out of our mouths, when we say we "love" something, it can mean a wide range of things.

But Jesus says clearly, "For the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart." This leads us to understand that the value we place on the word "love" can and should be significant. The words in 1 Corinthians 13 are often repeated in weddings as a charge for the bride and groom to love each other selflessly but is that love really present in every home that spoke the words at the altar? God and His love do not ever fall short. He loves us with a depth that is hard to comprehend. He is love in the fullest sense.

As you read this passage, replace the word "love" with God. Reflect on that and then do the same thing but with your own name. Does it carry the same weight? Are there areas that you have to work on?

We all have our work cut out for us in this area, but the encouraging piece is that God doesn't have any area to work on. As we ponder how perfect His love is for us, I can't help but be captivated by it. Be encouraged that the God who created you is madly in love with you!

PRAY:

Pray that those around you could experience God's love personally. Pray that our Church would love like this passage. Pray for our City to encounter the life-changing difference of God's perfect love in contrast to what the culture describes love to be.

REFLECTION:

Week 2 /Saturday/ Day 14
Day of Reflection

Prayer is a practice, a discipline, and a means of communication between God and His people.

Take a few minutes of silence to listen for God's voice and to reflect on this past week.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS PRAYERFULLY:

What has God revealed to you this week about Himself?

Where is God challenging you through this practice of prayer?

How can focusing on God's character help you pray more effective prayers?

MEDITATE ON THIS VERSE AS WE CLOSE OUT THE FIRST WEEK OF PRAYER:

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!"
Psalm 34:8*



WEEK 3

PRAYER FOCUS:
GOD'S PROMISES TO US

Week 3 /Sunday/ Day 15
Praying Constantly

We are about to enter the final week in our 21 days of prayer. However, this has gone for you personally, you can trust and know that God has been at work.

There is fruit when we pray both in our lives and in the situations around us. God invites us to participate as we pray both individually and as a community.

Our hope is that you become more and more equipped to pray powerful prayers as we couple our words with learning about and declaring God's names, character, and now promises. This does not have to end after 21 days. This is a practice that you can carry into the rest of the year and the rest of your life.

Praying God's Word is available to every believer, and knowing God allows us to see ourselves, our world, and our circumstances more rightly. It helps us keep our focus where it belongs. Knowing to Whom we pray can and should give us more peace, confidence, and hope.

Prayer is a discipline that multiplies. The more we practice, the more familiar we become. It does not have to be confined to one time of day but setting aside time for it will open the door for continual communication with God throughout our days.

We can pray aloud in the car, in our hearts before a big meeting, and over our families before bed. We can pray

rhythmic prayers over our food and sporadic prayers over a friend in need. God is always available.

The more we pray, the more God aligns our hearts with His. The more we pray, the more we remember where our focus should be. And the more we pray, the more dynamic and deep our spiritual growth will be.

Receive the invitation to communicate with God all throughout your day, in every situation. Let God turn this discipline into a characteristic of your life.

PRAY:

Read this passage 3 times aloud, pausing in between each reading. Ask God to show you how to receive Him as our High Priest who hears our prayers.

"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

REFLECTION:

Week 3 /Monday/ Day 16

God will strengthen us when we are weak

"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10

What do you do when you feel overwhelmed and weak? Let's face it, right now, we all may feel a bit of this or have over the last couple of years. We live in a troublesome world ... a world that demands us to go through it with strength. Sadly, we cannot always give ourselves the strength we need; and that's alright, as we were not made to always keep our heads up and walk confidently during times of despair. But where do we find the strength that allows us to endure even our most troubling times? Maybe you have been asking yourself this question. One great thing to do is to remember this promise of God's strength and help in Isaiah 41:10.

Whenever you are facing a test or challenge in your life, your marriage, with your children, your job and even your ministry, you can return to this fact: God promises to be with me, to strengthen me when I feel weak, and to help me when I'm overwhelmed.

Whatever tests you are facing today, be reminded that you can take these moments to cling to God's promise to meet you with His own strength.

You can stop and remember, pray for help and strength, and trust that God will be with you.

PRAY:

Pray for God's help and strength for someone in your circle who is discouraged and struggling. Even better- go to them, share the promise of this verse, and pray for them in person. Pray that God would help Love Alive to walk in faith and not fear. Pray that God would guard our church against discouragement and grant us the strength and help us to do His will His way. Pray that God would grant us favor in the eyes of the city and for a heart of courage and boldness as we trust God to help us serve our cities with the love of Christ.

REFLECTION:

Week 3 /Wednesday/ Day 18

God will order our steps

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

Have you ever been lost in the woods? (Some of you may be thinking, "I don't do woods!")

Like a child lost in the woods, we can sometimes feel lost in life. Lost in how to pay the bills, lost in how to save our marriage, lost in the direction for our career, lost in how to raise our kids and lost in grief from a loss.

When we find ourselves in this place, there are all kinds of emotions that flood in and cause anxiety, fear, and confusion. I wonder where you are feeling lost today.

When we feel lost, we have a decision to make. We can ask ourselves: will I go at it alone, or will I look to God for direction?

He promises to guide us, to give us wisdom when we ask, and to order our steps. The only thing we need to do is to trust and submit to Him. He promises when we look to Him to make our paths straight, He will always hear us and answer our prayers. Take time today to pray, asking God where to trust Him and pray His promise of direction over your life and situations.

Proverbs 3 was written by Solomon as advice to his son. His instruction in this scripture is to "trust in the Lord." A common illustration for trust is to think of sitting in a chair. One can state that they trust a chair will hold their full weight if they were to sit in it. However, the person does not demonstrate trust in that chair until they have sat down on it and transferred their full weight to it. Trust requires a transfer of strength and control.

Solomon advised his son to have complete confidence in God at all times, to believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and loves us immensely. Think of this as another level of trust, one that leads to a life of following Him, finding value and direction through His Word, and choosing to honor God in all you do.

PRAY:

Pray for someone in your circle in need of direction. Pray for our church leadership to hear clearly from God and trust Him greatly for our future direction. Pray for the lost in our city to look to God and to discover a relationship with Him.

REFLECTION:

Week 3 /Thursday/ Day 19
God will give us His Spirit

"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. And when he comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever He receives from me.'" John 15:7-8; 13-15

This conversation between Jesus and the disciples comes after He tells them that He will be leaving and returning to His Father in heaven. The disciples are distraught, confused, and somewhat angry at the idea of Jesus abandoning them.

But Jesus corrects their thinking by telling them that unless he goes back to his Father, the Holy Spirit, or "the Advocate," would not be sent. The word for advocate in the Greek is paraclete, which means comforter, encourager, or counselor. Jesus is telling the disciples and He is telling us that we can live in daily communion and relationship with His very Spirit.

This Spirit is our Comforter, Counselor, and Encourager and He leads us into all truth and convicts us of sin. Holy Spirit tells us whatever He receives from Jesus. In this passage, Jesus tells us that daily life with His Spirit is better than life with him in the flesh.

So may we become people who recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May we become so in tune with the Spirit that we hear His whispers. May we take Jesus at His word and believe that it is better that He went back to the Father so we could have a relationship with the Holy Spirit and may we live in the constant guidance of our Comforter, Counselor, and Encourager.

PRAY:

Invite the Holy Spirit into your family, your marriage, your home, your workplace. Simply pause and say: "Come Holy Spirit. You are welcome here." Pray that our church would be a group of people who hear the voice of the Holy Spirit and respond to His promptings.

REFLECTION:

Week 3 /Friday/ Day 20
God made us on purpose with purpose

"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Eph 2:10

You are God's workmanship. His masterpiece. His intricate handiwork, marked with His seal of approval. After crafting you together, He stepped back and declared, "This is very good!" He didn't just shape your nose and determine the color of your hair; He also gave you your personality and knitted together your passions and giftedness. You were created by a master designer, just the way He wanted. You may have been a surprise to your mother. Your father may have acted like he didn't want you. But, let me be clear, you were no mistake. God made you ON purpose WITH purpose.

You don't have to be in vocational ministry to live on mission for God. He has good works prepared for you to do in every sphere of influence where you are. Your family, neighborhood, and your job is your mission.

- Nehemiah was a government official.
- Boaz was a landowner and entrepreneur.
- Lydia was a high-end fashion designer.
- Paul was an expert tentmaker.
- David was a shepherd by trade but also a musician.
- Peter, James, John & Andrew were business owners.
- Joseph was a master craftsman.

Many different walks of life are represented in these stories, but the thread woven through each one is that God used their lives right where they were. You don't have to work for the Church to build the Kingdom. If you are a follower of Jesus, the Spirit of God lives in you, and you carry His name everywhere you go. You carry His name to the board room. You carry His name in a sales meeting. You carry His name to a service call. And you carry His name to your dining table at home. You were created ON purpose WITH purpose.

PRAY:

Ask God how He can use your personality, experience, passions, and talents to intentionally serve the people in your circle of influence. Pray that God will use your personality, experience, passions, and talents to build His Church more intentionally. Ask God how He can use your personality, experience, passions, and talents to invest in our city more intentionally.

REFLECTION:

Week 3 /Saturday/ Day 21
Day of Reflection

Prayer is a practice, a discipline, and a means of communication between God and His people.

Take a few minutes of silence to listen for God's voice and to reflect on this past week.

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS PRAYERFULLY:

What will you remember most about God after praying through His names, His character, and His promises?

What will your practice of prayer look like now?

Where did you see God move in your life during these 21 days of prayer?

MEDITATE ON THIS VERSE AS WE CLOSE OUT THE FIRST WEEK OF PRAYER:

"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!" Psalm 34:8

JOIN US FOR PRAYER

- **Monday-Friday @ 7AM EST/6AM CST:**

- Online:

- <https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/>

- **Saturdays @ 9AM:**

- In-person: Love Alive Church

- Online:

- <https://www.youtube.com/c/LoveAliveChurch>

- **Sundays @ 10AM:**

- In-person: Love Alive Church

- Online:

- <https://www.youtube.com/c/LoveAliveChurch>

- <https://www.facebook.com/lovealivechurch.tv/>