

30 Day Call to Prayer in September

Wednesday, September 16

The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. James 5.16

“Earnest” is defined as sincere and intense conviction. God wants us to come to him believing that prayer makes a difference and that God is able to do as he promises. When our lives are aligned with his in this way, wonderful results are produced. Do you believe this?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you are faithful to your word. As we lift up our voices to you today, we do so with a sincere and intense conviction that you hear our prayers. Come and do as you promised. Heal our lives as we turn to you. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Tuesday, September 15

Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. Luke 11.1b

Once when Jesus had been out praying, one of the disciples asked him to help them know how to pray. “Don’t bother me!” wasn’t his reply; rather, Jesus gave them a simple prayer. Pray this way, he said. The openness of Jesus to every request is humbling - even to puzzlement on what to say in prayer. Here is Luke’s shorter version of the Lord’s Prayer:

Prayer: Father, may your name be honored. May your kingdom come soon. Give us our food day by day. And forgive us our sins - just as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And don’t let us yield to temptation.

Monday, September 14

Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unfailing love. Psalm 109:26

Sometimes when we pray, we seek to get God’s attention by using many words and believe that we will be heard if we can tailor our words just right. However, a simple prayer of “Help me!” cried out in our pain and despair is enough to touch the heart of God. He responds with his unfailing grace and love which is able to save us and bring healing and renewal.

Prayer: Loving God, I need your help today. I need your salvation. I need you. Amen.

Sunday, September 13

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1.17

Part of Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is that they would know God better. The better they knew God, the stronger their faith and trust in Him would be. Paul kept at this prayer day after day. This is a beautiful prayer for our fellow believers. As we seek the Lord, let's pray the same for one another.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, God of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to know you better and better each day. May we experience the love of Christ and be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from You. Overwhelm us by your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Saturday, September 12

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1.3

Paul begins his letter to the Ephesians with a glorious prayer acknowledging what God has done for us in Christ. "Every spiritual blessing" is intended to be showered down on us, some of which is fleshed out for us in the remainder of this opening prayer. Do you realize all that God has done for you? Why wouldn't we do anything else but lift up our hands in praise and prayer to him?

Prayer: Father of all creation, we lift up our voices in praise to you for all that you have done for us in Christ Jesus. You have united us with him and released the blessings of heaven to fill our being. You bring all things in unity in heaven and earth under Christ. By faith we receive all that you have for us, for we pray this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.

Friday, September 11

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139.23-24

One of the results of drawing near to God is that we become more aware of those areas of our lives that are not in sync with His. Rather than shy away from this reality, we should invite God to explore every nook and cranny of our being. God isn't out to "put us in our place" or knock us down, he wants to bring real wholeness to our lives. Will you let Him?

Prayer: Good Father, I pray what David prayed long ago: Search me and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me. Reveal anything you choose. Forgive and heal - grant me quick obedience to all you say. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, September 10

Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. 1 Timothy 2.8

Passions seem to be running high in every sector of society - everyone is angry about something. Paul calls the church to be different. Rather than lifting up our hands in anger - either at one another or the world around us - we need to unclench our fists and lift up our hands in prayer to God. It's hard to have hands that are both holy and balled into a fist at the same time.

Prayer: Heavenly father, when the hearts of those around us are gripped with anger, help us as your people to live differently. Weed out of our souls every unholy passion. Help us to see those who disagree with us as people for whom you died. Warm our hearts with your great love and grant us your strength to respond with unclenched hands lifted up in prayer. Amen

Wednesday, September 9

Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: "Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" 2 Samuel 7:18

Learning how to be still before God isn't easy. A way to stillness is to do what David did - he went in and sat before the Lord. Don't spiritualize David's action, find a quiet corner and literally sit down. Breathe deeply and let go of all the cares of the world. Take as long as needed, and then in stillness begin to talk to the Lord. Pause too, and listen for his still small voice speaking within your own heart.

Prayer: Lord, what a day this has been! My mind and emotions are still racing. Help me to slow down and sit before you. It amazes me to think that you want me to sit with you. Help me to share my heart with you and also to listen to your response this day. Amen.

Tuesday, September 8

Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." Psalms 46.10

As we come in prayer and bring to the Lord our requests, there is also space to rest in stillness before him. Despite the unrest in the world and in our own souls, God remains the Lord over all. He will be exalted - our task is simply to humble ourselves before him in trust and remember that he is God.

Prayer: Our Lord and our God, we bow before you today in simple quietness and trust. Thank you that you are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in these troubled times. Because you are here, all fear is removed. May your great name be exalted in every place. Begin in our own hearts we pray. Amen.

Monday, September 7

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3.17

We all know John 3.16 (can you quote it?). Less known is the verse that follows. It's a truth that also reflects the heart of God - his deep longing to save men and women rather than condemn them. As we come to God in prayer this month, remember his heart is to respond with his saving power.

Prayer: Father, thank you that your heart bends not towards judgment but towards salvation. Forgive us when we view you as a harsh Father. Help us to see you as you really are - a God who loves to respond to his children. Stir in us a heart of belief that draws us close to you. Amen.

Sunday, September 6

So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this [the Lord's coming], make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. 2 Peter 3.14

The reality of Jesus' soon return is part of the driving force for us to draw close to him. He wants his bride, the church, to be ready when he appears. Getting ready includes humbling ourselves and turning our face towards him so that he might bring his healing power and presence to us and those around us. Are you making every effort towards that end?

Prayer: Holy Father, as best we can, we draw near to you. Help us to walk in humble obedience and trust. Forgive us when our efforts to follow you are half-hearted. Fill us anew with your Spirit. Strengthen our resolve. Come and heal us - heal our land, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, September 5

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1Thessalonians 5.16-18

Tucked into this series of short admonitions by Paul is the phrase "pray without ceasing." Rather than nonstop, it means turning to God is something that should be constantly recurring. As we corporately take on the discipline of pausing each evening at 7:14 to talk to God, our desire is to surrender our lives to him as we call upon him to change us - as individuals, as families, as a community and as a people. This is not a one-and-done thing - it's a constantly recurring event.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we are in the beginning days of seeking you together, we ask that you create in us a longing to be regularly in your presence. As we seek your face, help us to come eagerly before you each day. Warm our hearts towards you even as we seek you. Thank you for helping us draw near to you. Amen.

Friday, September 4

I have told you these things, so that in me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33

Why are we so surprised when difficulties come? The Lord spoke plainly when he said “you will have trouble.” We have trouble because we live in a broken world - the world Jesus came to redeem. Rather than let our troubles consume us, let’s look to the one who has overcome the world and brings lasting peace.

Prayer: Father God - whatever troubles we face - job, family, health - we give to you. We invite your Spirit to bring us your peace and overcoming strength. May the world see you clearly in us and be drawn to your healing presence. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Thursday, September 3

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

Our lives have been changed over the past 22 weeks in ways we never anticipated. Much of our circumstances seem to be out of our control and we long for our old routine. Our sense of powerlessness invites us to turn to the one with all authority in heaven and earth.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we turn once again to you - the one true God and Lord. We recognize that all that is transpiring in our world is not only seen by you but under your authority. Forgive us for responding in both fear and frustration due to things being “out of our control.” We lean into you and your grace and strength as we pray for ourselves, our community, nation and world. Amen.

Wednesday, September 2

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. Psalm 16.8

Despite his own personal failures and national emergencies, King David knew that by fixing his eyes on the Lord he could stand firm. As we come to the Lord in prayer for the variety of needs around us, focus not on the challenges we face but on the one who can care for every need and every issue.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to fix our eyes on you today. Please be at work in us so that we turn our attention to you in all things. Despite all the uncertainty around us, we place our confidence in you. Thank you for your great faithfulness to us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Tuesday, September 1

During the month of September I want to invite us to seek the Lord in prayer. God continues to stir my own heart, so I ask you to join me and set aside time each day this month to cry out to God according to 2 Chronicles 7:14.

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Each evening at 7:14 PM, take a few moments and turn your heart toward God. Though we will each be in our own place scattered throughout our community, we can be united in prayer as we draw close to Him. Set your alarm on your watch or phone as a reminder. Picture in your mind each member of our community pausing to pray for one another, for our community, nation and world.

In his book on prayer, Richard Foster writes: "Do you know why the mighty God of the universe chooses to answer prayer? It is because his children ask. God delights in our asking. He is pleased at our asking. His heart is warmed by our asking." (See Matthew 7.7-8)

There is much going on around us - COVID-19, the elections, tensions in our society and unrest in the world. We have our own personal issues and concerns too. God is waiting for his people to recognize their great need for His presence, help, forgiveness, and healing. He is waiting for us to seek his face.

I will be prioritizing prayer over the next 30 days, and I invite you to do the same. May we seek His face together each evening at 7:14 PM.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before you and seek your face. We acknowledge our great need for your mercy and grace. Will you stir in us by your Spirit a longing to draw close to you? Create in us a deeper love for you. Change our hearts so that we might take on the character of your Son. Forgive us for the paths we have chosen that take us away from you. Teach us to run to you, our Father who longs to hear from us and answer our requests. We pray this in the powerful name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor John