

# 21 Day Prayer Guide

The prayer of a righteous man changes the world
- James 5:16

Prayer changes everything. Many times, in life we act before we pray and then seek the Lord. But what if we learn the simple principle "**Pray First...**" Make prayer an active part of our life and make it a deep desire that we look forward to each day as we seek the presence of the Lord. Over the next 21 days, I encourage you to make it a priority to "**Pray First...**" each day.

This prayer guide is designed to help you pray intentionally and with great purpose as you start the new year. It will help you pray during times of trial and triumph as you learn to seek the presence of the Lord in all areas of your life. It will help you learn to call on power of the Lord to strengthen you with courage and confidence as you live life.

#### We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word. – Acts 6:4

Prayer is an essential part of the Christian life. Prayer brings us into the presence of God and equips us to live in the present as we find ourselves equipped by the Lord to shine in the darkest of hours and the days of uncertainty.

# Purpose for the 21 Day Prayer Plan

As we begin the next 21 Days of Prayer, the church is called to come together as **One Body** seeking the Lord with **One Pursuit**. Our great desire is for people to come together and pray for one another. Over the next three weeks you are challenged to seek the presence of God in three specific ways as you learn to pray for His... (1) Provision, (2) Perseverance, and (3) Praise.

Pray Often, Pray Boldly...Where God Guides, He Provides



## Week #1 - Protection

# **Day #1**

I am there waiting, watching and keeping to the shadows. But when you need me, I will step out of the shadows and protect that which is mine.

### Verse of the Day

**Isaiah 41:10** – So do not fear, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand.

#### Point to Ponder:

The Lord is our shield and refuge. He is our strength in times of weakness, and He is our help in times of uncertainty. Never stop praying for His strength and protection for your family.

■ Pray for the Lord to place a hedge of protection around your family for this year.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# **Day #2**

Verse of the Day

**Psalm 46:1 -** God is our refuge and strength, and ever present help in times of trouble.

#### Point to Ponder:

Charles Spurgeon once said, "All our perils are nothing so as long as we have prayer."

God is our shelter and security in times of trouble. He stands guard for us against unseen enemies and holds us in the palm of His hand. Ask God to be your refuge of safety, renewal, provision, and protection this week. Pray that family and friends will find the Lord as their refuge in this time.

## My Thoughts for the Day:

### **Day #3**

Verse of the Day

**Psalm 138:7 -** Though I walk in the midst of trouble you preserve my life.

## Point to Ponder:

C.S. Lewis once said, "I pray because the need flows out of me all the time waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God, It changes me."

■ The Lord is the Master of the heavens and earth. He put the moon, stars, and sky in its place, and He has authority over all things. He alone preserves and provides for you in times of trial and triumph. Pray for the Lord to preserve peace, hope, joy, strength, and health in your life and your family this year.

### Verse of the Day

**2 Corinthians 4:8-9 –** We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed.

#### Point to Ponder:

D.L. Moody once said, "Some people think God does not like to be troubled with our constant coming and asking. The way to trouble God is not to come at all."

Sometimes when trials overwhelm us then fear begins to grip our heart, mind, and life. The good news is that fear does not have to hold us hostage because God is in charge. Pray to the Lord with a thankful heart and ask for His strength, courage, and endurance for you and your family during the trials you face.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# **Day #5**

## Verse of the Day

**Psalm 121:1-2 –** I lift my eyes to the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

#### Point to Ponder:

John Bunyan gave this great advice many years ago as he declared, "Pray often for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan."

One of my favorite passages is found in Psalm 121:1-2 as it reminds me that the help you need always comes from the Lord. He is the Maker of heaven and earth. He never sleeps and never delays in providing exactly what you need. Pray for the Lord to renew your hope and joy each day.

## My Thoughts for the Day:

## Day #6

#### Verse of the Day

**Psalm 91:1** – Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

#### Point to Ponder:

Thomas Brooks once observed, "In a storm there is no shelter like the wings of God."

God is our shelter from the storms of life. He protects and renews so that we can persevere for His glory. Pray for the Lord to be your shelter this week. Ask Him to renew your spirit and rekindle your courage.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# **Day #7**

#### Verse of the Day

**John 16:33–** I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world, you will have trials. But takes heart, I have overcome the world.

#### Point to Ponder:

C.S. Lewis once observed, "Life with God is not immunity from difficulties but peace in difficulties."

■ Trials and tribulations will hit us like a mighty storm at times in life. Pray for the Lord to help you remember that He is the author of your peace and He provides exactly what you need.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

## Week #2 - God's Provision

God is my refuge and strength, my help in times of trouble.

- Psalm 46:1

Week #2 focuses your attention on seeking the provision of God in times of uncertainty. It is here that you gain strength, stamina, courage, and peace to push on toward the prize.

# **Day #8**

### Verse of the Day

**Isaiah 41:10** – Fear not, for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous hand.

#### Point to Ponder:

Max Lucado once observed, "Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."

■ During overwhelming times, it is hard to know exactly what to pray. The good news is that God knows exactly what you need. Pray for His daily provision for your family, friends, church, and community. He will always provide what you need. Sometimes it may be spiritual provision and other times it may be physical, but He always provides.

## Verse of the Day

**1 Peter 5:6 –** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.

#### Point to Ponder:

Oswald Chambers once observed, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

Over the years I have learned that the more I pray then the more I desire to pray. God does something amazing in your heart and mind when you practice a regular habit of prayer. Ask God to provide you with a deeper desire to pray this week. Make your own prayer list. Write down your needs, the needs of others, or people that need a deeper relationship with the Lord.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Day #10

# Verse of the Day

**John 14:27** (ESV) – Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do, I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

#### Point to Ponder:

The great evangelist and preacher R.A. Torrey believed firmly in the power of prayer. He once observed, "Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power."

■ Prayer is critical in this life. Pray that God provides the right people to come into the lives of others as they look for answers and seek security. Pray that God would provide you and your family the right opportunities to be a great witness to others.

### My Thoughts for the Day:

## Day #11

#### Verse of the Day

**2 Corinthians 4:9** (HCSB) – We are persecuted but not abandoned; we are struck down but not destroyed.

#### Point to Ponder:

The great author Oswald Chambers once wrote these words, "We have to pray with our eyes on God, not on the difficulties."

During different seasons of life, it can be easy to get overwhelmed. Remember that our God is bigger than any obstacle or any enemy that comes our way. He is mighty and powerful, and He has asked you to place your trust in Him especially in this time. Pray for God to provide the right focus for you and your family. Keep your eyes fixed on Him!

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Day #12

Verse of the Day

**Psalm 119:114** (ESV) - You are my hiding place and my shield. I hope in your word.

#### Point to Ponder:

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote these words about wisdom in times of trials. He wrote, "The wise man in the storm prays to God not for safety from danger but for deliverance from fear."

■ The wisest way to pray is to pray for God's provision and protection for His people. Make it your mission to pray for your family, friends, church, community, and country. Pray for God's mighty hand to deliver the people and give them a desire to turn to Him for hope and direction.

### My Thoughts for the Day:

### Day #13

#### Verse of the Day

**Deuteronomy 31:8** (ESV) – It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.

#### Point to Ponder:

Fanny J. Crosby once said, "God will answer your prayers better than you think. Of course, one will not always get exactly what he has asked for... We all have sorrows and disappointments, but one must never forget that, if commended to God, they will issue in good... His own solution is far better than any we could conceive."

God is the great deliverer, and He answers prayers better than we could ever imagine. We will face times of sorrow, disappointment, and fear but we must never lose sight of who provides for us during these times and so much more. Pray for God's provision of strength and security in this time. God will not let you down as you humble yourself before Him.

## Verse of the Day

**Exodus 14:14** (NLT) - The LORD himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.

#### Point to Ponder:

D.L. Moody believed firmly in the power of prayer, and he witnessed God perform many great miracles in his life. The great evangelist once said, "He who kneels the most, stands the best."

■ The secret to standing firm in a storm that threatens to knock you off your feet is to kneel before the Lord and seek His presence. God is our refuge and shelter in the storm. Pray for God's great provision in this time. Pray that He would offer you the shelter and refuge you need to withstand the storm you find yourself facing. Praise Him today!

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Week #3 - Perseverance

Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always. – 1 Chronicles 16:11

Strength, courage, and endurance are three virtues that we long to have in our life when trials and times of uncertainty consume us. These three virtues are the secret to obtaining perseverance as found only through the power and presence of the Lord. The last week of the 21 Days of Prayer focusing your prayers on pursuing perseverance through the power of the Lord and not the plan of man. Start praying for God's hand of provision for your family, friends, church, and community this week.

#### Day #15

Verse of the Day

**Psalm 145:18** – The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

#### Point to Ponder:

The great evangelist A.B. Simpson once observed that, "Prayer is the link that connects us with God."

■ As we go through life, we will be tempted to navigate life by our own strength. This week pray for perseverance and wisdom as defined by the power and presence of the Lord. Pray for your family, friends, church, and community to call upon the Lord as the wise counselor and great provider this year.

## Verse of the Day

**Psalm 34:7** (NLT) – For the angel of the LORD is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him.

#### Point to Ponder:

Samuel Chadwick once observed an important connection between the power of the Lord and prayer. He observed, "The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray."

■ This week seek the Lord as the author of your perseverance. He alone is the One that guards and guides you during your life. Trust Him as He promises to defend you and direct you through all your highs and lows this year.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Day #17

### Verse of the Day

**Numbers 6:24-26 –** The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

### Point to Ponder:

The great author E.M. Bounds was known for his works on prayer. He once observed the lasting influence of prayer when he wrote these words: "Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them; outlive a generation, outlive an age, outlive a world."

■ This week pray for future generations. Pray that these generations would look back on your actions during this time and respond with a shout of praise to the Lord. Pray that your legacy would persevere past this time and that it would influence many generations to come for the Lord.

#### My Thoughts for the Day:

## Day #18

## Verse of the Day

**Proverbs 18:10** (NASB) – The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.

#### Point to Ponder:

The author Edwin Harvey once observed, "A day without prayer is a day without blessing, and a life without prayer is a life without power."

■ Don't miss this opportunity. This is a time for you to shine brighter than ever before for the glory of God. Pray that others would see the hope and joy that is within you as found in Christ alone. Pray that others would see the author of the persevering peace that anchors your life in times of fear and uncertainty. Finally, praise the Lord for being the strong tower that He is.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Day #19

#### Verse of the Day

**Ephesians 6:10-11 –** <sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

#### Point to Ponder:

Oswald Chambers was an amazing author whose works still influence many today. He once observed a critical point about the prayer life of many people. He observed, "We tend to use prayer as a last resort but God wants it to be our first line of defense."

■ Pray that God would give you clarity and focus during this time of your life. Ask Him to be the center of your priorities and the first line of defense against an unseen enemy. Pray for His perseverance and protection to be granted to you, your family, friends, church, and community. Praise Him for His strength and power over the enemy.

#### My Thoughts for the Day:

## Day #20

#### Verse of the Day

**James 5:13** – Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.

#### Point to Ponder:

The great theologian A.W. Tozer has influenced my life in many ways. He once observed a critical connection between prayer and victory as he observed, "Remember that without prayer you cannot win and with it you cannot lose."

■ Pray for God to grant you victory over fear, anxiety, anger, and much more this year. God is the author of your victory and He deserves your praise today. Pray for His victory to be granted for your family, friends, church, and community.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

# Day #21

#### Verse of the Day

**Romans 12:2** – Do not conform to the pattern of the world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### Point to Ponder:

Leonard Ravenhill was known for his intense zeal for the Lord. He was a great evangelist that believed firmly in the power of prayer. He once observed, "The man who bows the knee to the Father will not bow the knee to compromise."

■ As you end the 21 Days of Prayer, pray that God would give you a deeper desire for prayer and a deeper devotion to the Lord as each day passes. Praise the Lord for renewing your heart, mind, and focus during a time when you have been bombarded by fear and uncertainty. Praise the Lord now and forevermore.

# My Thoughts for the Day:

"You must pray with all your might. That does not mean saying your prayers, or sitting gazing about in church with eyes wide open while someone else says them for you. It means fervent, effectual, untiring wrestling with God..."

### - William Booth

