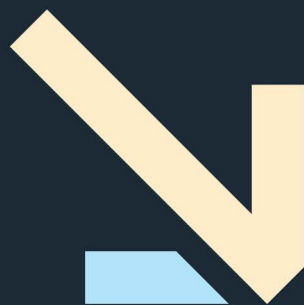


Twenty-One Days of Prayer



The God we pray to delights to answer our prayers and change the world because of them. So what is the secret of effective prayer?

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. (James 4:16-NIV)

Are you righteous?

- If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior then you have been forgiven and accepted as a child of God. He has made you righteous!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21-NIV)

Do your prayers reflect that relationship?

- The kind of prayer that truly changes things is the prayer offered by a child of God that reflects God's heart; His will.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

How can you pray prayers that are powerful and effective—that change things, that make things happen? By being a child of God and by praying prayers based on scripture, according to His will.

This booklet contains suggestions for how to pray for 21 different aspects of church life. Each prayer suggestion is based on a passage of the Bible, so you can be certain that they are prayers that God wants you to pray for your church family. You will pray a prayer each day for your church family, over the course of three weeks.

WHEN RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE PRAY RIGHTEOUS PRAYERS, THINGS HAPPEN!

DAY ONE

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD REMEMBER WHO WE ARE

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Help us to remember that we are...

1. A HOLY NATION

“But you are a chosen people... a holy nation” (v9)

2. A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

Thank God for the job title that he has given his chosen people: “priests” (v9)

3. GOD’S SPECIAL POSSESSION

Thank God that he has made your church his “special possession” (v9)

4. CALLED

Thank God that he has called each member of your church “out of darkness and into his wonderful light” (v9)

5. RECIPIENTS OF MERCY

Thank God that though “once you had not received mercy... now you received mercy” (v10)

DAY TWO

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD BE A BODY GROWING IN MATURITY

Ephesians 4:11-16

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Father God, help us to...

1. BE EQUIPPED

Thank God for the leaders that Christ himself has given your church, “to equip his people for works of service” (v11-12)

2. BE UNITED

“...until we all attain to the unity of the faith” (v13)

3. BECOME MATURE

Pray that our church will grow more and more into “him who is the head, into Christ” (v15)

4. BE STEADFAST

Pray that our church would not be “tossed to and fro by the waves” (v14)

5. BUILD EACH OTHER UP

Ask God to help our church “body grow so that it builds itself up in love” (v16)

DAY THREE

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD BE DEVOTED TO ONE ANOTHER

Acts 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Heavenly Father, help us to be devoted to...

1. LEARNING TOGETHER

Thank God that he has given the church “the apostles’ teaching” in the pages of Scripture (v42)

2. BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

“They devoted themselves...to fellowship...All the believers were together: (v42, 44)

3. PRAYING TOGETHER

“They devoted themselves...to prayer: (v42)

4. MEETING NEEDS...

The first believers “sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (v45)

5. ADDING TO OUR NUMBER

Thank God for the people and families he’s “added to {your} number” recently (v47)

DAY FOUR

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD LOVE AND
SERVE ONE ANOTHER

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Lord, help us to love one another in a way that...

1. IS PATIENT AND KIND

“Love is patient and kind” (v4)

2. ISN'T PROUD OR SELF-SEEKING

“It is not arrogant...it does not insist on its own way” (v 4-5)

3. KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

“It does not rejoice at wrongdoing” (v5)

4. REJOICES WITH THE TRUTH

Spend some time rejoicing over the people in your church that God has recently brought to trust in the saving truth of the gospel (v6)

5. TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES

Pray that God would form you into a community that “believes, hopes, and endures all things” (v7)

DAY FIVE

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD HOLD TO THE TRUTH

Psalm 19:7-13

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they, than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

Almighty Father, help us to be a church that regards your word as...

1. PERFECT

“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul” (v7)

2. RADIANT

Thank God that his radiant word gives light to the eyes (v8)

3. FIRM

In a world where the moral goalposts seem to shift often, thank God that his words “are firm, and all of them are righteous” (v9)

4. SWEET

God’s decrees are “sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb” (v10).

5. A WARNING

The psalmist asks, “Who can discern his errors?” (v12).

DAY SIX

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD MAKE KNOWN GOD'S GLORY

Romans 1:14-17

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Father, in our evangelism, help us to ...

1. FEEL INDEBTED

"I am under obligation..." (v14)

2. REACH DIVERSE GROUPS

"...both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish" (v14)

3. BE EAGER

"I am eager to preach the gospel" (v15)

4. BE CONFIDENT

"I am not ashamed of the gospel" (v16)

5. MARVEL AT THE GOSPEL

Take a few moments to marvel at verse 17: "For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith"" (v17)

DAY SEVEN

THAT OAKWOOD WOULD GIVE GENEROUSLY

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

Lord, as we give to your work, help us to...

1. GIVE CHEERFULLY

“God loves a cheerful giver” (v7) – so pray that Oakwood would be full of them!

2. ABOUND IN GOOD WORKS

“You may abound in every good work” (v8)

3. GROW IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

“He... will increase the harvest of your righteousness” (v10)

4. POINT PEOPLE TO CHRIST

Others will glorify God “because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ” (v13)

5. GIVE THANKS TO GOD...

“...for his inexpressible gift” (v15)

DAY EIGHT

THAT I WOULD USE MY GIFTS WELL

Romans 12:1-9

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

Father God, please help me to...

1. SERVE SACRIFICIALLY

We're to serve others in view of God's mercy (v1)

2. SERVE HUMBLLY

Paul is unequivocal: "I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (v3)

3. VALUE THE GIFTS OF OTHERS

Thank God for the wonderful diversity of his church; a body "with many members" where we all have "gifts that differ" (v4-6)

4. USE MY GIFTS

"...let them use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith...if service, in our serving..." (v6-8)

5. LOVE SINCERELY

"Let love be genuine" (v9)

DAY NINE

THAT I WOULD PERSEVERE WHEN I GET WEARY

Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Father, when I'm feeling weary, help me to...

1. THANK YOU

"We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus" (v19)

2. DRAW NEAR TO YOU

"let us draw near" to God... (v22)

3. HOLD ON UNSWERVINGLY

Sometimes it is doubts that leave us wanting to avoid church; pray that we will "hold fast the confession of our hope" by trusting God's unchanging character (v23)

4. SPUR OTHERS ON

"And let us consider how to stir up one another on to love and good works" (v24). Consider that now!

5. NEVER GIVE UP

"Not neglecting to meet together..." (v25)

DAY TEN

THAT I WOULD BE WHO MY FAMILY NEEDS
ME TO BE

Ephesians 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Heavenly Father help me to...

1. BE THANKFUL

Thank God that he has called you to be one of his people (v1)

2. BE COMPLETELY HUMBLE

Paul tells us to walk “with all humility” (v2) Just appearing humble won’t cut it.

3. BE COMPLETELY GENTLE

Ask for help to be completely gentle in your actions, thoughts and words (v2)

4. BE PATIENT

Be patient, “bearing with one another in love” (v2)

5. STAY UNITED

Ask God to help you “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” when disagreements arise (v3)

DAY ELEVEN

OAKWOOD LEADERS

Acts 20:28

Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

1 Timothy 3:2

Therefore, an overseer must be above reproach...

1 Timothy 3:13

For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Heavenly Father, Help our Pastors, Elders and Deacons to...

1. TAKE HEED TO THEMSELVES

Take heed to their own spiritual well-being first. (Acts 20:28)

2. TAKE HEED TO THEIR FLOCK

Take heed to the spiritual well-being of the flock purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:28)

3. REALIZE THEIR POSITION

Realize they have been placed in their positions by the Holy Spirit. (Acts 20:28)

4. LIVE LIVES ABOVE REPROACH

"...must be above reproach." (1 Timothy 3:2)

5. SERVE WELL

Serve well, having a "good understanding" and "great confidence" in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Father, lead our church to prayerfully consider the future selection of elders, deacons and staff.*

DAY TWELVE

OAKWOOD GROUPS

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Heavenly Father, please help us to...

1. BE AT PEACE

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (v15)

2. TEACH ONE ANOTHER

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” as you teach one another” (v16)

3. ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER

May our groups be an environment where Christians can “admonish one another in all wisdom...” (v16)

4. HONOR YOUR NAME

... both in “word” and “deed” (v17)

5. BE TRULY THANKFUL

See verses 15, 16 and 17

DAY THIRTEEN

OAKWOOD KIDS

Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth! I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Heavenly Father, please guide us to...

1. GIVE THANKS

Give thanks for “the glorious deeds of the LORD” (v4)

2. INVOLVE THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION

We will “tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD” (v4)

3. BE FATHFUL IN BIBLE TEACHING

“[The LORD] established a testimony in Jacob... which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children” (v5)

4. TRUST IN GOD

Pray that the children of Oakwood will put their trust in God (v7)

5. PRODUCE FRUIT FOR YEARS TO COME

Pray that the children will “not forget the works of God” as they grow up, and will continue to walk with Jesus (v7)

DAY FOURTEEN

OAKWOOD STUDENTS

1 Timothy 4:10-13

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.

Heavenly Father, please guide us to...

1. PRAISE GOD

HE is “the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe: (v10)

2. DEMONSTRATE LOVE

“Set the believers an example...in love” (v12)

3. LEAD THEM TO FAITH

Pray that God will bring many young people to a saving faith in Christ (v12)

4. BE STEADFAST IN SPEECH, CONDUCT AND PURITY

Pray that the faith Oakwood Students profess on Sundays will be worked out in the way they act and speak on every other day of the week (v12)

5. BE DEVOTED TO SCRIPTURE

“Devote yourself to the ...reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching” (v13)

DAY FIFTEEN

NOT-YET CHRISTIANS

Acts 17:10-12

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men.

Pray for an individual, family, or upcoming evangelistic event for...

1. WHOLE-CHURCH SUPPORT

“The believers sent Paul and Silas away to Berea” (v10)

2. AN EAGER RECEPTION

Pray that like the Bereans, not-yet-Christians will receive
“the word with all eagerness” (v11)

3. OPENNESS TO GOD’S TRUTH

“...examining the Scriptures daily” to see if what Paul said
was true” (v11)

4. MANY TO BELIEVE

“Many of them therefore believed” (v12)

5. DIVERSITY

In Berea, many Jews became believers, as did also a
number of Greek women of high standing as well as
men (v12)

DAY SIXTEEN

MERCY MINISTRIES

Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, who we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and the great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Lift this ministry before the Lord asking that it will....

1. MEET LEGITIMATE NEEDS

“Their widows were being neglected...” (v1)

2. BE FULL OF THE SPIRIT

“Pick out from among you seven men...full of the Spirit...”
(v3)

3. BE FULL OF WISDOM

“...and wisdom” (v3)

4. HAVE WHOLE-CHURCH SUPPORT

This proposal “pleased the whole gathering...These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them” (v5-6)

5. SPREAD THE WORD

“And the word of God continued to increase” (v7)

DAY SEVENTEEN

SENIOR ADULTS

Joshua 14:6-14

Then the people of Judah came to Joshua at Gilgal. And Caleb the son of Jephunneth the Kenizzite said to him, "You know what the LORD said to Moses the man of God in Kadesh-Barnea concerning you and me. I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. But my brothers who went up with me made the heart of the people melt: yet I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses swore on that day, saying 'Surely the land on which your foot has trodden shall be an inheritance for you and your children forever, because you have wholly followed the LORD my God.'...And now, behold, I am this day eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was in the day that Moses sent me; my strength now is as my strength was then, for war and for going and coming. So now give me this hill country of which the LORD spoke on that day... Then Joshua blessed him, and he gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh for an inheritance. Therefore Hebron became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the LORD, the God of Israel.

Thank God for the faithful seniors serving in our church. Pray they will:

1. FULLY FOLLOW GOD

"...yet I wholly followed the Lord my God." (v8)

2. BE HEALTHY AND STRONG

"I am this day, eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as I was..." (v10-11)

3. REMAIN CONFIDENT IN GOD

"Just as the LORD promised, he has..." (v10)

4. ADVANCE GOD'S KINGDOM

"So now give me this hill country" (v12)

5. FINISH WELL

"So Hebron...became the inheritance of Caleb" (v14)

DAY EIGHTEEN

CHURCHES NEAR US

Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Pray for another church in our area...

1. THANK GOD FOR THIS CHURCH

Thank God for their “partnership in the gospel” (v4)

2. THANK GOD FOR YOUR SHARED GRACE

Thank God that though your churches may look and feel very different, we share in God's grace (v7)

3. FOR ABOUNDING LOVE

Pray that this church's “love may abound more and more in knowledge and all discernment” (v9).

4. FOR DISCERNMENT

Pray for discernment on an individual level; that each day members of this church will choose to do what is “pure and blameless” (v10)

5. FOR RIGHTEOUS FRUIT

Pray that this church will be “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ” (v11)

DAY NINETEEN

MISSIONARIES

1 Thessalonians 2:2-4, 9-12

But though we had already suffered and been shamefully treated at Philippi, as you know, we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict. For our appeal does not spring from error or impurity or any attempt to deceive, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts...For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

Pray for all missionaries to...

1. BE BOLD

...we had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel.... (v9)

2. PLEASE GOD

“we speak, not to please man, but to please God, who tests our hearts.” (v4)

3. PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

“We had boldness in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in the midst of much conflict” (v2)

4. WALK RIGHTEOUSLY

Pray that all missionaries will live in a way that is “holy, righteous and blameless” (v10)

5. BUILD DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS

Pray that, like Paul, all missionaries will always encourage, comfort and urge local Christians to “walk in a manner worthy of God” (v12)

DAY TWENTY

CHURCHES FAR AWAY

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "if the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" Therefore, let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Pray for a church in another country; or those facing persecution.

1. REJOICE IN SUFFERING

If this church faces persecution, pray that they'd "rejoice in so far as [they] share Christ's sufferings" (v 13)

2. LOOK FORWARD

Thank God that we will "also rejoice and be glad when Christ's glory is revealed" (v14)

3. DON'T BE ASHAMED

"Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed." You share this name with millions around the world (v16)

4. HAVE CONCERN FOR SINNERS

"What will become of the ungodly and the sinner?" (v18)

5. DO GOOD TO OTHERS

Thank God for the wonderful truth in verse 19: we have a "Faithful Creator".

DAY TWENTY-ONE

THE UNREACHED

Matthew 9:35-38

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Pray for an “unreached” group locally or far away. Remember:

1. THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE

Thank God that the news of Christ’s kingdom is “good news” (v35)

2. SHARE JESUS’ COMPASSION

People without Christ are “harassed and helpless” and when Jesus was surrounded by the lost, “He had compassion” (v36)

3. KNOW THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Thank Jesus that he is the good “shepherd” that people need (v36)

4. THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL

It may not look this way, but Jesus is clear: “The harvest is plentiful” (v37) Praise God!

5. WE NEED MORE WORKERS

Jesus is equally clear that “the laborers are few” (v37)
Pray for the Lord to send out laborers. (v38)

