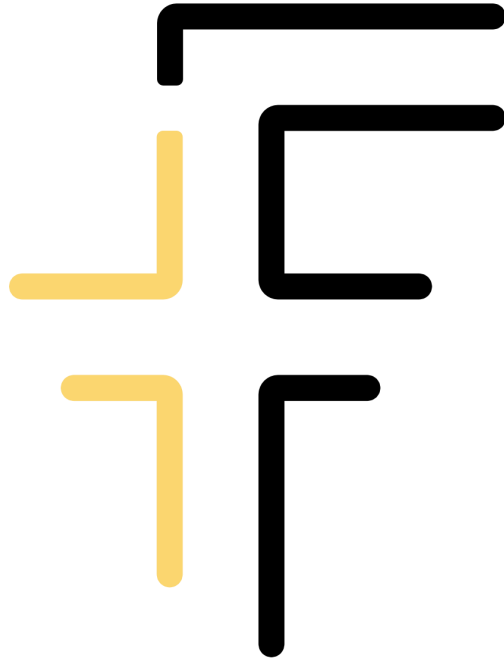


Prayer Guide



FAITH

BAPTIST CHURCH



Visit us at:

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Introduction

*“I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!”*

Psalm 34:1-3

Imagine that you knew of a limitless treasure that could meet your every need. You’ve been given a full map to it. How often would you return to it? Would it be a monthly trip? Weekly? Daily? More than once a day? I am sure that you would be there often!

For the believer, prayer is going to the sovereign God of the universe, who is the Giver of all that is good, and asking Him for His provision. In Philippians 4:19, Paul assured the Philippian believers that God would “supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.” Yet many believers neglect the “going.” They are like the person with that treasure map, but who refuse to go to the actual treasure!

Sometimes, though, our situation can be so overwhelming that we don’t quite know where to start when it comes to approaching the Father in prayer. Being in the midst of a global pandemic certainly qualifies as overwhelming! This guide is designed to help you focus your prayers each day. I hope it is an encouragement to you! Know that I am praying for and with you!

Pastor Roy

Daily Focus Suggestions

During this difficult season, it is important to remember that there are many who are in need of daily prayer. These are some suggestions for how you might intercede for these groups each day of the week.

Monday

Pray for those who have been infected by COVID-19 and their families

Tuesday

Pray for health care workers who are battling this pandemic: doctors, nurses, technicians, EMTs and paramedics, environmental cleaning services, support staff, and volunteers

Wednesday

Pray for first responders who are working to maintain calm and order in our society: law enforcement, fire and rescue, and 911 dispatchers

Thursday

Pray for government officials at all levels (local, state, and federal), that they might make wise decisions in response to this situation

Friday

Pray for some families in the church whom you don't know well (if you need a directory, just ask!), and then reach out to them with a phone call

Saturday

Pray for families who are struggling with the implications of social distancing: those who are newly homeschooling their children, those who cannot visit family members (especially elderly members), those who have been laid-off or have lost their jobs, and those who are adjusting to these major life changes

Sunday

Pray for your church and its leadership, as they continue to minister and proclaim the Gospel

What I Am Praying For Today...

How I am praising God for His...

I am confessing these sins and seeking God's grace to overcome them

How I am praying for my family

How I am praying for my church

How I am praying for my community

How I am praying for my nation

How I am praying for my spiritual development

How I am thanking God for how He has answered my prayers

Prayer is not a convenient device for imposing our will upon God, or bending his will to ours, but the prescribed way of subordinating our will to his.

~ John R. W. Stott

Scripture about Prayer

Below are some selected Scriptures about prayer. Our hope is that these encourage you in your prayer life.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.

1 John 5:14

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me; hear my words.

Psalms 17:6

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who will call on him in truth.

Psalms 145:18

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Matthew 7:11

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

Romans 8:26

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made to God.

Philippians 4:6

Prayers in Scripture

There are several prayers in the pages of both the Old and the New Testaments. May these Spirit-inspired words serve as models for your prayer life.

Jesus taught us to pray with the Model Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom com, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:9-13

Paul's prayer for the church at Philippi, where there were divisions in the church:

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.

Philippians 1:3-11

David's prayer for the Lord's guidance:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me...Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

Psalms 25:1-2, 4-5

Prayers in Scripture

Paul's prayer for the church at Colossae, modeling how we should pray for one another (including our leadership) in the church:

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:3-14

David's prayer of repentance, a model for how we should approach sin in our lives:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!...Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit in me...Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 51:1-2, 7, 10, 12

Tips for Developing Your Prayer Life

The following tips are from the Navigators, a ministry that has focused on personal discipleship for nearly 100 years.

In the midst of our busy lives, it can be incredibly valuable to go beyond morning devotions and spend extended time alone with God in prayer. God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). Like many personal relationships, this fellowship is nurtured by spending time together.

An extended time in prayer also gives increased opportunity to think of the world from God's point of view, especially when going through some difficulty or making big decisions. We need God's perspective to sharpen our vision of the unseen, and to let the immediate, tangible things drop into proper place.

Scheduling your time

Divide the time into three parts:

Wait on the Lord with an open heart to realize His presence and to be cleansed.

Pray for others. Ask specific things for them. Use Paul's prayers in the New Testament (such as Romans 15:5-6) to pray for them and pray for them what you are praying for yourself.

Pray for yourself. Be totally honest with God.

What to take with you

The essential items to have with you are a Bible, paper, and a pen or pencil. Other helpful items include:

Prayer letters from missionaries and other Christian workers

A favorite devotional book

Your current prayer list

Your quiet time journal

Scripture memory cards

Notes from your last extended time in prayer

Tips for Developing Your Prayer Life

How to stay awake and alert

Get adequate rest the night before.

Change positions—sit a while, walk around, sit, walk, and so on.

Have variety in what you do. Read the Scriptures, then prayer, then write, and so on.

Pray aloud—in a whisper or soft voice if necessary.

Taking notes

Taking notes during your extended time in prayer will give you a record of the things the Lord is speaking to you, as well as helping you keep your time organized.

In addition, when we pray we often have something come to mind that we feel we should take action on, or that we have forgotten to do—perhaps totally unrelated to what we are praying about. By keeping paper ready to list these things, we can avoid prolonged distraction and act on them later.

Toward the end of your time in prayer you will want to spend a few minutes writing down some conclusions. Summarize the major impressions of your time. Keep these notes in a notebook and review them weekly for a while. This will ensure that you follow through on the things God has impressed on you.