

# Beginning 2016 with Prayer

*Praying Specifically and Strategically*

Praying is like filling a balloon with helium, the more it is filled, the more it will soar...and you won't be sore like you may be from some New Year's resolutions!

God wants to hear from us, to seek His face (Psalm 27:8) to look to Him, to love Him and continuously build a relationship with Him (John 15:14-15). A relationship with God is similar to relationships with others, the more we communicate the stronger the relationship becomes. Reflect back on your first love, how you constantly thought of them, how often you called them (fell asleep on the phone), the dates (time spent together), you built a relationship, you fell in love with that person and they became one of the most important people in your life. God want the same attention, communication and love.

Let's start the New Year off by giving God what He deserves and desires...

First, praise God and thank Him for His blessings and goodness in all He has bestowed, even if you do not feel or notice them. Remember your walk with Christ is all about Him working in and through you so your faith and love flourishes!

*To receive these prayers via email along with our daily devotional guides written by our GBC family, visit <http://www.germantownbaptist.org/devotions> or access them through the GBC app available from your favorite app store.*

## The First Days of the New Year: Praying for Yourself

### Day 1

*Pray for Your Heart*

I need your help to guard my heart against bitterness, selfishness, and temptation to pursue the attention of others. Be my gentle shepherd. Lead me away from the activities and relationships that would keep me from prioritizing You over every other relationship.

***Proverbs 4:23; Ephesians 4:31; Philippians 2:4; Mathew 6:13; Psalm 23:1; Hebrews 13:4***

### Day 2

*Pray for Your Mind*

Purify my mind, Lord. Transform my thoughts by the power of Your Word. Show me where and when my thoughts about \_\_\_\_\_ do not agree with Your thoughts. Ignite in me an unquenchable desire to see my spouse/ others as you see them. Let Your Holy Spirit be my husband/wife/family/friends-appreciation coach, pointing out to me noble and praiseworthy attributes they possess.

***2 Corinthians 7:1; Romans 12:2; John 14:26; Philippians 4:8***

# Week One: Praying for Better Relationships...with God, Spouse, Family and Others

## Day 3

*Pray for your Relationship with God*

Lord, I want to see myself as You see me. I want to agree with Your thoughts about me so that I become the woman and wife /man and husband/ person You designed me to be. Break down the walls of fear and pride that keep me from knowing who I became when I embraced Jesus' sacrificial love on the Cross.

I invite Your Holy Spirit to convict me of any sin that I have committed that separates me from the full knowledge of You and my place in Your family.

***1 Corinthians 2:16; Proverbs 16:18; Philippians 4:6; John 16:8; 2 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 2:19***

## Day 4

*Pray for Your Influence*

Thank You for the influence You have given me in \_\_\_\_\_'s life. Use me to affirm him (or her), his purpose in Your kingdom, and the gifts You have given him. When he looks into my eyes, I want him to experience Your love and compassion. When he hears my voice calling his name, let him hear Your voice delighting in him. When he hears me talk about him, confirm for him the value of his life as Your creation.

***1 Peter 3:1; Ephesians 5:1,33; Zephaniah 3:17***

## Day 5

*Pray for Spouse/Love Ones Relationship with God*

Inspire \_\_\_\_\_ to live in obedience to Your Word. Remind them of the peaceful and confident life You deliver when they live out Your instructions. I want their heart and mind to be brimming with joy and peace. Because of their relationship with You, their life will be hope-filled!

***James 1:22-25; Isaiah 32:17; Romans 15:13***

## Day 6

*Pray for His/Her Thoughts*

My heart's cry for \_\_\_\_\_ is that he/she would know You, the God of the Bible, and know who he/she is to You. Tear down any misconceptions that he/she has about You. Help him/her to see that You are the God that gives 1 Corinthians 13 love: patient, kind and enduring love to him/her. I invite You to teach him/her Your character and roles in his/her life. Help him/her to know You as his/her defender, counselor, shepherd, comforter, encourager, Savior, and so much more.

***Isaiah 6, 9:6; Psalm 18:1, 23:1; John 15:26; Luke 1:47***

## Day 7

*Pray for His/Her Character and Will*

You created \_\_\_\_\_ to reflect Your strength and confidence. Oh, that Your Holy Spirit would shield \_\_\_\_\_'s eyes from the world's self-sufficient idea of woman/manhood.

Nurture in \_\_\_\_\_ a willingness to surrender his/her will and run this race to accomplish Yours.

***Genesis 1:27 Psalm 37:7; Acts 5:39; 1 John 2:16-17; Hebrews 12:1***

## Day 8

*Pray for Your Communication*

Grant me Your wisdom when addressing difficult situations. Allow me to clearly hear your voice. Give me spiritual wisdom that You freely give. Teach me to speak truth in love Let my words and actions reflect your spirit; compassionate, humble, patient, gentle, and kind.

***James 1:5; Ephesians 1:18, 4:15; Isaiah 11:2; Colossians 3:12***

## Day 9

*Pray for Spiritual Insight*

Pray for understanding and insight into the Word of God; understanding your identity in Christ, who you are, where you came from, where you are going, understanding God's purpose for your life. Pray for guidance and direction.

***Psalm 25: 3-5; Matthew 22:37, 39; Matthew 6:33; Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; John 15:8; Romans 8:11; Genesis 2:23; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 62:5; Luke 9:23; Romans 15:5-6; 2 Timothy 4:7***

# Week Two: Praying Breakthrough Prayers

## Day 10

*Pray the Scripture*

Praying God's Word means reading or reciting scripture in an attitude and spirit of prayer. Read the following scripture prayers from the New Testament.

***Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-13; Hebrews 13:20-21; Revelation 4:8, 11; Revelation 5:9-10***

Now pray and ask God to prompt you with the specific verses to pray at specific times. Ask Him to empower you with His Spirit and help you to pray in faith and trust His Word as you go through your day.

Practice praying scripture, it will bear much fruit in your life.

## Day 11

*Pray God's Names*

We all have different names at different times. My parents call me "son," my wife calls me "Charlie" (when I'm being good), my children call me "dad" and my church calls me "Pastor Charles." I am not multiple people, I have multiple roles and character traits. Each of the names reveals more about who I am, what I do and how I relate to others. In like manner, the Bible reveals that God has many names. Each name of God helps us to understand, value, and worship Him even more. As we discover and get familiar with different names of God, we not only better recognize God for who He is, but we can relate to Him more personally and intimately.

***Psalm 91:1-2; Isaiah 40:28; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Daniel 4:37; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; John 8:12***

As you strategically pray, remember to call out to God by His names. He loves to hear His children acknowledge Him for all He does and all He can do. "Blessed be the name of the Lord!"

## Day 12

*Pray for Wisdom*

God says acquiring wisdom is of "supreme" importance and prayer is one of the keys that unlock it. He promises to give wisdom "generously" for those who "seek" and "search" it. God wants to give us what we need for being successful in our families, in our work, in everything we do "bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God"

***Proverbs 4:7,12; James 1:5; Proverbs 2:4; James 1:5; Colossians 1:10; Proverbs 2:6***

Seek God for wisdom in your life in any difficult circumstance and daily decision making. He is also glorified in our integrity, honesty, diligence, humility, purity and faithfulness.

## Day 13

*Pray for the Pastor / Missionaries / Church Staff*

"The enemy is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking who he can devour" and his target is commonly those who pray for others. We are often tempted to notice the mistakes our church leaders make and focus on what needs to be fixed. Paul prayed specifically that God would complete the good work He started in this church and also that these leaders would be pure and blameless in the day of Christ.

***Matthew 22:36-40; Psalm 19:14; Acts 1:14; 1 Corinthians 4:2; Mark 16:15; Isaiah 56:7; John 15:4-10; Ephesians 4:27; Exodus 33:14; Matthew 11:28; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 1 Timothy 3:4-5***

Write the names of the pastoral staff and their assistants, and missionaries abroad and pray specifically for each of them.

## Day 14

*Pray for those in Authority; Government, Work, Teachers, Family Authorities*

Pray that they will submit to the authority and ways of God and His Word daily. Pray that they will hate evil, pride, injustice, and turn away from Satan's lies and schemes and that they will lead with godliness, integrity, honor, respect, wisdom, and compassion.

***3 John 2; 1 Timothy 2:2, 4; Hebrew 13:17; Deuteronomy 10:13; 1 Peter 2:13-17; 1 Peter 5:8; Proverbs 6:6-11; Micah 6:8; Joshua 24:15***

Jesus is our great example. His prayer is selfless. Jesus' prayer is not intended to change their actions for His own gain, but simply to plead to the Father on their behalf.

## Day 15

*Pray for other Believers and Those Around You*

Often times we focus on those who do not know Christ and we should however we fail to pray for the believers, our coworkers and those around us. It is important to keep them lifted up as the devil will discourage them and keep them from sharing the gospel. Pray they repent of sins daily, devoted to prayer and free from bondage. Live with Christ as their hope and true source of peace and happiness.

***Romans 10:9-10, 12:1-2; John 8: 31-32; Colossians 4:5-6; Ephesians 1:18-19; Matthew 6:6, 18:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 6:1-19; John 4:10-14; Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 25:21 1 Timothy 1:12***

Pray they share the gospel and faithfully make disciples of others in their lives. They will be found faithful when they stand before God.

## Day 16

*Pray for the Lost and Those in Need*

Pray that God would connect the lost to genuine believers and simplicity of the gospel. Save them, change their hearts, and fill them with God's Spirit. Help them abide in Christ and live according to God's Will.

***Romans 1:16; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 7:47-52; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Luke 19:10; Acts 26:18; John 3:18; Ezekiel 36: 26; Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; John 15:1-17***

Most prayer lists are full of the lost or those in need; medical setbacks, personal loss or lack. Oftentimes, the list can grow very long and prayer times grow very short. Take time to pray for legitimate needs around you and instead of letting them overwhelm.

## Week Three: Praying for Miracles in Your Life

### Day 17

*Miracle 1: Water Into Wine - Overcoming Disbelief*

**Read John 2**

Our first glimpse of Jesus and His glory was a marriage in Cana of Galilee where the people ran out of wine. He supplied their needs. Jesus can change things, create things and transform things.

Pray for your disbelief in situations that you have determined are too hard, unfixable or hopeless. God is an ever present help in the time of need and He will supply your needs. Inviting Jesus in changes things.

### Day 18

*Miracle 2: Speaking Healing – Overcoming Doubt*

**Read John 4**

Jesus spoke the Word and healing came to a dying child. He said we can do the same works He did, Jesus said we can do greater works than He did.

Pray you have confidence in the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Choose to put your trust in what God says not what you feel or see. Speak healing to someone today in Jesus name and expect a miracle.

### Day 19

*Miracle 3: Acting in Faith – Overcoming Disability*

**Read John 5**

The Lord told the man beside the pool of Bethesda, to do what he could not naturally do, Jesus said "Rise, take up your bed and walk." As he obeyed in faith, the miracle occurred.

Ask the Lord what He wants you to do today, to speak to you and obey in faith. Pray that the Lord will be glorified in that situation.

## Day 20

*Miracle 4: Feeding 5,000 – Overcoming Desire*

**Read John 6**

The Lord multiplied 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to feed thousands. What can He do in your life? Give your all to God and allow Him to give you the desires of your heart.

Pray for God to not only meet your needs but the needs of the church and church body. Ask the Lord to give you more than enough to have enough to share.

## Day 21

*Miracle 5: Walking on Water – Overcoming Despair*

**Read John 6**

Just as the Lord was with the disciples in the middle of the storm, He is present with you in your trials and tribulations.

Pray God help you see Him in your storm and keep your eyes on Jesus. As long as Peter focused on Jesus he was able to stay above water but when he began to focus on the wind and waves, he began to sink. Ask God to help you keep your focus on Him and not the problems and issues that surround you. Remember the problem solver is bigger than the problem.

## Day 22

*Miracle 6: Healing the Blind – Overcoming Darkness*

**Read John 9**

Just as Jesus bought the man which was blind out of darkness, He can remove spiritual darkness and cause us to see the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pray God will lift the darkness over your family, friends, church, neighborhood, workplace, city and nation. Jesus is the light of the world.

## Day 23

*Miracle 7: Raising of Lazarus – Overcoming Death*

**Read John 11**

Jesus, You are the victor over death. You are the resurrection and the life.

Pray for God to resurrect your life spiritually, so that He can use you for His glory. Pray His will in your life. As we believe in Jesus, even when we die we will continue to live. Thank God for the promise of eternal life as believers.

## Week Four: Praying the Armor of GOD - Read Ephesians 6: 11-18

## Day 24

*Protect my mind.*

The Helmet of Salvation - Thank You, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You, and I declare that nothing can separate me now from the love of Christ and the place I shall ever have in Your kingdom.

## Day 25

*Keep my heart right.*

The Breastplate of Righteousness - Yes, Lord, I wear Your righteousness against all condemnation and corruption. Fit me with Your holiness and purity, defend me from all assaults against my heart.

## Day 26

*Let me love truth.*

The Belt of Truth - Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Show me the truths I so desperately need today. Expose the lies that I am not even aware that I believe.

## Day 27

*Everywhere I walk, bring peace.*

The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace - I choose to live in peace for the gospel at any and every moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Do not let me become slack in my walk.

## Day 28

*Quench all fiery darts of the enemy.*

The Shield of Faith - Jesus, I lift the confidence that You are good against every lie and every assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me.

## Day 29

*Anoint the Word in my hands and heart.*

The Sword of the Spirit - Holy Spirit, show me specifically today the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the snares of the enemy. Bring them to mind throughout the day.

## Day 30

Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything, in all prayer as my spirit communes with You throughout the day. Jesus be my best friend. I want Your love to be the fire that burns within me. Breathe within my heart the life that only You can give. I long to know You in a greater way, reveal Yourself to me. In Jesus Name. Amen.

## Day 31

*PRAISE HIM!*

Praise God like never before. If you want something different you have to do something different!

*Prayer and Praise are powerful weapons – create your own **War Room!***

*“But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.” Matthew*

*6:6*

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