

HOPE
POINT
CHURCH
2025

JANUARY 5 - JANUARY 26

21 DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING

21
DAYS

OF PRAYER
AND FASTING

OVER
FLOW

21 DAYS

OF PRAYER AND FASTING

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INTRO

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Psalm 23:5

Hope Point Family,

Welcome to **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting 2025!** This is one of the most important times of our year. It's a time where God prepares us for the rest of the year, and where we are intentional to allow Him to do exactly that. It's a time where we pray individually and at specific times as a church. It's a time where we gain His heart, His perspective, and His direction for the year. It's a time of year where we interact with and connect with God through prayer, worship, His Word, and fasting.

If you're unaccustomed to the concept of fasting, let's discover its importance together. First, we recognize that everything starts with a seed - a seed of faith, a seed of hope, a seed of prayer, a seed of sacrifice, and a seed of expectation. Jesus told the disciples in **John 12:24**, "I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels - a plentiful harvest of new lives." Our flesh - the things in our lives that exist in contradiction to the Word, character, and will of God - are going to die and our spirits are going to come alive as we give God priority over the next 21 days.

Fasting is biblical: before Jesus embarked on his earthly ministry, he fasted 40 days and 40 nights. Don't freak out! We aren't asking that of you. The heart of fasting is denying yourself and taking more time to spend with God so that you can be changed by Him and fulfill His purpose for your life. Fasting doesn't have to just be food; it can be whatever you choose. I encourage you to just make some more

time with God and pair your fasting with faith. Remember, we are all in it together. God says that there is commanded blessing where we dwell together in unity. According to God's promise, there will be blessing on what we do if we are joining in unity as a church together.

I'm so glad you picked up this booklet and decided to participate in 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting with us! This is a very special time of year for the church. I firmly believe that what we do here together as a church during this time has a dramatic impact on our spiritual growth throughout the year. I know that God is pleased with and honors the time that we dedicate to Him during this season in the life of our church.

There are a few verses that are important for this time together. The first is **Hebrews 11:6**, which says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Faith pleases God. We need to activate our faith and place it in Jesus. Things in the kingdom of God are accessed by faith. God is accessed by faith. It's the commodity of the kingdom.

The second verse is **Romans 12:3**: "For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith." Each of us has been given a measure of faith. We all have faith! We also have to recognize that faith can grow, so you're not stuck with the amount that you have. God wants to grow your faith through this time!

The last verse is **James 4:8** and it's a promise for us: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." This verse clearly states that if we draw near to God, reach for and pursue Him, then He will draw near to us. So, we aren't engaging in a futile exercise. No, we've come to meet with our Creator, our Heavenly Father. As **Hebrews 12:22-24** says, "But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel."

We've come to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. We've come to the Holy Spirit, who leads and guides us into all truth.

Fasting costs you something. King David desired to purchase the property that the Temple of the Lord would eventually be built on. Araunah, the owner of the property, was willing to give it to the King. However, David had a different heart. His response in **2 Samuel 24:24** is instructive for us: "But the king replied to Araunah, 'No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.'" The Bible records that God answered prayer on behalf of the land and the plague stopped. Miracles happen when we seek God. The Lord is pleased with our sacrifice - when it costs us something.

Our theme for this year is **OVERFLOW** and our verse comes from the chapter of Psalms. King David wrote this psalm as he reflected on the nature and love of God as his shepherd. The very nature and concept of overflow is more than enough, surpassingly great and overwhelming. It's a mark of the blessing of God, the God of more than enough, the God of the Promised Land, the God who does exceedingly and abundantly more than all we could ask. I'm believing for an overflow of salvations and influence locally, nationally and internationally. I'm believing for an overflow of the Spirit and Glory of God that fills His House and people so much that it spills into our community expressing itself in love, service, freedom, salvation and unity. I'm believing for an overflow of the power of God to see miracles and healing take place. I'm believing for an overflow of provision for you, your family, and the church, so that we can continue to pursue the wonderful plans that God has for our lives and the church. No lack! More than enough! *Overflow!*

Thank you for joining us during this time and continuing on this great adventure. Let's come expectantly. Let's dream big. Let's boldly approach the throne of God. Let's exercise our faith. Let's get so full of Jesus that He overflows out of our lives to our families, our church, our community, our state, our nation and our world!

PASTOR JONATHAN STELLS

DEVOTI ONALS

WEEK 1

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Psalm 23:5

Welcome to Week One! As we get started, let's look at the theme again: **OVERFLOW**. It's a word that we are going to come back to again and again throughout our time together. When you look at the use of the word, "Overflow", in Scripture, it can be applied in many ways. For instance, it's used in the fulfillment of a promise of blessing from the Lord in **Proverbs 3:9-10**: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine." *Overflow* could be an indication of the blessing of the Lord.

Overflow reflects the restorative blessing of the Lord in **Joel 2:23-24**: "Be glad, O people of Zion, rejoice in the Lord your God, for he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before. The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil." It refers to the sufferings and comfort of Jesus in **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows."

Overflow speaks of the love of the saints in **1 Thessalonians 3:12**: "May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you." It is an earmark of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, according to **Romans 15:13**: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy

Spirit.”

The word is connected to praise given by God’s people in **Psalm 119:171-172**: “May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.” It’s also used to express giving thanks in **2 Corinthians 4:15**: “All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.”

And *overflow* is, of course, also found in one of the most well-known and widely read Psalms in the Bible, our reference verse for this week. Chances are, even if you weren’t a Christian at the time, you’ve heard this Psalm. It’s interesting that we can’t pin down the time of David’s life during which he wrote it. It’s likely when he’s in a place of rest and prosperity. He’s probably older, as he knows what it means to have enemies to write about. It’s a Psalm that reveals the nature of God and who He is personally to David and to us all. One can’t help but think of David’s time of solitude tending sheep as a young man out in the fields alone and in obscurity. He learned how to be a shepherd himself, taking care of the sheep, making sure they were fed and watered, accounted for and protected.

A shepherd was responsible for feeding and watering the sheep. He had to lead them to green pastures. Often on the hills, he would have to lead them from hill to hill and through intermittent valleys that would, at times, be shrouded in shadow. There were enemies and natural predators in the valley...the valley of the shadow of death. He had to know the terrain. He had to have vision for the sheep. He had to count the sheep at the end of the night to make sure he didn’t lose any along the way. A good shepherd would make the sheep “pass under the rod”, a practice that not only allowed him to count the sheep, but to also examine them for health. A good shepherd could catch insects and parasites that would spread disease on the sheep and check to see if there were any injuries that needed care. A good shepherd would protect the sheep, as David exhibited in the killing of the lion and the bear when they attacked the sheep.

As this Psalm draws to a close, we encounter this special verse, rich with meaning: “You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” (**Psalm 23:5**) This verse serves as the foundation for our church’s theme for

2025. Let's focus our attention on the first part of the verse, which deals with God's preparation and provision: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies..." This truly is a remarkable portion of scripture. *You prepare* - Preparation is so important to God. I think of Elijah preparing the altar as he challenged the prophets of Baal right before God consumed it with fire. I think of John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus. I think of Joseph preparing for seven years of blessing. I think of Jesus asking the disciples to prepare the place for the Last Supper. I reflect on how Jesus' body was prepared for burial. I think of Jesus going to prepare a place for us in heaven. I think of God preparing a table.

The word *prepare* in the original language means, "to put in a proper and systematic order." In a deeper sense, it means, "to order" or "to ordain." God has brought order to the seasons of overwhelming chaos in our lives. God has created order out of what seems to be out of control, out of sync, and out of bounds. He has done it in the face of hostility, not in the absence of it. His sovereignty, dominion, and power are so great, His favor so immense, His love so overwhelming, His care so complete, His planning so generously undeserved, that He makes our enemies watch in utter defeat as we rest and enjoy what He has prepared in their presence. As Paul quotes the prophet Isaiah in **1 Corinthians 2:9**, "However, as it is written: 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him...'"

God has amazing plans for you and incredible things for you to accomplish this year. **Ephesians 2:10** says, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." Divine preparation is a testament to the intentionality and love of God for you personally. Think of all that God has prepared for you! On the other hand, what have you prepared for God? Do we prepare ourselves to meet with God when we come to church? Do we prepare ourselves to meet with God each day in our devotions? Do we prepare ourselves to impact people for Jesus? Do we prepare to be generous and honor God with our tithe and offering? Do we prepare our hearts and have a posture to forgive? If you ask just about anyone, most people would say they perform better, respond better, and handle situations better when they are prepared.

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. What do I believe God has specifically prepared for me this year?
(Pray about it.)
2. What do I believe is God's part, and what is my part, to see these things come to pass?
3. What is standing in the way between me walking in what God has prepared for me?
4. What do I need to prepare for God? In what ways can I grow this year?

WEEK 2

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Psalm 23:5

Welcome to week 2! Fasting isn't easy and your flesh might be dying a little bit. That's a good thing. Our spirit is coming alive in Jesus. We are becoming more sensitive to His Spirit and more attuned to His voice.

When I think of the word *overflow*, I'm reminded of family vacations across the country when I was young. Several times during the summers of my childhood, my family would drive across the country and visit the National Parks. We saw everything from the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert, Garden of the Gods, Estes Park, Mt. Rainier, Yellowstone, Glacier, Yosemite, King's Canyon and Joshua Tree, along with a bunch of others. I loved it! Overflow brings a specific object to mind, located in Yellowstone National Park. You've probably already guessed it: Old Faithful! I was amazed as a kid to watch that massive geyser erupt with such regularity.

Old Faithful is a highly predictable geothermal geyser and has erupted every 44 minutes to 2 hours since 2000. More than 1,000,000 eruptions have been recorded. One of the contributing factors to the reliability of Old Faithful is the fact that it is not connected to any other thermal features of the Upper Geyser Basin. Eruptions can shoot 3,700 to 8,400 gallons of boiling water to a height of 106 to 185 feet lasting from 1½ to 5 minutes. The average height of an eruption is 145 feet. The time between eruptions can range from 60 to 110 minutes, averaging 66½ minutes in 1939, slowly increasing to an average of 90 minutes apart since 2000.

Old Faithful is the picture of consistency and overflow. Consider

a couple of observations from the old remarkable geyser for a moment. One of the things that makes Old Faithful so consistent is that it isn't connected to any other thermal features in that particular basin. This means that it has a dedicated source of energy and power. Did you catch that? One of the things that makes us consistent as Christians is dedication to one power source. When we fix our eyes on Jesus, when we become completely reliant on God, when we look to the Holy Spirit to help us, when we look to our Heavenly Father for what we need, then we rely on His power alone, not other sources that will let us down and leave us empty. When we have one allegiance, the Lord, then we aren't divided in what we look to for help and strength. He can overflow in our lives. James writes in his Epistle, "Because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." (**James 1:6-8**) In some ways, instability is the opposite of consistency. God wants all of our heart. When he has that, we get overflow. Consistency deals with devotion and dedication.

David wrote in **Psalms 23:5**: "...You anoint my head with oil..." Another familiar psalm assigned to David found in the collection of the Song of Ascents is Psalm 133. The Song of Ascents was a collection of psalms that related to the number of steps up to the temple. The ascent was going up to the temple. **Psalms 133:2** is instructive for our discussion this week and it relates to Psalm 23: "It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes." *Overflow* is like precious oil poured on the head. Anointing oil was often applied to the head, and would drip down upon the beard and the collar of the person being anointed. Essentially, everything else was covered when the oil was applied to the head. When the anointing of God is applied to your life, it impacts everything else. Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." This year, our priorities need to mirror His. Our values need to align with His. Our patterns and habits need to mirror His. Our beliefs need to mirror His. Our practices need to mirror His. Our lives need to mirror His. Our hearts need to mirror His. When these things are in alignment, then we posture ourselves to receive the anointing of God. It's the anointing of God that breaks the yoke, the bondage of heaviness, and the resistance of the enemy in our lives.

Anointing represents the favor, empowerment, and approval of God. It represents the calling of God. When people were anointed in the Old Testament, they were anointed for something specific. For instance, David was anointed three times to be the King of Israel. God anointed Him on purpose and for a purpose. Anointing represents the presence and Spirit of God. The Bible says in **1 Samuel 16:13**, "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power..." Anointing represents consecration, to be set apart. The anointing of God is divine favor, approval, and ability. It empowers you to accomplish what once was impossible.

Listen to what David, the great warrior, says of God: "You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall." (**Psalms 18:28-29**) In the same psalm David writes, "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn." (**Psalms 18:32-36**) Many of these things are superhuman. They are supernatural! That's a little bit of what anointing looks like when it hits your life. Do you realize that you need God's help? Consider the question seriously. Maybe we have learned to be too self-reliant and not God-dependent. What God has called you to will require dependence on Him to fulfill. He's the same God that is made strong in our weakness. We need divine empowerment to be able to do what we otherwise could not. Seek God: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." (**Proverbs 3:5-6**)

David was set apart. God saw this humble shepherd boy in the middle of nowhere and used him to be king. How fitting that David was from Bethlehem, and Jesus was born there too. Jesus was from David's kingly line and from the same tribe - the tribe of Judah, the tribe of praise, the tribe of the lion, the tribe of kings! Jesus was also a shepherd - the Good Shepherd. Perhaps David is reflecting on the unique call upon his life in **Psalms 139:16**: "Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your

book before one of them came to be.” David understands that God has an intentional purpose and plan that He ordained, prepared, and set in motion from the beginning. God’s plans and purposes stand firm even in the presence of David’s enemies. God’s anointing empowers him to accomplish what would otherwise be impossible.

In Hebrew, the word “anointing” has several meanings: “to grow fat, to be well-fed, to be prosperous, to be healthy, to consecrate.” It’s a metaphor, a symbol, for the Holy Spirit. Everything is blessed with the anointing of God. *Notice that David was faithful to serve before he was ever anointed to rule.* The anointing came before the overflow as well! We’ll talk more about this next week. There’s one more definition of anointing in the original language that is important for us to recognize: “to accept”. We accept what God has for us, but He also empowers us as a sign of acceptance. God’s anointing of David demonstrated His approval of David’s heart and character, even though David was not the most obvious choice by human standards. The Spirit of the Lord came upon David, empowering him to fulfill God’s calling in his life. This empowerment prepared David for the challenges and responsibilities of being king. It’s a big deal for God to anoint us because it is, in some cases, a sign of His acceptance of a life pleasing to Him. God wants to empower us to fulfill His plan in our lives. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** says, “Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Where can you align your life better with God’s Word to position yourself to receive greater anointing from the Lord?
2. Are there areas that you need to consecrate (set apart) to God this year? Are there some bad habits and negative strongholds that need to be broken? Are there some good habits that need to be formed?
3. Where do we need to be totally dependent on God? Are there things getting in the way of that? List them here and surrender them to God.

WEEK 3

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows."

Psalm 23:5

Welcome to Week 3! We are nearing the finish line. Let's make this last week really count. Don't get weary in well-doing. You'll reap a harvest if you don't give up! It might seem odd, but when I think of us praying and fasting together, it reminds me of drilling for oil. A commodity worth so much that fuels the world is trapped under the ground, deep within the bedrock, buried deeply beneath the surface. It takes a lot of work and energy to penetrate the earth to get to where the oil is located, but once you do, there's an overflow! There can be countless efforts with no results, more hard work with nothing to show, and even more work with no change - until suddenly, it all comes together!

I think of Elijah sending his servant seven times to look for a cloud that would bring a much-needed deluge to a land in drought for three and a half years. I think of the Israelites marching around the walls of Jericho for six days and then, all of a sudden, seeing breakthrough on the seventh day. Some things take time to build, but we know that He makes all things beautiful in His time, according to **Ecclesiastes 3**.

While oil in the U.S. wasn't discovered in Texas, its mass production, refinement, and the oil fields that produce it were essentially established there. Spindletop is an oil field located in the southern portion of Beaumont, Texas. On January 10, 1901, a well at Spindletop struck oil at a depth of 1,139 ft. It was called the Lucas Gusher (or Geyser) and it blew oil over 150 feet in the air, producing 100,000 barrels of oil per day. It took nine days before the drillers could bring the well under control using, believe it or not, a Christmas

tree. Gulf Oil and Texaco, now part of Chevron Corporation, were formed to develop production at Spindletop. The history to this well is difficult. It involved a great deal of dreams, money, hard work, failure, setbacks, and perseverance.

Spindletop was the largest gusher the world had seen, and catapulted Beaumont into an oil-fueled boomtown. Beaumont's population of 10,000 tripled in three months and eventually rose to 50,000. Speculation led land prices to increase rapidly. By the end of 1902, more than 500 companies had been formed and 285 wells were in operation. Spindletop produced 17,420,949 barrels of oil in 1902.

There's a steady build up and then comes an outpouring! There's build up in the heavens, then something breaks out on earth! There's build up in prayer and time passes and then all of a sudden, there's an answer!

There's an incredible example of this in **2 Kings 3**. Elisha is just coming on the scene in Israel as Elijah has been carried into Heaven by God. Three kings, the king of Israel, the king of Edom, and Jehoshaphat, king of Judah, gather together to fight the king of Moab. However, they decide to take a seven day reconnaissance ride to inspect the enemy through the desert of Edom with their army. At the end of that time, they had no water. They were in an incredibly desperate and vulnerable situation. Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, inquired if there was a prophet in the land.

2 Kings 3:11 says, "But Jehoshaphat asked, 'Is there no prophet of the Lord here, that we may inquire of the Lord through him?' An officer of the king of Israel answered, 'Elisha son of Shaphat is here. He used to pour water on the hands of Elijah.'" It's interesting because you never know what you'll ultimately be known for. Elisha was specified at this time as the one who served Elijah, the one who used to pour water on the hands of Elijah. Humble service opened the door for him to speak the Word of the Lord to kings:

Elisha said, "As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you. But now bring me a harpist." While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha and he said, "This is what the Lord says: Make

this valley full of ditches. For this is what the Lord says: You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water, and you, your cattle and your other animals will drink. This is an easy thing in the eyes of the Lord; he will also hand Moab over to you. You will overthrow every fortified city and every major town. You will cut down every good tree, stop up all the springs, and ruin every good field with stones." The next morning, about the time for offering the sacrifice, there it was—water flowing from the direction of Edom! And the land was filled with water.

2 Kings 3:14-20

It's amazing what happens when you set the right atmosphere in your life. Prayer and worship help to create that atmosphere. Elisha was put off by the lack of spirituality and evil in the two kings, but he respected the king of Judah. He asked for a harpist and then he prophesied the word of the Lord. What an amazing prophecy! You will see neither wind nor rain, yet this valley will be filled with water! God was going to do a miracle, but with no signs of what would create the miracle. All of a sudden, He shows up! All of a sudden, He works a miracle! All of a sudden, He provides! All of a sudden, He heals! All of a sudden, there's reconciliation! All of a sudden, there's salvation! All of a sudden, there's breakthrough! God not only met the immediate need, but he gave them victory over their enemies! Incredible! However, there's something significant about all of this: **they had to dig in faith!** The instruction was to do something unthinkable and at a considerable expense of energy when already dying of thirst! Make the valley full of ditches. In other words, dig... **dig in faith!** Create capacity to hold what God wants to do. Church, we are creating capacity through prayer and fasting for what God wants to do this year! And just remember our theme: **OVERFLOW.** Even though we are enlarging our capacity to contain more of what God wants, He is still going to overflow out of our lives into the lives of others! Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." (**2 Corinthians 9:12-14**)

And now we come to the heart of it. The last recognition, the last

statement made by David in **Psalm 23:5**, “my cup overflows.” So simple and so powerful! God is always enough. **Ephesians 3:20** says, “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us”. Whatever He’s called you to, he will provide for! He is always more than enough! Whatever your capacity, He will not only fill your cup, but He will also cause it to overflow! Again, overflow is abundance; it’s surplus, it’s run-over, it’s more than needed. The definition makes me think of the words of Jesus in **John 10:10**, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Live in God and live in His abundance! If you have Him, then you have more than you’ll ever need! It’s been a privilege to spend this time with you. We look forward to hearing all the testimonies of what God does in and through you this year! We love you and pray all God’s best for you!

DEVOTIONAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the ways that God wants to flow over and out of your life this year?
2. Where do you feel He is challenging you to overflow in your life?
3. What does He want to do to add abundance to your life?

PRAY ERS

THE PRAYER OF MOSES

"Have the people of Israel build me a holy sanctuary so I can live among them. You must build this Tabernacle and its furnishings exactly according to the pattern I will show you."

Exodus 25:8-9

"Inside the Tent of Meeting, the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend."

Exodus 33:11

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets: I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them."

Matthew 5:17

1. THE OUTER COURT | GIVE GOD THANKS

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Psalms 100:4

2. THE BRAZEN ALTAR | FOCUS ON THE CROSS

"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners."

Romans 5:6

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

3. THE LAVER | OFFER EVERY PART OF MY LIFE TO GOD

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship."

Romans 5:6

4. THE CANDLESTICK | INVITE THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN MY LIFE

"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given you a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:6-7

5. THE TABLE OF SHREWBREAD | CLAIM THE PROMISES IN GOD'S WORD

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."'"

Matthew 4:4

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes...(Take) the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray..."

Ephesians 6:10-18

6. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE | WORSHIP HIS NAME

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, for he is our God and we are the people of His pasture, the flock under his care."

Psalms 95:6-7

"The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."

Proverbs 18:10

7. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT | INTERCEDE FOR OTHERS

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."

1 Timothy 2:1-2



THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

"Pray in the Spirit in every situation. Use every kind of prayer and request there is."

Ephesians 6:18

"Jabez was more honorable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, 'I gave birth to him in pain.' Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, 'Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.' And God granted his request."

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

1. PRAY FOR BLESSING

"Oh, that you would bless me..."

1 Chronicles 100:4

"You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great."

Psalms 18:35

"I will bless you...and you will be a blessing to others."

Genesis 12:2

2. PRAY FOR INFLUENCE

"...enlarge my territory..."

1 Chronicles 4:10

"Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

Psalm 2:8

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints."

Ephesians 1:18

3. PRAY FOR PRESENCE

"Let your hand be with me..."

1 Chronicles 4:10

"The Lord's hand was with them and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord."

Acts 11:21

"Then Moses said to him, 'If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?' And the Lord said to Moses, 'I will do the very thing you have asked.'"

Exodus 33:15-17

4. PRAY FOR PROTECTION

"...and keep me from harm."

1 Chronicles 4:10

"The devil is like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour."

1 Peter 5:8

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Romans 8:35-37

THE PRAYER OF JEHOSHAPHAT

WHEN FACED WITH OVERWHELMING ODDS

1. GO TO GOD'S HOUSE

"Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard..."

2 Chronicles 20:5

When we are faced with trouble, it's always good to go to God's House. The answer is in His House. Jehoshaphat was faced with an overwhelming army that he had no power to face. He had no ability or strength in his nation to withstand such odds militarily. However, he met with the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem. There were so many families assembled there as well to stand in agreement in prayer. We can gain so much strength from other believers supporting us in a time of need and agreeing in prayer. When you're faced with an overwhelming situation, go to the House of God. Seek Him and get the support of the church.

2. RECOGNIZE WHO GOD IS

"...and said: 'O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.'"

2 Chronicles 20:6

This is all about acknowledging God and submitting to Him. This is a sign of humility and submission, of praising God because He's worthy, even in the midst of your circumstance. When we recognize God over our circumstance, then we declare in faith that He is bigger, and that we have the victory through Him. We can introduce

our problem or our challenge to our God.

3. RECOGNIZE WHAT HE'S DONE

"Oh our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?"

2 Chronicles 20:7

It's always good to recognize what our good and loving Heavenly Father has done for us. Israel often recounted the mighty deeds of God. They built altars and memorials so that future generations would know the might and power of God. When the Israelites walked across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, Joshua instructed them to grab rocks out of the riverbed and stack them up on the other side as a memorial. We need to remember the good deeds of God. In confessing what He's done in the past, we give thanks from a grateful heart. This builds our faith and trust, giving us hope that He will perform His will in the future. Gratitude is the right thing to do for its own sake. Thanking God reminds us of all that we have, all He has done, and all that is right because He is God and loves us. This act is extremely powerful and will instantly change the atmosphere of your life.

4. CLAIM HIS PROMISES OVER YOUR SITUATION

"They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgement, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'"

2 Chronicles 20:8-9

We also can declare the promises of God in our lives. When we declare, we take a stance of faith and apply God's promises directly to the situations in our lives where we need them to be fulfilled. God's promises are powerful.

"God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"

Numbers 23:19

5. RECOGNIZE YOUR NEED

"But now here are men from Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. O our God, will you not judge them?"

2 Chronicles 20:10-12

When we recognize our need, we explicitly state that we need God and cannot do it on our own. Again, this is a sign of complete and total dependence on Him, a point of humility, where we acknowledge our weakness and need. God loves to hear from His children. When we need help, all we have to do is go to Him and ask for it.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

6. COMMIT YOURSELF TO GOD

"For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you.' All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord."

2 Chronicles 20:12-13

At the end of the day, Jehoshaphat committed himself to God. He didn't know what to do, but he wasn't turning his eyes away from God. They were firmly fixed on Him. It doesn't matter how big the army is; if you're looking at God, He will always be bigger than anything else. Peter realized the importance of keeping his eyes on Jesus instead of the storm. When we put our faith and trust in Jesus, there is a power from God in it that enables us to do miraculous things through Him. Keep your eyes on Jesus, no matter what's going on. He is the author and finisher of our faith. He's got the answers. **He is the answer!**

THE PRAYER OF THE NT CHURCH

"Pray in the Spirit in every situation. Use every kind of prayer and request there is."

Ephesians 6:18

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

James 5:16

"It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. When he saw that this was met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. 'Quick, get up!' he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, 'Put on your clothes and sandals.' And Peter did so. 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,' the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and

rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen.' When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, 'Peter is at the door!' 'You're out of your mind,' they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, 'It must be his angel.' But Peter kept on knocking, and when she opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. 'Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this,' he said, and then he left for another place. In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter."

Acts 12:1-18

INGREDIENTS OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER

1. WHERE THERE IS PRESSURE, PROMPTING, OR PAIN

"In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple, he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears."

Psalm 18:6

2. WITH PASSION

"During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him."

Hebrews 5:7-9

3. WITH PERSISTENCE

"From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God."

Jonah 2:1

4. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

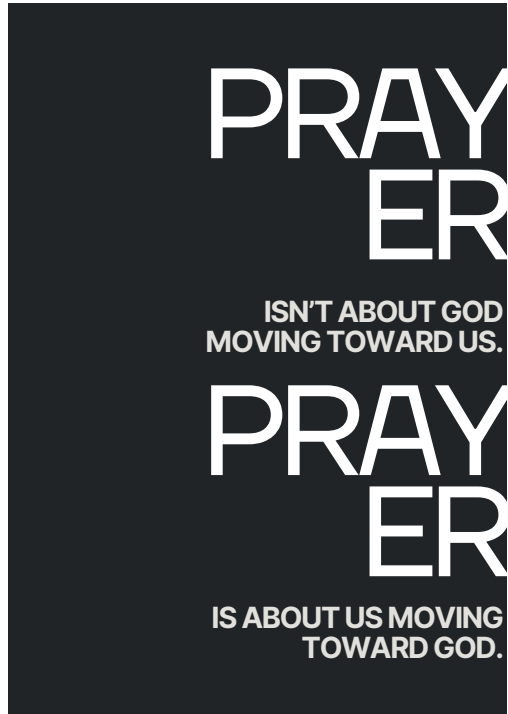
"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven."

Matthew 18:19

5. FOCUSED ON THE PERSON OF JESUS

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it."

John 14:13-14



THE PRAYER OF THE SHEEP

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Psalm 23:1-6

1. YOU ARE MY SHEPHERD

"The Lord is my Shepherd..."

Psalm 23:1

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."

John 10:14

2. YOU ARE MY PROVIDER

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want."

Psalm 23:1

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

3. YOU ARE MY PEACE

“He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.”

Psalm 23:2

“Peace I | 1 Peter 1:14-15

with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”

John 14:27

4. YOU ARE MY HEALER

“He restores my soul.”

Psalm 23:3

“He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls.”

1 Peter 2:24-25

5. YOU ARE MY RIGHTEOUSNESS

“He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Psalm 23:3

“As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do.”

1 Peter 1:14-15

6. YOU ARE MY CONSTANT COMPANION

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”

Psalm 23:4

"God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'"

Psalm 23:4

7. YOU ARE MY DEFENDER

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."

Psalm 23:5

"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

2 Thessalonians 3:3

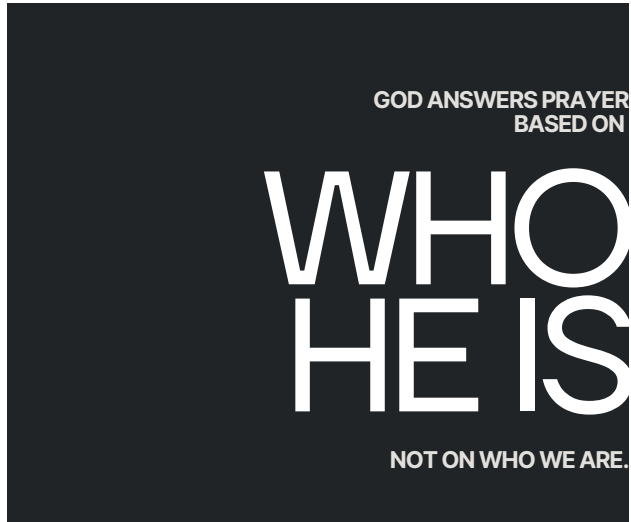
8. YOU ARE MY SANCTIFIER

"You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over."

Psalm 23:5

"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."

1 Peter 2:9



THE LORD'S PRAYER

"One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray...'"

Luke 11:1

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

Matthew 6:9-13

"OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN..."

1. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

"You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, 'Abba, Father.'"

Romans 8:15

God loves for us to call Him our Father. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for the relationship you have with Him.

"...HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME..."

2. WORSHIP HIS NAME

"God's name is a place of protection - the righteous can run there and be safe."

Proverbs 18:10

WHAT ARE HIS NAMES?

Righteousness | He makes me clean

Sanctifier | He has called me and set me apart

Healer | He heals all my diseases

Banner of Victory | He has defeated my enemy

Shepherd | He speaks to me and leads me

Peace | He is my peace in every storm

Provider | He supplies all of my needs

"...YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN..."

3. PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST

"He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern."

Luke 12:31

GOD'S PRIORITIES

Saving the lost

Guiding those in authority | *parental, spiritual, governmental, workplace*

His Will in us

"...GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD..."

4. DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

"I look up to the mountains - does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!"

Psalm 12:1-2

Ask God for what you want and need and then trust Him for the answer.

“...FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS...”

5. GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:9

Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any area that He brings to mind. Forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. You can even forgive people in advance.

“...AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE...”

6. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Ephesians 6:12

Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God's Word.

“...FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER.”

7. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD’S ABILITY

“Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”

Jeremiah 32:17

End your prayer time by reminding yourself of God’s ability. Return to praise and make your faith declarations.

“Yours is the Kingdom” - all rule belongs to you

“Yours is the Power” - all mightiness flows from you

“Yours is the Glory” - Your victory shall be complete

PRAYER & SCRIPTURE DEVOTIONAL

This is a great prayer outline mixed with Scripture readings. Simply walk through the outline while you look up the passages of Scripture.

1. THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE | PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD.

Mark 12:30

Think of a fresh reason to thank Him.

Psalm 100:4 | 118:24

Present your body in worship by:

Kneeling before Him as your Lord

Lifting your hands to Him as your Source

Standing in praise before Him as your King

Clapping your hands with rejoicing

Dancing with joy as a child

Bowing your head in humility

Romans 12:1 | Psalm 63:3-4

Sing a new song to Him.

Psalm 96:1-2 | Colossians 3:16

Invite Holy Spirit assisted praise.

Jude 20 | 1 Corinthians 14:15

2. CONFESSION AND CLEANSING | PRESENT YOUR HEART TO GOD.

Proverbs 4:23

Ask God to search your heart for:
Sin - receive cleansing and righteousness
Selfishness - receive holiness and sanctification
Stress - receive life and power
Sickness - receive healing and strength

Psalm 139:23-24

Remember the danger of self-deception.

Jeremiah 17:9 | 1 John 1:6-10

Set a monitor on your mouth and heart.

Psalm 19:14 | 49:3

Ask God to help you keep His purposes and goals in view.

Psalm 90:12 | Philippians 3:13-14

3. ORDER AND OBEDIENCE | PRESENT YOUR DAY TO GOD.

Psalm 37:5

Present the day's details:
Choose the fear of the Lord.
Commit your works to God.

Psalm 37:4-5, 31:14-15 | Deuteronomy 33:25

Indicate your dependance upon God.

Proverbs 3:5-7 | Psalm 131:1-3

Request specific direction for actions and decisions.

Psalm 25:4-5 | Isaiah 30:21

Choose to obey God's explicit instructions:

In the Word of God.

By choosing His will.

Matthew 6:11, 7:7-8

WARFARE PRAYERS

Prayer is not only communion with God; it is confrontation with the enemy. These prayers are very helpful in spiritual warfare:

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:11-18

1. THE ARMOR OF GOD

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17

“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 from the love of Christ and the place I have in Your kingdom. I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Cover me with Your holiness and purity - defend me from all assaults against my heart. Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Expose the lies I have believed, and show me the truths I need today. I choose to live for the Gospel in every

moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Give me the strength to walk daily with You. I believe that You are powerful against every lie and assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the traps of the enemy. Bring those Scriptures to mind today. Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day.”

2. THE WEAPONS OF WARFARE

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

“Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against me shall prosper. (Isaiah 54:17) Therefore I declare that no weapon formed against me prospers this day or any day to come in Jesus’ name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time. (Nahum 1:9) Therefore I declare that Satan cannot make trouble for me again, in this manner, as he did in the past in Jesus’ name. I declare all of these prayers accomplished and brought to pass by trusting You through faith and expectation in the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I confess to You all of my sins this day, yesterday, and every day past. I repent and renounce them, those known and unknown, those of omission and commission, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. I lay down at Your feet all of the sins of the flesh, the tongue, and of the heart, and all unholy thoughts and actions. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your precious blood for me.

I stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from before me, above me, around me and below me; from my home, workplace, church, and its ministries, children, and loved ones; from my works and labors, land, and my presence. I declare that he is not able to stand against me, and his works are taken captive and destroyed. No weapon formed against me will prosper, for the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against them. I declare all of these things accomplished by Your Word. Jesus, my Lord, I give You thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor, and worship for Your righteousness and holiness given to me by Your Word on my behalf.”

3. PROTECTION PRAYER

Based on 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:3-5 | Romans 12:1-2

“Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I submit myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of the enemy in my life. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I pull down every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ. I pray and thank you for a sound mind, the mind of Christ.

Today and every day I ask for protection over my spouse, each of our children, our immediate family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances, and myself. I also ask today for protection during all of our travels; additionally, I pray for our provision, finances, possessions, health, safety, and welfare. I put all of these things under the covering of Your precious blood and declare that Satan cannot touch them, on this day or any day to come.”

4. GENERAL CONFESSION PRAYER

Based on Romans 10:10 | James 5:16 | John 1:7-9, 3:8

“Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. You are the Messiah, come in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil. You died on the cross for my sins and rose again on the third day from the dead. I now confess all my sins and repent. I receive your forgiveness and ask you to cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, cleansing me, justifying me, and sanctifying me in Your blood.”

5. FORGIVENESS PRAYER

Based on Matthew 6:14-15 | Leviticus 19:18

“Lord, I have a confession to make. I have not loved, but have resented certain people and have unforgiveness in my heart. I call upon You, Lord, to help me forgive them. I do now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself in the name of Jesus Christ.”

6. PRIDE PRAYER

Based on Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 26:12 | 1 Timothy 3:6

“Father, I come to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know pride is an abomination to You. I renounce anything that would cause me to have pride in my heart in dealing with other people. I renounce these and turn away from them. I humble myself before You and come to You as a little child.”

Study Matthew 6:16-19 and remember that fasting is a means by which a person humbles himself before the Lord.

7. GENERAL BONDAGE PRAYER

Based on Exodus 20:4-6, 34:7 | Numbers 14:18

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I now renounce, break, and loose myself from all bondages or bonds of physical or mental illness upon me, my family, or family line as the result of parents or any other ancestors. I thank You, Lord, for setting me free.”

THE BLESSING OF THE HIGH PRIEST

“The Lord said to Moses, ‘Tell Aaron and his sons, ‘This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: ‘The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.’” So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.’”

Numbers 6:22-27

I thought it important to include this blessing along with all of the prayers that we have offered to God during our time together as individuals, couples, families, and as a church. This blessing is undoubtedly well known by many, as the worship song, “The Blessing,” was released several years ago. Maybe you were aware of the origins of the song, or maybe you’re just discovering where many of the lyrics came from. Whatever camp you are in, I’m sure that you were blessed by it just like I was (and still am). I wanted to say this blessing over you as we end our time of fasting and prayer together. It is fitting, powerful, and significant for all of God’s people. Let’s discuss its background and meaning together.

This blessing was commanded to be placed upon the Israelites, God’s chosen people of the Covenant. God told Moses to tell Aaron, the High Priest, to give this blessing to the people of Israel and as a result, to put the name of Yahweh on them. The command was given at the end of the Covenant that God made with his people through Moses after 40 days on Mt. Sinai. This Mosaic Covenant effectively established the Law of God that the Israelite people lived by and which kept them in convenient relationship with God. It would effectively point to Pentecost. The Law was given 50 days after the Passover and their subsequent exodus from Egypt. The Holy Spirit was given 50 days after Jesus celebrated the Passover with the disciples. The Word and the Spirit were both given at that festival.

The Holy Spirit being given signified the ratification of a new law instituted by Jesus Christ, since the old law was fulfilled in Him. This was now a law of grace. God's purpose was clear in both covenants - relationship with His people and a desire to bless them through it. It's fitting that this capped off the giving of the Covenant between God and His people.

The blessing is written in classic Hebrew poetic style. Harper's Bible Commentary states:

"In Hebrew, the first line of the blessing in v.24 consists of three words, the second line of five words, and the third line of seven words. Each line in turn consists of two clauses. The Lord (Yahweh) is explicitly named as subject in the first clause of each of the three lines. That the Lord is the source of blessing is emphasized again in the closing statement in v. 27 in which God says, "I will bless them." The "I" is emphatic in the Hebrew."

Mays, 187

The first line deals with blessing and protection. Blessing refers to continued life and children, land, the presence of God, fruitfulness, health, and all of the other things that make life enjoyable. It is general and comprehensive in scope. The words "keep you" refer to the divine protection of God from all harm and evil. Thus, there is safety, security, and blessing in the presence of God. Quite a start, wouldn't you say?

The second line deals with the face of God, which is really a way of saying the presence of God. If you think of the word "shine," you will immediately think of light: "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5) The history of the Israelites is that God protected and led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. These directed the Israelites, kept them cool from the desert sun in the day, and warmed them and gave them light at night. The very manifest glory and presence of God came in this cloud and fire as it hovered over and in the Tabernacle. God was literally among his people: "You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance - the place, O Lord, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, O Lord, your hands established." (Exodus 15:17) When the Temple was established in Zion, it is easy to see how God felt about it:

“For the Lord has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling: This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.” (**Psalm 132:13-14**) Jesus would later model what His Heavenly Father did in the past with Israel. John says, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (**John 1:14**) When God’s face shines upon his people, then the presence, blessing, and favor of God is upon them. The ultimate outcome of God’s favor is His grace and graciousness. Grace is simply defined as us getting something we don’t deserve. God loves to bless His children. This mercy and grace is not earned by us in any way. It is purely a gift of God to those who don’t deserve it. That is an essential facet of our salvation. Pure and simple, it just speaks to the amazing goodness and love of our God!

The third line sounds familiar to the first but is more intentional and personal. God is not just shining his countenance upon His people, but is turning His face toward us. Without the face of God upon us, we perish. The final line deals with “shalom.” Shalom isn’t simply peace; it also reflects a completeness and wholeness in God. It is the outcome of being in right standing and relationship with God. Peace can only truly come from God. The line also foreshadows the Messiah, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah sees him coming over 700 years before Jesus arrives and prophesies, “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (**Isaiah 9:6**)

Something else that God foreshadowed when He had Moses write the words to this beautiful blessing was the revelations of his persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The proper Hebrew name for God, “Yahweh,” is used three times in this blessing. Blessing comes from God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our God is simply amazing! I pray this blessing over your life and family this year and for all years to come!

hp

HOPE
POINT
CHURCH