

Daily Prayers



"This month in our daily prayers we will be trying to piece together an understanding of heaven from the Scriptures."

10/31. Matthew 3:2. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Lord Jesus, your Gospel message was that the Kingdom, your Kingdom, had arrived in you and your crucifixion was your coronation as King of that Kingdom on earth. Heaven wasn't merely some future reality. It was a present reality, brought to bear on this world by you. May we rejoice as we experience Heaven here. Amen.

11/1. Matthew 5:3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Lord, your Heaven, your Kingdom, does not work like our world. It isn't necessarily those with the most prominent influence, the biggest personalities, the most success, the greatest gifts of the most beautiful bodies who are blessed in your Kingdom. The humble, the lowly, those who rely utterly and totally on you are blessed in your Kingdom. May we remember that as we live out your Kingdom of Heaven on earth. Amen.

11/2. Ephesians 1:10. "as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

Father, your goal since the beginning was to reunite Heaven and earth, like the garden. Through your Son, you have forever dealt with sin and death. May we embrace this reality and live in light of your truth. Amen.

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11/3. Matthew 5:12. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Lord, while your resurrection ushered in the Kingdom, it is not in its fullest state yet. Our reward, eternal life in your presence, is waiting for us. There is nothing that can steal this away from us nor prevent your fully conquering sin and death in your return. Our hope has been and always will be in you. Amen.

11/4. Matthew 5:16. "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Father, Heaven is where you exist, but it isn't the only place you live. You came to earth in your Son; you exist in our hearts as your Spirit. Your space, heaven-space, is wherever you are. We bring Heaven with us when we carry your Spirit to this hurting world. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

11/5. Ephesians 2:6. "and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,"

Father God, this can be so confusing. Somehow we are already raised with you and seated with you, but yet we still live on this earth and seemingly interact as before. Your resurrection was, in a sense, our resurrection. Remind us of this truth, that we are no longer of this world but citizens of Heaven. Amen.

11/6. Matthew 5:34. "But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,"

Lord, when we consider your Kingdom present, we can think of it more lowly and approachable, but the reality is that Heaven is where your throne is, and what we see now is not the culmination of the overlapping Kingdom of Heaven. Draw us to be in awe of you like our ancient brothers and sisters who fall on their faces when faced with your presence, then remind us that through your Son, you've lifted our head and drawn us to you. Thank you, Father. Amen.

11/7. Ephesians 6:12. "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

King Jesus, there is another world that exists, one that is spiritual in nature. Your Spirit within us bringing to bear your Kingdom on this world. The defeated forces of evil, fighting though they know they've lost, against your rule. Remind us that this world is not all this is and focus on you in all things. Amen.

11/8. Matthew 6:20. "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."

Lord, this world is so appetizing, but your Kingdom is our priority. Please help us to pursue Heaven, to the things that matter, to the things that last. Amen.

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11/9. Matthew 8:11. "I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven,"

Lord, your plan since the beginning was to bring all people unto you. Through your Son, the barrier between you and us has been torn in two. Those who were far off are welcomed into the family. Thank you for welcoming us in. Amen.

11/10. Matthew 11:23. "And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to Heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day."

Lord, this is such a reminder that there are eternal consequences for individuals, for nations of people who receive or reject your Lordship. The heaviness of this reality should augment our entire lives, living and loving others in hopes that they might accept your love, mercy, and grace. Be with our world, Lord. Amen.

11/11. Matthew 18:18. "Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

Lord, many verses don't seem to make sense until we begin to look at Heaven as a place being brought to this world. In light of this reality, it makes sense that the things we do here will have an eternal impact on the renewed earth at your second coming. Our works have lasting consequences. Remind us of this truth, Lord. Amen.

11/12. Philippians 3:20. "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"

Father, at our core, we are not merely American citizens. Above all other titles this world gives, we are first and foremost citizens of Heaven, of your Kingdom. All that we do should be in reference to that Kingdom first. Please help us prioritize our citizenship and the expectations and benefits that this Kingdom brings. Amen.

11/13. Matthew 19:23. "And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven."

Lord, some things distract us from living into your Kingdom. It is so hard to keep from prioritizing that which this world prioritizes. Help us to view money as a tool, as a blessing to be used to bless others. Help us to look to you for hope, for confidence, for security. Amen.

11/14. Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Lord, in the scriptures, the word "heaven" is used for so many different things- the sky, the place where your throne rests, etc. It can be confusing and challenging to get a handle on this reality. Help us respond in wonder instead of frustration, Lord. You are unfathomable, and we rejoice in the reality that you are more than we can understand. Amen.

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11/15. Matthew 24:36. "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

Father, there is so much we don't know. We stare at the skies, one hand on the bible and another on the newspaper seeking to understand your plan. Help us not seek to understand your plan but to understand you on a more profound level. Amen.

11/16. Matthew 28:2. "And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it."

Father, while you primarily work through your Spirit-filled church in this world, you still work miracles that we cannot understand. Help us look for how you are working, in us, through us, and in our world. Amen.

11/17. Colossians 1:5. "...because of the hope laid up for you in Heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,"

Jesus, our hope is you. Because you have risen, defeating sin and death, we have hope for eternal life and a return to the garden. Focus our eyes on you, Lord, Amen.

11/18 Luke 10:20. "Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Jesus, like your disciples, we can get excited about the things that you are doing through us- our ministries, our programs, our work for the Kingdom. Refocus our eyes on you and not on that which you've done through us. Amen.

11/19. Luke 15:7. "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

Lord, it's so strange to think that in Heaven you are celebrating the things that occur on earth, and yet that seems to be what your Word says. You are a God who celebrates when your children repent and turn towards you. Help us to bring cause for celebrations in Heaven regularly. Amen.

11/20. Hebrews 11:16. "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

Lord, your desire has never been to remove us from this evil world but to redeem it. The battle we are in is against sin and evil, injustice and hate. This world is good. Humanity, created in your image, is very good. Sin has corrupted it, but you are redeeming it. Praise your Name! Amen.

11/21. 1 Peter 1:4. "...to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,"

Lord, how often do we have to be reminded that our treasure is not yet in this world? It is coming, with you. Help us not to get lost focusing on the silly things that we think will satisfy when all we need is you. Amen.

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11/22. John 3:27. "John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven."

Father, all that we have is from you. Remind us of this truth. We are blessed to be a blessing, not to hoard it for ourselves. Bring to mind those who we should share with today. Amen.

11/23. Revelation 21:1-2. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Father, at first glance, it seems like you wipe out the earth and start afresh to build your Kingdom here, but in reality, the original language says that the "new" Heaven and earth are superior to the old. The earth is new in that it has been remade. The sea is not a literal sea; it is a metaphor for unruly, wild, dangerous places in the ancient world. When things come to fullness here, your Kingdom will do away with all the troubling things of this world and will bring forth a city that will be like the garden. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

11/24. Acts 3:21. "...whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

Lord Jesus, you await at the right hand of the Father, and yet you reside within us through your Spirit. While we cannot wait until we get to see and be with you, until then, we work in the direction to which you've called us. Empower us with patience as we await our Lord. Amen.

11/25. 1 Corinthians 15:40. "There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another."

Father, one of the most confusing parts of Heaven concerns our physical bodies. When Jesus was resurrected, He had a physical body marred by the crucifixion, yet somehow more glorious than his body before. How does this work? Help us not to get hung up on details but to trust them to you, to be excited about what will be, not frustrated because we don't yet know what that will look like. Amen.

11/26. 2 Corinthians 5:2. "For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,"

Jesus, some days our cry for you to return is louder than others. Some days are hard, painful. We truly do groan in this tent. Help us focus our eyes on you and our hands on the work you have for us now. Amen.

11/27. 2 Corinthians 12:2. "I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows."

Jesus, what in the world is the third Heaven? This is so confusing! Is Paul referring to a heaven beyond the sky, beyond outer space? Who knows?! The Scriptures give us no clue. Help us to read this with wonder, recognizing that while you are far off, above all things in your authority, you are also so close with us in this world. Remind us of this truth. Amen.