



24-7 Prayer Guide Sept 26 – Oct 3, 2021

We always thank God for all of you, making mention of you constantly in our prayers.
1 Thessalonians 1v2

Table of Contents

Listening/Silent Prayer | p.1

Praying the Promises of God | p.2-3

Prayer for CrossPoint | p.4-5

Prayer for the LC Valley and the World | p.6

Prayer for the COVID-19 Pandemic | p.6

Prayer for Justice | p.7

Praying the Lord's Prayer | p.8

*Prayer Journal | p.9

Listening/Silent Prayer

Be still and know that I am God.

Psalm 46v10

Silence is a practice in prayer that counteracts the rampant hurry and habitual busyness of western life. Pausing, being still, and practicing silence opens our minds and hearts to the voice of God. Our world is increasingly becoming one loud echo chamber, and the fear that accompanies silence for many people reveals the brokenness within our culture and ourselves.

Jesus lived out rhythms of silence and solitude with the Father (Luke 4v42). His own life challenges us to actively turn down the volume in our lives to practice *being with Jesus*, in an interpersonal relationship with Him.

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."

Mother Teresa

Silent Prayer Exercises:

Stop talking

Just sit in silence. Begin by separating your identity purely from what you do or how you present yourself.

Be silent

Don't run from the emptiness or emotions that begin to arise. Ask God to gently help you process these as you wait upon him in the silence.

Listen

What comes into your mind? Give each thought that enters your mind to God. Take each thought captive to Jesus. The thoughts that enter your mind's eye—surrender those to God. Don't try to make sense of all of them. Just hand them over to God. Trust Him with what comes to you as you listen.

FIVE WAYS TO CHECK WHETHER IT'S GOD SPEAKING:

1. He will not contradict what He's said in the Bible
2. Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of discernment
3. Ask the advice of a friend or leader who loves Jesus — what do they think?
4. Observe your own conscience — do you have a sense of peace or disquiet?
5. Ask the Lord for confirmation — to say the same thing in another way

As you finish be sure to write everything down, even the things that seem strange or unrelated. If God is speaking, He will continue the conversation. If they are just random thoughts, that's okay; it's all part of the process of learning.

Praying the Promises of God

Praying God's promises over our lives and situations is a powerful thing to do. This prayer tool will help you to pray God's promises in your life.

*"It is grand praying when our mouth is full of God's Word, for there is no word that can prevail with him like his own."
Charles Spurgeon*

*"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us
to the glory of God."
2 Corinthians 1v20*

The Bible is clear that "without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11v6), yet also full of stories revealing just how difficult it is to live by faith in the midst of our fallen and rebellious world. Nevertheless, the life of faith is what we are called to. Faith in this context only grows and strengthens within us through prayer. And therefore, prayerful meditation on and declaration of the promises of God over our lives is our primary method for building a life of faith.

Why can we trust in these promises?

There are many promises of God that are simply ours because of who God is. These promises are timeless truths built on the absolute reality that God is a covenant-keeping and unchanging Father of immense goodness. The word of the Lord in Balaam's mouth declared:

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?" (Numbers 23v19)

God is both Promise-Maker and Promise-Keeper. We see many signs of this in the Old Testament. God will never leave His people, nor forget His covenant toward them. We can say yes to God's good purposes in our lives because "every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly realms" (Ephesians 1v3) has become ours in Christ.

This draws us into the biblical theme of inheritance. God has a "promised land" for us to live in, an inheritance and destiny in Christ for us to access that is immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine.

The journey into our destiny, however, can only be accessed through faith, and faith can only be strengthened in the promises of God, and these promises can only be known and appropriated to our lives in the place of prayer.

Put simply: prayer is the process through which the promise is discerned, carried and eventually fulfilled.

First, it's important that we remember which promises of God are conditional and require a premise of obedience from us to fully unlock the reality of that promise on our lives.

Second, it might be helpful to think of the promises of God in two distinct yet complimentary ways:

Timeless Truths

These promises could be described as general promises that help to saturate your spirit and mind in a God-immersed reality for your life.

These promises are most likely associated with the fidelity of God's character, His covenantal love and His commitment towards us in a myriad of ways, which we can pray over our lives regardless of the season of life you find yourself in.

The Bible contains promises for provision (Luke 12v22-32), for protection (Psalm 91), of new creation (2 Corinthians 5v17), of His unfailing love (Lamentations 3v22-23), for health (Psalm 103v1-3) of His non-forsaking presence (Hebrews 13v5).

The result of this will be a stirring of faith, an anchoring of our souls in the character of God, a sureness about our sonship, and a renewal of our minds onto a sanctified imagination. These promises are our rightful inheritance through the work of Jesus.

Situational or Seasonal Promises

God also likes to give us more specific promises for particular areas of our lives, people we are praying for, or seasons we are moving through.

Sometimes as we are seeking God for His direction in our lives, or when we are interceding for a specific child, friend or even city, He grants us an "epiphany-like" moment. This is where God gives us a window into what He sees for our lives, a person we are praying for, or a particular situation. This can come in word, a picture, an inner sense or a scripture and should result in giving us a preferred future, "a vision over visibility."

The point is God wants us to see something we can't currently see in the natural and then pray it through.

This is the promise we cling to, sometimes by our broken fingernails when reality is screaming in our faces the complete opposite. This is contending for the promise, like Abraham who despite the barrenness of his wife and the disqualification of his age, prayed and believed for the promise of a son: *"being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised"* (Romans 4:21).

Pray a few promises of God over your life and those around you who as the Holy Spirit guides.

Prayer for CrossPoint

We want to intentionally pray for our church family. We desire for God to continue to grow us to be a community helping people trust and fully follow Jesus. Please specifically pray for these THREE THEMES for our church:

1. Unity (Ephesians 4v1-6)
2. Love for one another (Romans 12v10)
3. Peace (Romans 12v18)

To encourage the body of Christ, we would invite you to write a prayer for some or all of the above people/groups. If you do, please share the prayer in written form. There are places to do this in the prayer room, or send an email or picture of your prayer to info@crosspointlew.org. Thank you for lifting up our church family!

Please pray for the following:

Elders – Pray for discernment and wisdom to follow Jesus where He would want us to go. Pray for a shepherd's heart to love and care for our church family.

Mark Greene, Matt Ivins, Dan Klempel, Lucas Fowler, Jeremiah Miller, Marshall Taylor, and Andrew Wilson

Staff

Vivian Ivins - Administration
Linda Stewart – Office Administration
Rob Cunningham - Director of Communications
Nate Hercula – Family Ministries Pastor
Courtney Robinson – Apprentice of Youth Ministry
Gavin Sischo – Apprentice of Youth Ministry
Bobbi Jo Bruni - Director of Kids Ministry
Carly Klappenbach - Apprentice of Assimilation and Missions
Sierra Evarts - Apprentice of Worship
Kevin Beehner - Executive Pastor
Andrew Wilson - Lead Pastor

International Workers (Missionaries)

Jason and Kristin – Southeast Asia

- Pray for Jason and Kristin as they assimilate into their new country.
- Pray for increased prayer and financial support so that unreached people who have never heard the Gospel of Jesus might come to know Him.
- Pray that others who are passionate about reaching the lost might be raised up to join the team.

Fatos and Iris and the CMA Team - Gjilan, Kosovo

- Pray for Fatos and Iris (national pastor). Pray they would continue to develop as leaders of the local church in Gjilan. Pray for strength to continue in their education and leadership development.
- Pray for Ron and Lisa Ramsey, CMA missionaries, who are laying the groundwork for church planting and Kingdom expansion in the region of Gjilan.
- Pray for Grant and Dakota Shaw as they are joining the team in Gjilan this fall.

Love the Valley Initiative

Please pray for the continued intentional service of our church to love those around us in the LCV through our local partners and through the various ways the Holy Spirit will lead this coming year.

Pray for Union Gospel Mission (UGM) as they are looking to come to the LC Valley and help those who are struggling with homelessness. Their mission is Rescue, Recovery, and Restoration for the poor in our world.

Leadership at CrossPoint

Please pray for our ministry leaders, CrossPoint Community Facilitators, Worship Leaders, and Serve Team leaders—those who are on the front lines of making disciples will undergo spiritual attack. Please pray for protection, boldness, faith, and openness to listen to the Holy Spirit.

Our Church Family

Pray for our church family in these ways:

- God would grow us up into the image of Jesus more this year
- We would be a bold people, willing to share our faith in a hostile world
- That more leaders would emerge who sense the call to make disciples of Jesus
- That we would grow in authentic community and deep relationships
- That we would be marked by radical generosity
- That we would know the Holy Spirit is working in and among us
- That we would see more people come to know Jesus as Savior
- That we as a church would grow in being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, and doing what Jesus did

Prayer for the LC Valley and the World

"God does His best work for the world through prayer. God's greatest glory and man's highest good are secured by prayer. Prayer forms the godliest men and makes the godliest world." E. M. Bounds

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession 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 2v1-27

It can be helpful to focus our emergency intercessions at times of large-scale crisis on three particular groups:

1. People afflicted: We ask God to comfort those who suddenly find their lives torn apart by grief, loss, fear, and trauma.
2. Pastors and priests: We ask God to give courage to church leaders in our city and around the globe seeking to bring Christ's presence and hope in the midst of trauma and profound questions of pain.
3. Peacemakers, politicians, and police: We ask God to give clarity and wisdom to government agencies and NGOs, blessing and supporting their efforts to bring justice, reconciliation, and aid.

Identify and pray for whatever crisis weighs heavily on your heart today.

Prayer for the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pray Psalm 91 aloud.

Then pray for:

- The containment of the virus
- The ill and isolated
- The protection of the vulnerable
- Local and national leaders
- Health professionals
- Those affected in other ways by the pandemic
- Personal fear and/or indifference

Breathe deeply, thank God for His presence, and release into His hands all you've prayed.

Prayer for Justice

We live in a world where injustice happens, where situations unfold that need God's presence and power to bring transformation. Starting to pray for justice can feel like a challenging process.

Here are three simple suggestions to get started:

1. ASK

Start by asking God how you can pray for the issue you're concerned about. The Lord's Prayer has a simple, effective framework to inform your prayers:

"Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name" – Begin with worship. Jesus is Lord, even in areas of injustice.

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done" – What does God's Kingdom look like? How could His rule and reign change the lives of those who have been affected by injustice?

"Give us today our daily bread" – What are the practical needs you see that need to be addressed?

"Forgive us our sins" – Who are the sinners and sinned against? What responsibility do we have to say sorry or to forgive? Pray for outbreaks of mercy.

2. BELIEVE

We have hope. God can — and does — change the world. Even the greatest injustice can be overcome by the power of prayer. God can make a difference and often chooses to act through our prayer and action. Ask the Lord for the gift of faith to see, pray and act for the redemption of the situation you're concerned about.

3. PERSIST

We need to keep persisting in prayer even when nothing seems to be changing. There are many examples in the Bible and throughout church history of major breakthroughs that required faithfulness through years of prayer.

If you want to commit to praying until you see change, here are a few suggestions to help you:

- Hold a focused prayer day or week — invite people to join you to pray together.
- Use the Bible — write simple prayers from a passage like Isaiah 58 that focus on the issue of justice.
- Get outside — go to a place connected with the issue you want to pray for, such as a homeless shelter, hospital, or government building.
- Pray with others — gather a group of like-minded people; praying together is one of the best ways to keep going.
- Be responsible — some issues of injustice involve crime or danger; ensure that you don't put yourself in danger while you pray.

Praying the Lord's Prayer

"This, then, is how you should pray: '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. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.'"

Matthew 6v9-13

"To this day I am still nursing myself on the Lord's Prayer like a child, and am still eating and drinking of it like an old man without getting bored of it."

Martin Luther

"The Lord's Prayer correctly understood is one of the high roads into the central mystery of Christian salvation and Christian experience."

N.T. Wright

"To cultivate a deeper prayer life all you have to do is say the Lord's Prayer, but take an hour to do it."

Timothy Jones

This prayer given by Jesus can be used in two quite distinct ways:

As a model. The Lord's Prayer serves as the ultimate prototype. It is a condensed liturgical poem clearly intended for frequent repetition. It teaches us *what* to pray.

As a map. The Lord's Prayer guides us as we express the things in our hearts. Each line can be applied and expanded in personal conversation with the Father. It teaches us *how* to pray.

The Lord's Prayer Exercises:

1. Underline each distinct phrase in the Lord's Prayer.
2. Pray each distinct phrase *slowly* leaving a long pause between each phrase. Pray through the Lord's prayer this way a minimum of three times.
3. Pray each of the phrases you have underlined one at a time. Talk to God about each phrase, one at a time. For example, the line *Our Father in heaven*. Talk to God about being your Father, who is in heaven. Start there and continue with each phrase.

Prayer Journal

[illegible]