DAYS OF PRAYER



IN YOUR ALONE TIME

As a church, we are committing to 21 Days of Prayer from January 5th-26th.

Along with daily prayer, we encourage you to consider one of four fasting options.

Fasting can look different for everyone, but the end goal is always the same – a closer relationship with God.

1

STANDARD FAST

going without food for a period of time

REFERENCE LUKE 4:1-2

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Consider fasting all foods for a series of pre-selected days during the 21 Days of Prayer.

2

PARTIAL DAY FAST

skipping meals with the intentional addition of prayer & worship

REFERENCE JUDGES 20:26

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Consider avoiding all foods and drinks, besides water, every day for a set number of hours.

3

PARTIAL DIETARY FAST

going without specific foods for a period of time

REFERENCE DANIEL 10:3

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Consider eliminating categories of food so you aren't tempted to cheat on individual items.

4

MEDIA FAST

avoiding all electronic 'escapes' to help you focus on God and others

REFERENCE PHILIPPIANS 4:8

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE:

Consider avoiding forms of media that you would normally turn to for entertainment (ex. social media).

* TEXT "DAILY" TO 406-727-4849 TO SIGN UP TO RECEIVE OUR DAILY DEVOTIONAL VIA EMAIL *

JAN 5	JAN 9		JAN 10		
WORSHIP NIGHT 7PM LOCATION Main Sanctuary	PRAYER MEETING 6:30PM - 8PM LOCATION Main Sanctuar LEADER Aaron & Megai	у	PRAYER MEETING AT 6:30PM - 7:30PM LOCATION 2616 4th Ave N LEADER Nick & Molly Schwall		
JAN 10	JAN 11		JAN 12		
PRAYER MEETING AT 7PM - 8PM LOCATION 205 River Drive S LEADER Nate & Rachel Swanson	PRAYER MEETING 7PM - 8PM LOCATION Main Sanctuar LEADER Eric & Kelsey Crawford		PRAYER MI 7PM - LOCA New City LEAI Lee & U	TION B Wing DER Jdeen	
JAN 13	JAN 17		JAN 18		
PRAYER MEETING AT 6:30PM - 7:30PM LOCATION 3500 7th Ave S LEADER Tom & Jessica Hodge	PRAYER MEETING 6:00PM - 7:00P LOCATION 108 14th Ave S LEADER Noah & AJ McKenzie	М	PRAYER MEETING AT 6:30PM - 7:30PM LOCATION New City B Wing LEADER Bob & Cathy Meehan		
JAN 19	JAN 20		JAN 20		
PRAYER MEETING AT 6:30PM - 7:30PM LOCATION 3215 7th Ave S LEADER Mike & Cristy Frick	PRAYER MEETING 12:30PM - 1:30P LOCATION Main Sanctuar LEADER Ben & Rebecco Aliperto	M y	PRAYER MEETING AT 6:30PM - 7:30PM LOCATION New City Youth Facility LEADER Steve & Christel Fleming		
JAN 23 JAN 26					
LOCATION Main Sanctuary LEADER			NIGHT I <u>ON</u> ctuary		

3 QUICK THOUGHTS ABOUT FASTING

1. GOD REWARDS FASTING

MATTHEW 6:17–18

"...when you fast...your Father,
who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

We didn't come up with this plan. He did.

God desires to bless you when you pursue Him in practical ways. Rather than getting really specific in your idea of how He should bless you, pray for contentment with whatever He chooses as your reward. It may be different than you expect. It may come at a different time. But God is good and so are His rewards.

If you choose your reward, it might be a cheeseburger that you could eat immediately. *God can do better than that, but it might take patience*. Let Him decide when and how He will reward you, and look forward to it! He's your Father and He's good at blessing you!

2. JESUS EXPECTS US TO FAST

MATTHEW 6:17 "...when you fast..."

Jesus never said, "if you fast". He said, "when you fast". As radical as it can seem to stop eating or to change your diet, this is normal behavior for a follower of Jesus. Stirring hunger as we pursue God is good.

Congratulations! You are fulfilling a command from Jesus, which is always good! Don't give up! You can do this! Jesus expects you to!

3. FASTING IS SUPPOSED TO BE HARD

MATTHEW 6:16,17
"When you fast, do not look somber...when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face..."

When Jesus taught us how to fast, He had to emphasize how to *not look miserable*. He took the time to teach us how to look normal. Why? Because fasting makes you feel miserable and not normal! Fasting is supposed to be hard.

That's the point. While I fast, I'm teaching my body that my spiritual craving for God is more important than my body's craving for attention. But my body is fighting back!

Don't give up when it gets difficult. *That's when you know it's working!* Keep showing your stomach that God is the Boss!

DAY 1 // JAN 6TH **HELLO**

GENESIS 1:27-28 NLT

...God created human beings in his own image... Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply..."

Scripture records many different names of God. Each one is meaningful but, because He is beyond description, none of these names can fully capture the full essence of who God is.

In the days to come, we will take a closer look at the significance of the names of God we see in the Bible. We will reflect on how some of His names were revealed, how each name was special for the people taking part in the "God conversation", and how those conversations are still influencing our lives today.

But first, let's remember that He is the One who started the chat.

From the very first chapter of the Bible, just 28 verses into it, we see God conversing with man. He is revealing His nature, His love, and His generosity.

You can *know God.* He *wants* you to know Him.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Thank you, Jesus, for always pursuing a closer relationship with me!"
"Lord, I reject the voices and feelings that tell me you've given up on
me. Please forgive me for believing that lie!"

"Dear Father, I want to be closer to you. Please work this deeper into my heart as my top priority."

DAY 2 // JAN 7TH "I AM"

EXODUS 3:13-14

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?', what shall I say to them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said,
"Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you."

Let's start with "Jehovah", it's the first part of the compound names we'll be studying together. In this passage of Exodus, we have a powerful declaration from God in response to Moses' insecurities and questions. He self-identifies as "I AM". That's the Hebrew word "YHWH", which we usually pronounce "Yahweh", or more commonly "Jehovah".

This powerful name identifies two crucial truths about God for us:

- 1) God is *self-existent*. That means he doesn't need me, or you, or another god, or nature, or karma, or oxygen, or food to exist. He is the great "I AM". He holds all of creation together but needs no one to hold Him together. He is the first and last cause of everything, the Alpha and Omega.
- 2) This same great "I AM", is a *personal Jehovah*. He's not an energy field, or a force made up of midichlorians, or just the sum of the universe. He's a person. A being. Someone who desires to be known by each of us, and be intimately involved in our lives. He is Jehovah!

Jehovah wants you to rest in His *sustaining power* in your life. He wants you to know Him as a *personal* God.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Thank you, Father, for being more powerful than any negative forces in my life!"

"Jesus, teach me to rest in the knowledge that you hold all things together."

"Father, draw me closer to you. Show me more of your character and your personality."

DAY 3 // JAN 8TH THE NAME ABOVE

PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

What's in a name? Identity? Heritage? Significance? Power?

We are all very familiar with the concept of a name. We each have one and we use them every day, almost everywhere we go. They reveal things about us and those we know. The same is true of God.

As we embark on these 21 Days of Prayer and begin to study some of the names of God, we must recognize that every name of God finds its perfect expression in Jesus, the name above every other name, the only name by which we may be saved.

Hebrews says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. 1 Peter tells us that Jesus was chosen before the creation of the world. This is just a glimpse of God's incredible plan. Ever since Adam and Eve, God began unveiling Himself, all the time pointing towards Jesus.

Let's open our hearts and allow God to do an incredible work in us as we discover the magnitude of the name that is above every other name!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Lord, you stand alone, far above everything else. I choose you as my first priority!"

"God, help me establish a firm foundation in my life, built on your truth, your promises, and the power of your name."

"Thank you, Jesus, for coming to earth to display God's perfect nature."

DAY 4 // JAN 9TH JEHOVAH JIREH

GENESIS 22:12-14 NLT

"Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God.
You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."
Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide").

God asked Abraham for the ultimate sacrifice, his one, and only son. Was the God of life really requiring death? Yes.

God was requiring the death of Abraham's independence. He was requiring the death of Abraham's own reason, his own path. But look at what he received in the process; a revelation of the true nature of God.

The Lord is *Provider*.
God isn't a taker.
He's faithful, loving, and generous.
And He's changing your heart to look like His.

Sometimes, in order to show His salvation, He asks for your sacrifice.

God brought Abraham to the land of milk and honey. But he had to leave home to find it. God multiplied his flocks, his herds, and his fortunes. But Abraham left the best pastures beforehand.

It was God that answered the impossible prayer of an infertile couple. God gave them a son. And when they were willing to give him back, God is the one who revealed, again, that He is *Provider!*

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Thank you, Jesus, for helping me see your generosity in my life."

"Lord, please help me to trust your heart to provide!"

"Dear Father, help me respond to your commands to sacrifice.

I want my heart to be like yours."

DAY 5 // JAN 10TH CAN'T SEE IT?

HEBREWS 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."

Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

It sometimes feels as though things are playing out in opposition to the promises of God. Does that mean God's not in control? Does that mean that He changed His mind?

It can be easy to assign our ways and our thoughts to God because it's what makes sense to us but, in reality, we simply can't see the big picture. Romans 11:33 reveals that God's ways are 'unsearchable.' This is a clear reminder that we don't have all the details when it comes to the plan and purposes of God or its timing.

In God's names, we see a revelation of who God is, not just what He does. So, when we say, 'Jehovah Jireh, He Will Provide,' we are not defining one of God's actions, we are declaring His very nature. God will always operate within His nature so we can be confident that He will always provide!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

Heavenly Father, show me where I've settled for anything less than what you have for me."

"Lord, forgive me for thinking that my plan is better than yours."

"Thank you, God, for reminding me of your faithfulness through every season."

DAY 6 // JAN 11TH WANTS VS. NEEDS

MATTHEW 6:31-33

Therefore do not be anxious, saying,
'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'... your heavenly Father knows that you need them all.
But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

I've noticed a funny problem: God and I are often not on the same page about what a "NEED" is.

I was recently walking my 5-year-old down the toy aisle in a store. I know, rookie mistake. After some tough negotiation, he's almost in tears at my refusal to buy the store out. He settles on one toy, and declares with utter certainty: "But Dad, I NEED this!"

In his mind, he is fully convinced that this particular Lego set is an essential need in his life. Similarly, I find myself many times fully convinced that I NEED a more reliable car, a larger house, better health, or a more convenient church service time. I'm usually wrong: I don't NEED it, I WANT it.

Even though God promises to supply all our needs, that doesn't mean that our lives are guaranteed to be comfortable. It doesn't mean that we'll never experience hunger, sickness, homelessness, or persecution. To claim that would be to ignore the examples of Paul, the apostles, millions of Christian brothers and sisters throughout history, and the words of Christ (John 16:33, Luke 21:12-19).

But, what it *does* mean is that Jehovah-Jireh promises to *provide* and *sustain* us through whatever trial, temptation, lack of necessity, or even *death* that we experience. That is what we truly need! Whatever this life throws at us, we can echo the words of Paul:

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:11-13

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"God, bring my idea of a need into line with yours, please. Give me your eternal perspective!"

"Jesus, please give me the faith and perseverance to follow your example through the trial I'm in right now."

"Father, I repent of desiring comfort more than desiring You. I'm giving back control of my life, health, wealth, and family to You today."

DAY 7 // JAN 12TH PRAYER, PEACE, PROVISION

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7,19 NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹At the moment I have all I need-and more! I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus. They are a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable and pleasing to God. And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.

God is not a taker. He's faithful, loving, and generous. And He's changing your heart to look like His. God's heart is generous. He desires to supply your needs. He wants you to tell Him about your needs, enjoy His peace, and trust His provision.

Turn worry into prayer. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Name the circumstances, people, and things you are worried about. Name them to God in prayer. He won't think they are petty. In fact, Psalm 56:8 says He keeps track of your tears. After telling God all of your worries, tell Him thank you. Thanking Him for all He has done moves the focus from all your needs to all His provision.

Let struggle go and God's peace will come. Then you will experience God's peace. If that seems impossible, it is, at least to human reasoning, but not to God's character and provision. More than just a calm feeling, God's peace guards our hearts from worry and other destructive tendencies.

Honor the true supplier. God who takes care of me Paul, the author of Philippians, recognized God had used the people at the church in Philippi to meet his needs. Paul wanted the people to know the value of their sacrifice. You are in the middle of a divine transaction; God provides for you and you share His provision with others out of your gratitude.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Dear Father, today I give You my needs and accept Your peace."

"Father, thank you for supplying all my needs through Christ Jesus."

"Lord, you know my needs better than I do and I choose to trust Your provision. Show me how to share Your generous provision with others.

DAY 8 // JAN 13TH WHAT'S GOING ON?

ISAIAH 55:8-11 NIV

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts ... so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

Have you ever watched a movie and wondered, "Where is this thing going?" Sometimes life can feel the same way. But rather than being able to take that movie out, and pick out a different one, you have to ride this one out. I have felt the same way before, and when life took a turn that I didn't expect, I found myself wondering, "God, what's going on here? This isn't how I expected this whole thing to go down."

I'm reminded of our friend, Abraham, in the book of Genesis. We see that God made a promise to Abraham (that he would become the father of many nations), and the beginning of that promise being fulfilled (the birth of his son, Isaac). Then we see God tell Abraham to sacrifice his one and only son, Isaac. Talk about a real plot twist. In a moment the whole thing went from feeling like it was going down the right track, to all of a sudden feeling completely crushed.

In the book of Romans, Abraham is referred to as someone who is righteous. Not because of what he did, but because of his faith. You see, Abraham believed what it is that the prophet Isaiah spoke about 1,300 years later. That no matter how this may look like right now, God will fulfill His promise. In His timing and in His way.

In the end, God stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac, and instead provided a ram for the sacrifice. You see, we serve a good God, one that loves and cares for us and is working everything together for our good. So, don't let circumstances, sudden turns, and plot twists tempt you into doubting or giving up on God. He hasn't given up on you. He is with you, and His promise will be fulfilled at just the right time.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Everything comes from you, God. You will provide at just the right time!"

"Lord, forgive me for doubting in your promise for me. I'm yours!"

"Dear Father, help me honor your voice, do your will, and trust your timing.

My life and my timeline are yours."

DAY 9 // JAN 14TH

PSALM 139:1 ESV O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

The most precise idea behind "the LORD will provide" is that of seeing and being seen. "For God to see is to provide," Charles Spurgeon once said, "our heavenly Father sees our need, and with divine foresight of love prepares the supply. He sees to a need to supply it; and in the seeing he is seen, in the providing he manifests himself."

Have you ever used the phrase "I'll see to it," when committing to a task? If you're like me, your answer is almost never that, word-forword. I'll usually say something like, "I'll take care of it," or "I got it." But what I'm getting at when I say that is that I see a need and am willing to address it to the point of completion.

The Bible is full of stories of God's provision. The first record of the use of this particular name for God may be attributed to Abraham but God was at work seeing and providing from the very beginning. He saw Adam and Eve in the garden. He saw Abraham and Noah and Moses and Joshua. He saw Peter and John and Nathaniel and Paul, and He came through in their time of need time and time again.

God saw his creation and called it good. He saw the culmination of his creation fall to sin, and He saw the end awaiting that fallen creation. Then He provided a way out. The entire story of the Bible is God seeing His creation, seeing its need for salvation, and *providing* that salvation. He saw a need and addressed it to the point of total completion through His son's life, death, burial, and resurrection.

God, Jehovah Jireh, sees you. He knows you. He will provide!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Father, you see me and you know me; help me to see and know you."

"Thank you, Lord, for seeing my needs and providing."

"Holy Spirit, help me see others the way you do and lead me in showing the love of God the Provider to them."

DAY 10 // JAN 15TH ENOUGH

PHILIPPIANS 4:12 NIV

"I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want."

Believe it or not, fixer-uppers have been a thing long before Chip and Joanna Gaines were making them popular. For those who may not be familiar with the term fixer-upper, it basically means buying a house that needs a lot of TLC; putting in a ton of work on renovating it; then coming out with a home worth more than what you had purchased it for. Often, people will turn around and sell that house to purchase something newer, bigger, and better than what they had before.

So, when it came to buying my own home, I went to what I knew (thanks to my parents and the Gaines family). Get a fixer-upper, put some work into it, and then get on to the next one. And it was around year 3 of living in our current home when I started to get the itch to upgrade. But before I could get any further down the road of selling, God asked a simple, yet powerful question, "Why?" I quickly gave him a list: quieter neighborhood, more square footage, someplace that had a garage, etc., etc. Then He responded with another question, "What if this is the only house I ever give you?"

You see, God wasn't worried about my home, He was concerned with my heart. God had clearly blessed my wife and me with a wonderful home, and we knew that and we're very grateful for it when we first moved in. But, over time my gratitude had been replaced with a desire of gaining more. And really, my list of "reasons" was more of a list of complaints.

Often when we talk about God as our Provider, our attention can go towards what He will provide. But today, I want to encourage you to slow down and look at what He's given you. He will continue to take care of us, but it may be through something He's already provided.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"God, help me see what it is you've already provided."

"Jesus, thank you for always taking care of me."

"Lord, forgive me for not being grateful for what you've given me. You are enough!"

DAY 11 // JAN 16TH JEHOVAH RAPHA

EXODUS 15:26 ESV

... "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your Healer."

God reveals an attribute of His nature, "I am the Lord, your Healer."

Notice, He's not the Healer of everyone mentioned here. The Egyptians had punished and oppressed God's people. He didn't offer them His healing. He gave them disease.

Since God can give either healing or disease, it makes sense for me to ask which one I'd rather have, and what determines which one I'll get.

Is He my Healer?

Maybe I should read more to decide. Let's look at the verse. Am I serious about listening to His voice? Am I doing what is right in His eyes? Do I listen to Him and obey Him?

See, this isn't just about his ability to heal. It's about a relationship with Him that shares the benefit of healing – and that healing is far more than physical.

Lord, you are my Healer!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"All healing comes from you. You are Healer!"
"Lord, heal me in every way you see fit. I'm yours!"

"Dear Father, help me honor your voice, do your will, and trust your timing. My whole life is yours, not merely my disease."

DAY 12 // JAN 17TH BITTER WATER

PSALM 51:10

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

When the Israelites came to the river Marah, it was too bitter for them to drink. Then the Lord cleansed the water, and scripture says it became good to drink. It was at this same river that God is first called Jehovah-Rapha, but God had more in mind than just cleaning some water.

Jesus is known as the Great Physician. It's true that He can and does heal our physical bodies, but he came for more than just that. He came to heal our hearts from all of sin.

Spiritual healing comes when we're willing to let God examine our hearts, and bring to the surface that which is sin. Maybe it's pride, bitterness, unforgiveness from past hurts, or any other afflictions of the heart. Whatever it may be, God wants to heal it. But in order for him to do so, we must be willing to go through the process. It may be painful at the moment, but our Healer is faithful to fully restore that which was broken, hurt, or lost.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Lord, examine my heart. Cleanse me. Heal me. I trust you and I know that this process is worth it."

"Jesus, heal me in every way you see fit. I'm yours!"

"God, help me walk in newness of life. The old is gone, and the new has come."

DAY 13 // JAN 18TH INSIDE OUT

MARK 2:16-17 NLT

But when the teachers of religious law who were Pharisees saw him eating with tax collectors and other sinners, they asked his disciples, "Why does he eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he told them, "Healthy people don't need a doctor-sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."

I have often wondered why I don't see many of the physical healings that I read about in the scriptures happening in the world around me. Am I missing something?

My initial concept of healing almost always relates to the natural, material world. While God is certainly capable and does engage in the physical world, His greater focus is on our need for spiritual healing. As we read in the scripture above, He desires to restore those who are willing to recognize and admit their desperate need for a Savior.

When I remember this truth, I am reminded how often we see people taking new, powerful, spiritual steps in our church family. First-time salvations, water baptisms, marriages restored, addictions broken, identities restored are all evidence of the healing of God that is happening all around us.

Not only does God consistently heal people in these ways, but He also desires to use us in the process. Our availability to walk with people through difficult seasons is an invitation to watch God do the miraculous!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Jesus, there is nothing you can't do, no one you can't reach, and nothing broken that you cannot restore!"

"Thank you, God, for your healing in my life, the healing that has rescued my life and given me hope."

"Lord, help me see the greater need for healing in our world, the healing that reaches into the hearts and minds of those around me."

DAY 14 // JAN 19TH HE HEALS ALL OUR DISEASES

PSALMS 103:1-3 NLT

Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

How should we praise the Lord? With all we are!!!

Why should we praise the Lord?

He forgives all our sins. Only a God worthy of all we are would take all the wrongs ever done and forgive them as though they never happened. The contrast between the magnitude of our sins and the righteousness of God could not be starker.

We praise God for the unspeakable sins He has forgiven.

He heals all our diseases. Only a God worthy of all we are would heal us physically, emotionally, and mentally; would heal all our diseases. A toothache, a pandemic, a diagnosis of cancer draws our focus to our physical needs. And yet some of God's greatest healings occur in the way we think, the way we view others, the way we view Him. God's healing goes beyond the needs of our bodies and into our world views. The great joy of God is his willingness to save both our temporary bodies and our eternal souls. We praise God for the unthinkable diseases He has healed.

May I never forget the good things he does for me. So easily the goodness of God is taken for granted, so easily His grace and mercy overlooked. Today may we choose to praise the Lord, today may we choose to exalt His name with our words and actions. Our God is worthy of all that we are.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Dear Father, only you are worthy of my praise."

"Jesus, today I choose to remember the price you paid so my sins could be forgiven and my healing made complete."

"Holy Spirit, thank you for filling me and guiding me to love others with all I am."

DAY 15 // JAN 20TH WHO IS MY HEALER?

MARK 5:28 NLT

"For she thought to herself, 'If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed.'"

Do you ever feel like nothing is working? Maybe you've been seeking healing for a long time, and nothing has happened. Yet.

When we read this passage in its complete context, we learn that this woman had been suffering from internal bleeding for *12 years*. She had seen doctor after doctor and spent her life savings on medication, treatment, and procedures. Yet, she still was not healed. In fact, scripture tells us that she got worst. Just stop and think about that for a moment. She got worse, even though she had tried everything she could get her hands on. Or had she?

In reading this scripture, I can't help but notice the rise of confidence in this woman. She had heard of a man named Jesus and at that moment instantly *knew* who her healer really was, and her language reflected that. There was no "maybe", "possibly", or "hopefully" in her speech. Rather she said, "If I can just touch his robe, I *will* be healed". That's confidence. That's faith.

Now I'm not saying there is anything wrong with doctors, medication, or procedures. In fact, I'm grateful for all of those! Today, though, what I want to ask is whom are we seeking as our healer?

When Jesus was walking on earth, he healed lots of people. However, what's interesting is He never performed healing the same way, twice. But he always healed those who believed that he could.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Dear Father, all healing comes from you. You are my Healer!"

"Lord, heal me in every way you see fit. I'm yours!"

"Jesus, help me believe that you will heal. I trust you, your way, and your timing. My whole life is yours, not merely my disease."

DAY 16 // JAN 21ST THE HEART HEALER

JEREMIAH 3:22a

"My wayward children," says the LORD, "come back to me, and I will heal your wayward hearts."

When we read about Jehovah Rapha, often the Bible is not talking about physical or relational healing, although that is certainly a tremendous part of His healing power. Many times, we see God dealing with a different kind of healing: a healing of the heart.

We can be wounded from an almost unlimited variety of sources. Life is not easy. Living in a broken, sinful world is a painful experience. Often the wounds come from outside sources: relationships, family, society, or circumstances. Many times, the greatest wounds come from inside: the result of sin in our own life. God desires to heal you of those wounds, even if the healing is painful. God's not opposed to allowing pain when it's for a better purpose: heart healing (Deut. 32:39, Job 5:18, Hosea 6:1).

Whatever the source of our pain, God always wants to use it as an opportunity to draw you closer into His healing presence. Ask Him to draw you closer through the pain. Ask Him if there is something in your life that He wants to deal with. Ask Him what truths He wants you to learn about Himself through the pain He's allowed. And, if He reveals sin in your life He wants to deal with, Psalms 41:4 and Hosea 6:1 reveal our correct response: confession and repentance.

You see, we have the opportunity to be healed! But not just healed of the wounds that this life has heaped on us. There's a bigger issue that God wants to deal with. God allows wounds, or even sometimes causes pain Himself, because He sees that we need a more important healing: the healing of our heart from the disease of sin. The only question is, will we do our part? Will we repent and trust in His healing?

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Jesus, I know you feel my pain. Holy Spirit, I trust in your comfort. Father, I know you will never leave me and will walk with me through this"

"Father, I repent of the sins you've brought to light today and ask for your forgiveness."

"God the Healer, I ask you for the heart-healing that you've promised to give me. Bring me back into a right relationship with you."

DAY 17 // JAN 22ND **EVEN IF...**

DANIEL 3:17-18

If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God whom we serve is able to save us...But even if he doesn't...we will never serve your gods..."

Wow, talk about faith in God! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had absolute faith in Jehovah-Rapha's ability to rescue and heal them, even from certain death in the furnace. But the most amazing part of this story to me is their declaration: "But **even if** He doesn't..."

I think these men had an amazing eternal perspective here. They trusted in God's healing power, even if it meant they experienced physical pain and death. How does that make sense? How could they expect not to be healed but still believe in the Great Healer? Because they knew that heaven brought the ultimate healing. Read Revelation 21:4 and Matthew 10:28.

Remember, we only live TWICE! *Even if* we have an earthly life that is filled from beginning to end with suffering, chronic pain, loss, emotional injuries, or poverty, we can rest in the Healer's hands because He *will* bring healing in eternity.

John 16:33

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

Try praying this prayer from Habakkuk 3:17-18 out loud today as a declaration of faith in Jehovah Rapha:

Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

"Father, please give me an eternal perspective on your healing power."

"Jesus, you have overcome the world, and I declare that I no longer fear it. Give me the strength to walk in peace and boldness."

DAY 18 // JAN 23RD JEHOVAH NISSI

Exopus 17:8-16 NIV

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim.

Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and
go out to fight the Amalekites" ...

As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired... Aaron and Hur held his hands up...so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword...

Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner."

Moses raised his hands. Aaron and Hur supported each side. Joshua and the army of Israel swung their swords. But God sealed the victory.

Israel wasn't a nation of warriors. They had only recently been a nation of slaves. Fresh out of Egypt, this was an attack they weren't expecting and they weren't prepared for, so they were desperate for God's protection. So desperate that they were willing to accept a very unique "strategy". Talk about faith, especially for Joshua!

All armies rally under a banner. It's their vanguard, blazing the way into battle. It's their rendezvous point in times of trouble. It's their insignia, reminding them of the loyalty they have pledged to their leader.

To claim "The Lord is my Banner" is to accept a life of unconventional warfare. We choose a different approach to the struggle and opposition of this life. We handle anxiety, discouragement, torment, depression, setbacks, and disease differently than others who don't know Jesus.

Or do we?

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Jesus, please make me desperate for your solution to every battle."

"Dear Father, please forgive me for not trusting You.
I'm responding to my struggles like those who don't know You."

"Dear Lord, I choose your way, no matter what it is!"

DAY 19 // JAN 24TH FOR THE NATIONS

ISAIAH 11:10,12 NIV

[10] In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. [12] He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; he will assemble the scattered people of Judah from the four quarters of the earth.

Hundreds of years before Jesus arrived on the scene, the prophets in the Old Testament were pointing ahead to something incredible. God had already revealed Himself to the Israelites as Jehovah Nissi, but there was more to come.

Jesus Christ is the perfect representation of all of God's attributes (Col. 1:15-20) and therefore the exact picture of 'The Lord our Banner.' Jesus' life and death are the ultimate rallying call for all those that would surrender their lives and draw near to Him. He has invited all of humanity to 'gather in.'

When Jesus ascended into heaven, He didn't take the banner with Him. He actually placed it in each of us, the promised Holy Spirit! Now, as God's ambassadors, He is making Himself known to the whole world through our lives. God has positioned His people throughout the world to reflect Him and carry on His eternal invitation!

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Lord, I welcome the work of your Holy Spirit in me."

"Dear Father, help me see those around me who are lost without hope and give me the courage to represent you well."

> "Jesus, use my life as a banner of love and truth to the world around me."

DAY 20 // JAN 25TH THE MAIN ATTRACTION

PSALM 60:4 ESV

You have set up a banner for those who fear you, that they may flee to it from the bow. Selah

Banners are for those who raise them – they indicate celebration, remembrance, or announcement. Banners are also for those who see them – they're an invitation and a gathering place, they summon and call, they attract.

You've likely read or heard stories about early immigrants' journeys across the Atlantic to the United States and the pure ecstasy they experienced at the first sight of the Statue of Liberty. You may have watched movies with scenes of soldiers leaving the homeland for battlefields an ocean away, watching that statue fade away. You've also likely seen citizens of other countries flying the American flag in celebration of victory or in protest of oppression.

For centuries, people have now yearned to see that statue for the first time or have waved that flag in hopes that doing so would somehow, eventually, mean liberty for them and their families.

God is our banner because of the way we live our lives in representation of and service to Him, remembering His work and words that give us identity and purpose. God is Jehovah Nissi because all of that is an invitation, a summons, a tug to any who would believe but do not yet know what that means or how to do so. He is our banner because He also brings peace and calm during the storm, and where He is, there we can find refuge and relief from the enemy's attacks.

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"Father, you alone are my banner, my refuge, and my strength."

"Thank you, Lord, for faithfully displaying your glory and calling me toward it."

"Holy Spirit, help me live in a way that others are attracted to, leading them to celebrate, and rally to the presence of God."

.

DAY 21 // JAN 26TH GOD STANDS FIRM

PSALM 60:2-5 NLT

You have shaken our land and split it open...You have been very hard on us...But you have raised a banner for those who fear you—a rallying point in the face of attack. Now rescue your beloved people. Answer and save us by your power.

Do you feel like one of the Israelites right now? Wandering around in a wilderness, being attacked by what seems like an overwhelming force? Maybe your wilderness is a lack of community, or financial strain, or a devotional life that seems pointless. Maybe the force attacking you is marital strife, or temptations, or fear over the state of the world. Whatever your wilderness, whatever the attack, hold onto this:

God is your banner.

What does that mean? It means that when you feel like retreating, when you feel like the battle is lost, and your life feels pointless, you can rally to God! He is your hero, he stands firm no matter what comes and will save you and give you victory.

He has appointed you, anointed you, is presently empowering you, and His purpose for your life will stand firm. When you become confused and desperate, fix your eyes on Jehovah Nissi, your banner that stands firm.

"...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:2a

POSSIBLE PRAYER PROMPTS FOR TODAY:

"God, I trust that you will be my banner in the midst of this storm, no matter how desperate things get."

"Jesus, I fix my eyes on you. I am sorry for being distracted and fearful of the battle around me."

"Father, teach me how to hold your banner high so that I can bring the hope of victory to others around me."

NOTES:

NOTES:

