

Please join us over these next 21 days as we pray for our church and community.

Day 1 Core Prayer Point: *Lord, help me master anything that hinders my spiritual growth.*

I Corinthians 9:25 KJV

"And every man that strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

We must take practical steps daily to put Biblical principles into practice. We must practice moderation in anything that hampers our spiritual growth. Determine to set aside even good things in pursuit of God things.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to recognize the things in my life that I allow to hinder my spiritual growth. Lord, help me to make the small lifestyle adjustments that will have the greatest spiritual benefits and impact.

Day 2 Core Prayer Point: *God, make Yourself known.*

John 17:3 NIV

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

Eternal life is NOW through experiential knowledge of Christ. Eternal life does not begin at death. Eternal life begins through intimate, personal devotion to God. The

Word of God and prayer are the pathways to personal fulfillment, through eternal life NOW.

Prayer: Lord, let me now experience your eternal presence deep within my soul, as I develop my personal relationship with You through the study of Your word and communicating with you through prayer.

Day 3 Core Prayer Point: *Help me learn dependency upon God.*

Isaiah 9:6 NIV

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

The government will be on his shoulders. What does this mean? The weight of the world will be on God's shoulders. This is a deep truth, especially for those of us who feel like we're bearing the full weight of the world on our own shoulders. As I look back over the last year, I see how dependent we are upon Christ. Due to the pandemic, many people lost jobs and saw loved ones surrender to hospital care with no visitors. We witnessed riotous world affairs. We have no control over some of these circumstances. Take your concerns to the Lord in prayer and watch Him work out every detail of your life as we fully trust and depend upon Him. Who around you may need to experience God's peace? Pray God will give you people to share His love with today.

Prayer: Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, we fully surrender all to you! Give us divine encounters today to share your love and peace with others. In Jesus Name! Amen!

Day 4 Core Prayer Point: *Shape the patterns of my life by my devotion to the Word and prayer.*

Romans 8:29, 32 NIV

"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. He who did

not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

When we desire to become more Christ-like through personal devotion to Him, God will give us the things we need, through Christ, to have the greatest impact for God.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be more personally devoted, allowing your Word and prayer to shape the patterns of my life. Let my devotion to Christ form a more useful and impactful lifestyle in me, so my life will influence others for You.

Day 5 Core Prayer Point: *I put my trust and faith in God, not people or things.*

Psalm 20:7-8 ESV

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we rise and stand upright.”

Today, it is easy to read this verse and miss that the author is calling out people who put their trust in things. But we don't look to the things of this world and the men who run it. We look to God. If we put our trust in God, we will rise and stand upright even amid collapse.

Prayer: God forgive me for seeking comfort from the things of this world. Forgive me for having more faith in the strength of leaders than I do in you. Lord, I turn my attention to you. Thank you for being faithful and trustworthy. You are my conquering King. Though the world falls apart around me I will rise and stand upright because you are my strength.

Day 6 Core Prayer Point: *Open my eyes to the greatness of God's power, so my faith will arise.*

Ephesians 1:18-19 NASB

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling...and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

There's an important principle here. In order for faith to rise in your life, you need to have the eyes of your heart enlightened to God's calling and "the surpassing greatness of His power." When you see things through the eyes of faith, God always is bigger than your problems. Fear, anxiety, and hopelessness melt away in the light of His glory.

Prayer: Thank you that You've carried us through the uncertainty of deep waters, through the flames of trials, and through the pain of hard losses. I am constantly aware of how much I need You, Your grace, strength, and power working in my tough days . Thank you that Your power is made perfect in my weakness. Give me power to share Your message of hope with others.

Day 7 Core Prayer Point: *Let faith provide the substance for my life in God.*

Hebrews 4:16 KJB

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

The word "faith," in one form or another, is mentioned 231 times in the Bible. So this must be an important fact that God wants us to learn. Faith is the mainstay of any Bible believing Christian. Without it, we have nothing to anchor us. Prayer leads us to faith; it reinforces and strengthens us. It allows us to go boldly before the Father.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, I thank you that you are the almighty God. Help me to trust you absolutely with my life. Help me by Your Spirit to have faith in You even when what I see does not agree with Your word. I decree and declare today that no matter what happens around me, I will only stand on Your word. Father, I choose to believe you, to trust you, and to have faith in Your word. Give me boldness of faith to share my hope in You with others.

Day 8 Core Prayer Point: *Teach me to abide in Christ.*

John 15:5 ESV

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

To abide – to continue in a particular condition, attitude, or a connection. In this verse, Jesus is explaining that He is our source and that we can do nothing apart from Him. In nature, branches must stay connected to the vine to receive nourishment and produce fruit. It is the same for us. We must stay connected to our source, Jesus, to be fruitful in the kingdom. When we are connected, Jesus is at the forefront of our lives. We can cultivate this connection by prayer, reading his word, and being obedient to the leading of his Spirit. Which of these things can you increase in your life to build that connection?

Prayer: Lord, I come before you today and submit myself to you completely. I thank you that you provide all I need to be fruitful in the kingdom. Forgive me for the times I have not put you first in my life. Show me ways that I can grow in my connection to you.

Day 9 Core Prayer Point: *I acknowledge the faithfulness of God.*

I Corinthians 1:7b-9 ESV

... wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Being “let down” is a common occurrence. We can be disappointed in our family, friends, life outcomes, and even ourselves. As Christians it is important that we know there is one who will never let us down. In 1 Corinthians, Paul was reminding the believers that it is Jesus Christ our Lord who sustains us totally guiltless. It is our faithful God who called us into this fellowship with Jesus. Think about these two words: 1. Sustain - strengthen or support physically or mentally 2. Fellowship - to share in a relationship with Jesus. We have fellowship with Jesus who is faithful to strengthen us through relationship with Him.

Prayer: Lord today I acknowledge your faithfulness to me. You alone are the one who will never let me down. I thank you that you have promised to keep me no matter what occurs in my life. Help me to know you more and to grow in my understanding of the relationship we have.

Day 10 Core Prayer Point: *Show me creative ways to be actively engaged in Fellowship.*

Acts 2:42 NIV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

The "breaking of bread" refers to the fact that the early church was a communal church. They gathered together often, even daily. We are told they ate their bread with generosity and simplicity. They shared in meals together. They were like a family.

It's important for us to meet together whether by phone or video during this pandemic and shutdowns. Contact one another and encourage each other. Reach out to your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone who you feel could use encouragement. I like to check in on my neighbors every now and then to see how they are doing and encourage them as we are all going through a lot and need one another. We are made for fellowship with each other and with Christ.

Prayer: Father, use me as instrument of praise, worship, and prayer, releasing your blessings to others as I go about my daily tasks. May we love one another well and spread joy and encouragement to others each day.

Day 11 Core Prayer Point: *I want to be an example of how we Love Each Other Well.*

Matthew 22:46-39 NIV

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The greatest commandment is LOVE! I have read a lot about Heaven lately since the passing of my father. In many of the accounts of those who had a near-death experience, they found the Father’s great love for them in profound ways and were asked; “Did you love others well?” Loving others can be simple. Here are some suggestions. Listen. Hear what others are saying with interest in them. Show your love in tangible ways by a simple smile or fixing a favorite meal for them. Spend time with one another. Find ways today to reach out in love to others. As you do you will feel God’s love for you and them.

Prayer

Father, teach me to love others well. Give me opportunities throughout this day to spread your love to others. In Jesus Name! Amen!

Day 12 Core Prayer Point: *I will do my part to reunite this nation and bring encouragement to every heart, through His love.*

Colossians 2:2 NIV

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ...”

God wants everyone in our spheres of influence to be encouraged, becoming whole, complete, and renewed. This happens, through personal knowledge of the mystery of God by knowing Christ. We must pray for the mystery to be revealed to them.

Prayer: I pray for my family, my neighbors, and those in the neighborhoods around my church. May the mysteries of God be revealed to them so that they might know Christ. Help me be prepared to share my personal knowledge of You with them.

Day 13 Core Prayer Point: *I have been placed here on purpose for a purpose.*

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

We were born for "such a time as this." We have been called to this church so God could fulfill His purpose, and shine His light through us, individually and collectively to the North Anderson community.

Prayer:

Lord, help me find a renewed purpose for 2021 in You. Help me become aware of the things I can do, and the way to do them, that will be most beneficial to Your kingdom, and the people around me.

Day 14 Core Prayer Point: *My life is secured by the Belt of Truth.*

Ephesians 6:11-12 ESV

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:14a ESV

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth.

All believers have access to spiritual armor including the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, gospel of peace, helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit (**Eph. 6**). All believers are engaged in spiritual warfare whether we know it or not. Jesus said he is the way the truth and the life. The truth is foundational to our lives as Christians and gives us the ground to stand on in battle. Remember, we are not fighting people or physical things but spiritual forces that influence our world. There is only one truth and that is Jesus. Commit to reading His word to deepen your knowledge of Him.

Prayer: Lord I thank you that you are truth. Teach me your ways so that I can be pleasing to you. Help me to stand in the truth of the Lord. I want to put on the belt of truth so that I can stand against the evil one.

Day 15 Core Prayer Point: *My Kingdom role is both building and battling.*

Nehemiah 4:18 ESV

And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built.

The book of Nehemiah in the Bible tells the story of how Nehemiah and the people built the walls of Jerusalem again. The people who lived near Jerusalem opposed the Jews and tried to stop the work. But God helped them and they finished the work in 52 days (Easy English Bible). This story shows us a picture of our lives in the church. We have been sent into the world to share the salvation message and build the kingdom of God. We also have forces opposing us. The builders in Nehemiah's day had a sword by their side as they built so they could be ready to fight if their enemy attacked. The church must also be equipped with a spiritual sword, which is the word of God to do battle with our enemy Satan. We are called to build and to battle.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that you have called me to be part of the kingdom of God. Show me how to be an effective builder, sharing with those around me the gift you have freely given. Help me to learn and understand your word so that I can do spiritual battle with the enemy who comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

Day 16 Core Prayer Point: *I fan into flame the Gift Of God within me.*

2 Timothy 1:6-7 ESV

“For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit, not of fear but power and love and self-control.”

It is easy to get caught up in this world and all of its issues. We often find ourselves distracted by politics, work, and everything else this life tends to throw at us. In this

passage, Paul is reminding Timothy that he has had gifts imparted to him, and instead of focusing on the things that cause him to feel powerless, fearful, and out of control, he needs to focus on bringing those hot coals within him to a flame.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that those gifts you have given to me would be stirred and fanned to a flame. I pray that you would bring me to a place of a burning and passionate life in your presence.

Day 17 Core Prayer Point: *Help me walk in brotherly love, the key that opens doors for a community to become a mission field.*

Revelation 3:7 ESV

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.”

Philadelphia was “a key city... built with the deliberate intention that it might become a missionary city.” We represent what is holy and true amid the negative and fake of society. The key is love for God and love and compassion toward others.

Prayer: Father, give me a father's heart of love and compassion toward those around me. Let it be the key that opens doors for me to share You, Who alone is positive and true.

Day 18 Core Prayer Point: *God use me, an imperfect messengers, to demonstrate your power to improve lives.*

1 Corinthians 2:3-4 NIV

"I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power..."

We must not let perceived personal weakness or fear keep us from sharing our personal message, which demonstrates God's power to bring change.

Prayer: Lord, I am an imperfect vessel that you are repairing and preparing, to fulfill your purpose of making your Spirit known. Lord release the transforming power of your Spirit through me in spite of all my imperfections.

Day 19 Core Prayer Point: *Open my heart to God-given encounters.*

2 Corinthians 6:11-13 ESV

"We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians; our heart is wide open. You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also."

God places people around us to demonstrate His faithfulness through all the challenges one can endure in life. We have the responsibility to open our hearts to God-given opportunities to show others His love without restriction.

Prayer:

God, help me take the self-imposed limitations off, so I can receive your love without restriction and demonstrate Your love to those around me, without hesitation.

Day 20 Core Prayer Point: *I seek opportunities to bless and do good things for others, so that God will be glorified.*

Galatians 6:9-10 NIV

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

We must choose to trust God to renew us beyond the weariness of 2020. We are renewed in His presence, in the Word and prayer. From the place of renewed

strength, we can offer hope and help to others, both inside and outside the family of believers.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be intentional in my efforts to renew my strength through Your Word and prayer. Let my purpose be giving strength and hope to others, as You encourage others through me.

Day 21 Core Prayer Point: *God, measure my response to Your call to reach those who are in darkness.*

Proverbs 24: 11-12 ESV

“Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter. If you say, “Behold, we did not know this,” does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?”

We have a responsibility to reach those stumbling toward destruction. God repays us according to our efforts and weighs our hearts when we fail to respond to His call to action.

Prayer: Lord, I desire to rescue those stumbling in darkness, unaware of the destruction that awaits them. Help me quickly learn how, as You measure my reward according to my response to Your assignment.