Days of Prayer & Fasting

Turning Point Church Prayer Guide

Psalm 17:6a

"I have called upon You, for You will answer me; O God..."

We, as believers have God's ear. He is eagerly waiting to hear from His children. God desires to converse with *us*.

As we look into our next 21 days, we are excited to see what God has in store. Imagine how our lives will be impacted, when we embrace the power of prayer. Prayer brings peace, rest, rejuvenation, purpose, but most importantly builds unity between our heavenly Father and us.

So, let's begin this journey together.

Pastors Josh & Melissa

Matthew 22: 36 & 37

³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your MIND.'

What would it mean for us to love God with *all* our heart? We so easily get distracted and give God part of our affection. Throughout your day, consider listening to some worship music as you commute, run errands, or exercise and reflect on who God is.

Main Idea: Love is a command, because love is a decision.

My Prayer/Notes:

"Our prayer for you during the next 21 days is that you will experience a deeper craving for the beauty of the Lord and for the wonder of His leading in your life, and that you will know the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the favor of the God of heaven.

Our prayer is that you will realize you are not alone on this journey. You are joining with your immediate and extended church family in seeking God for significant breakthroughs. These will ripple out and turn into a tidal wave of revival and spiritual awakening across our country.

Our prayer is that you will acquire your own prayer-and-fasting testimony. And that God will overwhelm you with his goodness as you seek his power, presence and provision in every step of your journey."

1 John 1:5-9

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; ⁷ but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession gets a bad reputation. We tend to think of it as selfshaming over our mistakes. But confession is a vital part of spiritual healing. When we confess – God delivers us and restores our relationship with Him.

Main Idea: Confess means that what God calls sin, we call sin.

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 1: Personal Day 3

Romans 8:1

Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Our salvation – our life in Christ – is not just a future hope, it is a present reality for those who have put their faith in Christ. There is *now* no condemnation in Christ.

Main Idea:

Because God forgives us, we must also forgive ourselves.

Psalm 51:10-13

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
And sinners will be converted to You.

King David writes this after having committed murder and adultery. Even though he had egregiously broken God's laws, he knew that God could forgive and restore him.

Main Idea:

No one has fallen so far that God cannot do something new in them.

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 1: Personal Day 5

Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up *to Him* and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; ⁴² but *only* one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

We often hurry through life, and throw time with God in as an after thought. This time we spend with Jesus is our priority.

Main Idea: Slow down and sit with Jesus for a moment.

1 John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God

Our life in Christ is so much more than a "Get-Outta-Hell FREE" card. It's adoption into God's family... God wants to be our perfect, loving, Heavenly Father.

Main Idea: *I can trust God, because I know he's a good Father.*

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 1: Personal Day 7

Matthew 6:16-18

¹⁶ "Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites *do*, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷ But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸ so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees *what is done* in secret will reward you.

Fasting was an assumed practice in the life of a Christ-follower. When we fast, we put aside our real physical needs to temporarily focus on our real spiritual needs.

Main Idea:

Fasting is an exercise that literally says, "God, I'm more hungry for You than food."

Week 2: Church/Community Day 8

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Jesus takes responsibility for building His church – our future is in *His* hands! But He also promised that even the forces of Hell would not overcome His church.

Main Idea: We are the church. We are built by Christ. And we claim His promises.

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 2: Church/Community Day 9

Ephesians 4:1-6

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, ³ being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

In Jesus, we are united in the Spirit, through the "bonds of peace" with our brothers and sisters in Christ' family. This takes grace, patience, and most of all love for one another.

Main Idea: *No matter our background, in Christ we are all one.*

Week 2: Church/Community Day 10

Ephesians 4:32

³² Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Because we're all in the process of becoming more like Jesus, we still have room to grow. We must remain forgiving, and patient toward each other in God's family.

Main Idea: My love for others is based on God's love for me. Week 2: Church/Community Day 11

Acts 1:8

⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

In Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit empowers us to live in a way that reflects who God is to others around us.

Main Idea: When we are united as the church, the Spirit gives us His power.

My Prayer/Notes:

John 17:22-24

²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

When we have the unity in God's family like Jesus prayed for, we enjoy the fellowship of each other and God. And when the world sees that kind of unity, they see Jesus in us.

Main Idea:

God wants His church to have the same unity that Jesus has with God the Father.

My Prayer/Notes:

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do so with joy and not with grief.

Our pastor, staff, and leaders serve our church faithfully. One day they will have to answer to God for their leadership of our church. During this day let's keep them in prayer as they serve our church family.

Main Idea: *Our leaders watch over our souls, so let's return the favor.*

Week 2: Church/Community Day 14

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ ...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

God has laid on the church, the primary task of taking the message of Jesus to a lost and needy world. Today, let's take some time to specifically pray for people in our lives and around us who have yet to experience life in Christ.

Main Idea: *"Discipleship" means that we lead others to follow Jesus.*

Week 3: Nation/World Day 15

2 Chronicles 7:14

14 ...if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

"if My people"... God tells us that the greatest problem with nations experiencing revival, is not politics – it's His people not praying. But if His people pray, and seek His face, He could *still* heal our land today. Today, let's unite in praying for our nation to heal spiritually.

Main Idea: Let us intercede on behalf our nation before God in prayer.

My Prayer/Notes:

John 3:16 & 17

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

We can never lose the wonder, that God loves the world. The whole world. All of humanity in its sin and brokenness, is dearly loved by our Father. Today, let's pray for the grace to see the world through His eyes.

Main Idea:

Love is measured by what is sacrificed for the other. God <u>so</u> loved the world, that he gave us His Son.

Week 3: Nation/World Day 17

Acts 17:24-26

The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; ²⁶ and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth..

God made "every nation" – literally meaning every *ethnos*, or people group. We all belong to Him, and are made in His image. Today let's focus our prayer on racial healing, justice, and peace in God's beautiful multi-cultured, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual family.

Main Idea: Because God loves every "ethnos", we must also.

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 3: Nation/World Day 18

Isaiah 6:8

⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Week 3: Nation/World Day 19

John 4:35

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

In Isaiah 6, the prophet had a vision from God, and upon being cleansed, was immediately available to go for God wherever He said. Are you willing to be God's witness wherever He may send you? What if today, we all told God, "I'm here! Send me!"?

This often gets mistranslated to say the fields are "ripe" for harvest. But when Jesus said they were "white" for harvest, He meant they were becoming post ripe, and the harvest would soon be lost. Today, let's pray for opportunities to share our faith story with those around us.

Main Idea: Cleansing precedes calling. We must be right with God to be used by Him.

Main Idea:

The gospel message is not only important, it's also urgent.

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 3: Nation/World Day 20

Acts 5:40-42

⁴⁰ They took his advice; and after calling the apostles in, they flogged them and ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and then released them.⁴¹ So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.⁴² And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.

The early church suffered physical abuse and martyrdom for the sake of the Gospel. Though rare and minimal in America, our brothers and sisters around the globe suffer persecution and martyrdom today, still. Let's join in praying for those who have sacrificed much for their faith in Christ.

Main Idea: *As Christians we rejoice in suffering, because Jesus suffered for us.*

My Prayer/Notes:

Week 3: Nation/World Day 21

Revelation 7:9

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and *all* tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches *were* in their hands...

One day, when we stand before God, we will be surrounded by brothers and sisters in the family of God from around the world across all of time. Today, may we live in the realization that we belong to *that* Kingdom.

Main Idea:

We are residents of this world, but citizens of another.