

...and to prayer.

27 Devotional Prayers

*Daily praying Scripture over your relationship
with God, your relationships with your family,
your relationships with the Church and your
relationships with the lost*

*I seek You with all my
heart; do not let me
stray from Your
commands. I have
hidden Your word in
my heart that I might
not sin against You.
(Psalm 119:10-11)*

Day 1

God, Your commands are good for me. You understand exactly how I should operate. I am Your workmanship, and it is my desire to live according to Your plans, because I trust that You have what is best for me in mind. As I hide Your word in my heart, do not let me stray. Speak clearly to me when I am weak and when I am wrong. Forgive me. I know pride wants to take residence in my heart, but I want to reserve that space for You. Fill it up.

Use my life to make clear to my family the transformation Your Word works in a person. I want to be the example in their everyday lives of a person who seeks You with all my heart. May Your Words take root in my heart and produce fruit in my life that proclaims Your undeniable power and authority over my life. When I am tempted to quit, help me to remember my family is watching. I really want to bless my family by not sinning against You.

Use Your Word in my heart to steer me away from sinning against members of the Fellowship of which I am a part by Your blessing. The Church is Your Bride, and I can count on Your faithfulness to her. I don't want to injure her in any way. To sin against Your Bride is to sin against You. Help me to stay on the path of Your commands as I seek You with all my heart.

Bring into my life today a lost soul who needs to hear Your Word. Make me ready. I'm hiding Your Words in my heart so that I might be prepared to encourage and equip the soul of someone needing an invitation to know You. I want it to be obvious to everyone that I am seeking You with all my heart.

*But seek first His kingdom
and His righteousness,
and all these things will
be given to you as well.
(Matthew 6:33)*

Day 2

Lord, I'm so glad You are God. There are so many things trying to take Your place in my life. When I am tempted to run here and there, chase this or that, I pray Matthew 6:33 would come to mind. I want this truth to be the determining factor for the way I live each day. I want to base my decisions on what will lead me to You first. I want to prioritize the things in my life as You direct me to: You first and everything else falling into place.

When I am tempted to worry about how I will meet the needs of my family, help me to surrender them to You, trusting that if I am seeking You first, You will provide what we need, when we need it. When I am tempted with anxiety for the safety of my family, help me to seek You first. Give me courage to really live for You in the best and worst of times. I know I can trust Your love for me and my family.

And when it comes to the church to whom You have added me, O God, take away the desire I have to *be* served, and make me like You, a humble servant. Help me to put others before myself. Help me to remember how valuable my brothers and sisters are to me *and* to You. I don't want to be concerned about who is getting what and why someone has more than me. Instead, I want to be generous in every way and always looking for ways to bless Your people.

If I am tempted to look with envy at the Lost, refresh my memory. I have everything I need in You, and my old way of life doesn't have anything to offer except lies. As I seek You first, I look forward to having less interest in returning to my old habits. I look forward to sharing with the Lost what is to be gained in Christ. Your love is so amazing. I want it more than anything this world has to offer, and I want the whole world to know Your indescribable Gift.

*For the wages of sin
is death,
but the gift of God
is eternal life
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23)*

Day 3

Father God, I don't deserve this time You give me. I am not worthy to call on You. But because of who You are, I come. I have earned death. It's what I should get, but You don't ever look to give me what I deserve. You have bigger things in mind for me. You are the greatest Gift Giver. You offer eternal life! I can't even think about what that means. It is so overwhelming. So far beyond my grasp. But You bring it to me. You grant it. All I can do is receive it with thanksgiving. And I am thankful.

I lift up my family to You. My prayer is that each member would recognize the awesome gift You have for them. I pray they will be able to look at my life and learn how to receive what You give. I pray nothing I do will turn them off to Your perfect gift of eternal life. Instead, I want to show them what life looks like when it is lived as a gift.

As a Church, help us to remind one another of what we have in You. Give me words to share with my brothers and sisters that we might never forget we don't deserve one another in You. We deserve biting and devouring and destruction, but in You we gain family, eternal family! Show me how I can better treat each member of the Body as a co-gift receiver. I am not above these people. I am not below these people. We are all in the same boat: deserving death, but receiving eternal life.

Make me generous. I don't need to be concerned that there isn't enough eternal life to go around. So, help me share the good news with the Lost. With those people closest to me, I want to be intentional today. I really want to seize the opportunities You're going to provide for me to share with them Your solution to their sin-debt problem. Open their hearts to hear the good news, and show me the best way to communicate what they stand to gain when they accept Your good gift.

*God made Him
who had no sin
to be sin for us,
so that in Him
we might become
the righteousness
of God.*

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Day 4

God, why would You do this for me? I just can't wrap my head around Your love for me. What other "god" goes to the lengths You have gone? What other "god" makes a way for his worshipers to become like him? You stand alone in this. You choose me. You choose me to dress with Your own righteousness at the cost of Your Son. This changes everything for me.

You declare me-in-Your-Son as righteous as Yourself, and I want to live up to that calling. As I live out my days here in close proximity to my family members, I pray for strength to live as a person declared righteous. I don't have to be weighted by my past. In Your eyes, I am as righteous as You. I've moved beyond my previous reputation, because I'm living according to how You see me. I'll need perseverance and patience as I wait for my family to trust this new me, but it'll be worth it when they realize what You've done for me and in me. I look forward to the day we praise You together.

And I've got a whole new perspective of the Fellowship now. All the differences I used to see between us seem as nothing in light of this one similarity: You've declared us all righteous. You've made us part of one family by embracing us in Christ. What kind of deranged person would I have to be to whittle away at what You've put together? Who am I to declare unrighteous the ones You've declared righteous? I'm just so thankful to be a part of those in Christ, a person You see as righteous.

I'm so thankful, and I ache for those living without this knowledge, this peace, this declaration. I want to share this good news with my friends and co-workers and even people I don't really know, like the bank teller or the gas station attendant. God, I'm just brimming over with joy because of what You've done for me and what You want to do for every single person. Where is the Lost Soul You have for me to share with today? I pray each person I know who is living outside of You, might come to a full realization of what a gift it is to live in Christ and be seen as perfectly righteous by their Creator-God.

*“A new command I give you:
Love one another.
As I have loved you,
so you must love one another.
By this all men will know
that you are my disciples,
if you love one another.”
(John 13:34-35)*

Day 5

Lord, You are my one, true Love. You love me with unfathomable love. You loved me before I was aware of You. Your love is not conditioned upon my character or behavior; instead You love me because of who You are, because You are Love. And You've called me to love others as You have loved me. You've determined that LOVE will be the indicator of discipleship.

So, help me to live as a true disciple of Yours in my home. When I am tempted to demand my family members behave in certain ways in order to illicit love from me, rebuke me and teach me to love them as You love me. I want to love them with Your perfect love. I want them to rest in my love. I don't want them to worry about earning my love. And I don't want them to wonder if I'll ever stop loving them. Change my impatience to patience, my harshness to kindness, my envy to contentedness, my boasting to praising and my pride to humility.

And for Your Bride, make my love increase. This is the Body for which Yours was broken. These are the faces of the people You have purchased. Your blood was let for the sake of this Family. May I never forget it, Lord. Where I am rude, make me gentle; where I am self-seeking, make me selfless; where I am easily angered, create peace; and where I am holding grudges, provide forgiveness.

And for the Lost, break my heart. I pray my love for the souls of those living apart from You would never be satisfied this side of Heaven. I am asking for You to send me, as a worker, into Your harvest field. When I am tempted to give up on someone, restore to me a passion for them. When I am tired, give me rest. When I am weary, strengthen me for Your work. Oh, that all the Lost would know how You love them.

*For it is by grace you have
been saved, through faith—
and this not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God—
not by works,
so that no one can boast.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)*

Day 6

Redeemer God, You out gift us all. You give salvation! You come all the way, make up all the difference between You and me, You go all out for me. You are my Salvation. Who am I that You notice me? Who am I that You invite even me into Your great salvation? How is it that You shower Your grace, even on me? What can I do but praise You? What other response is there, but worship? You alone are God. I am nothing without You, generous, gift-giving You.

I pray that Your gift to me would be in the forefront of my mind as I love my family today. Help me live the life of a person greatly blessed. Enable me to be a blessing to my family. Whether I am tired or disappointed or distracted or sick or uncomfortable...Whether I am rested or satisfied or applauded or focused or pleased, no matter what circumstances I may find myself in, I pray that my life would be a blessing to my family because of the blessings You've poured out on me. Make me a great sharer of the gift of Your salvation.

Forgive me when I hold myself in higher regard than I do my brothers and sisters. I don't have any good reason to hold back from giving to Your Bride, the Church. You've poured it all out for Her, myself included, and if She's worth it to You, She's worth it to me. Teach me to value the Church as You do, that I'd lay down my life for Her. Open my heart to forgive and bless the people I meet with regularly who have received the gift of salvation from You, just as I have.

Give me wisdom to proclaim Your gift of salvation to the Lost. There are some people in my life right now who need You. I pray I can share with them today the truth about You. You don't ask us to earn a right to Your salvation. You don't demand some special knowledge for access to Your salvation. You are uniquely God because You freely grant salvation. Help me to lay down all boasting, all works and with everything I have proclaim to all the world, "It's by grace I'm saved, and by grace you can be saved too!"

*What shall we say, then?
Shall we go on sinning
so that grace may increase?
By no means! We died to sin;
how can we live in it any longer?
Or don't you know that all of us
who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into His death?
We were therefore buried with Him
through baptism into death
in order that, just as Christ was
raised from the dead
through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a new life.*

(Romans 6:1-4)

Day 7

Oh Lord, when You died for me, You cut me loose from the bondage of sin. You made the way for me to live for You. I want that real freedom that only You offer. I have been buried with You in baptism, and so my sinful self is dead, gone. You've given me new life. Whoever I once was, I'm not that person anymore. I'm a new creation in You. When Satan tries to sabotage my new life with temptations, give me eyes to see the way out. When old sinful habits die hard, give me strength to keep fighting.

Teach me to walk with integrity in my home. This is what I was made for: loving my spouse and children, honoring my parents, serving my family. Keep the path level under my feet so that I don't stumble back into old, destructive patterns. Set my heart on the new course, transform me that I might live the new life You intend for me. It's going to be easy to return to my old, comfortable ways of treating my family. It's going to be hard to change direction. I'm so glad You're on my side.

Your grace doesn't leave me sitting in my sin. Your grace raises me up to new life. You've placed me in Your Church to help me live this new life. It's not always easy to reach out to my brothers and sisters. It's hard to ask for help, guidance, wisdom. It's hard to admit my sins and ask for prayer. Help me do the hard things. And help me be the kind of member others can trust. Help me make it easy for my brothers and sisters to share their burdens with me. Fill my heart with love for these people, Your people.

Make my life an example for those who don't know what this new life if really like. I don't want to cheapen grace by continuing in my sinful behaviors and attitudes. I want it to be clear that I'm new in You. As I come across those who knew me before or those who don't know You, give me courage to live according to Your Word and compassion to love these lost souls as You do. I don't ever want to forget that I too was once lost. Thank You for the Christians who have taught me. Make me a blessing to someone today.

*The body is a unit,
though it is made up of many parts,
and though all its parts are many,
they form one body.*

*So it is with Christ.
For we were all baptized
by one Spirit into one body—
whether Jews or Greeks,
slave or free—and we were all given
the one Spirit to drink.*

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

Day 8

Lord Jesus, whatever I am You've made me, and I just want to live for You. I want to offer it all for Your glory, whether it's one talent, five or ten. It's You Who's died for me, not the other way around. It's You Who possesses all authority. It's You Who can claim ownership. Not just over me, but the whole Body. Your Spirit fills us each one, and in You we are One Bride.

God, it's a battle sometimes to know how to teach my family where to prioritize the Church in our lives. Please give me wisdom. I know You believe in families, and You understand how important they are and how much time they require. But You also instituted the Church, and she's important and requires time. As part of the Bride, please open my eyes to Your will. If I have fallen down at the feet of the idol Busyness, help me to know it, to be willing to repent. Forgive me, and restore me.

And if my Church family is guilty of just being busy, please direct our steps back to You and the real business You've called us to. I know Satan wants to stall us and distract us. Make us ever aware of his schemes, and teach us how to avoid and overcome him, for Your Name's sake. Be patient with us as we struggle to live in unity. When I am the problem, when I am guilty of fighting for my rights, trying to get my way, remind me to meet the needs of others because we are all part of one Body.

As one Body, may we win the Lost. Your Word is clear that they'll know we are Christians by our love. Jesus, Himself prayed that we would be One so that the World would believe. When I am tempted to divide Your Body, press into my mind the Lost. No argument is worth winning if it means losing a soul.

*Salvation is found
in no one else,
for there is no other name
under heaven
given to men
by which we must be saved.
(Acts 4:12)*

Day 9

There are so many things demanding my attention, my affection and ultimately my worship, but You alone are worthy. In You alone is salvation found. It is by Your Name, Jesus, that I am saved. Guard me from the lure of other gods which offer false promises and the forfeiture of the grace found in You that can be mine. I don't want to be snared and dragged away from You. It's You alone, I worship. You alone standing as Creator and Redeemer.

And God, I've gotta' confess that sometimes I put expectations on my family that are not from You. When I fall into the trap of looking to them to fulfill me or be my source of happiness, rebuke me in all Your gentleness, and lead me back to You. You alone are my salvation. I can't expect my family to fill Your shoes. Take away the pride of my heart, which sometimes seeks to direct my family's affection towards me instead of You. Rather, may they imitate me as I imitate You. May they see You are the source of all that I am and so come to a deeper relationship with You. May I never lead them to believe there is any other Name by which they must be saved.

I want to be careful to love You, God. It's not always natural for me to assemble with my church family. Sometimes I just want to do something selfish or something just with my biological family. Sometimes I'm frustrated or hurt by the people in the church of which I am a part. Sometimes I over-commit myself and forget to purposefully plan for You to be in every day. Teach me the importance of meeting together with Your Church. Show me from Your Word how to encourage my church family and spur them on towards love and good deeds. Help me to understand the significance of meeting with the Fellowship around Your Table.

And as the Lost look on, may they be won over by the unity of the Family, to the truth: that there really is ONE NAME, and it's Yours, which offers salvation. I pray my actions and speech give clarity to Your invitation that the weary and burdened come to You, and You alone, for rest. Give me courage to always proclaim Your Name. Prepare me today for the work You have for me tomorrow so that I will never dishonor Your Name.

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
(Ephesians 5:21)

Day 10

When I consider Your sacrifice, Lord, I am humbled. Help me to never forget, never to grow complacent with exactly what it means that you “died on the cross and rose again on the third day.” You submitted Yourself to punishment You didn’t deserve. You submitted Yourself though You had the power to resist and revolt. You endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God, because of the joy set before You. As I learn to submit, I’m keeping my eyes fixed on You.

I want to break bad habits I’ve developed with my family and follow Your example of submitting myself to them even if, especially if, I have the power to resist and revolt. I want to live humbly with my family members, eager to support and encourage them. I don’t want to demand my own way. I don’t want to neglect their needs and desires. I confess to You my struggle to follow Your lead and endure hardship from them that I don’t deserve, but by fixing my eyes on You, the Joy set before me, I believe You can lead me in submitting myself to them according to Your will.

Extend my submissive attitude beyond the walls of my home to my church family. Lord, at exactly the moment when I am ready to throw up my hands and give up on my brothers and sisters, I can trust that You are with me. I don’t need to protect my own interests, You will provide for my needs. Instead, doing nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, help me to humbly consider others better than myself. When I am struggling with thoughts of superiority, gently remind me of how You humbled Yourself for the likes of me. Fill me with the joy of Your salvation, and give me peace.

Lord, as You perfect in me submission to my Church family, my family and ultimately You, I know that I will become a powerful witness to the Lost. In our culture, submission is not a quality that is highly honored, although it is greatly valued. Give me confidence to trust Your command to submit myself to others. When my co-workers and friends and neighbors taunt me and harass me, create in me a heart that loves them deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins. The message of Your submission to the cross has been changing lives for thousands of years. I want my life of submission to point people to You.

*Very early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
Jesus got up, left the house and
went off to a solitary place,
where he prayed.*

(Mark 1:35)

Day 11

Jesus, no matter how busy You were, no matter how important Your work was, You made solitary time for meeting with Your Father. Thank You, for this example by which You lead me. Thank You, for understanding just how it feels to be tired, busy, preoccupied, and hard pressed to make time for prayer. You get it. As I come to You day after day, I pray for our time together to be blessed by You. Help me to never leave You until last, but instead to arrange my day around meeting with You.

I'm not going to be as successful as I could be in my ministry to my family if I neglect daily quiet time with You. By being regularly and purposefully connected to You, I will learn from You and become more like You. My family needs me to be more Christ-like. Help me to rebuke Satan, the Liar, when he tries to convince me that daily quiet time is a waste of time, that it can wait until later, that it's not making a difference. Satan doesn't want me to be disciplined in choosing You every day, but I know I can overcome the evil one by Your strength. Show me how to reclaim and repurpose my day so that You are always my first priority.

Don't let me grow lazy and depend on my church family to feed me spiritually. I want to show up to our assemblies ready to give, not just take. I want to encourage and equip my brothers and sisters with Your Word and that means I need to be in it. When Satan tries to trip me up, give me wisdom to see through his lies. It's not selfish to make daily quiet time with You a priority. I can't live according to Your will apart from You, and a little time each day goes a long way when it's spent with You. I pray the fruit of my daily quiet time with You yields a great harvest in my local fellowship, encouraging others to seek Your face daily too.

Oh Lord, use our daily quiet time together to equip me for sharing the hope I have with the lost souls in my life. The lost ones I know personally and those with whom I might chance to interact. Keep me humble and conscious of the need all men have to be continually pointed back to You. During our time together press into my mind and heart the names and needs of those with whom You wish me to share the gospel. And then help me disciple them, that they too might enjoy daily quiet time with You.

*If any of you lacks wisdom,
he should ask God,
who gives generously to all
without finding fault, and it
will be given to him.*

(James 1:5)

Day 12

God, You alone are the Source of all wisdom, and You want to share Your wisdom with me. You don't aim to keep it to Yourself. You aren't selfish. You don't hold back, don't attempt to keep Yourself above me. You give wisdom freely. And Lord You aren't picky about with whom You share Your wisdom. You have no favorites. Anyone who comes to You and asks for wisdom can expect You to provide. Thank You for this radical gift. Thank You for opening the way for me to come to You and ask for the things I need. Let me begin by asking for wisdom.

As I think about all the responsibilities You've placed on me as a member of my particular family, I am oftentimes overcome. I am not wise enough for this ministry You've placed in my hands. Guard my heart and mind with wisdom as I seek to serve my spouse. Let me in on the particular needs my spouse has and fill me with the ability and desire to come alongside him/her for Your glory. Give me wisdom before I speak a word or take an action that I might continually draw my spouse closer by treating him/her as You would have me to do. And as a parental team, please guide us in wisdom as we raise the children You've entrusted to us. Reveal to us those areas our children struggle in that we might train them up in Your love and Word. Help us to know when to be firm and when to be flexible. Grant us the knowledge required to prepare these children for the work You have planned for them in the future.

And fill me with wisdom as one member of the whole Body. Help me to think clearly about the specific work You would like me to do. I need wisdom to set boundaries on the time You have ordained for me so that I can allocate it in ways that would honor You. I want to be wise and share that wisdom with others, but I know I am too often guilty of relying on my own knowledge, my own understanding. Help me be clear minded and give me an understanding of Your commands as I seek to be Your faithful follower.

I don't just need wisdom in my relationships with the Church, I also need wisdom in my relationships with the Lost. Show me those individuals You need me to build relationships with that I might share Your Truth with them. Protect my heart from false teaching and wrong living by filling me with Your Truth and Promises. Guide me as I live and work and play among people who are desperate for You. I want to be careful about how I live. I want to be wise, not unwise. I want to make the most of every opportunity. Teach me Your way that I might walk in it.

*All Scripture is God-breathed
and is useful for
teaching, rebuking, correcting
and training in righteousness,
so that the man of God
may be thoroughly equipped
for every good work.
(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

Day 13

God, it's Your Word which instructs my heart and teaches me the way to go. Thank You for providing me this Living and Active message from Your heart to mine. Thank You for establishing authority in my life and issuing the covenant in written form that it might never fall and instead is able to be scrutinized. All over this globe men and women are hungry for copies of Your Word in their language and I am humbled by possession of something so valuable. Forgive me when I neglect to get in Your Word every day. Show me how to change my life so that every day I am in Your Word.

May the words of my mouth, the thoughts of my mind be straight from Your Word. Help me fill my home and the hearts of my family members with promises and truth from Your Holy, God-breathed Scriptures. By the wisdom contained in the pages of the Bible may I minister to my family. I pray that not only I, but my entire family, would have a deep love for Your Word. That we'd hide it in our hearts and allow it to direct our every move. When I am tempted to stray from Your Word, to seek out man's wisdom instead, stop me and get me back on the right track. Men may say many seemingly wise things about family life, but it's all foolishness in comparison to Your great and perfect wisdom.

As we worship together, I pray my church family and I stand firm on the truth in Your Word. Keep us on the straight and narrow. Make us like the Bereans who were devoted Scripture searchers. It's tempting to be lazy and let others do the work for us, but I pray we'd repent of laziness in Bible study and crack open our Bibles so that You might strengthen our Body. And God, keep me from elevating the church to a position of authority over Your Word, instead may I live fully and completely under the authority of Your Word and disciple others to do so as well. Once a church leaves the authority of Your Word out of the equation she loses all sense of direction.

And open up opportunities today, for me to share Your Word with a seeker. Help me to be in submission to Your message that I might give accurate testimony to those in need. Give me courage that I might not be ashamed of Your Word in the face of those who are Lost. Your Word truly is the lamp that lights the way for those in darkness. Help me shine in this world like the stars in the sky, pointing the way to Your Word and true life.

*But in fact God has arranged
the parts in the Body,
every one of them,
just as He wanted them to be.
(1 Corinthians 12:18)*

Day 14

God You know how You want things. You know the best way for things to be, because You are Creator. You didn't just create the physical world, but the spiritual world too. You didn't just create material things, but feelings too. You didn't just create people, but You devised a way to keep us from being banished from You forever. And You didn't just create a plan of salvation for us, You created a Body to which we can belong. You are the Great Arranger. Your hands made and formed me, made and formed the Church. And You have arranged us in the Fellowship according to Your good pleasure and purpose.

My family is unique, uniquely made and equipped by You. Open my eyes to the things I miss every day about my spouse, my children, my parents, my grandchildren, my siblings for which I should be thanking You. I don't ever want to forget how blessed I am, by You. The Psalmist says, You place the lonely in families. Help me submit myself to Your arrangement and honor You by honoring my family.

My church family is also Your unique creation. It's good for me to pause and remember where I would be if it were not for the saints with whom I fellowship. You have drawn me close to You by using the strengths and weaknesses of my church family in my life. Help me to share every good thing with them. When I am tempted to give up on them, may I remember how You've never given up on me. When I am tempted to discard our history and "start fresh" with a new family, help me seek You and surrender to Your will. You've arranged me and them in this Body and You have a purpose and plan that is always good. Help me trust You as the Arranger.

As my family and the Fellowship work together and serve one another according to Your design, I pray the eyes of unbelievers would take notice. I pray their hearts would be opened and they'd respond to the gospel. To whom will You send me today? What have You arranged? I pray Your arrangement is always the plan I'm following.

*I pray that out of
His glorious riches
He may strengthen you
with power
through His Spirit
in your inner being,
(Ephesians 3:16)*

Day 15

Lord, truly You are all powerful, and Your generosity extends even to me. I don't understand Your goodness, it is beyond me that You would send Your omnipotent Spirit to abide in me...this is unfathomable. And yet Spirit, You are a seal on me, guaranteeing my redemption, and I have inexplicable peace because of the knowledge of this truth. Help me tap into the strength in me. I know I am guilty of trying to work on my own, trying to take credit or glory that belongs to You, and I ask for Your forgiveness now. I want to submit to You and operate according to Your will and the strength You provide.

I lift up my family to You. I pray Your Spirit in each of us would draw us together. That we would be strengthened as a family unit so that we might glorify You. When we are tempted by the busyness of this world, God strengthen us with power that we might persevere and choose the truly important things over the ever-changing urgencies in our lives. I know Satan would love to destroy our family because we can be a beacon of light in this world. Strengthen us in our inner beings, bolster us, prepare us to defeat him in Your Name.

I thank You that Your glorious riches don't stop with me, don't stop with my family. No, Your riches are unending, and You want to strengthen each member of my Church family with power through Your Spirit in their inner beings as well. You are ready to ignite us, and set the world on fire by Your Spirit in us. Forgive us when we have small faith; increase our faith. When we are timid, strengthen us with power through Your Spirit. Help us to live as the Body within which You dwell. Strengthen us that we might not shrink back from Your work.

O God, I know Your desire is to reach every lost person with the message of the Gospel and offer them strength through Your Spirit in their inner beings as well. Make me Your servant in this work. Open my mind and eyes and mouth and heart to the Lost people all around me, men and women I can reach with Your promises. I pray Your Spirit in me testifies to the work You can do in each of them.

*We love because He first loved us.
If anyone says, "I love God,"
yet hates his brother,
he is a liar.*

*For anyone who does not love
his brother, whom he has seen,
cannot love God,
whom he has not seen.*

(1 John 4:19-20)

Day 16

No love matches Yours, Father. You are the Lover of lovers. You define love. Apart from You there is not love. I am Your Beloved. It's more than I could ask for. You consider me. You want me. You pursue me. You sacrifice for me. You never leave me behind. You do not gloat about Your superiority over me, although You could, instead, You make me like You. You clothe me with Your own righteousness. You're matchless.

Help me to love my family members as You have loved me. May Your love define me, lifting me out of depression, frustration, low self-esteem and other problems that result because of a misunderstanding of who I am in You, and making it possible for me to truly love. God, where I've placed expectations on my family members that demand a performance on their part in order to earn my love, I repent. I release them from this bondage and cling to You instead. I offer them love, not because of who they are, or who I am, but because of who You are.

And I want to offer pure love to the members of my local assembly. I don't want to operate under a false love that serves to be served or gifts to be gifted. Instead, make me a bold and courageous lover of Your people. Help me to love them when they are unlovable, as You have loved me, and as You love them. Forgive me when I am selfish and insist on others loving me before I will love them. That's not the kind of Lover You are. Change my heart. Make me like You.

Help me see the Lost as You do. I want to pour out love on those who need You as King of their lives. Love wins. Protect unbelievers from my misconceptions and judgments so that they might hear the gospel and not be discouraged or driven away. Work in my life so that I might mature and understand Your plan for loving others. And direct my steps. Sometimes I want to show love, but I am misunderstood. I pray You'd help me show my love clearly to all people.

*Then Jesus came to them
and said,
“All authority in heaven
and on earth
has been given to me.”
(Matthew 28:18)*

Day 17

Jesus, You are the Authority. Your word is bond. And even though some people, some angels even, aren't submitting themselves to You today, one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that You are Lord. Forgive me when I distrust Your authority in my life. Help me to walk humbly according to Your Word. Teach me Your will. Help me to wait patiently for You and trust that Your ways are better than my own, Your thoughts higher than my own.

As Lord of my life, I give You free reign over my family. They aren't here to serve me. They are here to serve You. I know sometimes I am guilty of putting a heavy burden on my family by expecting them to define me or make me significant, but they can't handle that kind of authority over my life. Forgive me and direct me back to You. Help me be very deliberate in leading my family to follow You as their one and only Lord. I pray Your lordship over my life would mean abundant blessings for them.

And with all my heart I pray Your lordship over my life would mean blessings for my church family too. Here we are, all of us worshiping one Savior, all of us answering to one Lord. Bring peace and unity where there is dissonance and division. When I am tempted to make my own way in the local Body, walking over people, disregarding others for my own sake, humble me and deal with me so that I don't destroy Your People. Even when I feel like no one else is respecting Your authority, hold fast to me, and keep me from stumbling.

And as the World watches may they be won over by our submission to one another because of Your authority over our lives. The lost people in my life need to see me living 100% for You. They need to see me denying myself and taking up my cross, daily! Your lordship isn't just for special occasions or special days, it's for every moment of every day and when I love You with all my heart and soul and mind and strength, the Lost can't help but take notice. So strengthen me, and uphold me with Your righteous right hand, Lord of my life.

*...They brought [Jesus]
a denarius, and He asked them,
“Whose portrait is this?
And whose inscription?”
“Caesar’s,” they replied.
Then He said to them,
“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s,
and to God what is God’s.”
(Matthew 22:20-21)*

Day 18

O God, You own it all! You own it all! What belongs to You? Not a part, not a percentage, but the whole. I'm no coin, but Your image is all over me. Your Holy Spirit Seal is inscribed on my heart, marking me for eternal life. I lay down all my life, all my resources, all my everything for You. Spend me like holy currency for Your good purposes, and help me to never hold anything back from You. Forgive me when I hold on tightly to the blessings You've so richly provided me, and be patient with me as I learn to stop divvying up what belongs to You and what belongs to me. Teach me to give it all, always.

Make me a giver in my home, not a taker. Give me a generous spirit, as You have been so generous with me. Change my mind about possessions and money and material things. Help me to live contentedly with what You provide and take away, knowing full well that You will never leave me or forsake me. Show me how I can give over more of myself to You. I don't want to hold anything back. Living in a family like I do, provides every opportunity for me to practice generosity. Putting my family first, giving to them even when it hurts, will help me tear down claims I've staked on the life You've given me.

Make me a giver in my local assembly, not a taker. Oh, it's so easy to show up with expectations of being given something. Where I am guilty of this, please create in me a new heart. Help me pour out my life into my brothers and sisters for Your glory. I can trust that You will always fill my cup to overflowing, so there's no need for me to be stingy with Your people. When I am tempted to take the fellowship, and each soul that makes her up, for granted, help me to remember, You call these people *YOUR* inheritance and You've placed great value on them.

And God, make me a giver to all men, not a taker. Strengthen me against the temptations that exist to cheat someone in my field of work, or take advantage of someone in my community or withhold from my neighbors. May they see You in me as I give more than expected, not to gain their favor, but to give You glory. It all belongs to You. Help me to live like everything I have, everything I am is Yours first. Give me wisdom to spend myself as You would spend me.

*You have been
set free from sin
and have become
slaves to righteousness.
(Romans 6:18)*

Day 19

I offer myself to You, Lord. All my days I want to obey You. Your hands made me and formed me, give me understanding to learn Your commands. I seek You with all my heart, do not let me stray from Your commands. I've hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against You. Be my Master. You are the Good Master, and it is not a burden to serve You. Your yoke is easy, and Your burden is light, and I will find rest for my soul.

I am weak in my natural self, and my family is well aware of the fact. But You have set me free from sin to be *Your* slave. Keep leading me to holy living, especially within the walls of my home. It's easy to think that because no one is watching I can be lax. It's tempting to put my Christianity on display for others and treat my family the same old way. But I am under grace, not law, and sin isn't my master anymore. My old self, with all my old sinful habits and sinful ways of treating my family have been done away with because I died with You, and I believe I will also live with You. I trust in Your resurrection and know that it makes all the difference in my familial relationships.

In the same way, when I assemble with the saints, I can count myself dead to sin and alive to You because I am in You. I pray our times of fellowship would be frequent and beneficial, all to Your glory. We have great cause for celebration. Help us spur one another on, reminding one another and holding each other accountable. Together may we stop offering ourselves to sin, as instruments of wickedness, and instead may we offer ourselves to You as those who have been brought from death to life, instruments of righteousness.

And my prayer for the Lost is that they might be reached with this message, as I have been reached. That they too might be set free from sin and become slaves to righteousness. I lift up people groups who have never been reached with the gospel and those who have no written language, no Bible in their native tongue. I pray for those being reached by missionaries even today all over the world. I pray for those who have heard the truth, but have not accepted it. I pray for members of my own community, neighbors and family members. Send out workers into Your harvest field.

*Do nothing out of selfish ambition
or vain conceit,
but in humility consider others
better than yourselves.
Each of you should look
not only to your own interests,
but also to the interests of others.
Your attitude should be
the same as that of Christ Jesus:
(Philippians 2:3-5)*

Day 20

Lord Jesus, You truly are humble. You have the least to be humble about, and yet You never take advantage of Your high position. All Your ambition during Your days as a man was directed at fulfilling Your Father's purposes. Help me to be like You. As I spend time with You and come to know You more and more intimately, teach me to imitate You.

I know that I do not always put the best interests of my family before my own interests. I can be demanding of them, or unwilling for them to place demands on me. As I look at how You served others, let that be the standard for my own attitude towards my family members. Develop a servant's heart in me. Help me become more and more the kind of person who is always looking to elevate others and serve others. When I get swept up in my schedule and responsibilities it is easy for me to neglect my family. I need to acknowledge that kind of behavior really grows out of an attitude of selfish ambition and is not reflective of the kind of person You desire me to be.

Throughout the week, keep fresh in my mind, the fellowship of believers. If I am guilty of piling up too many activities that interfere with looking out for the interests of my church family, reveal this to me, and help me repent. Where I have nursed a poor attitude about my brothers and sisters, please forgive me. I want to openly confess here and now, my tendency towards pride. I typically think my ideas, my approaches, my interests are superior to those of others, but that's simply not the case. You've placed all of us in a body together. Help me to take seriously the interests of others who are worshiping alongside me.

And as I go, soften my heart towards the Lost. Help me prioritize making disciples. It's hard to admit that I let my personal agenda, my list, my schedule interfere with Your calling on my day. When I am rushing past the people You have sent me to speak to, please slow me down and open my eyes and heart to them. May I never forget the great gift of grace in my life and the great need the Lost have for it in their own lives.

*Do not let any unwholesome talk
come out of your mouths,
but only what is helpful
for building others up
according to their needs
that it might benefit
those who listen.
(Ephesians 4:29)*

Day 21

Your whole Word is available to me, for my instruction and encouragement. It is full of affirmations and directions. When You speak, I should sit up and take notice, because You are God. You speak to me what is helpful and meets the need of the moment. Your Word is always of benefit to me. Help me to see how I might rearrange my day so that I might better listen to You.

Words are so important in the life of my family. I know that I can tear down and destroy or uplift and build. The tongue, *my* tongue is so powerful. Where I am guilty of not being careful with my tongue, taking for granted that my family will understand and quickly forgive me, please open my eyes so that I can repent. Open my mouth to ask for forgiveness. Open my mouth to speak new words, like Your words to me. I don't just want to be intentional about speaking beneficial words, I also want to be intentional about eliminating unwholesome words. If there are people or media negatively impacting my speech towards my family, point this out to me, and help me to rid my life of this influences, and fill my heart with good words to speak into their lives.

And I pray that this transformation of my tongue doesn't stop with my family, but extends to all my brothers and sisters. Your Word admonishes me to stop biting and devouring because it is destructive, to do everything without complaining or arguing, to rejoice always and to give thanks in all circumstances. Make my mouth quick to rejoice and give thanks. When I am tempted to speak first and listen later, help me remember that You desire for me to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Lord, use me to serve Your people who are in great need of encouragement and truth and gentleness.

And God, open my mouth to proclaim Your love to the Lost. If there are ways that I am using my tongue which cast doubt on the message of Your love and grace and forgiveness, please reveal this to me. I don't want to do anything that would dishonor You. I don't want to say anything that would cause others to doubt the Truth. Instead, fill my heart with Your goodness, and let it overflow in my everyday speech. Bring me into the lives of those who need to hear Your Word proclaimed, and give me boldness to speak the truth in love.

*So do not throw away
your confidence;
it will be richly rewarded.
You need to persevere
so that when you have done
the will of God,
you will receive
what He has promised.
(Hebrews 10:35-36)*

Day 22

God, You are always, always true to Your Word. If You make a promise, You are good for it. You are completely and absolutely trustworthy. I have no reason to fear. You will not back out on me. You do not change like shifting sand. You are the same yesterday, today and forever. Like Abraham, who did not waver through unbelief regarding Your promise, I too can be strengthened in my faith and give You glory, because I am persuaded that You have the power to do what You promise.

This family that You have placed me in, You have plans for us. Your Word decrees it. I may not be able to see around the next corner, I may not be able to see what today holds, but I know You are faithful, and I will not be afraid for my family today. I will not make fear-based decisions for my family today. I will trust in You. When I am confused about what You are bringing us through, when I am frustrated that things aren't going as I planned, when I am discouraged because my expectations are not being met, I will find comfort in the knowledge that if I remain confident in You we will be richly rewarded because You always keep Your promise.

And the church family You have placed me in, she is not so different from my biological family. You have plans for us. As a body, we have been arranged by You, not randomly like some fictional evolutionary character. No! You have arranged us together for Your good purposes. It's not always easy and fun being part of the Body, but it is always worthwhile. When I am tempted to bail on the Body, help me remember how You never bail on me, never bail on us. I pray Your example of faithfulness spurs me on to persevere in Your will so that I might receive what You've promised.

I pray I never give up on the Lost. If there are people in my life that I've written off, people I have closed my eyes to because I assume they'll never change restore in me a desire to reach them and love them as You do. When I am faced with opposition from those who refuse to accept You, hold fast to me. I don't want to be ruled by fear. Instead, help me persevere.

*Consider it pure joy, my brothers,
whenever you face trials
of many kinds,
because you know
that the testing of your faith
develops perseverance.*

*Perseverance must finish its work
so that you may be mature and
complete, not lacking anything.*

(James 1:2-4)

Day 23

O God, it's hard for me to ask You to test my faith with trials. I don't want to be immature, but I don't want to suffer either. It makes me brave to look back on all the trials You've already brought me through. Things I didn't think I could survive. Things I thought would never change. Things I didn't think I could face. You have stood by my side through it all. You have used all of it to draw me closer to You. Thank You.

Thank You for the suffering You have brought to me and my family. Thank You for difficult health issues which have taught us to put our hope in You not our health. Thank You for financial pressures which have trained us to trust in You and not money. Thank You for relationship difficulties which keep forcing us to rely on You to meet our deepest needs instead of one another. Thank You for all the minor inconveniences my family affords me, because I know each one is an invitation to honor You by serving others.

Thank You for the suffering You have brought on me and my church family. Thank You for the needs which you have allowed to linger, reminding us to be constantly in prayer. Thank You for the opportunities You've given us to love each other deeply and forgive one another. Thank You for the plans that have fallen apart only to make room for Your purposes, which we keep learning are so much greater than our plans.

Thank You for using trials and suffering to bring the Lost to their knees before You. You are able to touch each of us at our place of deepest need. You make provisions for caring for and comforting Your lost children because You love them. I pray that I will not be cowardly or selfish and avoid the pain of the Lost, but instead I pray You will equip me to embrace them and love them as You do. Use me to help the Lost who are struggling all around me today.

*Follow my example,
as I follow
the example
of Christ.
(1 Corinthians 11:1)*

Day 24

Jesus, You came down from Heaven. You humbled Yourself and became one of us. You made Yourself nothing. You lived among us. You submitted Yourself to unjust death on the cross. You never demanded fair treatment, but willingly suffered according to Your Father's will for my sake. You've been so much more than fair with me. Thank You for the sacrifice You made, the suffering You endured so that I would not get what I deserved. I'm fixing my eyes on You today, My Author, the Perfecter of my faith, so that I won't grow weary and lose heart. I'm imitating You, help me.

Help me imitate Your humility as I serve my family. Don't let me get carried away thinking they owe me something. When I am demanding of them, forgive me, help me imitate You. I see that You received the abuse of others and still blessed them. I see that You forgave me before I even knew I needed You to. I want to imitate You by offering those gifts to my family members. When they see how I'm treating them, I want it to remind them of You.

Help me imitate Your sacrifice as I serve Your Church. When I am tempted to be discouraged or angry, I'm just gonna' keep looking to You. You see my sacrifice, and You approve of me. The praise of my brothers and sisters pales in comparison. When I think I'm too good to help in some way, I will be humbled by Your faithfulness to the Father's plans for You. You never said You were too good to die on the cross, and You actually were. You didn't deserve it, but You suffered anyway. Help me to suffer for the Church with great patience and compassion. When they see how I'm following You, I pray it will encourage them to follow You too.

Help me to imitate Your love as I reach out to the Lost. When I am tempted to think of myself as better than them, forgive me and purify my heart. You died for all of us, not just me. And before I knew You, I was in the same boat they are in now. You didn't concern Yourself with my unworthiness, You follow Your Father because He is worthy. Help me to live that way too. Living for God because He is worthy. Loving others because God is worth me loving His Creation. When the Lost see how I'm following You, I pray it will make them hunger and thirst for You in their own lives.

*Create in me
a pure heart,
O God,
and renew a
steadfast spirit
within me.
(Psalm 51:10)*


Day 25

God, You are the Creator. Everything I see, everything I am, everything that is, originates with You. Your creativity surpasses my wildest imagination. And all You do is good. I come to You today, my Creator, trusting that You can even create in me a pure heart. Open the eyes of my heart to seek You with pure devotion. Help me to see the new and wonderful ways You have prepared for me to come into Your presence. I want to know You as You have created me to know You. I don't want to be distracted by this world with all of its trappings and temptations. Create in me a steadfast spirit which keeps longing for You and never attempts to find satisfaction in cheap imitations. When I find it difficult to keep pursuing You, help me to remember Your love and power and trust. You are able to meet me where I am and draw me to You.

Lord, I am a part of a family, and I have a unique purpose as a member of it. Create in me a pure heart towards the members of my family. Don't let me wallow in self-pity when they sin against me. Instead, help me to love and forgive them to the extent that You have loved and forgiven me. When my family takes me for granted and I am tempted to quit, renew a steadfast spirit within me. I am living according to Your good purpose, and You see what is done in plain sight and in secret. I am counting on You for my sense of satisfaction and worth.

I am part of a church family, too Lord, and I have a unique purpose as a member of her as well. It's You who has seen fit to weave us together just as we are. Create in me a pure heart towards the members of the body of which I am a part. Help me to extend forgiveness quickly and completely to any who may require it. Help me operate according to Your grace system so that I will not grow bitter and lose heart. When I feel discouraged and am tempted to look elsewhere, renew a steadfast spirit within me. I have value as a part of this Fellowship. Show me the best way to use the gifts You have given me for faithful administration of Your grace to these people.

And Lord, create in me a pure heart for the Lost. I want to see the souls of men as You see them. Forgive me when I am quick to determine that someone won't change or won't listen. Forgive me when I am stingy with the gospel, like Jonah. Cut those wrong attitudes from my heart and do something new. Renew a steadfast spirit in me that I might not grow discouraged when the Lost do not immediately respond to Your message. Help me to pursue those individuals in my life who are in need of Your salvation.



*Do everything
in love.
(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

Day 26

Behind every move You've made towards me, every promise You've made me, every prayer You've answered, every disciplinary action You've taken, every instruction You've given has been one eternal thing: Love. You are Love, and You're love for me is perfect, fathomless, beyond my understanding. I love You. I really love You.

I genuinely desire to share Your love with my family. I don't want to neglect them or be too busy for them or brush them off. That's not how You love. That's not how I want to love. Instead, I want to be someone they can count on, someone they can trust, someone they know has their best interest at heart. I want to forgive them for every sin and embrace them again and again.

And let Your love flow from me to my brothers and sisters. The way You are patient with me and always think the best of me, help me extend that to them. The way You are kind and gentle to me, even when I am wrong, and the way You protect me despite my many weaknesses, Lord my church family needs that kind of love from me. They don't need me biting and devouring them, they need me rooting and cheering for them. And You're not stingy or selective with Your love, waiting for me to earn it or deserve it, nope, You pour it out extravagantly. Make me a vessel from which You can freely pour Your love.

Teach me how to love people who are not like me, people who can't love me back. Create in me a deep love for the Lost who need to know Your message of love. Open my heart to share freely with them, never expecting anything in return, hoping only to bring them to the foot of the cross that they might know Your love for themselves.

*This is to
my Father's glory,
that you bear
much fruit,
showing yourselves
to be my disciples.
(John 15:8)*

Day 27

There it is. *The* way to extend Your glory: to live glorifying You at every turn. Bear fruit. Make disciples. Be a disciple. Lord, look no further. Here I am, send me. I am not afraid, for You are with me. As I go, Your rod and Your staff they comfort me. You've prepared a table before me and my cup overflows, overflows into others. I am all Yours. Use me.

I will make it my aim to disciple my family. I will *not* make it my aim to *just know* truth, or *just follow* rules, but I will change the whole direction of my life—You've made me a new creation!—and I will share this new life with my family. I will not bully them or shame them or give up on them. Every day, day by day, I will keep in step with the Spirit, and my life will be a testimony to You. I won't leave them guessing about Whose I am. I will follow You, and call them to follow You too.

I will disciple my brothers and sisters. That old way of thinking that took lightly fellowship? I'm through with it. When we are together You are working in us and developing us as disciples. We need one another, and it is so good to be part of the Body. I will look for opportunities to make myself available to the church. I will trust Your leading in using my gift. I will entrust others with praying for me, and I will pray for them, because we know the prayers of righteous men are powerful and effective.

And I will go and make disciples of all kinds of people, all the people You ordain for my day. I will make the most of every opportunity. I will abandon my selfish pursuits and be intentional about including others in my life at every turn. I will be poured out as a drink offering for Your sake. With Your Help, I will not hesitate to open my life to the lives of others. Together we will bring our mess to You, and together we will thank You, for You are good and Your love endures forever.

