

15 Reasons to Pray

August 7 – 21, 2021

Cornerstone Assembly of God
10551 Chalkley Road, North Chesterfield, VA 23237

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Reason #1: To Hear God's Voice

Revelation 3:20

Behold! I stand at the door and knock; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

There are so many voices competing for our attention; it can be difficult to discern what the will of the Lord is in our lives, or even how much He loves us. If we wish to have God's guidance and wisdom in our lives, we must spend time with Him in prayer in order to hear His voice above all the other voices. The more we pray, the easier it will become to discern His voice and receive His love.

Other Passages: John 10:1-5, 27-30; Psalm 95:6-8; Mark 4:22-24; Isaiah 30:21; 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Prayer: *Lord, help me to quiet my soul before you in prayer today, so that I may be able to hear your voice. "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Amen.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Reason #2: To Know God Better

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ESV

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

How can we know God unless we spend time communicating with Him? When we pray, we can share what is on our heart and also discover what is on His heart for us. Isaiah 64:4 says that no one can know God's ways in their own wisdom or efforts. That's why we pray: to slow down and know His good plans for us. If we will take the time to seek Him, He promises we find Him and come to know Him.

Other Passages: Psalm 27:8, 145:18-19, Isaiah 64:4

Prayer: *God, You are life and I want to know You more today.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Reason #3: To Depend on God (put Him first)

John 15:4-5 ESV

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 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.

What you depend on is what you turn to first when you have a need. When we go to Him to talk to Him, to seek His guidance and direction, to ask Him for help, we are showing that we need Him and that we recognize that we cannot do this life alone. Jesus was clear that if we learn to come to Him and abide in Him we will have all we need. When we don't go to Him first, worry and fear fill us.

Other Passages: Proverbs 3:5-6; Philippians 4:13; Colossians 4:2-3

Prayer: *God, help me to trust you with all of my heart and in everything I do today. I want to talk to you before I talk to anyone else about what I am going through.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

Reason #4: To find peace (in Jesus and not in yourself)

Philippians 4:6-7 NLT

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

There is no peace when I focus on myself and my ability to solve my problems. I am not the hero of my story or the answer to my problems. God is. Yes, God will ask me to partner with Him in growing and answering my problems, but the focus will be Him and not me. He is the prince of peace. He is the savior of the world. He is the one who every knee will one day bow to and every tongue confess. Once you pray about something, put it in God's hands. His answer will always come in His time and His way. I can be at peace knowing that.

Other Passages: Psalm 121:1-2; Philippians 2:9-11; Romans 8:32-37

Prayer: *God, nothing is impossible for you. Thank you that I can give my needs to you and I know you will answer. Help me live out this day knowing you will answer.*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

Reason #5: To receive forgiveness (and new beginnings)

1 John 1:9-10 ESV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

There is nothing worse than living with guilt and condemnation in our lives. It blinds us and robs us of power to move forward and bless others. While we cannot go back and change the past, we can change how it keeps us defeated and unable to move forward. That's why Jesus died on the cross for us. To pay the price for our failures, our guilt and our past. Don't live another day feeling condemned. Ask God for forgiveness and let Jesus lead you in freedom and a new way to live.

Other Passages: Proverbs 28:13, Ephesians 1:7-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer: *God, I thank you that I can be forgiven in you. Start a new way to live as you free me from my past sins. I fully confess that I have sinned and ask for your mercy and grace to bring healing instead of pain and grow to live in a way that will bless those around me.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

Reason #6: To resist temptation

Matthew 26:40-41 NLT

Then Jesus returned to the disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you watch with me even one hour? **Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!**"

It hurts to watch the disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus. In his darkest hour they were asleep, and when the crisis came it caught them unprepared. When the time came to take up their cross with Christ, instead they scattered to the winds. Jesus asked them to watch and pray, to live with their eyes and souls wide open, sensitive to the Holy Spirit. He invites us to be spiritually awake so that when temptations and trials come, we will be prepared.

Other Passages: Matthew 6:13, Ephesians 6:14

Prayer: *God, I thank you for putting a willingness in my heart to keep my eyes open in prayer. Help me stay awake, sensitive to the move of your Spirit and alert to the corrupt forces that would cause me to stumble.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

Reason #7: To be like Jesus

Hebrews 5:7 NIV

While Jesus was here on earth, he offered prayers and pleadings, with a loud cry and tears, to the one who could rescue him from death. And God heard his prayers because of his deep reverence for God.

This is the goal of our faith and it can't happen without prayer. Prayer is our time when we spend time with our Heavenly Father just like Jesus did and take the time to be filled with the same spirit as Jesus. The Gospels show us that Jesus often went away to pray and especially prayed before big decisions. He always took time to know the Father's heart and will and to be filled with the power and wisdom to live it out.

Other Passages: Romans 8:11, 8:29, Luke 5:16, 6:12

Prayer: *God, my desire is to become more like Jesus. Please fill me with the Holy Spirit as I take this time to be with You and remember Your Word and will in my life.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

Reason #8: To be healed (and freed from suffering)

James 5:13-15 NLT

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.

Jesus died to forgive our sins and also heal all of our diseases. The Bible calls us to pray for the healing of one another as well as come to the Lord personally to remember His grace and mercy.

Other Passages: Psalm 103:2-3, Isaiah 53:3, Romans 8:32

Prayer: *God, I believe that you have not only forgiven my sin but healed my diseases according to Psalm 103 and the work of the Cross. Thank you and lead me in how I live out your healing and let those healing professionals be part of Your healing process in me.*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

REASON #9: To give thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 NLT

Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

What an incredible feeling when we are able to thank those who surprise us in wonderful ways. Our whole face smiles, our hearts feel like they are bursting at the seams. Prayer gives that opportunity to express our deep thanks to God. Thankful prayer that never ends creates a space where we can give thanks in every circumstance. Even if our situations are difficult or uncomfortable, we can still be persistently thankful as we trust the God.

Other Passages: Luke 18:1; Ephesians 5:20

Prayer: *God, today I choose to be thankful, even if the circumstances around me don't feel good for me, I know that you are working them all out for my good and for your glory. And so I choose to rejoice, giving thanks for your faithfulness in this season.*

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

REASON #10: To see the lost come to Jesus

Luke 10:2 NLT

These were his instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."

As Jesus sent out his disciples "in every town place He was about to go" he called them to pray (Luke 10:1). Faced with the immense task, like farmers facing an urgent window in which to bring the whole harvest, Jesus teaches us to pray God would send more workers, more men and women to participate in the work of evangelism. Today, you could be the answer to someone's prayer for a loved one far from God. And, as you look at the lostness of those around you be encouraged, pray that God would inspire more Christians to share Jesus' love.

Other Passages: Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:35

Prayer: *God, lead me where you have me go. Help me establish relationship that draw people back to you.*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

REASON #11: To be filled with His Spirit & power for His will

Mark 9:28-29 NLT

Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

We often fail to help others when we try to meet their need out of our strength. Well meaning, our efforts fall short of lasting change. The disciples came face to face with their own limitations when they when they could not help a distressed man with his son's spiritual affliction. Even worse, the man began to doubt that Jesus could help him because of the lack of spiritual authority in his disciples. Jesus is ready to fill us, to serve those around us through our lives, if we will draw near to God in prayer.

Other Passages: Isaiah 40:29-31; Mark 10:27; Acts 1:4, 8

Prayer: *God, I want to know you. I want to live a life shaped by your promises. I pray today you will fill me with you Spirit, equip me to serve those around me for your glory.*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

REASON #12: To be rescued from your fears and distress

Psalms 91:1-16 NLT

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him. For he will rescue you from every trap and protect you from deadly disease. . . The Lord says, "I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation."

Prayer reminds us that we have a shelter in the hurricanes of life where are preserved in God's protecting arms. But in the middle of the storm it can be hard to know what we take for granted in the good times. In the heavy winds we feel we need to raise our voice to be heard. Under the storm pressure we feel pressed down and afraid. We may feel we are "venting" more than praying. In the storms our faith is tried, our beliefs challenged. In the storm, our prayers maybe more raw, but they can also be more real (Mark 15.34).

Other Passages: Proverbs 18:10; 2 Samuel 22.2-3; Psalm 9:9

Prayer: *God, thank you for giving me space in prayer to unpack my fears and concerns, to talk with you about the things that worry me. You have always been faithful and I know you will always be faithful. Thank you for being redeemer, rescuing me from distress.*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

REASON #13: To see God move in our community

Galatians 6:2 NLT

Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

God's design for the Church is incredible. He longs to see his sons and daughters loving one another more than themselves, caring for one another and carrying each other's burdens. In a world that teaches us to look after ourselves or use others to our advantage, Jesus tells us to lovingly lift each other up when we stumble. As we do this, our witness will move into the community. United together with Christ in prayer we will have a greater passion and deeper compassion for the needs of the whole community.

Other Passages: 1 Corinthians 1:10; James 5:16; John 15:12-13

Prayer: *God, thank you for the Christian men, women and family you have placed around me to help me with my burdens. Show me where I can help others in need. Lord, I pray that you would also show us, as your united people, who in the community you are calling us to serve too.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

REASON #14: To withstand evil

Ephesians 6:13-18 NLT

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.

This life is full of battles on every front. Paul teaches us that this is true for us spiritually as it is physically. In prayer we put on the armor that will keep us moving forward with clear vision, protected and secure. In prayer we are able to withstand the attack of the enemy, with our character intact and our focus secure. And like a military unit, we not only ensure our own safety, but in prayer we stay alert and persistently pray for the endurance of all Christians.

Other Passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:8; Ephesians 3:10

Prayer: *God, thank you for preparing me for this season I'm in. I may not see it but you have provided me with everything I need. I pray your Spirit would guide me as I put on the full armor as I step into this day. Lord, I also pray for my brothers and sisters in Christ, near me and around the world. Strengthen them, Lord. In intercession, show me how I can stay alert as I lift them up.*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

REASON #15: For families to be blessed

Psalm 103:17-18 NLT

But the love of the LORD remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children's children of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments!

David reminds us God is a compassionate Father. Just as a loving dad looks for ways to hold back his frustrations with his kids, looking for ways to show his compassion to his children, that is how God looks at us. David takes it even further though, building on the promises God gave to Moses, that God's blessings is like a heritage that can be passed from generation to generation. This great news should stir in us a prayer of thanksgiving. In prayer, we root ourselves by the living water of God's promise, not just for us but our children.

Other Passages: Exodus 20:6; Deuteronomy 7:9

Prayer: *God, thank you! Thank you that you love me more than I can ever know. Thank you that you love my family more than I ever could! I worship you with deep gratitude, may I never forget all the things you've done in my life, keeping your promises to me. Be glorified, my Lord and King!*