

# Prayer Journal 2014



Psalm 145:18

**Prayer is the open admission that without Christ we can do nothing. And prayer is the turning away from ourselves to God in the confidence that He will provide the help we need. Prayer humbles us as needy, and exalts God as wealthy.**

John Piper

Desiring God, 196, p. 138

Each year, Genesis has a prayer emphasis during the month of May. Again, this year we have asked our Genesis family to contribute in a very special way. Several people have given us a scripture that they have used to pray over and a brief paragraph about how that verse touched them.

We would like for everyone to read the scripture and paragraph for that day. Meditate on God's work. Then pray for the person that wrote for that day, and for the church and its people. That way every day in the month of May the entire church body will be covered in prayer.

We have provided space beneath for you to write down any thoughts. We have used the acrostic **PRAY** to help guide you. Let God speak to you through His word, then write down your **P**raises; things you need to **R**epent from; **A**sk requests for; and then **Y**ield so His Holy Spirit can work in your life.

We hope that prayer becomes a natural part of your everyday life. We pray that your time in God's word and in His presence touches you deeply and blesses you in a special way.

God Bless  
Genesis Prayer Team

# *Praise*

## Week 1

Praise is an action, I think gets forgotten too often. Many people think Praise is only an answered prayer or singing songs in church, but it is so much more. It is a condition of your heart, a willingness to exalt God and yield to his will.

Praise should be an expression of love and awe to the God who gives us more than we deserve.

All too often we constantly ask God to answer prayers, but forget to praise him in the process. We should be praising his name through every request answered and unanswered prayers.

Praise is also an expression of thankfulness to the attributes of God. You will see this all through out Psalms.

O lord open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalms 51:15

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and his greatness is unsearchable. Psalms 145:3

Psalms 148 and 150

## May 1

II Corinthians 4:16-18 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

The verse helps in my prayer life by reminding me of God's eternal nature. His promise of eternal glory that is ours because of the sacrifice of Jesus. Our physical ailments, emotional wounds, and all suffering encountered in this life are just temporary. I give praise for verses like this that focus on what will be.

John Parke

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and it's leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



## May 2

Romans 5:1-5 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

I often tell people that I am working on my "Exit Plan". After many years of being a luke-warm Christian, I have been working hard to obtain a strong faith in God. My baptism in the river was a defining moment for me with my faith. I feel like making my faith strong is a daily exercise that includes conversation with him because he wants a relationship with me, like I want with my children. We are his children.

This passage certainly answers a lot of questions about faith, hope, and God's love. These are comforting verses when someone is experiencing life's trials and tribulations. A Christian doesn't live under the fear of judgment and the wrath of God but has peace with God.

Take the Leap of Faith and hold on tight!

Dave Price

Praise-

Repent

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 3

### Psalm 16

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- 2 I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;  
I have no good apart from you."
- 3 As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones,  
in whom is all my delight.
- 4 The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply;  
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
or take their names on my lips.
- 5 The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
you hold my lot.
- 6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
- 7 I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- 8 I have set the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.
- 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;  
my flesh also dwells secure.
- 10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,  
or let your holy one see corruption.
- 11 You make known to me the path of life;  
in your presence there is fullness of joy;  
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

This passage has been on my heart a lot this past year. It drives me to want to meet with God, to lean into Him and continually seek His presence. And when I fall away from Him- which certainly happens- it reminds me to run back to Him. His word has revealed His path for me; the example of Jesus paints that so vividly. When I pay attention to His teachings and seek to really follow and act out of Jesus' example, I feel the presence of God. Knowing I am walking with Him frees me up to rest in Him and just enjoy the pleasures He provides. And that is where the fullness of joy is found.

Eric Burnley

Praise-

Repent

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 4

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (ESV)

When I was in middle school, my youth group counselor told me that praying without ceasing is like having a daylong phone conversation with God. The moment I wake up I need to pick up my prayer phone, and to not hang up till I fall asleep that night. This analogy has stuck with me through all these years. How often do I pray, or even acknowledge God, throughout the day? How many times do I lie down at night and realize that I haven't spoken to my Savior once today? More times than I'd like to admit.

Like most Christians, I struggle to remember to pray except for when I need something. This is not much of a relationship builder. This reality would be more like the genie in a bottle instead having the honor of speaking with our creator God. If Christ's character is my goal in the Christian life, then I need to know Jesus' will through the Scriptures and then speaking those truths in prayer. This is how we get closer to the character of Jesus Christ through prayer.

I pray that as a church community we can pray without ceasing and build stronger relationships with our God.

Todd and Sarah Renken

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 5

### Psalm 34

**1-** I will bless The Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth... **4,5-** I sought The Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed...**8-** Oh, taste and see that The Lord is good! **18,19-** The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but The Lord delivers him out of them all.

This entire chapter is beautiful, but the specified verses are the ones that have stood out and ministered to my heart. Recently, I have had several people close to me undergo intense trials and pain; loss of loved ones, crumbling marriages, heart breaking betrayals, overcome by addictions. I stumbled onto this passage during a time of struggle of my own. I was crying out to God and He spoke these words, these promises, to my heart.

What a reminder that I am to praise Him ALL the time, continually- even through pain and tears. Not only because He is worthy, but because it pulls me out of me; from the temporary to the eternal; the human to the divine; realigns my focus. Especially important, considering a few verses later, He promises to answer me, deliver me, and to make me unashamed and radiant- after I seek Him and look to Him. I need these reminders that He is always good, even in the waves of grief of this fallen world. What a comfort to know that amidst our broken heartedness and crushing pain, our creator, almighty God is near to us and will deliver us. If not in this world, then certainly in the next!

Jodi Burnley

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 6

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am genuine and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light.

I start my prayer time in the morning in a secluded place and I often think about this verse in context to how my day's events are planned. Over the 30 years I've worked in the business world, I was able to share my faith. It really starts with a genuine desire to care and the ability to listen. People are searching for answers to much bigger issues than the 10-15 minutes they scheduled with you regarding your product or services. It is amazing how much you learn when you listen with an attentive ear to the bigger issues that only a relationship with the Lord can solve. I had a lot of success in my career, however, I enjoy most the lasting connections and realizations of some of the lives I was able to impact. It starts with trusting Jesus to create some divine appointments and realizing that people are hurting and need you to listen and show them you care. Help someone today by reducing the heavy burden they are trying to carry on their own.

Curt Ballard

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 7

Hebrews 4:14-16 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Sometimes we think of God as being far off, way up in heaven. We somewhat believe that God cannot really understand what I am going through, or how I feel. This passage reminds us that just the opposite is true. Jesus can say, "If you would only listen to Me, I've been where you are!" He experienced every situation and every temptation known to man. Jesus experienced the pressures of human life. He went through puberty, knew what it was like to be a single adult, dealt with loss of loved ones, and had people who were close to him sell him out and abandon him. He was tempted with sex, and with drugs (they tried to give him drugs on the cross and He refused them), with power, and money. He was challenged to give in to His desires and take the selfish way out.

Yet, there is one major difference. Jesus never failed! He never gave in to those temptations. He never sinned. Now, this could mean that Jesus could look at us and say, "You'll never be as good as I am, so don't even try." Our tendency is to look at our failures which leave us feeling guilty and unworthy. But the message of the Gospel is that Christ understands our struggles and invites us to come into His presence. While prayer is not the only way this happens, it is a key path to the very throne room of Jesus. His desire is that we come to Him to learn how to live. He wants us to come boldly and with confidence.

The High Priest was the "go between" for God to the people. He made the sacrifices and became God's spokesman to the people. But the Jewish High Priests were flawed and sinful. When they made sacrifices, they had to make them for their own sins as well. But Jesus is the perfect High Priest who made the perfect sacrifice. Because He is a High Priest who understands our weakness, but also overcame temptation, we can trust Him. Most important, through Him, we have direct access into the presence of God. Therefore, we can "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need."

Do you understand prayer in this way? An invitation from a perfect Savior who has experienced everything in our humanity, but he did not fail. Now he invites us into His presence to be a source of encouragement and strength in our greatest need.

Mike Hubbard

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

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## May 8

James 4:6

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

Grace is something God has taught me this year. I work as a maid cleaning homes. If I allow God to soften my heart, this can be a humbling job. I truly enjoy my job; I see it as a way to serve others. I am a hard worker and I go out of my way to try and please my clients. Most of them appreciate me, but then there are some who complain and don't even see the extras I do. I found myself being frustrated with these clients. So I thought to myself, they don't deserve my extras or appreciate them. I will no longer do them, but instantly God laid on my heart GRACE, what about GRACE?? Don't become proud, but give them grace. I could hear God saying I am so gracious to you time and time again. Can't you give my grace in return?

Yes, yes I can and I will. God has blessed me with a job to be humble at. By choosing to show grace my frustrations are gone. God is using me to bless others while living out the Gospel and I'm glorifying God.

Sam Mueller

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 9

Rev. 21: 3-5 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

It is easy to praise God when things are going our way. The thing I love about these verses, is that even the brokenness of life can lead to the same kind of praise.

Whenever bad things happen to us, someone we love, or even a tragic news story; our knee-jerk reaction is "this is not how things should be".

Whether Christian or not, everyone can agree that things on this earth are not as they should be. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that God has placed eternity in our hearts. St. Augustine stated, "our hearts are restless until we find our rest in Him". Our hearts are constantly yearning for the perfect union between us and our Creator.

Because of the finished work of Christ, we have direct access to our loving Creator. When the bad day hits us, it's OK to grieve. But thanks to Jesus, our grieving leads to the knowledge that He is making all things new. Everything broken WILL be fixed, every injustice WILL be made right, every tear WILL be wiped away!

Here's a challenge to myself and my church family: Grieve with those who are grieving. Don't offer explanations, or cliché responses like "Well, God has a plan for everything". Our job isn't to fix their grieving. Our job is to reflect the love of Christ. Even if that means not saying a word.

Rob Matt

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 10

Ephesians 6:13-20

"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel."

I have known about the armor of God for a long time, but somehow missed, until recently, the action it is calling me to take. God provides it, making it infallible, impenetrable, and complete. But He tells me to put it on! The best defenses in the world are useless if I don't apply them.

These verses challenge me to ask myself; am I fully submerged and secured in the truths of the bible? Do I rest in His righteousness or continue to force my own fleshly attempts? Do I seek opportunity to share the hope of the gospel that has been given to me? Do I exude His peace, drawing others to Him? Do I use my God given faith to squash satan's attempts at doubt? Do I rest in my salvation secured by Jesus alone? Am I in His word allowing it to bathe my thoughts and words, protecting me from our enemy's lies?

Too often the answer to these questions is no, because they all start with me, not Him. When I start with Him; His word, His gifts, His Spirit, He does for me what I cannot do for myself. So it brings me to just one question; Am I honestly, openly, and willingly seeking Him? Because when I am, He provides me with all the security, peace, hope, opportunity, and boldness I need. Thank you Jesus!

Jodi Burnley

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

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# Repent

## Week 2

Isaiah 6.5 esv And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

A few years ago, I was in a bible study group where the subject about the fear of the Lord came up. Our teacher summed it up like this: "to fear the Lord is to FEAR the Lord". There's no other way to put it. There's no Greek word study that says that the word fear means to respect. Every time someone in the Bible comes face to face with the full glory of God, their reaction is that they become completely undone.

This is at the very heart of repentance. Because of the finished work of Jesus, our prayers reach the Throne of God just as if we were face to face.

For years, my attitude about repentance was "I'm sorry, I'll do better". "I'll do better" isn't even mentioned in this verse. Isaiah didn't present his Holy To-do list. Our attitude toward repentance should reflect Isaiah. Complete and utter surrender to the holiness of God and the rejection of anything unclean in our life.

Isaiah not only repented for himself, but also his people. When we pray to the living God, we also need to pray on behalf on His people who are dishonoring Him constantly. Repentance isn't just a solo effort, it's something we do while living in community with other believers.

This month, take the time to let the Holy Spirit show you the Biblical way to repent. Not only for yourself, but for those around you as well.

## May 11

### Psalm 100, A Psalm for Thanksgiving

Verses 4 and 5: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the Lord is good; His loving kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Do you have to remind yourself to start your prayers with thanksgiving? I hope I'm not the only one! Praising our awesome God for who He is, the amazing Creator of the universe, the Holy One - should always be the start of my prayer time. Because I know the Bible says to bring my cares to Him (so He can mold me to be more like Him), I often rush into my list of needs before I take time to offer thanks and praise to the One who took my sin and sacrificed Himself in my place. So, I find myself starting over, confessing THAT sin, to "be still and know that I am God", and to thank Him for the big things and the little things - like the fact that I was able to wake up today to see glorious sunshine, that my family knows Him, that my washing machine still works, that I have the privilege of serving through Genesis, that I got to have dinner with my friends ... all the countless ways He has blessed me. He is worthy of our praise!

Carla Moore

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

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## May 12

### Scripture: John 17

Did you know Jesus prayed for you? Yep! He sure did! John 17 is the real Lord's Prayer. We call the prayer that begins, "Our Father, which art in heaven..." the Lord's Prayer, but it is really a model for our prayer. But in John 17, Jesus has an intense prayer time for Himself, His disciples, and finally for all who would believe in Him. Jesus knew he was about to go to the cross, and He wanted His final hours to be focused on His Father and His mission. In this prayer, Jesus prayed for you, and for me, and for all who would believe in Him.

There are so many things Jesus could have prayed when He prayed for us. He could have prayed for our well being and our health. That would have made Him a good religious guy. I've been to a lot of Christian prayer meetings, and it seems that we spend most of our prayer time praying for Aunt Bertha's big toe, or Ole' Brother Jones rickety old knees. Now, while I know that God cares about every need, it seems that when we gather for prayer, there are greater issues than the health of Christian people. In fact, it has been said that we spend more time praying to keep saved people out of heaven than we spend praying to keep lost people out of hell. Notice that Jesus didn't pray for our health.

He also could have prayed for our peace and well being. He could have asked God to keep His followers from harm, and to protect them from any persecution that might come their way. As I listen to prayers for those going on mission trips or other Christian journeys, the prayer for safety seems to be the number one request. "Lord, keep the group safe on their trip. Don't let them encounter any struggles or persecution on their way. Yet, for some odd reason, this doesn't seem important to Jesus at the time. Actually, I believe Jesus realized that the Christian life is not safe. Jesus was going to the cross, which was not safe. He would endure persecution, name calling, and ultimately an incredible sacrifice for our salvation. And He realized that those who are passionate for Him will find the same persecution awaiting them.

Jesus also didn't pray that the Father, or the Son, or the Spirit would "be with" us as Christians. How many times have you heard the prayer, "God, be with" so and so. Funny how this sort of prayer never crossed Jesus' mouth. Actually, this sort of prayer is unbiblical and demonstrates lack of faith. God has promised that He will always be with us, and never forsake us. His presence is sure.

So what does Jesus ask of God when He is praying for you and for me? First, He prays for our unity. He asks God to give us a supernatural connection with one another that will cause the world to take notice. Jesus knows that the only way the church can be strong is if the church is unified. A divided church will never be an evangelistic church. Second, Jesus prays that we would reflect His glory. He prays that our lives together would be a light shining in the darkness. Third, Jesus prays that you and I would make Christ known to the world around us.

Pretty cool, eh! Jesus prayed for you. And when Jesus prays, God answers. But this is also a good reminder about what should be the heart of our prayers.

Mike Hubbard

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 13

Matthew 6:25-34 (ESV)

### Do Not Be Anxious

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

34 "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Many times in my life, I have let anxiety take over my thoughts, making me forget that everything in my life is truly in God's hands. It is easy to believe that God's will is what guides me when life is going smoothly, but when I hit a rough patch, it is my tendency to lean on my own thoughts to solve my problems. It is when I realize that I can't fix things on my own that I feel anxious and uncertain.

I have used this verse throughout my life to remind myself of the amazing sovereignty of God and my special purpose within His plan. Whenever I need to remember that God loves me and takes care of me in all things, I pray this verse and put all my anxieties into the mighty hands of God.

Jennifer Watkins

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

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## May 14

I struggle with prayer, unless you call "Jesus give me patience with this child!" a deep prayer life. I know when I take time to pray and read God's word, I am so blessed. Yet, for some reason these activities get put off in my busy day until the end when I am exhausted and fall asleep.

But I find if I listen to worship music to start my day, my whole attitude changes. The music prompts me to begin a conversation with God that continues through the whole day. When I get up early in the morning to take a jog, my playlist begins with Psalms 121:1-2 "I lift my eyes up unto the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from you, maker of heaven, creator of the earth."

Then Isaiah 40:28. "The Lord is the everlasting God. The creator of the ends of the earth. He does not grow faint or weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and to him who has no might he increases strength. "

My music leads me to a heart of worship and prayer.

Jesus, help us to seek you each day for help and strength and grow to honor you more.

Heidi Hubbard

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

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## May 15

### Time

I had grandiose visions for what I was going to do with all of the extra “time” I was going to have once I retired. I’ll bet you have had the same thoughts too – “when I am retired, I’ll get up and go to bed when “I” want to, do what “I” want to do and when “I” want to do it”. Sounds great doesn’t it! Well, I have retired and indeed I can do what I want and when I want to do it – IF I so choose. The glaring problem with the above statements is one letter, “I”, which implies that life is all about me which it obviously isn’t. The reality of life is that there are always demands for your time regardless of your age, and the older I get the more acutely aware I am of how short time really is – at least as it pertains to life on this earth. The issue isn’t about how much time I have, but about what I do with the time I have. And if I believe in the good news that our resurrected Jesus Christ brought to this earth, shouldn’t I make good use of the time that I have left and share this good news with others?

In writing to the Ephesians, Paul said in ch. 5, verses 15-17, ***“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”***

And so I am challenged not to sit on my hands and contemplate ways to spend time in ways that please me. After all, the time I have left on this earth is not really mine – it belongs to the one who created me and everything/everyone around me. I am challenged to let go of what I want to do and instead endeavor to discover how God would choose to use the time he has allotted to me to accomplish His purposes. The only way to discover His purpose for my time on His earth is to spend more time in His word supported with much prayer and supplication. Pray with me that we will all strive to be conscious of the precious amount of time we have left on this earth and that we will work towards using that time to further the work of our Lord Jesus and glorify our God in the process. Now that is a good use of my time!!

Leon Allen

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



**May 16**

**Psalm 57:1 says, Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge. In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by.**

In the middle of my last hospital stay, it was June 24, 2013. I remember because it was mine and Terry's 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. I was at my lowest point physically. My blood levels were at 0, meaning I had no antibodies at all. All I could do was lay there in a ball. I remember asking God to be merciful to me. At that time, He reminded me of all the times that He has shown up in my life. What a great past I have had by having Christ in my life and if He used me in His work before cancer, He would see me through this low point and would use me again. So when you go through a storm, take refuge under God's wings. But after the storm passes, get back to work!

Bob Lancaster

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



# Ask

## Week 3

### That You May Know 1 JOHN 5:13-15

13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. 14 And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

WOW! Prayer is powerful. God hears us and he is a loving father who wants what is best for us. Be encouraged and know that He is able to answer all your requests. Paul encouraged the church to pray without ceasing. The difficult thing for me is that little phrase "according to his will". Even though we may want God to end our "pain and suffering", He always does what is best for us eternally. If we don't ASK God for direction and provision in all things then we are robbing him of the Glory He deserves. God is waiting for us to ASK. I believe that through prayer we can draw closer to the perfect and good will that God has for us here and now. When we pray according to his will for us that is revealed in his word, we know "that we have the requests that we have asked of him". (We just don't know when.)

For example:

Pray that we will be better wives and husbands.

Pray that we will have an opportunity to share the Gospel.

Pray that we can build up and edify our brothers and sisters in our local Church.

Pray that we will grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pray that we will have a hunger for God's word, living out the gospel, Missions

Pray that in everything we will ASK God, Pray without ceasing, and Praise his Holy Name to his Glory.

Feel free to pray these things for Norma and I and We will keep you in our prayers as well. We LOVE you all!!

Dave and Norma Weitzel/Genesis Prayer Team

**May 17**

**1 Timothy 2:1-4**

**Pray for All People**

1 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Are we really supposed to pray for all people? Even the IRS and terrorists? Not only pray for them but supplication, intercession, and thanksgiving? YES

Actually I love this verse because even though I fail often I really want to please Jesus. It is nice to discover ways in which I can express my appreciation for God's Grace.

Our church does a great job not only praying for our community but also living out the Gospel. As we focus this month on prayer, let's do it with Joy in our heart knowing that it is pleasing to Jesus. Now would be a great time to pray for those who don't have knowledge of the truth. (the Gospel) God our Savior desires all people to be saved.

Norma Weitzel

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 18

Ephesians 1:16-19

16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might...

Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

-Notice how Paul prayed for the Church he loved. I am sure they were persecuted, poor, and despised in their culture. Paul believed that the most important prayer he could offer for his brothers and sisters was prayer for their spiritual wellbeing. If we could really comprehend how complete we are in Christ and how great is our inheritance in him, it would transform our spiritual lives. (chapter 1)

-How effective could we be for Jesus if we could really Know the deep ocean that is the love of Christ Jesus? (chapter 3)

-What better things could Paul pray for? In fact we should all continue to pray for each other in this way. Paul also prayed for relief from affliction in his life. God's answer? "My grace is sufficient for you for power is perfected in weakness"

-Please stop and pray for my family and yours that we will all have a burning desire to know Jesus, to comprehend how great his love is, and we will fully appreciate how great our blessings are in him.

Dave Weitzel

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



**May 19**

Phil 4:6-7

6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

There are many things that come with owning a business. Issues arise during the course of a day that can add a lot of stress to a person. The stress of trying to generate enough business to be able to keep all your employees; making sure you can pay all your bills; etc... well you get the picture. It doesn't help that I'm a worrier(got that from my Mom). Over the years, I have found great comfort meditating over this passage. God doesn't promise that we won't have hard times, but He does promise to care for us. He wants to hear from us. He wants us to take our concerns and worries and lay them at His feet. He wants us to know that He is in control and by trusting in Him, He will pour His grace over us.

Tom Ely

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



## May 20

Matthew 6:25-27 **“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 32-33 ...and your Heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you...”**

I have kept my Bible open to this scripture lately so I can see it often and remind me God is with me and taking care of me however He sees fit. (His will not mine.) I really latched on to this verse when I was reading the Bible to my 97 yr. old Grandmother, whose diminished eyesight keeps her from reading. In the past year, she has gone from living on her own to living in a care center and having to be helped with almost everything. She is up in a wheelchair for meals and then back to her bed. Mentally she is as sharp as a tack, but the body is wearing out.

**My question to God is why?** She just wanted die in her sleep in her own home! Then, ... I remember this verse and know that I can't see the BIG picture and to ask for strength not to be anxious and leave it in God's hands. I give thanks to God that Grandma has a relationship with Him and that she is content now where she is. I pray that those who care for her realize what a special woman she is because she loves the Lord. She and I have decided to try and be a blessing to someone every day. (and that takes prayer ☺)

Cindy Ely

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 21

**Acts 2: 42-47** 42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

This verse just reminds me how God calls us to live in community, and shows the things that come from that. We tend to get wrapped up in the busyness of our own lives and forget to connect, listening to the flesh instead of listening to the Spirit. The last line shows that as we listen to that voice of the Spirit, we gain favor with all people, and the Lord brings people to join us. A connected church is a growing church. A disconnected church that only sits together for an hour on Sunday mornings will not flourish like this.

Doug Brickey

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 22

Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus says, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gently and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”**

My husband and I are in the process of church planting, and the process up to this point has had many moments of joy as well as “labor and heavy burden.” Preparing and selling a house with two young children is...labor. Sorry, no way around that. Wondering where you’re going to live, where your kids will go to school, how you’ll meet people...can make one feel heavy laden. Granted, these are world problems, but when not seeking the comfort of Jesus, the burdens of life can feel soul-crushing. This beautiful passage of scripture leaves me praising Jesus for coming alongside me to lift the weight of my world off my shoulders. He is a Savior whose love knows no bounds, because he cares enough to lift my smallest concerns and the crises that hit me like a knock-out punch. How amazing to have a Savior who promises rest for my soul!

Kacey Ely

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



**May 23**

Judges 19:30

Everyone who saw it was saying to one another, "Such a thing has never been seen or done, not since the day the Israelites came up out of Egypt. Just imagine! We must do something! So speak up!"

Judges 19 is not a beautiful passage by any means, but this verse is what I turn to when I am struggling with how to respond to an injustice of some sort. I think of all the times people keep quiet about abuse or another taboo topic when in reality, we may be the only voice someone has. This verse reminds me that it is our duty as Christians to 'speak up'. I often pray that my voice can be heard over all of the chaos in this world and that I remember to seek God in even my darkest times.

Chris Peanick

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

**May 24**

**Jesus wept.** John 11:35

Martha and Mary were grieving the death of their brother, Lazarus. So why did Jesus weep? In a few minutes, he was about to raise him from the dead and everyone will be happy. Jesus was showing deep compassion and sympathy to those that were suffering.

The Bible teaches us to follow Christ's example. Whether people are grieving or rejoicing, we are to love them and care for them as Christ would.

Greg Jarvis

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

# Yield

## Week 4

Yield – to give away, to give over possession of, surrender

**Daniel 3:26-28** Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king’s counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, “Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king’s command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. ....”

As I read this scripture, I pray for myself and Genesis Church to have the desire to yield (surrender) totally to God by truly trusting Him with my/our life (His will, not mine/ours), and setting aside all of this world’s temporary pleasures/demands for Him to have priority in my/our life. I pray my/our service and worship will bring Glory to Him and point others to seek God through His Son, Jesus Christ.



## May 25

### Scripture – Daniel 6:1-28 Daniel and the Lions' Den

16 The king declared to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" ... 20 The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

A power-filled Christian MUST have a powerful prayer life! The source of all power in the Christian life is our connection to God. In fact, the reason many Christians never really experience the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives is that their relationship with God pretty much stinks. Imagine trying to power a lamp when it is not plugged in to the wall or trying to get information off of the Internet with the modem unplugged. In the same way, the Christian life will be without power if we are not plugged in to our power source. And the connection is our prayer life.

Daniel understood that his power as a believer was directly correlated to the time He spent on His knees. Three times a day, Daniel would get alone and pray, and spend time with God. As a result, Daniel had a life of extraordinary accomplishments for God. Others around Him were jealous and wanted to get Daniel eliminated. But even a decree from the king couldn't change Daniel's commitment to pray. If it cost Daniel his life, he was going to continue to serve God and seek Him. No wonder God spoke to Him so much and used Him so greatly. How is your prayer life?

\*Take a few minutes to think about your prayer life. Mike Hubbard

Praise-

Repent-

Ask-

Yield-

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

## May 26

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

I keep these verses written down on a notepad beside my bed so that I will hopefully remember to read them every day. When I'm struggling with sin in my life, these verses remind me that I've been given the grace of God to help me lead a self-controlled and godly life. I pray that the hope of seeing Jesus soon in all his glory will change me and motivate me to "renounce ungodliness and worldly passions." I thank Jesus for redeeming me from sin and pray that I'll desire to do good things.

Donna Parke

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

**May 27**

**Galatians 2:20**

**I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.**

Most of us grew up in homes where we felt loved. I forget not everyone has that privilege. I recently heard a radio broadcast where a man was telling how God used this verse to call him to Christ. The simplicity of it stirred my heart. The man had no church exposure and was orphaned before a year old. He did not recall a time he felt someone loved him. He later married and had a son. When the son was 3 he came home from a good news club singing "Jesus loves Me" and "Jesus loves the little children". The man was so drawn to the joy his son had, he decided to go with him the next week.

The church got him plugged into a bible study and in the first 6 months he heard this verse. He said it struck him in the heart. He heard for the *first* time that someone loved him, and to the point of giving up *His own Son*. He couldn't imagine giving up his son for anyone or anything. He immediately felt a desire to get to know that God who would do that for him.

After hearing this broadcast, I realized how much I get caught up in the details of theology and forget the basics. God loves *me* to the point He gave up His only son. As I look at my children, I am also moved by the intensity of Christ's sacrifice that it draws me to want to know that God more, too. How often God uses the children He gave me to draw me closer to him, teach me about his love, and help me understand. Praise God for those little souls that have more joy and trust than they do knowledge!

A fellow brother in Christ  
(testimony from Bott radio emailed by a Genesis member)

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



**May 28**

**Romans 8:26-28** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

I am always saying, "You can't mess up prayer!"

I've come to realize when I'm praying to the One True God who has forgiven me of my sins through His Son, Jesus, I cannot fail at this... ☺!!!

I do want to read prayers in scripture to learn by example and how to fine tune my focus, my thoughts, and meditation toward God and not myself. Prayers of thanksgiving, lamentations, intercessory, pleading, joy, etc. Continuing to develop a deeper and more meaningful prayer life.

I'm thankful that my limited human vocabulary and spiritual understanding does not keep me from standing in front of God and having conversation with Him. He knows who I am already, right...

Cindy Ely

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

**May 29**

**Isaiah 6:8-9a And 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." And he said, "Go and say to this people: ...**

As Isaiah stood in the heavenly court with the Lord and was exuberant to be there (after being convicted and cleansed of his sin), he declared SEND ME!!! Let's pray we at Genesis can be this excited about spreading the Gospel to our local communities and the world. But, it takes staying in the presence of the Lord daily and also being willing to do His will. It may not be what you think.... Read the rest of the story.

Let's remember to pray for Genesis' mission trips to Charleston, Haiti, and Ecuador, the people going to serve, and those who will be hearing the Gospel.

Tom Ely

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.

**May 30**

**Romans 8:1-2 "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."**

These verses have brought me a sense of hope and comfort when dealing with my sin. It teaches God is actively changing me to be more like Jesus. Though my good works could never break the power of sin in my life, the Spirit of God has set me free from the law of sin and death. Through Jesus' death and resurrection I have been given the ability, by the power of the Spirit, to stop rebelling against God and start living for Him. Although I continue to disobey God and not always live a consistent Christian life, I know the Spirit gives me the freedom to live for God and is each day making me more like Jesus.

-Weston Ely

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.



## May 31

**2 Corinthians 12:7-12** So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weakness, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Sometimes God's answer to our prayers is my grace is sufficient. Power is perfected in weakness. God's plan for healing or financial problems or broken relationships can be different from ours. One thing is sure, His Good and Perfect Will in our lives brings Glory to Jesus.

Please continue to pray and read scripture daily to stay close to God's presence. We are praying for you and Genesis Church.

Genesis Prayer Team

**Praise-**

**Repent-**

**Ask-**

**Yield-**

Remember to pray for Genesis Church and its leaders, our communities, and family/friends/personal requests.