

2019 WEEK
OF
PRAYER



Dear Church Family,

Welcome to 2019. The beginning of each year brings extra motivation to accomplish new things. These are exciting times. From diets and workout plans to book clubs and dance lessons, there is no shortage of ways to try something new. But what will it be? How will this year be better than last? How will the lingering pain of previous years be healed this year? How will broken relationships be reconciled this year? How will we live our lives with purpose this year? As your pastor, I am writing to tell you that I do not know. And neither do you. If we really want to experience breakthrough as individuals, as families, and as a church body, we must seek the only one who knows. To that end, I am asking that you join in as we pray for God to answer the cries of our hearts with breakthrough for 2019. As a church we exist to love God, live like Jesus, and let the Spirit lead. There is no better time to refocus our mission than now. There is no better way to accomplish it than by prayer.

"...remembering you in my prayers, 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, 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe..." —Ephesians 1:15-19 ESV

RECEIVE DAILY UPDATES AND INFORMATION

text PRAY to 208-495-2345
and follow the instructions

Updates will also be available at calvaryboise.com
and on the Calvary Boise Facebook page

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Sun, Jan 20
*WORSHIP 6:30 PM

January 21-24

MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY
MORNINGS 6:30 - 8 AM
*EVENINGS 6:30 - 8 PM

Thurs, Jan 24
Potluck after evening prayer
*child care provided



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON PRAYER

BOOKS

Humility by Andrew Murray

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray

Teach Me to Pray by Andrew Murray

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence

Prayer by Timothy Keller

PODCASTS

Calvary Chapel Boise: *Sunday Morning Audio*

Prayer - January 20, 2019

Finding Purpose Through Prayer - January 13, 2019

Alive in Prayer - January 6, 2019

Gospel in Life: *Timothy Keller*

The Still Small Voice – 1 Kings 19:1-18

Praying in the Spirit – Romans 8:15-27

Adoration: “Hallowed Be Thy Name” – Matthew 6:6-15

Praying Our Fears – Psalm 3:1-8, Genesis 15:1, 8

Praying Our Tears – Psalm 39:12-13, 126:1-6

Questions of Suffering – Job 1:8-22

VIDEO & WORKBOOK

Power Move: Prayer – Visit calvaryboise.com/mens-ministry and click on the link under resources.

More info on our Week of Prayer is available at calvaryboise.com. Pages will be updated daily January 20-24.



14 PRACTICAL PRAYER TIPS

1. Praying with others (*Matthew 6:9; Matthew 18:20*)

Praying with others is important. Jesus promises to be there when two or three are gathered in His name, and hearing how others relate to God helps you know Him on more levels than just your own personal experience. Seeing God answer the prayers of others also gives us opportunity to praise Him and grow in faith.

2. Praying alone (*Matthew 6:6*)

Praying privately reveals our heart to simply be with God when there is no pressure from others to do so. It gives opportunity to pour our your heart without distractions or worries about what others will think. Additionally, God promises to reward openly those who pray privately.

3. Praying in the name of Jesus/Praying for God's Kingdom & Will (*Matthew 6:10; John 16:23-24*)

Praying in the name of Jesus and the will of God isn't just the way we end our prayers, it's actually the basis of what we pray for and what gives us confidence that our prayers will be answered. The better we know who Jesus is, the easier it will be for us to pray in His name and His will which in turn produces great faith.

4. Praying with faith (*Mark 11:22-24; James 1:5-8; Hebrews 11:6*)

Belief in God is key to receiving His promises. If we didn't have some measure of faith in Him we wouldn't pray in the first place. But as our faith grows so do our prayers and seeing them answered. If you lack faith there are many ways it can grow. For starters, read God's Word (Romans 10:17), cry out for God to help you believe (Mark 9:23-24), and spend time with God (Psalm 36:9).

5. Praying in honesty (*John 4:23-24*)

God desires us to be open and honest with Him for our own good. He wants to openly speak to you about what's really going on in your heart and mind.

6. Praying according to God's Promises (*Hebrews 6:12*)

Knowing God's promises gives you assurance that your prayers will be answered and will be placeholders in faith, even though sometimes those answers come after long periods of patience.

7. Praising God when you pray (*2 Samuel 22:1-4*)

Praising God is a great way to build our faith. As we meditate and sing about who He is, it helps make Him greater in our sight than the things we need, which are small compared to His ability to help us with them.

8. Confessing and turning away from sin through prayer (*Daniel 9:20-23*)

Prayer is a conversation with God in a real relationship sense. Whenever we have hurt or sinned against a person it causes division and separation, and it's the same

with God. He wants to work through the painful places in our relationship with Him as we ask for forgiveness and turn from our sin. Then He can focus on processing through our other needs with us on the foundation of a mended relationship.

9. Persistence & Patience in prayer (*Luke 18:1-8; Hebrews 6:12*)

Our persistence and patience in prayer reveal our faith. If you have stopped praying for something, it might be a good indication that you need to check your faith for God to answer that prayer and then continue praying as your faith is strengthened.

10. Asking the Holy Spirit to help you pray (*Romans 8:26*)

Sometimes we can't seem to put our finger on what to pray for in our time with God. But we are promised that the Holy Spirit will help in our weakness and even pray for us. Be quick to acknowledge Him and ask for His help and guidance as you pray.

11. Praying in humility (*Romans 8:15; James 4:6*)

It is a humble heart that would ask God for help. We should approach prayer in the reality that we can't actually do anything on our own but need God to help us. When we are humble God promises He will give us more and more grace.

12. Praying as you read God's Word (*Psalms 16:11*)

God promises He will reveal to us the path of life, and much of it has been given to us through His Word. As we read His Word and the Psalmist says, "Praise the Lord," it is helpful for us to actually stop and praise the Lord. If the Word says that we should love our enemies, it's good to pause and pray for God to help us to love our enemies.

13. Physical posture in prayer (*Daniel 6:10; John 3:6-10; Matthew 26:39*)

Our physical posture in prayer can also help reveal our heart and our need. It is good to bow before the Lord in prayer or pray on your knees honoring Him. This doesn't need to be every prayer, but letting your physical body be in line with your heart is something we see over and over in scripture, and it's something God honors.

14. Staying focused in prayer (*Matthew 26:41; Luke 10:27*)

One of the most difficult things in prayer can be to focus. We are easily distracted and our bodies will try to turn our prayer times into nap times. To help stay focused in prayer engage not only your Spirit, but also your mind and your body. This can be done by walking while praying, praying out loud, or writing down your prayers in a journal. Put yourself in a situation where you won't be too comfortable or so easily distracted that you spend most of your prayer time trying to re-focus or stay awake.



9 REASONS YOUR PRAYERS MAY BE HINDERED

1. Marriage: Failing to dwell with understanding and give honor (*1 Peter 3:7*)

This warning of hindered prayer is given specifically to husbands who should be careful in how they seek to understand and honor their wives. God gives great importance to the husband and wife relationship and makes it clear that a man's heart and actions towards his wife will directly influence God's willingness to hear and answer his prayers.

2. Pride (*James 4:6*)

The promise that God will actively resist the prideful should be a warning to us when we assess our hearts before Him in prayer. The truly prideful may only pray to build up spiritual pride, or because they believe that when they pray, God is obligated to answer. Be aware of pride, and don't be quick to discount it if someone tells you that you are prideful. This would be an important thing to ask God to reveal in your life.

3. Refusing to turn away from known sin in your life (*Psalms 66:18; Isaiah 59:2*)

God wants to seek peace with you before He answers other prayers. It's similar to other relationships. For example, if I broke into your house and stole all of your possessions, then asked for help setting up your stereo in my house, you would probably want to settle the whole theft thing before the relationship continues. God just wants us to let go of our sin and turn from it, because He hates seeing us hurt ourselves, Him, and others. Once we have peace with Him as our Father, He will be more than open to help us out with our other needs.

4. Ongoing conflicts with others (*Matthew 5:23-24*)

God cares so much about how we relate with one another that He says we should seek reconciliation with each other before coming to worship Him. If you have unresolved conflicts with people, seek reconciliation just as God has with us and then come to God with your prayers.

5. Lacking knowledge of God's Word (*Hosea 4:6*)

If we don't know God's Word, we won't know God very well either. We will also miss out on knowing what He has promised us and why we can believe He will answer our prayers.

6. Praying for things for your own selfish desire (*James 4:2-3*)

God's desire for us is far beyond the things we think will make us happy. His heart is to bring us ultimate joy. The things we "lust" for may bring short-term joy, but will always end in long-term sorrow. For our prayers to be answered they must line up with His desires for us, which will ultimately bring us the true desires of our hearts.

7. A failure to pray (*James 4:2-3*)

Although this seems obvious, sometimes we forget that God is not answering because we aren't asking. He wants to answer so we can see Him do great things, and so that we will understand and recognize that the answers came from Him. He wants to protect us from our tendency to become prideful, because pride creates another hindrance.

8. Believing your prayer will be answered because of how many times you pray it (*Matthew 6:7-8*)

We can have a tendency to think that if we just ask enough times, God will have to answer. But this is something we are warned against. Remember that God knows what you need. Repeated prayers are ok if we are simply responding to our needs and heart. The problem comes when we think the answer comes because we prayed so much rather than as a result of God's heart to answer in His perfect timing and way.

9. Praying for the purpose of being seen by others (*Matthew 6:5*)

It is clear that those who are praying for the purpose of being seen by others are simply praying because they want to look a certain way and feel spiritual around others. God is clear that their prayers won't be answered because what they seek in their hearts they will already have received, which is simply to be seen as a "praying person."



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