A 30-DAY STUDY

Prayers of the Bible

Thirty Real Prayers, One a Day



A 30-Day Study

Andrew Dominguez

Trinfinity
Enterprises

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Prayers of the Bible: A 30-Day Study

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A note before you begin. This book is written to teach the Bible and encourage faith. It shares my understanding of Scripture and is offered for study and spiritual growth. It is not counseling, medical, legal, or financial advice. If you are facing a crisis, a health problem, or a legal or money problem, please reach out to a qualified professional as well as your pastor and church family. To the fullest extent the law allows, Andrew Dominguez, Trinfinity Enterprises, and Andrew Dominguez's heirs, estate, successors, and assigns accept no liability for how this material is used.

A Note on the Bible Translation Used in This Book

My preferred Bible for personal study, teaching, and research is the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB). I chose it because it is a word-for-word translation in today's language, built on the ancient Scripture sources: the Hebrew and Aramaic of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament. I prepared the SLB myself, and the Scripture in this book is taken from it.

Where a literal phrase would mislead an English reader, the SLB gives the writer's meaning in plain words. Words added for sense are set in bold italics so you can see what is in the original and what is not.

The complete Steadfast Literal Bible is free to read, search, download, and print at trinfinityenterprises.com/slb. If you want to check a verse in its full setting or read the translation's preface and principles, that is the place to go.

Above all, my desire is not to promote one translation over another, but to faithfully teach the Word of God, encourage careful examination of the Scriptures, and help readers grow in their knowledge, understanding, and relationship with the Lord.

May every page of this book direct attention not to the translation itself, but to the truth of God's Word and the One whom it reveals.

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Before You Begin

> *And it came to pass, while He was in a certain place praying, when He ceased, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John also taught his disciples."*
>
> Luke 11:1 (SLB)

The disciples watched Jesus pray, and then they asked Him to teach them. That is still one of the best ways to learn to pray: listen to people who prayed well.

The Bible is full of real prayers from real people. A father pleading for a city. A woman weeping for a child. A king who did not know what to do. A prophet in the belly of a fish. A young mother singing. And the Son of God, praying in a garden on the night before the cross.

This little book walks through thirty of those prayers, one a day for a month. Each day you will read the prayer printed in full, a short reflection on what it teaches, one question to think about, and a short prayer to help you pray the same way.

How to Use This Book

Set aside ten or fifteen minutes a day. Read the prayer slowly, out loud if you can. Read the reflection. Write a short answer to the question. Then pray, using the prayer at the end as a starting point and adding your own words.

If you miss a day, do not quit. Just pick up where you left off. The goal is not to finish on time. The goal is to learn to talk with God.

About the Scripture

The Scripture in this book comes from the Steadfast Literal Bible (SLB), a word-for-word translation in today's language. Words added in English to make the sense clear are printed in bold italics.

Day 1: Abraham Pleads for a City

> *And Abraham drew near and said, "Will You also sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Perhaps there are fifty righteous in the midst of the city; will You also sweep* ***it*** *away and not forgive the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who* ***are*** *in its midst? Far be it from You to do according to this manner, to put to death the righteous with the wicked, and it would be, the righteous as the wicked. Far be it from You! Will not the Judge of all the earth do justice?"* (Genesis 18:23-25)

Think About It

God had told Abraham that He was about to judge Sodom, the city where Abraham's nephew Lot lived. Abraham did not shrug. He drew near and began to plead. Fifty righteous? Forty-five? Forty? Thirty? Twenty? Ten? Each time, God agreed.

This is the first long prayer in the Bible, and it is a prayer for other people. Abraham prayed boldly, but he also prayed humbly, calling himself dust and ashes. And he built his whole prayer on the character of God. "Will not the Judge of all the earth do justice?" he asked. He knew God was just and merciful, and he asked God to act like Himself.

That is a good pattern for our prayers. We do not pray to change God's character. We pray in line with it.

Ask Yourself

Who in your life needs someone to plead for them before God?

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Pray It

Lord, You are the Judge of all the earth, and You always do what is right. I bring before You the people I love who are far from You. Have mercy on them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 2: A Servant Asks for Guidance

> *And he said, "O LORD, God of my master Abraham, please make* ***it*** *happen before me this day, and do steadfast love with my master Abraham. Look, I am standing by the spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water. And it will be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please lower your jar, that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink,' her You have appointed for Your servant, for Isaac; and by it I will know that You have done steadfast love with my master."* (Genesis 24:12-14)

Think About It

Abraham sent his oldest servant on a long journey to find a wife for Isaac. When the servant reached the well outside the town, he did the first thing a wise person does with a big decision: he prayed.

His prayer was simple and specific. He asked God to show steadfast love to his master, and he asked for a clear sign. Before he had finished speaking, Rebekah came out with her water jar, and everything happened just as he had asked.

God does not always answer with a sign. But He invites us to bring our decisions to Him, big and small, and to ask for His guidance before we act. The servant prayed first, watched carefully, and then bowed and thanked God when the answer came.

Ask Yourself

What decision are you facing that you need to bring to God today?

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Pray It

Lord, I need wisdom for the decision in front of me. Lead me, open the right doors, close the wrong ones, and help me see Your hand at work. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 3: Jacob Afraid and Unworthy

> *And Jacob said, "God of my father Abraham and God of my father Isaac, LORD, who said to me, 'Return to your land and to your kindred, and I will do good with you,' I am too small for all the* ***acts of*** *steadfast love and all the faithfulness that You have done with Your servant; for with my staff I crossed this Jordan, and now I have become two camps. Deliver me, please, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and strike me, mother with children. And You, You said, 'I will surely do good with you, and I will make your seed like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted for multitude.'"* (Genesis 32:9-12)

Think About It

Jacob was about to meet his brother Esau for the first time in twenty years, and the last time they had been together, Esau wanted to kill him. Now Esau was coming with four hundred men. Jacob was terrified.

So he prayed. Notice what he did. He reminded God of His own promises. He confessed that he was not worthy of all the steadfast love and faithfulness God had shown him. He named his fear honestly. And then he asked God to save him.

Fear is a good reason to pray. Jacob did not pretend to be brave. He told God the truth and held on to what God had promised.

Ask Yourself

What fear do you need to bring honestly to God? Which of His promises can you hold on to?

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Pray It

Lord, I am not worthy of all the kindness You have shown me. You know what I am afraid of. Remember Your promises, and keep me in Your hands. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 4: Moses Stands in the Gap

> *And Moses entreated the face of the LORD his God, and he said, "Why, O LORD, does Your anger burn against Your people, whom You brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a strong hand? Why should Egypt speak, saying, 'For evil He brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them off the face of the ground'? Turn from the burning of Your anger, and relent concerning the evil against Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Yourself, and You said to them, 'I will multiply your seed like the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your seed, and they shall inherit* ***it*** *forever.'"* (Exodus 32:11-13)

Think About It

While Moses was on the mountain receiving the law, the people below made a golden calf and worshiped it. God's anger burned. And Moses, the one man who had every reason to be fed up with them, stood between the people and God's judgment and prayed for them.

Moses gave God three reasons to show mercy. These are Your people, whom You brought out. Your name is at stake before the nations. And You made promises to Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Moses appealed to God's own glory and faithfulness.

Moses points us forward to Jesus, who stands between us and judgment and lives to pray for His people.

Ask Yourself

Who could you stand in the gap for in prayer this week?

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Pray It

Father, thank You that Jesus stands between me and judgment. Teach me to pray for others the way Moses prayed, for the sake of Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 5: Moses Asks for God's Presence

> *And he said to Him, "If Your presence is not going, do not bring us up from here. And by what then shall it be known that I have found favor in Your eyes, I and Your people? **Is it** not in Your going with us, and **in that** we shall be distinguished, I and Your people, from all the people that **are** on the face of the ground?" And the LORD said to Moses, "Also this thing which you have spoken I will do, for you have found favor in My eyes, and I know you by name." And he said, "Show me, please, Your glory."*
> (Exodus 33:15-18)

Think About It

After the golden calf, God said He would send an angel ahead of the people but would not go with them Himself. Moses would not accept it. If Your presence is not going, he said, do not bring us up from here.

Moses understood that the promised land without God was not worth having. What made Israel different from every other nation was not their land, their army or their wealth. It was God's presence with them.

Then Moses asked for even more: "Show me, please, Your glory." He had seen miracles. He had talked with God. He still wanted more of God Himself. That is the heart of prayer at its best.

Ask Yourself

What would you rather have than God's presence? What would it mean to want Him most?

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Pray It

Lord, I do not want to go anywhere without You. Your presence is what I need most. Show me more of Your glory. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 6: Hannah Pours Out Her Soul

> *And she **was** bitter of soul, and she prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, "LORD of armies, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant, and remember me and not forget Your maidservant, and give to Your maidservant a seed of men, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall not go up on his head."* (1 Samuel 1:10-11)

Think About It

Hannah wanted a child more than anything, and year after year her arms stayed empty. Her rival mocked her. Even her loving husband did not understand. So she went to the house of the LORD and prayed, weeping bitterly.

Her prayer was so intense that the priest Eli thought she was drunk. She told him she had been pouring out her soul before the LORD. She made a vow: if God gave her a son, she would give him back to God for all his days.

Hannah teaches us that we can bring our deepest longings to God with tears. She also teaches us to hold even our answered prayers with open hands. When Samuel was born, she kept her promise.

Ask Yourself

What deep longing do you need to pour out before God?

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Pray It

Lord of armies, You see my sorrow. I pour out my heart to You. I ask You for what I long for, and I give it back to You before I even have it. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 7: Hannah Rejoices

> *And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart has rejoiced in the LORD; my horn has been exalted in the LORD; my mouth has opened wide over my enemies, for I have rejoiced in Your salvation. There is none holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, and there is no rock like our God."* (1 Samuel 2:1-2)

Think About It

God answered Hannah. She gave birth to Samuel, and when he was old enough, she brought him to the house of the LORD as she had promised. Then she prayed again. This time her prayer was a song of praise.

Notice where her joy is centered. Not mainly in the child, but in the LORD. My heart has rejoiced in the LORD, she said. There is no one holy like the LORD, no rock like our God.

It is easy to pray hard when we need something, and forget to come back with thanks when God answers. Hannah did both. Her song later echoed in the song of another mother, Mary, which we will read on Day 22.

Ask Yourself

What answered prayer do you need to come back and thank God for?

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Pray It

Lord, there is no one holy like You and no rock like You. Thank You for the prayers You have answered. My heart rejoices in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 8: David Amazed at God's Grace

> *And King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said, "Who **am** I, O Lord GOD, and what **is** my house, that You have brought me this far? And this was yet small in Your eyes, O Lord GOD, and You have also spoken concerning the house of Your servant for a long time to come; and this **is** the law of mankind, O Lord GOD. And what more shall David speak to You? And You, You know Your servant, O Lord GOD. For the sake of Your word, and according to Your own heart, You have done all this greatness, to make Your servant know **it**. Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like You, and there is no God except You, according to all that we have heard with our ears."* (2 Samuel 7:18-22)

Think About It

God had just made an astonishing promise to David: his throne would be established forever, and one of his descendants would reign forever. That promise ultimately points to Jesus, the Son of David.

David's response was to go in, sit before the LORD and pray. And the first thing out of his mouth was a question: Who am I? David knew he did not deserve this. He had been a shepherd boy. Everything he had was a gift.

The more clearly we see God's grace, the smaller we feel, and the bigger God becomes. David ended by saying that there is none like God and no God besides Him.

Ask Yourself

Who am I, that You have brought me this far? What has God brought you through?

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Pray It

Lord God, who am I, that You have brought me this far? Everything I have is from You. There is none like You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 9: David Confesses

> *Be gracious to me, God, according to Your steadfast love; according to the abundance of Your compassion wipe out my transgressions. Wash me abundantly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I myself know my transgressions, and my sin **is** before me continually. Against You, You alone, I have sinned, and I have done the evil in Your eyes, so that You may be justified when You speak **and** be pure when You judge.* (Psalm 51:1-4)

Think About It

Psalm 51 is David's prayer after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband. It is one of the most honest prayers ever written.

David did not make excuses. He did not blame anyone else. He called his sin what it was: transgression, iniquity, sin. And he appealed to the only thing that could help him, God's steadfast love and the abundance of His compassion.

I have prayed this psalm in my own life, more than once. When I have failed, I have found that God does not want polished words. He wants an honest heart. And He is ready to wash and cleanse.

Ask Yourself

Is there anything you need to confess honestly to God today?

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Pray It

God, be gracious to me according to Your steadfast love. I have sinned against You. Wash me and cleanse me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 10: David Asks for a Pure Heart

> *Create for me a pure heart, God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from before You, and do not take the Spirit of Your holiness from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and a willing spirit will sustain me.* (Psalm 51:10-12)

Think About It

Confession is not the end of the prayer. David moved from asking for forgiveness to asking for change. Create for me a pure heart. Renew a steadfast spirit. Restore the joy of Your salvation.

The word create is the same word used in Genesis 1. David knew he could not fix his own heart. Only God could make it new.

And David asked for joy to be restored. Sin steals joy. Forgiveness brings it back. If you have confessed your sin to God, you do not need to live under a cloud. Ask Him to restore your joy.

Ask Yourself

What change do you need God to make in your heart, not just your behavior?

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Pray It

> *Create in me a pure heart, God. Renew a steadfast spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Day 11: Search Me

> *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. And see if* ***there is*** *a way of pain in me, and lead me in the everlasting way.* (Psalm 139:23-24)

Think About It

Psalm 139 is a long celebration of how well God knows us. He knows when we sit and when we rise. He formed us in the womb. There is nowhere we can go to escape His presence.

And then David ends with a request that takes courage: Search me, God, and know my heart. He invited God to look at the places he could not see himself, and to point out anything wrong.

Most of us would rather not be searched. But the God who searches us is the same God who loves us and leads us in the everlasting way. Asking Him to search us is an act of trust.

Ask Yourself

What part of your life would you rather God not look at too closely?

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Pray It

> *Search me, God, and know my heart. Show me anything in me that grieves You, and lead me in the everlasting way. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Day 12: Solomon Asks for Wisdom

> *And now, O LORD my God, You Yourself have made Your servant king in place of David my father, and I **am** a young lad; I do not know **how** to go out and to come in. And Your servant **is** in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a numerous people which will not be numbered and will not be counted for multitude. And give to Your servant a listening heart to judge Your people, to discern between good and evil; for who is able to judge this great people of Yours?* (1 Kings 3:7-9)

Think About It

God appeared to young King Solomon in a dream and said, Ask what I should give you. It was an open invitation. Solomon could have asked for wealth, a long life or victory over his enemies.

Instead, he admitted how little he knew. I am a young lad, he said. I do not know how to go out or come in. And he asked for a hearing heart, to judge the people and to know the difference between good and evil.

God was pleased with that request. He gave Solomon wisdom, and riches and honor besides. James 1:5 tells us that if any of us lacks wisdom, we should ask God, who gives generously.

Ask Yourself

Where do you most need God's wisdom right now?

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Pray It

Lord, I do not know how to do what is in front of me. Give me a hearing heart and the wisdom to know right from wrong. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 13: Solomon Dedicates the Temple

> *For will God really dwell on the earth? Look, the heavens and the heavens of the heavens cannot contain You; how much less this house which I have built! And turn to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to listen to the cry and to the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today, that Your eyes may be open toward this house night and day, toward the place of which You have said, 'My name shall be there,' to listen to the prayer which Your servant prays toward this place. And listen to the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, which they pray toward this place; and You, may You listen at the place of Your dwelling, at the heavens; and hear, and forgive.* (1 Kings 8:27-30)

Think About It

When the temple was finished, Solomon stood before the altar, spread out his hands toward heaven and prayed a long, beautiful prayer. Early in it he said something remarkable: the heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain You, so how much less this house.

Solomon knew the temple did not hold God in. It was a place God chose to put His name, a place where people could turn and pray. And again and again Solomon asked: when Your people pray toward this place, hear from heaven and forgive.

Today we do not need a temple to reach God. Jesus is the way to the Father. But Solomon's prayer reminds us that the great God of heaven bends down to hear the prayers of His people.

Ask Yourself

How does it change your prayers to remember that heaven cannot contain God, and yet He hears you?

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Pray It

Great God, the heavens cannot contain You, and yet You hear me. Thank You that through Jesus I can come to You any time. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 14: Elijah on Mount Carmel

> *And it was, at the offering up of the grain offering, and Elijah the prophet drew near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You **are** God in Israel, and I **am** Your servant, and at Your word I have done all these things. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that You, O LORD, **are** the God, and You have turned their heart back."*
> (1 Kings 18:36-37)

Think About It

Elijah faced 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel. They had shouted, danced and cut themselves all day, calling on Baal to send fire. Nothing happened.

Then Elijah stepped forward and prayed a short, simple prayer. No shouting. No show. He asked God to make it known that He is God in Israel, and to turn the people's hearts back. The fire fell.

Elijah's prayer was not about Elijah. It was about God being known and the people coming back to Him. When our prayers are aimed at God's glory and people's good, we are praying the way Elijah prayed.

Ask Yourself

How much of your praying is about your needs, and how much is about God being known?

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Pray It

LORD, let it be known that You are God. Turn the hearts of the people I love back to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 15: Hezekiah Spreads Out the Letter

> *And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who sits **on** the cherubim, You **are** He, the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; You made the heavens and the earth. Incline, O LORD, Your ear and hear; open, O LORD, Your eyes and see; and hear the words of Sennacherib, **with** which he has sent him to taunt the living God. Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their land, and they have put their gods into the fire, for they **were** not gods, but the work of the hands of man, wood and stone; and they have destroyed them. And now, O LORD our God, save us, please, from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You, O LORD, **are** God, You alone."* (2 Kings 19:15-19)

Think About It

The Assyrian army had surrounded Jerusalem, and their king sent a letter mocking the God of Israel. King Hezekiah took the letter, went up to the house of the LORD and spread it out before Him.

Then he prayed. He began with who God is: the God of Israel, the only God of all the kingdoms of the earth, the Maker of heaven and earth. Only after that did he name the threat. And he ended by asking God to save them so that all the kingdoms would know that He alone is God.

That night God sent His angel, and the Assyrian army was struck down. When trouble comes, we can do what Hezekiah did: spread it out before the Lord.

Ask Yourself

What threat or bad news do you need to spread out before God today?

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Pray It

Lord, You alone are God. You made heaven and earth. I spread this trouble out before You. Save us, so that everyone may know You are God. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 16: The Prayer of Jabez

> *And Jabez called to the God of Israel, saying, "If You will indeed bless me, and increase my border, and Your hand will be with me, and You will keep* ***me*** *from harm so as not to pain me—" And God brought what he had asked.*
> (1 Chronicles 4:10)

Think About It

In the middle of a long list of names, the Chronicler stops to tell us about one man and his prayer. Jabez's name sounds like the Hebrew word for pain. He asked God to bless him, enlarge his territory, be with him and keep him from harm.

And God granted what he asked.

Some people have turned this prayer into a formula for getting what we want. That misses the point. Jabez was asking God for His blessing, His hand, and His protection. It is right to ask God for good things. But notice that the heart of the prayer is: let Your hand be with me. The best blessing is God Himself.

Ask Yourself

What would it look like to ask for God's hand to be with you before you ask for anything else?

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Pray It

God of Israel, bless me, and let Your hand be with me.
Keep me from evil, so that I do not cause pain to others.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 17: We Do Not Know What to Do

> *O our God, will You not judge them? For there is no strength in us before this great multitude that is coming against us, and we, we do not know what we should do; but our eyes **are** on You.* (2 Chronicles 20:12)

Think About It

King Jehoshaphat heard that a huge army was coming against Judah. He was afraid, so he called the whole nation to fast and pray. Then he stood before the people and prayed out loud.

He reminded God of His power and His promises. And then he ended with one of the most honest lines in the Bible: we do not know what we should do, but our eyes are on You.

There are times when we have no plan, no strength and no answer. That is not the end of prayer. It is often where real prayer begins. God answered Jehoshaphat, and the battle was won without Judah lifting a sword.

Ask Yourself

Where do you feel like you do not know what to do? Where are your eyes?

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Pray It

> *Lord, I do not know what to do. I have no strength for this. But my eyes are on You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Day 18: Nehemiah Before the King

> *And I said, "Please, LORD, God of the heavens, the great and awesome God, who keeps the covenant and steadfast love for those who love Him and for those who keep His commandments, let Your ear be attentive, please, and Your eyes open, to listen to the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You today, by day and night, for the sons of Israel Your servants, and confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You. And I and the house of my father have sinned."*
> (Nehemiah 1:5-6)

Think About It

Nehemiah heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the people were in trouble. He sat down and wept, mourned for days, fasted and prayed.

His prayer started with worship: the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love. Then he confessed sin, not only the people's sins but his own and his father's house. Then he reminded God of His promises. And finally he asked for success when he went before the king.

Nehemiah prayed for months before he had the chance to speak to the king. When the moment came, he prayed again, a quick silent prayer, and then he spoke. Long prayers and quick prayers both have their place.

Ask Yourself

What burden has God put on your heart that you need to keep praying about?

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Pray It

Great and awesome God, You keep Your covenant and steadfast love. Hear my prayer, forgive my sins, and give me success in the work You have put in front of me. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 19: Daniel Prays for Mercy

> *And now, hear, O our God, the prayer of Your servant and his supplications, and make Your face shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate, for the sake of the Lord. Incline, O my God, Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city on which Your name is called; for* ***it is*** *not on* ***the basis of*** *our righteousnesses* ***that*** *we are causing our supplications to fall before You, but on* ***the basis of*** *Your great compassion. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, give heed and act! Do not delay, for Your own sake, O my God, for Your name is called on Your city and on Your people.* (Daniel 9:17-19)

Think About It

Daniel was an old man in Babylon when he read in Jeremiah that the exile would last seventy years. He turned to God in prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

His prayer is a long confession on behalf of the whole nation. He did not say "they sinned." He said "we have sinned." And then he asked God to hear and forgive, not because of their righteousness, but because of His great compassion and for His own sake.

That is the only ground any of us has before God. Not our goodness, but His mercy.

Ask Yourself

Why does it matter that Daniel asked for mercy based on God's compassion and not his own goodness?

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Pray It

O Lord, hear. O Lord, forgive. Not because of anything good in me, but because of Your great compassion. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 20: Jonah From the Deep

> *And Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the inward parts of the fish. And he said, "I called out of my distress to the LORD, and He answered me; from the belly of Sheol I cried for help; You heard my voice."* (Jonah 2:1-2)

Think About It

Jonah ran from God, was thrown into the sea, and was swallowed by a great fish. And there, from inside the fish, he prayed.

It is never too late to pray. Jonah had been running in the opposite direction from God's call. He was in the deepest trouble of his life, and it was his own fault. But he called to the LORD in his distress, and God heard.

Jonah's prayer ends with a line worth memorizing: Salvation belongs to the LORD. He could not save himself. Neither can we. But God hears prayers from the bottom of the sea.

Ask Yourself

Have you ever felt too far gone to pray? What does Jonah's story tell you?

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Pray It

> *LORD, I call to You out of my distress. You hear me even when I have run from You. Salvation belongs to You. In Jesus' name, amen.*

Day 21: Habakkuk's Even If

> *Though the fig tree does not bud, and there is no produce on the vines, the yield of the olive fails, and the fields do not make food, the flock is cut off from the fold, and there are no cattle in the stalls, and I, I will exult in the LORD; I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. GOD the Lord* ***is*** *my strength, and He makes my feet like the does, and He makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster, on my stringed instruments.* (Habakkuk 3:17-19)

Think About It

Habakkuk began his book with hard questions for God about injustice and suffering. He ended it with this prayer.

He imagined everything failing: no figs, no grapes, no olives, no crops, no flocks. In his world, that meant total loss. And yet, he said, I will rejoice in the LORD. I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.

That is faith that does not depend on circumstances. Habakkuk's joy was in God Himself, not in what God gave. When we can pray "even if," we have found something no loss can take away.

Ask Yourself

Finish this sentence honestly: Even if _____, I will rejoice in the Lord.

_____

_____

_____

Pray It

Lord, even if everything I depend on fails, I will rejoice in You. You are my strength, and You make my feet steady on the heights. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 22: Mary's Song

> *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because He has looked upon the lowliness of His slave; for look, from now on all the generations will call me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy* ***is*** *His name."*
> (Luke 1:46-49)

Think About It

When the angel told Mary she would bear the Son of God, she went to visit her relative Elizabeth. And there, Mary prayed a song of praise that the church has sung ever since.

Mary was young, poor and from a small town. She knew the hard road ahead. But her soul magnified the Lord. She rejoiced in God her Savior. She marveled that He had looked on her lowliness.

Mary's song echoes Hannah's song from a thousand years earlier. Both women saw God lift up the humble. Mary called God her Savior, a reminder that she too needed the salvation her Son would bring.

Ask Yourself

What great things has God done for you? List a few.

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Pray It

My soul magnifies You, Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. You have done great things for me. Holy is Your name. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 23: The Lord's Prayer

> *Therefore you, pray in this way: 'Our Father who* ***is*** *in the heavens, let Your name be sanctified; let Your kingdom come; let Your will come about, as in heaven, also on the earth. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory into the ages. Amen.'* (Matthew 6:9-13)

Think About It

Jesus' disciples once asked Him, Lord, teach us to pray. This is what He gave them. It is short enough to memorize and deep enough to pray for a lifetime.

Notice the order. It starts with God: His name, His kingdom, His will. Only then does it turn to our needs: daily bread, forgiveness, protection from temptation and evil. Our Father puts us in a family. In the heavens reminds us who we are talking to.

You can pray the Lord's Prayer word for word, and you can also use it as an outline, stopping at each line to pray in your own words.

Ask Yourself

Pray through the Lord's Prayer slowly, one line at a time. Which line means the most to you today?

_____

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_____

Pray It

Our Father in heaven, let Your name be honored, Your kingdom come and Your will be done in my life today. Give me what I need, forgive me as I forgive others, and keep me from evil. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 24: Not My Will

> *And having gone forward a little, He fell on His face, praying and saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You* ***will****."* (Matthew 26:39)

Think About It

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus went to the garden of Gethsemane and prayed. He knew what was coming: the cross, the suffering, and the full weight of our sin. His soul was deeply grieved, even to death.

He asked the Father honestly whether the cup could pass from Him. And then He prayed the most important words a person can pray: nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.

Jesus did not hide His anguish, and He did not pretend. But He surrendered. His prayer opened the way for our salvation. When we pray "not my will," we are following our Savior.

Ask Yourself

What do you need to surrender to God's will, even if you do not understand it?

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Pray It

Father, You know what I want. You know what I am afraid of. Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 25: Jesus Prays for Himself

> *These things Jesus spoke, and He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that Your Son also may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, so that all that You have given Him, He may give to them eternal life. And this is the eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You sent."* (John 17:1-3)

Think About It

John 17 is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus. He prayed it on the night before the cross. In the first part, He prays for Himself. In the second, for His disciples. In the third, for everyone who would believe through their word, which includes you and me.

Jesus' first request is that the Father glorify the Son, so that the Son may glorify the Father. And then He defines eternal life: to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent.

Eternal life is not just living forever. It is knowing God. It starts now, the day we come to know Him, and it never ends.

Ask Yourself

How would you describe eternal life to a friend, based on John 17:3?

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Pray It

Father, thank You for eternal life, which is knowing You and Jesus Christ whom You sent. Help me know You more every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 26: Jesus Prays for You

> *And I do not ask concerning these only, but also concerning those who will believe in Me through their word, that they all may be one, even as You, Father,* ***are*** *in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.* (John 17:20-21)

Think About It

Here Jesus turns His prayer toward the future. He prays not only for the disciples in the room, but for those who will believe in Him through their word. That means He prayed for you, on the night before He died.

What did He ask? That they all may be one. Jesus prayed for the unity of His people, so that the world may believe that the Father sent Him.

Division among Christians is one of the biggest obstacles to the gospel. Unity does not mean we agree on everything. It means we love one another and stand together on the truth of who Jesus is.

Ask Yourself

How does it feel to know that Jesus prayed for you by name, on the night before the cross?

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Pray It

Lord Jesus, thank You for praying for me. Make Your people one, starting with me. Help me love my brothers and sisters, so that the world may believe. In Your name, amen.

Day 27: The Church Prays for Boldness

> *And now, Lord, look upon their threats, and grant to Your slaves to speak Your word with all boldness, in that You stretch out Your hand for healing, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.* (Acts 4:29-30)

Think About It

Peter and John had been arrested for preaching about Jesus and ordered never to speak His name again. When they were released, they went back to the other believers, and the whole church prayed together.

They did not ask God to remove the threats. They asked for boldness to keep speaking His word. And when they had prayed, the place shook, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Many of us pray for comfort and safety, which is right. But the early church shows us another prayer: Lord, give me boldness to speak about Jesus, whatever it costs.

Ask Yourself

Who do you need courage to talk to about Jesus?

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Pray It

Lord, You see what stands against Your word. Give me boldness to speak about Jesus with love and courage. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 28: Paul Prays for Eyes to See

> *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding having been enlightened, for you to know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints* ***are****, and what* ***is*** *the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of the might of His strength* (Ephesians 1:17-19)

Think About It

Paul's letters are full of prayers for the churches he loved. Many of us pray mostly for health and circumstances. Paul prayed mostly for spiritual things.

In this prayer, he asks that believers would know God better, that the eyes of their hearts would be opened, and that they would grasp three things: the hope of God's calling, the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward those who believe.

It is a prayer you can pray for yourself, your children, your church and your friends. Put their names in it.

Ask Yourself

Who could you pray this prayer for today? Write their names.

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_____

Pray It

Father of glory, open the eyes of my heart. Help me know the hope of Your calling, the riches You have for Your people, and the greatness of Your power. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 29: Paul Prays for Love Beyond Knowing

> *For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom every family in **the** heavens and on earth is named, that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, **for** Christ to dwell through faith in your hearts, having been rooted and founded in love, so that you may be fully able to grasp with all the saints what **is** the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled to all the fullness of God.* (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Think About It

Paul bowed his knees before the Father and prayed one of the most beautiful prayers in Scripture. He asked that believers would be strengthened with power through the Spirit in the inner person, that Christ would dwell in their hearts through faith, and that they would be rooted and grounded in love.

Then he prayed that they would grasp the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, a love that surpasses knowledge.

That is a prayer for a lifetime. We will spend eternity discovering how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is.

Ask Yourself

Which part of this prayer do you most need God to answer in your life?

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Pray It

Father, strengthen me by Your Spirit. Let Christ dwell in my heart by faith. Root me in love, and help me grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is. In Jesus' name, amen.

Day 30: Come, Lord Jesus

> *The One who testifies these things says, "Yes, I am coming quickly." Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus!* (Revelation 22:20)

Think About It

The very last prayer in the Bible is three words long: Come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus has just said, Yes, I am coming quickly. And the church answers, Amen, come. After all the prayers we have read this month, the Bible ends with a longing for Jesus Himself.

This is the prayer of a people who know this world is not their home. It is the prayer of those who look for the day when He will wipe away every tear. Until that day, we keep praying, keep trusting and keep watching for Him.

Ask Yourself

Looking back over these thirty days, which prayer helped you most? Why?

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_____

Pray It

> *Come, Lord Jesus. Until You do, keep me praying, trusting and watching for You. Amen.*

Keep Praying

Pray unceasingly.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (SLB)

You have prayed through thirty prayers from Genesis to Revelation. You have prayed with Abraham for others, with Hannah through tears, with David in confession, with Jehoshaphat when you did not know what to do, with Habakkuk when everything failed, and with Jesus in surrender. You have ended where the Bible ends: Come, Lord Jesus.

Here are a few ways to keep going.

- Go back to the prayer that helped you most and pray it again every day for a week.
- Read the Psalms, a few a day. They are the Bible's prayer book.
- Use the Lord's Prayer as an outline for your daily prayers.
- Pray Paul's prayers in Ephesians for the people you love, by name.
- Keep a simple prayer list, and write down the answers when they come.

The Thirty Prayers

Day	Who	Where
1	Abraham	Genesis 18:23-25
2	Abraham's servant	Genesis 24:12-14
3	Jacob	Genesis 32:9-12
4	Moses	Exodus 32:11-13
5	Moses	Exodus 33:15-18
6	Hannah	1 Samuel 1:10-11
7	Hannah	1 Samuel 2:1-2
8	David	2 Samuel 7:18-22
9	David	Psalm 51:1-4
10	David	Psalm 51:10-12
11	David	Psalm 139:23-24
12	Solomon	1 Kings 3:7-9
13	Solomon	1 Kings 8:27-30
14	Elijah	1 Kings 18:36-37
15	Hezekiah	2 Kings 19:15-19
16	Jabez	1 Chronicles 4:10
17	Jehoshaphat	2 Chronicles 20:12
18	Nehemiah	Nehemiah 1:5-6
19	Daniel	Daniel 9:17-19
20	Jonah	Jonah 2:1-2
21	Habakkuk	Habakkuk 3:17-19
22	Mary	Luke 1:46-49
23	Jesus	Matthew 6:9-13
24	Jesus	Matthew 26:39
25	Jesus	John 17:1-3
26	Jesus	John 17:20-21
27	The early church	Acts 4:29-30
28	Paul	Ephesians 1:17-19

Day	Who	Where
29	Paul	Ephesians 3:14-19
30	The church	Revelation 22:20

My Prayer List

Date	I am praying for...	Answer and date

About This Book

Prayers of the Bible is one of a set of free Christian books from Trinfinity Enterprises. All Scripture quotations come from the Steadfast Literal Bible. Questions or corrections are welcome at andrew@trinfinityenterprises.com.