# 21 Days of Prayer

This Prayer Guide is divided into three sections:

WEEK 1 — Re-center our hearts on God
WEEK 2 — Grow in our relationship to God
WEEK 3 — Return to our mission with God

Each day has Scripture to read and a model prayer to get you started. Feel free to create and/or expand on these.

*"Prayer is the Christian's most glorious privilege, most enlarging opportunity and most essential obligation."*

**BILLY GRAHAM**

*Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*
JAMES 4:8

May we become people of prayer. May we each be a testimony to the power of God that raised Jesus from the dead as we become praying people who get unusual answers because we are unusual in prayer.

# DAY ONE

## *DISCOVER MORE OF WHO GOD IS*

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

GENESIS 1:1

*There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.*

1 SAMUEL 2:2

*I love you, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised..."*

PSALM 18:1-3

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*God, I praise You, the God of Creation, the Maker of heaven and earth. You are the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. You are all-knowing and all-powerful. You are Holy. There is no one like You.*

*I acknowledge who You are and who I know You to be. I ask You to open the eyes of my heart to know You deeper, to know Your ways so that I may live to glorify Your name in the earth.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY TWO

## *REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;  male and female he created them.*

GENESIS 1:27

*As it is written, 'None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.  All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*

ROMANS 3:10-12

*for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

ROMANS 3:23

*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick;*

JEREMIAH 17:9

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father, I was created in Your image to be part of Your Master Plan, a part of Your story. But I chose my own way. I am a hopeless, helpless sinner. My own heart lies to me and leads me astray.*

*God, open my eyes to see sin as you see it – anything I ignore, any sin I try to defend or make excuses for because if I cherish sin in my heart You will not hear me (Psalm 66:18). I confess my brokenness to You right now and ask You to forgive me.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY THREE

## *REFLECT ON WHAT JESUS HAS DONE*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed;*

ISAIAH 53:5

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*

1 PETER 2:24-25

*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree-*

GALATIANS 3:13

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, thank you for leaving your home in heaven and becoming one of us. Thank you for giving your life for mine so my sins can be forgiven and I can have a right relationship with the Father.*

*Because of your blood I have been redeemed and can enjoy the peace of your presence in my life right now. Thank You, Jesus!*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY FOUR

## *CONFESS AND REPENT OF SIN IN YOUR LIFE*

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 JOHN 1:9

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

PSALM 51:10-12

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, It is so easy to overlook sin in my own life. Help me remember that even a "little" sin is full of so much evil that it demanded the sacrifice of your blood. How can I tolerate the very thing that nailed You to the cross?*

*Reveal these sins to me and give me the courage to not only confess them before you, but to turn away from my sin. Wash me clean and renew a right spirit in me.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY FIVE

## *REST IN HIS GRACE*

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

EPHESIANS 2:8

*But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."*

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

*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.*

HEBREWS 4:16

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Oh Father, where would I be without your grace? I don't deserve Your favor. Your kindness, Your mercy, Your love, Your presence, Your peace. The list is endless!*

*I pause for a moment to re-center my heart and mind on Your AMAZING GRACE. In You I have all I need. Grace to save, protect, and carry me until I reach my final destination, at home with You. Thank You!*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY SIX

## *PAUSE TO HEAR GOD SPEAK*

*And he said, 'Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.' And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave…*

1 KINGS 19:11-13

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father God,  Sometimes You're speaking and I'm just not listening.  I get so busy telling you my plans, how I think and feel, and what I think I should do that I forget to WAIT to hear from You.*

*Forgive me Lord Jesus!  This is Your story, and not mine.  I realize You may speak when I least expect it – not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire.  I PAUSE now to hear Your low whisper.  Help me to listen for Your voice above all the other noise.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY SEVEN

## *SURRENDER YOUR LIFE TOTALLY TO HIM*

*And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

LUKE 9:23

*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me...*

GALATIANS 2:20

*I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.*

ROMANS 12:1

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father, in light of who You are, who I am and what You've done for me, I want to center my life on you. I desperately want to surrender to You daily, but the problem with a living sacrifice is that I keep getting up off the altar.*

*I acknowledge I cannot live a surrendered life on my own. Today I ask You to enable me to say "no" to myself and "yes" to You, to take up my cross and follow You. Take my life and make it holy and acceptable to You.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY EIGHT

## *KNOW GOD*

*…The LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty…*

EXODUS 34:6-7

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.*

1 JOHN 4:7-8

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*God, As I continue to grow in my relationship with You, I want others to know You like I do. You are not some grandfatherly figure that can be persuaded to let us into heaven because of our goodness.  You are holy and righteous. Yet, compassionate and gracious.*

*Father, my heart breaks for so many people who do not know who You really are, and they have yet to experience Your great love.  Use me to reflect Your love, mercy, and grace to them. I pray that their eyes will be opened and they will choose to believe in You and know You personally.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY NINE

## *EXPERIENCE COMMUNITY*

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers…And all who believed were together and had all things in common.*

ACTS 2:42, 44

*Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.  And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

HEBREWS 10:23-25

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father God, we need You desperately; and we need each other. Life is hard and filled with trouble and disappointment. If we focus on the things around us we will quickly lose hope.*

*I am so thankful that You have given Your Holy Spirit to lead us into Your Truth. And You have given us other believers to encourage and spur us on in our faith journey. I pray that our community of faith will put differences aside and focus on what we have in common, as we continue to grow, and grow up in You.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY TEN

## *DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE*

*I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.*

ISAIAH 43:6-7

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

EPHESIANS 2:10

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

COLOSSIANS 3:17

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*God, You created me with the purpose of bringing glory to You and have given me the gifts and abilities to do just that. You are my source of strength and passion. You are my greatest joy.*

*I surrender my will to You today. Lead me to live the life You created for me. Enable me to use my passion and abilities to bring honor and glory to Your holy name and to point people to You.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY ELEVEN

## *MAKE A DIFFERENCE*

*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

EPHESIANS 2:10

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*

JOHN 15:1-2

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, I acknowledge today that You are the true vine. I find my life in You! You created me for good works to bring glory to You and to bring others to You.*

*Open my eyes to see others as You see them. Open my heart to feel the love and compassion You have for them. Use my hands and feet today to be an extension of Your love and mercy. Lead me to make a difference in someone's life, not just here and now, but for eternity.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY TWELVE

## *LIVE IN FREEDOM*

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

JOHN 8:36

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

GALATIANS 5:1

*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

EPHESIANS 6:10-11

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, You died to set me free, and I am so thankful; but I also realize it is a constant battle to live in that freedom. Today I put on the whole armor to stand against the enemy's tactics.*

*I also pray for others to live in Your freedom. I pray for freedom from depression, anger, addiction, brokenness, division, pride, selfishness, etc. May we take our thoughts captive and choose to live free in You, giving testimony to what the power of God can do, and helping others find that same freedom.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY THIRTEEN

## *PRACTICE GENEROSITY*

*One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.*

PROVERBS 11:24-25

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

MATTHEW 6:19-21

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father, I admit I am often anxious about money and providing for my family. It is so easy to think I can't afford to be generous with what You've given me.*

*I want to be a good steward of Your blessings. So, today I ask for wisdom in how to use my time, treasure, and talents. Realizing you cannot fill a closed hand, I open my hands, giving all I have back to You; and I ask You to continue to fill them as I keep giving it away.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY FOURTEEN

## *GROW IN FAITH*

*And Jesus answered them, 'Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.*

MATTHEW 21:21-22

*...All things are possible for one who believes.*

MARK 9:23

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,*

EPHESIANS 3:20

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Oh Father,  I confess my prayers are often way too small.  Without realizing it, I tend to pray for things I feel are "doable"; but these kinds of prayers do not require a lot of faith.  Perhaps they are simply "safe prayers".*

*Today I ask You to "help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24), with no doubting.  You are more than able to do far above anything I can even think to ask!  Give me courage to pray BOLD prayers – prayers that require total dependence on you, prayers that if You don't come through all is lost. Give me the kind of faith that will move mountains!*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY FIFTEEN

## *OAKWOOD IS CHRIST-CENTERED*

*And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.*

COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

*that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

EPHESIANS 3:16-19

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, our feeble minds cannot grasp all the weight that the words "in Christ" carry. You alone are the center of life itself! And yet, we so easily get off-track listening to our own thoughts and opinions of others.*

*As I lift up Oakwood to You today I pray we will choose to keep You at the center of all we do. I pray that Christ will dwell in our hearts through faith, that we will be rooted and grounded in Your love, and that we will surrender ourselves to You in order to declare the mystery of God, which is Christ, to others.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY SIXTEEN

## *OAKWOOD IS WORD-DRIVEN*

*But he [Jesus] answered. 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

MATTHEW 4:4

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

COLOSSIANS 3:16

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

ROMANS 12:2

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father God, You spoke the whole world into being. Your Word alone has power to bring life, love, cleansing, healing, freedom, peace, wholeness, knowledge, wisdom, and discernment. Your word has proven true and it will stand forever.*

*Yet, there are so many voices around us. Everyone wants to be heard. But the truth is only You have the words of eternal life. I pray that Oakwood will continue to make a priority of Your Word - to read it, hear it, study it, memorize it, and apply it; to diligently teach it to our children and their children so that no one is swayed by man's opinions or reasoning, but we are renewed in our minds, able to discern the will of God, and able to stand against the devil's rhetoric and deception.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY SEVENTEEN

## *OAKWOOD REMAINS PRAYER DEPENDENT*

*Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing… If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

JOHN 15:4-5, 7

*And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

ACTS 2:42

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.*

COLOSSIANS 4:2

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, Sometimes it seems we get so busy "doing the work" that we forget "prayer is the work". I pray that as individuals and as a church body, we will recognize how much we need You, realize how desperate we are without You, and renew our commitment to pray first and foremost.*

*I pray that the Holy Spirit will birth within us a strong desire to honor You, not just with our lips, but with our hearts and lives. I pray that a movement of prayer will begin at Oakwood, igniting a fire of revival among Your people, realizing we cannot survive without it, and that Oakwood will be known as a House of Prayer. Move in us and through us to accomplish Your purposes on the earth while we wait for Your return.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY EIGHTEEN

## *OAKWOOD STAYS KINGDOM FOCUSED*

*And he [Jesus] went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.*

MATTHEW 4:23

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

JOHN 3:16

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father, Thank you for loving and caring for me so intimately. But I must admit that sometimes I forget that You love the whole world. Not just me and my family.*

*Open my eyes to see people as You see them. Let me feel the compassion of Your heart. As a church, I pray Oakwood will stay focused on loving our surrounding communities and reaching the lost; that we continue learning and teaching Your word and proclaiming the truth of the Gospel. And remind us that Your Kingdom is much bigger than Oakwood. We are just part of Your story. As we open our arms, our hearts and our doors, give us eyes to see beyond ourselves and lead us in how we can join You in what You're doing in the world.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY NINETEEN

## *OAKWOOD LEADERS STAND STRONG*

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood*

ACTS 20:28

*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

COLOSSIANS 1:28-29

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.*

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father, I am so thankful for the leaders at Oakwood:*

*Pastors and Staff*
*Elders*
*Deacons*
*Ministry Directors*
*Small Group Leaders*
*Volunteers*

*Today, I ask You to protect their homes and families from disaster, illness and discouragement as they deal with daily struggles. I pray you will give them Your peace, wisdom, and discernment as they seek to hear and obey Your word and lead others to do the same.*

*I also pray that you will fill them with Your Spirit and strengthen them to be people of faith and above reproach as they care for the needs of others and lead us to follow You. And Father, I ask you to give them wisdom to know what to do, and the courage to do it.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY TWENTY

## *THOSE OUTSIDE THE FAITH*

*Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison – that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.*

COLOSSIANS 4:2-6

*praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and 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,*

EPHESIANS 6:18-19

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Father God, knowing that no one can come to Jesus unless You draw them (John 6:44), I ask you to begin now to hover over the hearts and minds of those who do not know you making them more attentive to spiritual things. I pray that as we engage outsiders we will make Your truth unforgettable, and they will be so intrigued by our lives that they begin to seek You.*

*I pray for wisdom and discernment, as a believer, to not be so focused on my little life and neglect the eternal fate of someone right in front of me. Give me words to say and boldness to share the good news of a Great Savior!*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

# DAY TWENTY-ONE

## *THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER HEARD*

*For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

ROMANS 10:13-14

*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'*

ACTS 2:37-38

## EXAMPLE PRAYER:

*Lord Jesus, It's hard to imagine that there are many people who have never heard of You. How will they hear? How will they know?*

*Today, I ask that You open our eyes to see the harvest before us. Whether we send or train missionaries, fund Scripture translation in other languages, or some other way we've yet to entertain, give us insight into how we can reach people with language, cultural and even logistic barriers. Your word tells us that you desire all people to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), let this be our desire as well. May we share Your story with those who have never heard Your name.*

## MY PRAYER:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____