



WELCOME TO THE FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER

If you have ever wanted a closer relationship with God, we invite you to dedicate these 40 days of Lent to your heavenly Father. Offer him your attention in a way that is life-giving, emotionally and spiritually refreshing.

The Lent season is the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending the day before Easter. It is a season of personal reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. It is a special time where we purposely seek God's face in order to understand more deeply the extent of his love and sacrifice for us.

We know that daily time with God and spiritual practices can be difficult to manage with long workdays, family commitments and all of life's challenges. Often the first relationship to get neglected is our relationship with our heavenly Father.

Yet, God remains faithful to us as he daily and lovingly waits for us to meet with him. Jesus says in Revelation 3:20 ...

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in

and eat with that person, and they with me.

Will you commit to daily time with God this Lent season? It will take a conscious effort and commitment. But God will meet with you and share his heart with you if you let him. He will cause you to notice him as you run errands or look into the face of someone who challenges you.

Most of all, you will be reminded that God is truly closer than you think.

May these daily reminders of God's nearness, give you a greater sense of joy, hope, and peace this holy season. May God's presence enable us all to more freely and more powerfully love as Jesus loves.- Pastor Todd

How To Use The Prayer Guide ...

STEP ONE/ 2 MINUTES OF SILENCE AND STILLNESS - For many of us, our minds are full of thoughts from that day or week when we come before God. Begin by spending 2 minutes (use a timer if it helps) in quietness before God. Allow the voices in your mind to quiet down. Focus your attention on who God is. You can listen to worship music or say a simple prayer to God such as ... "speak for your servant is listening."

STEP TWO/ SCRIPTURE READING - Read the short Bible passage out loud. Read it two or three times if it helps the power of God's words to penetrate your thoughts.

STEP THREE/ ONE QUESTION TO CONTEMPLATE - Ponder the question presented and write out (if you're able) your thoughts.

STEP FOUR/ PRAYER TIME & LISTENING FOR GOD'S RESPONSE - Respond to God in prayer. Talk to him about whatever is on your heart and mind. Close your time by spending a few minutes listening for his voice. What do you hear? Write down whatever, "nudges", words, pictures, or Scriptures come to mind.

WEEK FIVE ...

DAY 23 - Monday, March 23, 2020

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud John 10:2-4

We all hear voices. Some of them are positive and comforting. Others are distracting and destructive. But there's one Voice above all to which we're called to listen. Jesus said that he is the Good Shepherd and that his sheep know his voice. Throughout history, those who have practiced God's presence have insisted that they heard his voice. They have learned, so to speak, to program their minds to be constantly receiving the divine channel.

Some speak of "notions," "promptings," or "leadings." Others have God-given dreams and visions or are directed to special Bible verses. No matter how we hear from God, we will hear more clearly if we believe that God will really speak to us, are attentive and live in a posture of willingness to follow where he leads.

How has God spoken to you in the past? How can you grow in recognizing his voice more clearly?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.

DAY 24 - Tuesday, March 24, 2020

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud John 4:31-34

Food is a gift from God. Jesus told his followers to pray for their daily bread. To the writers of Scripture, food is concrete evidence that God is present and providing for us.

Jesus also said that we do "not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." As our bodies are fed by food, so our spirits are fed by words with ideas and images. We are flooded by words that can mislead us, so we need to feed our minds each day from the Word of God.

It's helpful to feed your mind by taking a thought from Scripture:

- Nothing can separate us from the love of God
- I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me
- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all

What would it be like to feast on the Word of God throughout the day?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.

[DAY 25 - Wednesday, March 25, 2020](#)

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud Romans 8:5-8

The truth is that your mind is never still...Each thought we have carries with it a little spiritual power, a tug toward or away from God. No thought is purely neutral. Every thought is either enabling and strengthening you to be able to cope with reality to live a kingdom kind of life, or robbing you of that life.

In time, if we listen carefully, we can learn to recognize God's voice. Not infallibly, of course. But the kind of thoughts that come from God are those in line with the fruit of the Spirit; they move us toward love and joy, peace and patience. And we learn that there are other thoughts that are not likely to be God speaking.

To what extent is your thought life moving you to a life of love, joy, peace, and patience or robbing you of that life?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.

DAY 26 - Thursday, March 26, 2020

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud Romans 7: 21-23

Even when we surrender our lives to God, we find a battle going on inside our hearts and minds. On the one hand, we want to live and love like Jesus. On the other hand, we can't help but react negatively when someone hurts us, neglects us, or threatens to take something from us.

The good news is that we have the power to turn up the volume of God's voice by surrounding ourselves in Christian community and asking the Holy Spirit to remind us of God's promises. We can turn our eyes and ears toward God in a small step of faith and obedience.

Every time we say yes to God we will get a little more sensitive to hearing him the next time. Our mind becomes a little more tuned in to God's channel. On the other hand, when we say "no" we make ourselves a little less likely to hear him in the future.

How can you turn your eyes and ears toward God and turn up the volume of his voice?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.

DAY 27- Friday, March 27, 2020

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud Luke 6:12-16

Jesus lived his life in complete alignment with God the Father. As he began his public ministry, Jesus invited many people to follow him. But there came a time when he chose twelve individuals to invest in deeply, these in whom he would entrust his life's mission and work.

How did he know who to choose? Jesus spent the night praying to his Father in heaven. Jesus set aside a significant time and place to talk things over with God. He set aside his fears, his concerns and any agenda he had to seek God and his purposes. In the morning he had clarity as he called the twelve by name.

It's been said that true prayer is listening to God in order to obey him. Jesus prayed this way.

To what extent do you pray by listening to God in order to obey him?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.

DAY 28 - Saturday, March 28, 2020

2 Minutes - SILENCE, STILLNESS AND CENTERING WITH GOD

Read Outloud Phillipians 4:8-9

The goal here is to have a mind in which the glorious Father of Jesus is always present and gradually crowds out every distorted belief, every destructive feeling, every misguided intention. You will know your mind is increasingly "set on God" when the moods that dominate your inner life are love, joy, and peace— the three primary components of the fruit of the Spirit.

To make my mind a home for Jesus, I deliberately fill my mind with the kinds of things God says are important...Whatever repeatedly enters the mind occupies the mind, eventually shapes the mind, and will ultimately express itself in what you do and who you become. The events we attend, the material we read (or don't), the music we listen to, the images we watch, the conversations we hold, the daydreams we entertain—these are shaping our minds. And ultimately they make our minds receptive or deaf toward the still small voice of God.

What are you consciously and unconsciously filling your mind with?

Prayer Time/Close with 2 Minutes - Silence and Listen for God's Response.