

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

John Piper

Desiring God, 1996, p. 138

Every year, Genesis takes the month of May to focus on prayer. This year we have asked 31 people to share a favorite scripture and a brief paragraph explaining why the passage is special to them. We have compiled these into a booklet for you to use during the month.

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

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

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

God Bless

May 1<sup>st</sup>

Psalms 51:1-4

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

I am thankful for speed dial. You know, those numbers you call so often that you want easy access to them. On my current cell, all I have to do is touch a picture and it calls that person. That is so much easier than looking their number up, or even dialing the numbers. Some numbers are called so often they need to be on speed dial. In our prayers, there are some passages that we should call so often, they too should be on speed dial. At the times we need them, we can find them so quickly it is almost like our Bible just falls there. I have several passages on speed dial for prayers, quick access to God. Those include Psalm 103, Ephesians 3:14-21, Acts 4:23-31, and Psalm 34. Probably, though, the passage at the number one speed dial position is Psalm 51. This is a prayer from the lips of David when his sin of adultery and murder had been exposed. David is falling at God's feet in confession and repentance, and this prayer is both a great prayer to pray myself, and one that teaches me how to repent well. Repentance is such an important part of our prayer lives, the regular process of coming humbly before God to confess sin, turn from ourselves, and reach out for forgiveness. So let me encourage you today to read the entire Psalm, reciting it as a prayer, and then put it in your "speed dial" prayer list and revisit often.

Mike Hubbard

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Colossians 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

I have often used this verse to pray for myself, my husband, or my children when we are trying to make a decision or determine what God's will is in a situation such as a college choice, a difficult situation at work, or one of the many others decisions we all have to make in life. I pray that we will be "filled with the knowledge of his will" so that we'll have the peace of knowing we're walking with him in a way that pleases him. When we seek God's will, he enables us to be fruitful in our service to him.

Donna Parke

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 3<sup>rd</sup>

Psalms 73:25-26

25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Gary, Todd's Dad, was told he had maybe 6 to 8 months to live in the Spring of 2011. Heart breaking news. He suffered well. He sought the LORD daily, which was an encouragement, but so hard to watch his flesh fade away. I clung to this verse. There really is nothing on this earth that can satisfy us like the LORD. He alone must be our portion and strength. Our flesh will fail and maybe even our hearts, but God will never fail us. Gary had worked his whole life and had just retired and that is when the news of cancer hit us. We were sad, but had hope in knowing that the LORD was his portion, his Savior. Praise be to God.

Val Haberkorn

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 4<sup>th</sup>

Revelation 5:8

8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

The scene described in Revelation chapter 5 is "awesome". Angelic beings burst into worship and song when they discover how complete the victory of the Lord Jesus was at the cross. (Lamb who was slain)

It is a great source of encouragement to me that the prayers of the saints, (you and me) are allowed into such a holy place like the throne room of God. Isaiah was brought into this place and he felt ill. He said "woe is me I am a man of unclean lips" Be encouraged and think about this:

- 1) Our prayers have direct access to God because of Jesus.
- 2) Our prayers are Holy (set apart) and have a place in this most Holy place.
- 3) Our prayers are like incense and have a pleasing aroma to God
- 4) Angelic beings who sit in the presence of Holy God highly value your prayers.
- 5) Our prayers are at the center of one of the greatest worship songs of all time.
- 6) The Holy Spirit Wrote this passage and others so we would know how important our prayers are to God.
- 7) Pray often and know your prayers go right before God and Jesus and they go right Now.

Dave Weitzel

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 5<sup>th</sup>

Matthew 6:25-34

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

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

This speaks to my tendency to worry and get ahead of myself thinking about "what if" scenarios. In this verse, Jesus is being honest that there will be troubles on this earth. We don't need to let our imaginations run and create trouble in our minds that may never happen. We should take things a day at a time, resting in the assurance that our sovereign God will meet our daily basic needs. We also don't need to let earthly troubles consume us. The troubles on earth are momentary.

John Parke

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 6<sup>th</sup>

Joshua 1:5

5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

I have never been a fan of tattoos. There, I said it...out loud for everyone to see! Mike and I fought Brian for years over this. He was respectful to our wishes, but was relentless with his attempts to break us. There was simply no discussion. During a weak moment, I agreed to listen. Brian had an idea that made us both (momma and baby) happy...5 years later, Mike still hasn't agreed!!!

As my daddy was dying, he gave Brian this verse to hold in his heart. Brian was his PawPaw's boy. My daddy loved him beyond measure. The fact that in their last conversation, the final guidance and piece of "PawPaw" advice that my daddy shared with my son contained such powerful words of God's, so much so that Brian wanted them tattooed on his arm, I agreed. I know that my baby carries the word of God freely and proudly on his body and also in his heart. That makes this verse extremely special and even more dear to me! Joshua 1:5 was my Paw Paw's favorite verse, my daddy's favorite, my son's and mine. That is what a family legacy is all about...passing God on thru the generations.

Melody Buehrle

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 7<sup>th</sup>

Psalms 22:24

24 For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

On January 12, 2010, I stood in my kitchen preparing dinner when someone called to inform me that a devastating earthquake hit Haiti, my home away from home. Over the next hours (and days) as I sat entranced in front of the television and computer trying to make sense of what I was seeing, I couldn't; I was in shock. I could not grasp that these people, whom I loved and whom already lived in such desperate poverty, were experiencing such a catastrophic natural disaster. Just two days before, I had been looking at the hundreds of pictures taken on my three-week trip to Port-au-Prince to finalize our adoption a couple of years before. In that stack of photos was a beautiful snapshot of the National (Presidential) Palace in all its glory, with palm trees swaying in the wind on a beautiful sunny day. On television that night, I watched the building collapse, and my heart sank to the pit of my stomach. It symbolized the severity of the devastation to me. It took days to hear from those we work with there to find out their situations. It took months to hear from our birth families there.

During this time of shock, helplessness, and depression, I could cling to this verse in Psalm 22 and prayed through it often on behalf of my friends and family dealing with this tragedy. God had not hidden his face from the afflicted. In fact, he was right there in the midst of his people. When everything appeared hopeless (I mean, HOW could they possibly recover from this?), I was able to receive personal reports and photos of the Church rising up and reaching out. Many came to know Christ. Children ministered to other children who had lost limbs. Women grieved with fellow mothers who lost children. And in all things, God heard their cries and brought healing.

Leslie Holdegraver

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:



May 8<sup>th</sup>

I Thessalonians 5:16

16 Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

This verse became our verse. The church began to pray for me and my family. Wherever I go I have people tell me that they are praying for me. In the middle of a life changing illness, God hears and answers prayers and for that I am joyful. When I was in the hospital and the doctors needed answers, the church prayed and the doctors got what they needed to make their decisions. Things like time lines just started working out and critical numbers just started changing. So for me, two things that I have learned; although it seems like my life is spinning out of control, I give thanks that God is still in control and God hears and answers prayer.

Bob Lancaster

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 9<sup>th</sup>

Psalms 116:1,2

1 I love the Lord because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. 2 Because He inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Prayer is a desperate, daily, dire need in my life right now. Why? Is it only because the word cancer is consuming our lives? Is it because I relied too heavily on my ability to handle everything? Oh, I gave God the big stuff – the job changes, spouses for my kids, mission trips, other people's illnesses, but what about giving him control of every moment of every day and every hour on my calendar? Now I have to do that and I realize how much more I need to rely on Him through moment by moment prayer. I need prayer that is like breathing – continual and steady and never ending. He desires that from me and I owe that to Him, since He is the author of every breath. Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live.

Terry Lancaster

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 10th

Romans 15:18

18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience – by word and deed,

About two years after the birth of our second boy, we decided to try one more time in hopes of getting a little girl. Cherie became pregnant and all seemed to be going well. A few months into the pregnancy Cherie became concerned because she knew she should be feeling movement of the baby but she didn't. A trip to her doctor confirmed our fears - she had a miscarriage. We knew of people who were just devastated by a miscarriage. I don't know how to explain it, but even though we were greatly saddened by our loss, we also had much peace and hope - we recognized that God was still in control, so He allowed us to move on, not dwell upon our loss, and be at peace. I was strengthened by this verse in Romans which reminded me that my hope, joy, and peace lie not within the confines of this world, but with my Creator, my Heavenly Father. No matter the circumstances nor how difficult the obstacles that life throws into my path, I can still have abounding hope, joy, and peace if my hope is in Him.

Leon Allen

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 11<sup>th</sup>

2 Corinthians 4:7-9, 16-18

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ... 16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

These verses are what comes to mind not so much during crisis, but when the everyday stresses threaten to overwhelm me. I tend to get bogged down by all the ways I've failed that day, the many people I know that are suffering in so many ways, the rate at which the world seems to be sinking deeper into darkness. The message of these verses lift my gaze from myself to Him. They remind me that I am promised to have struggles in this life, but He will not let them overtake me. I am but a fragile jar of clay, the power is in God. And despite what this world may be doing to my body and mind, He is offering to renew me daily. On the days that are the hardest to drudge forward, My Savior is promising me a glory that doesn't even come close to the weight I'm feeling. And that is what will carry on forever.

Jodi Burnley

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 12<sup>th</sup>

Psalms 139 with an emphasis on verse 16

16 Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in you book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

Psalm 139 has been very special to me for 20 years. My mom was completely healed on May 17, 1997 when she went home to Jesus. The 2 years prior to that date held many ups and downs as her health declined. I found great comfort in verse 12, "even the darkness is not dark to You". What joy in knowing that we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (v. 14) and that God had every one of our days planned before we were born (Carla's translation of v. 16!). No matter our circumstance, followers of Jesus are secure in the hand of the Father who will "lead me in the everlasting way" (v. 24).

Carla Moore

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 13<sup>th</sup>

Psalms 46:10

10 “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

I find myself busy throughout most days. This is because of the din that I create myself, with joys and sorrows, fears and self-assurances, musings and plans. To that I add the time and attention to self care with hygiene and clothing, eating and exercising, errands and resting. Added, still, are the things outside of myself that vie for my attention. These include my family, my friends, strangers, calls, texts, my job, the radio, the TV, the Internet, billboards, movies, the news, the neighbors, books, and drivers on the road. In my relationship with God this can all be quite deafening. Psalm 46:10, time and time again, brings me peace, perspective, and a moment of quiet reflection. I find that when I am quiet in my mind and body I get a sense of how small I am and how big God is. I get a sense that He is always at work and that His plan is perfect and preferable. Then, I’m off and running again; off and running to exalt myself and my agenda. For me, this verse is strengthening and helps me to slow my mind and body; to be still and know that He is God. Remembering that it is He who is to be exalted and that He will be exalted among the nations and in the earth is both freeing and comforting. It helps me to shut out the “noise” and focus myself on God, looking outward and listening inward for Him.

Greg Jarvis

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 14<sup>th</sup>

Isaiah 1:16-18

16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, 17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. 18 Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

I am fortunate to do a job that allows me to be outside during the day. While there are other verses similar to this, I realized my sin was being complacent. I had driven by hundreds of people that were hurting often times thinking they did this to themselves, until the day I met a young lady by the name Melissa, that I realized how great my sin. I now pray often for those that I now have a relationship with.

Mike Buehrle

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 15<sup>th</sup>

James 1:12-15

12 Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promise to those who love him. 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

As I start to read and learn from the bible, I refer to this scripture to try and stay on the correct path and not stray too far off of God's plan and direction for me.

Jason Adams

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:



May 16<sup>th</sup>

Colossians 3:23

23 “What ever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for Man.”

I love to serve. I know that serving others is also serving God, so I'm involved in the church as much as I can be. I enjoy being in charge of stage design and hanging out with the kids every 5th Sunday. I feel like I serve a lot, but truthfully, I don't as much as I should. We should serve God in ALL things we do. Not just while we're at church or in Charleston. Sometimes, I get tired of serving; I want people to recognize what I do and praise me for it. But I don't ever deserve that praise- only God does. I forget that the purpose of serving is for God, not other people. This verse reminds me of that, and encourages me to work for God in everything I do! It gives me the energy to continue on with joy, because I am serving a God that loves me! If you ever have struggles with serving, whether it be doing your chores when your mom asks you, being nice to your rude boss, or going on an international mission trip, remember that you might be serving others, but above all, you are serving the One Creator that gave loves you very much!

Alex Hubbard

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 17<sup>th</sup>

James 1:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

This passage goes on to speak about being tempted, lacking wisdom, and reveling in our own self-sufficient pursuits- all things I excel in. Sure, there are trials that come from around us, like being mocked when sharing our faith or enduring the fiery arrows targeted at us from Satan when we're trying to be the hands and feet of the body of Christ. But many trials come from within our own hearts, and those are the ones that come to my mind from this passage. For me, these trials take many forms: the temptation to be of the world (and not merely in the world), the desire to follow my own ideas rather than lean on God's teaching, pursuing my own interests for my own glory. It is only through coming out the other side of these trials that I have grown to see some maturity and steadfastness in my life. He has grown in me a true desire to stop in the moment when that inward trial is actually happening and genuinely listen to the Holy Spirit when He tells me that inward trial is not worth pursuing, to put it down, and to turn and run from it toward Him. Does this make me perfect? Absolutely not. You can ask my wife. Or my kids. Or anyone who has talked to me, ever. It makes me persevere, and that is the lifestyle God wants for me on this side of His Heaven. Perseverance is the tool He uses to rid me of my pride, my envy, my lust, my greed, and bring about maturity. And becoming what He wants me to be gives me the joy talked about in this passage.

Eric Burnley

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 18<sup>th</sup>

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

Because it describes perfectly what love means. It shows that it's not just one of many emotions. It shows how important love is in our lives and how it should guide every action in our relationships with others.

Gabby Adams

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 19<sup>th</sup>

Psalms 107:1-3

- 1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
- 2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble
- 3 and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

These verses are special to me because they fill my heart with joy! When I pause and consider the goodness of God, I am so incredibly thankful. Thankful for His mercy and grace, which I don't deserve. His steadfast, unchanging love is so amazing. The fact that he loves me, has saved and redeemed me sometimes is hard for me to comprehend. Give thanks to the Lord for He is so, so good.

Debbie Stein

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 20<sup>th</sup>

1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:7

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

When I feel like I'm being judged for choices I've made or the way I view things.

Amie Adams

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 21<sup>st</sup>

Isaiah 40:11

11 "He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

The whole chapter of Isaiah 40 is an amazing one, but this verse is special because I needed it, and received it at just the right time.

Many of you walked through this experience with me, so you may recall. I was about to turn 40 years old when we received the very surprising news that I was expecting twins. Every child is a gift from God, but at this time the news was difficult to swallow. I had just finished a very trying year teaching 5th graders, I was unbelievably sick with twin hormones, and my mother (who had been ill for many years) suddenly passed away. Going through the death of your mother is a very emotional thing, but doing so while expecting twins was extremely sad. I had just announced to her the news that the twins were identical girls the night before she passed away. I call the summer of 2008 the Summer of Tears. I promptly began reading Job, as I felt God's abandonment was upon me. I will be honest when I say I couldn't resolve "The Lord gives and the Lord takes away, Blessed be the name of the Lord." That same summer, Mike preached on Isaiah 40, and this verse shouted out from the page to me. I had lambs (my 3 current children) that I felt I couldn't care for- emotionally-I couldn't even care for myself during those days- that He said He gathered in His arms, carrying them next to his heart. And leading those that are with young. That was me. I'm not sure why this was so special to me, but I clung to those words for the rest of the pregnancy. If you read all of Isaiah 40, you will hear the declaration of our Mighty God and his awesome power, but this tenderness was precious to me at that time.

Heidi Hubbard

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 22<sup>nd</sup>

Matthew 6:5-8

5 And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

I remember when I first became a Christian, one of the things that I used to be nervous about was praying in a group. I would listen to others pray and be envious that they were able to spontaneously say just the right thing. I am not a man of many words, but this passage made me much more comfortable praying in a group by teaching me that prayer is about my heart, not about making sure that just the right words were coming out of my mouth. This passage continues to remind me not to worry about being eloquent when I pray, but instead, to focus on being open and honest.

Doug Brickey

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 23<sup>rd</sup>

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.

This is my "go to" verse whenever I see or experience the consequences of living in a broken world, and I can't seem to figure God out. This verse comforts me by reminding me that even though we can't trace God's hand, we can fully trust His heart. Everything that the human race needs to know about God is revealed in scripture. I love how the verse states that the things revealed BELONGS to us and our children. Jesus is OURS and we belong to Him!

We can also take comfort in knowing that the secret things belong to The Lord. Whenever tragedy strikes, our first reaction is to ask "why". God is not obligated to answer all of our why questions. Those things are part of His sovereign plan and are designed for our good. Rest in the fact that he's got this and we will benefit from it.

Rob Matt

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:



May 24<sup>th</sup>

Romans 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Because it says for I am not ashamed by the gospel of Christ and feel like if you are a true Christian that this verse is the verse to look upon. It shows it is the gospel you believe in.

Katie Adams

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 25<sup>th</sup>

John 13:34-35

34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

If you ask the average person "How do you know if someone is a Christian?" you may get a variety of answers. For many, being a Christian is often characterized by attending church weekly, praying, reading your Bible and, if you're really a good Christian, dropping a few dollars in the offering plate. The Bible tells us how the world SHOULD recognize a follower of Christ...by our LOVE. These verses have been very powerful in my life over the past few years, propelling me out into the world with the LOVE of JESUS. My prayer is that as I give of my time and energy to those who do not yet have the joy of Jesus they will be drawn to Him by the love that flows from my life. A love that comes from a grateful heart for what Jesus has done for ME!

Vicki Shattuck

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 26<sup>th</sup>

1 Corinthians 10:13

13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

At many times in my life I have felt like my current struggle was more than I could bear. When I was first introduced to the Christian faith, a few of the guys that disciplined me challenged me to learn verses so that I could use them in my daily walk with Christ. This verse has always been one that I have applied during challenging times, whether that be lust, anger, jealousy, or any of the many things I have wrestled with as a Christian. When I revisit this verse in the midst of temptation I always realize that I am not beyond my 'ability' just yet, and God will provide the way out. And that is encouraging.

Nick Mosca

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 27<sup>th</sup>

Exodus 4:10-12

10 But Moses said to the Lord, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue." 11 Then the Lord said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord? 12 Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak."

There are times when I feel inadequate for the ministry God has called me. In the face of witnessing or leading my own family, there is a tendency for me to focus on my shortcomings. This verse reminds me that God calls people to do the impossible. He does not rely on the qualities of man to accomplish His goals; instead He works through the brokenness of man. God has made the particular part of my personality, intellect, or any part of me that I feel is lacking. He will be with me as I go and serve Him where He has called me.

Weston Ely

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 28<sup>th</sup>

Jeremiah 17:7-8

7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

I love this incredible promise God gave us through Jeremiah. As we keep our trust in the Lord, He promises to nourish and sustain us when (not if) the heat and drought come. And He doesn't stop there! Beyond mere survival during tough times, He promises that we will continue to bear fruit! This is the power of the Gospel...God working in us to bring flourishing life as we trust in Him as our Lord. What grace! What hope! What a promise!

Michael Shattuck

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 29<sup>th</sup>

## Psalms 23

1 "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

This Psalm has a very special place in my heart. It is the first scripture I remember hearing as a child, and it carries vivid memories. When my grandfather was in his last moments, my mom sat at his bedside and said this verse over and over. This verse is bursting with beautiful imagery of the steadfast comfort and compassion of the Lord, but it also describes the situations where we feel the most despondent and helpless. Today (and most days), I'm looking across my living room and wondering if there's actually a floor underneath all the toys/papers/dolls/shoes. I've re-rolled toilet paper four times. I've been glared at in the grocery store by fellow shoppers (presumably childless) who didn't appreciate my screaming kids. I've spent far too much time arguing with a four year old over the merits of sleep and the pronunciation of "spaghetti" (apparently it's "**bus**-ketti," in case you're interested).

I am not in the shadow of death, but I am in the shadow of frustration and self-pity. At times like these, Psalm 23 reminds me that no matter how annoying it is to scrub peanut butter off the kitchen table (and cabinets, and floor, and chairs...), I shall not want a different life. The Lord leads me in the path of re-rolling toilet paper FOUR TIMES for His name's sake. I see in this verse that the Lord does not leave me, but goes before me in ALL circumstances. He leads me when the waters are still and placid, and He is also leading when I am in the shadow of worthlessness and defeat. Psalm 23 encourages me to praise God for his mercy and goodness ALL the days of my life.

Kacey Ely

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 30<sup>th</sup>

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.

Life is hard. Nothing seems to come easy. Pain is present around every corner. This is not to say that life is never good. It is. But sometimes the pain can be so overwhelming that it's hard to see anything else. In this verse, Paul gives us perspective. No matter how hard life is, no matter what you are going through, everything without exception is not even worth comparing to what God has in store for His children. We must maintain this forward glance, and remember this promise. This pain is small in comparison to the greatness of what we will one day experience in God's presence. They are not even worth comparing with one another. We have a glorious future.

Todd Haberkorn

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield:

May 31<sup>st</sup>

Isaiah 55:8-9

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Sometimes things happen in our lives that we don't understand. When that happens to me and I don't know how or what to pray, this verse is a great reminder for me that I don't think like God(thank goodness!!)! It doesn't always help me see the situation like God, but it does remind me that God sees and knows the situation and I can rest in that. Praying these verses gives me a peace about the circumstance that is on my mind.

Cheri Allen

Praise:

Repent:

Ask:

Yield: