

21 DAY FAST AND PRAY

January 4, 2021

"Prayer is taking our troubles to heaven. Faith is leaving them there." - unknown

Heavenly Homework.

1. In the book, "God, Please Help Me Pray!" add to your reading Appendix D, page 183. Also, be sure to include I Samuel 1:9-18 in today's reading.
2. On page 29 under "to do"
3. Fast someway each day as God directs you personally.

Prayer is first a matter of relationship. Speaking to God is a privilege reserved for a child of God. God is willing and obligated to hear the prayers of his children (Proverbs 15:29; John 9:31) *and* His ears are always open when His children pray. God is a good, good Father who is never too busy to listen to your prayers. Once you are certain by faith of your child-ship, the next step is to be prepared when you approach God in prayer.

- a. A prepared heart is a forgiving heart.** Everyone may not forgive you, but you must forgive others. *"Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him [drop the issue, let it go], so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions and wrongdoings [against Him and others]."* – Mark 11:25 AMP
- b. A prepared heart is a loving heart.** While we may not always agree, we are commanded to love our brothers and sisters in Christ. *"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, so you too are to love one another."* – John 13:34 AMP
- c. A prepared heart is a confessing heart.** A confessing heart offers no excuses, recognizes sin, calls sins, sin, and repents. Sin will either separate you from prayer or prayer will separate you from sin. They are not compatible. *"He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins."* – Psalm 66:18 NASB
- d. A prepared heart is a humble heart.** God hates pride and false humility. Pride will hinder your prayers. *"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."* – James 4:6
- e. A prepared heart is an obedient heart.** An obedient heart strives to submit to and live by God's word. To align yourself with God's will is to guarantee answered prayer. This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. *"And if we know that he hears us – whatever we ask – we know that we have what we asked of him."* – I John 5:14-15

Here are 10 things to pray about:

Pray for the healing of our nation and its leaders

Pray for unborn children everywhere

Pray for our front-line defenders: Military, Police, EMS, Healthcare providers and fire fighters

Pray for educators, administrators, teachers

Pray for children, families, parents, and foster parents

Pray for our economy, small businesses, entrepreneurs, employers, and employees

Pray for church leaders

Pray for laborers in the harvest

Pray for lost souls – by name, if possible

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.

Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.

⁷ Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand.

His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.”

- Philippians 4:6-7 NLT