

NH January 2015 Prayer Guide New Starts & Fresh Beginnings

by Bill & Cindy Weiss

The dust has settled after a busy Holiday Season—a good time to rest, restore and receive. This Prayer Guide was specifically developed for a period of preparation as we enter a New Year and discover all God has in store for each of us. As we begin the year seeking God's heart and perspective, may He direct us in New Starts & Fresh Beginnings.

RELEASE...

DAY 1. Luke 5:17-26. Sometimes we forget how great our need is for forgiveness. Jesus shows us how important it is when He first forgives the sins of a paralyzed man, and then heals the man's body. Our greatness need resides not in our finite bodies, but in our eternal soul. *Prayerfully ask for God's fresh forgiveness as we recognize our greatness need is something only God can provide.*

DAY 2. Genesis 17:17, 18:12; Exodus 16:1-3; Luke 1:18; John 20:24, 25. We read about many individuals and groups in the Bible that had their honest doubts regarding matters of faith. But when they displayed a willingness to trust God despite their circumstances, the weight of their doubts was gradually lifted. Our doubts can become faith when we allow God to have full access to them. *Thank you God for Your patience with me as I release my doubts to You. Help me believe that You make all things possible.*

DAY 3. Isaiah 26:3. We all struggle to some degree with an overactive thought life that can quickly take us to dark places. When we sense our thoughts straying towards fear or impurity, Scripture calls us to set our minds on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8). And according to Isaiah 26:3, a mind at peace comes only after trusting in God. *Today pray that we would put our trust in God and allow Him to bring peace to our minds as we fix our thoughts on Him.*

DAY 4. Philippians 4:11-13. "Margin" is space between our limits and our reality. Life without margins can hinder our connection with God because we leave Him little room in our over-busy lives. Let God draw you away from the edge so you can hear His still, small voice on a regular basis. *Father God, please help me reduce so I can know You better.*

DAY 5. 1 John 1:5-10. One of the liabilities of our sin is that it gradually become so normal that we no longer recognize it. Not only do we need a Savior to save us from our sins, but we need Him to open our eyes to our own sin and give us grace to confess and receive forgiveness. *Thank you God for Your grace in my life. Today I confess and receive the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ.*

DAY 6. Romans 5:9-11. When God reconciles something, the matter is settled. It is not pending, conditional, reversible, or temporary. When we, by faith, believe on Christ's

sacrificial death, we truly receive reconciliation with God. *In prayer today offer God thanks for sending His only Son to pay the debt of our sin, and receive God's forgiveness and freedom now and forever.*

RECEIVE...

DAY 7. John 19:30. Do you recall leaving a grocery store without one of the items you had paid for? Returning to the store, receipt in hand, you rightfully claimed your item. Perhaps God feels the same about each of us, knowing that Christ's cross paid the full price of our forgiveness. *Thank God in prayer today for pursuing, purchasing, and claiming us at the cost of His Son Jesus.*

DAY 8. 2 Timothy 1:7. If we choose to focus on our fears instead of on our God, we become timid rather than courageous in following Christ. But, when we fully embrace our God, His Spirit gives us God's "power, love and sound mind." *Ask God in prayer today for His boldness, love, and discipline to trump any fear you are facing.*

DAY 9. 3 John 1:4. In today's Scripture reading, the Apostle John declares has no greater joy than to hear that those he has influenced continue to walk in Christ's truth. Don't underestimate your influence on those around you, and the eternal impact God's truth can have in their lives. *Prayerfully receive the joy God shares with us as we help shepherd His children.*

DAY 10. Galatians 1:15-16. To obey God's calling is an opportunity to experience God's grace in powerful new ways. Embrace and receive God's call upon your life today, and step out in obedience. God will meet you there. *Thank God in prayer today for helping us know Him better as we answer His call.*

DAY 11. Revelation 3:7. Revelation chapter 3 teaches us, when Jesus opens a door, no one can close it, and vice versa. Jesus opened the door of salvation, and no one can close it. In faith, we trust Christ and walk through His open door into His Father's Kingdom. *Dear Jesus, thank You for providing a path to salvation. I accept Your invitation and step into Your Kingdom.*

DAY 12. 2 Corinthians 1:19-22. Our God is a God of promises, and His promises in the Scriptures are countless. By faith in Christ we stand confident that God is in control and will never let us down. *Prayerfully extend trust to God today as He carries out His promises in your life.*

DAY 13. Psalms 103. The author of Psalm 103 attempts to describe God's incredible love for us. It is mindboggling to know that God's love for us is "greater than the distance between heaven and earth," and that, through Christ, He has removed our sins "as far as the east is from the west." Our best efforts to measure or describe God's love and grace will

forever fall short. *Thank God in prayer today that His love for you has no bounds.*

DAY 14. John 3:16. "For God so loved the world..." Have you ever personalized this verse by inserting your name? It's hard to fathom, but God gave the gift of His Son for each and every one of us—personally. *Pray John 3:16 using your name, and thank God for sending His Son to pay the debt of your sin—personally*

ASKING FOR GOD'S HELP...

DAY 15. Proverbs 3:5-6. To receive God's guidance. Today's passage teaches us that we must first "acknowledge God in all of our ways." Jesus emphasizes this truth by teaching, "Seek first God's Kingdom..." (Matthew 6:33a). We must choose to place God first in our lives, and must get into the lifestyle of seeking His will daily. *Ask God today in prayer for His direction as you place Him first today.*

DAY 16. Hebrews 11:1-40. Hebrews chapter 11 is often referred to as, "The Hall of Faith." It acknowledges the faith of Noah, Abraham, Sara, Moses, Joseph and others. These historic figures have something in common—they all died before God's promises were completely fulfilled. Like them, we continue to walk as God continues to work in fulfilling His promises. *Prayerfully ask for faith to follow even when we are unable to see all that lies before us.*

DAY 17. 1 Kings 19:11-13. At times we want God to reveal Himself in big ways. Sometimes He does. But God often chooses instead to nudge us with gentle whispers. The challenge in today's fast-paced world of noise and distractions, is to be still and listen for God's still, small voice. *Dear Heavenly Father, please help me calm my soul as I listen humbly and quietly for Your voice.*

DAY 18. Isaiah 41:10. "Fear not!" This phrase appears 366 times in the Bible—perhaps one for every day, and another one for leap year!. God is gracious and understands our need for daily reminders of this truth. *Thank You, God, for being bigger than any of my fears, and for reminding me that You are in control. Today, I offer You my fears.*

DAY 19. Revelation 3:15-22. Feeling halfhearted, sluggish or indifferent in your God-walk? Jesus warns us to guard against a "lukewarm" spiritual temperament. Thankfully, God is faithful and gracious, and will encourage our faith as we seek to make Him our first priority. *Pray for an awakening in your spirit and a fresh yearning to follow Christ.*

DAY 20. Passage 5:3. Jesus starts the Sermon on the Mount by teaching that "the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to the poor in spirit." At first glance, being poor in spirit might seem negative. Instead, to be poor in spirit is to acknowledge our personal need for God. *Pray today for a life lived in simple dependence on our God, and trust Him to meet your every need.*

DAY 21. James 2:16-18. Faith can be defined as “obedience without hesitation.” In this definition we understand that faith is demonstrated by actions. When we fully live out our faith, others will see our obedience to God, and actions speak louder than words. *Pray today that your actions will demonstrate your faith to others who may need to know Jesus.*

CHANGING THINGS UP...

DAY 22. Genesis 6:3. When we earnestly seek to orient our lives around God, we recognize how patient God is. He has been waiting all along for our response. *Prayerfully thank God for being loving and patient as He waits for us to follow.*

DAY 23. John 15:1-4. By His grace, God often identifies a barrier in our lives that will need to be removed if our God-walk is mature. Sometimes we must surrender and let go as we trust that God has even better things in store. *As you pray today, ask God to reveal anything that might be hindering your God-walk.*

DAY 24. Isaiah 43:18-19. God is in the creation business—He always has been and always will be. This truth applies to our lives as well. No matter our brokenness or our past, God can fashion a new and beautiful creation when we permit Him to have His way. *In prayer today ask God to remind you of ways He is re-creating you.*

DAY 25. Romans 12:1. The Apostle Paul urges us to offer our bodies as “living sacrifices.” We do so by yielding our plans and daily decision-making to God. As we do, God is able to bring His perfect will to pass in our lives. *Thank You, Lord Jesus, for being the ultimate Living Sacrifice. Help me yield my will to You today.*

DAY 26. Romans 8:5-17. As Christ followers, we “live in this world, but are not of this world” (John 15:19). In today’s reading, the Apostle Paul encourages us to “no longer conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” It is God’s transforming work in our hearts and minds that permits us to live differently for Christ. *In prayer today ask God to continue His transforming work in your life, no matter the cost.*

DAY 27. 2 Corinthians 3:18. One of the greatest characteristic a Christian can exhibit is an unveiled openness before God. It’s a daily challenge and pursuit for every Christ-follower. And, in doing so, we permit God to bring about His transforming work in our lives. *God, please help me keep my heart and life open to You every hour of every day. Holy Spirit, make me like Jesus.*

PRAYER...

DAY 28. Jeremiah 29:11. God’s answers to our prayers often seem to fall into one of three answers: “Yes,” “No,” or “Wait.” If we get a “Yes,” we often praise with little hesitation. We’re less content with a “No” or a “Wait.” We must trust that

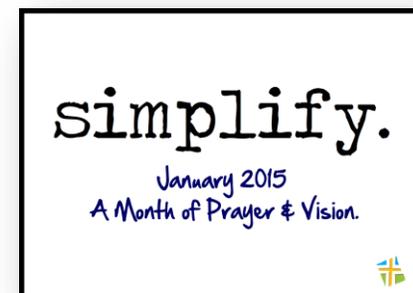
God is at work in every case. *Heavenly Father, help me trust that You are active on my behalf. Please bring about Your perfect will for my life.*

DAY 29. Matthew 6:9-13. “The Lord’s Prayer” is Jesus’ demonstration for our prayers. We acknowledge God for Who He is, pray for His work in the world, ask for His provision of our daily needs, and trust Him to be with us in our daily struggles. *Today, pray the Lord’s Prayer, then apply Jesus’ pattern to your continuing prayers.*

DAY 30. Matthew 6:1-8. Before Jesus teaches us what we should pray about in the Lord’s Prayer, he first provides instruction on how to pray. It begins with seeking out a private place. Prayer with others certainly has its place, but time alone with our Heavenly Father is crucial for a maturing Christ-follower. *Seek a quiet place today for some quality time with God.*

God’s blessings as you spend time in prayer with our amazing God!

A Simple Prayer Guide for a Brand New Year.



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