



PRAY**40**_{FOR}COLUMBUS

2018 Prayer Devotional

Week 6: February 19-23, 2018

PrayForColumbus.org

“And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.’”

Matthew 26:39, ESV

Humility before God, what does that look like? Realizing we can do nothing without Him, even take a breath. Thanking Him for all that we have and the ways He has blessed us. Giving Him glory when others congratulate us on doing well. Keeping a mindset that all of our accomplishments are really His. Living in acknowledgement of our desperate need of the Lord surely is a position of humility that we would be wise to keep.

But I would challenge that there is a deeper place of humility...surrender. I can acknowledge my daily need for the Father but not daily surrender to Him. What does surrender look like? Saying yes to the voice of the Spirit whether the calling makes sense or not, is easy or not, is comfortable or not, seems just or not. Giving up my desires, my plans, my goals for something I may not understand or want to do. What if instead of going to the Lord in prayer with those desires, plans and goals, we went before Him and simply asked Him what He wants to do.

We have a perfect example of surrender in the person of Jesus. We know His desire was to avoid the cross. While praying in the garden of Gethsemane, He asked the Father to take away the cup of which He was about to drink. Perhaps He simply didn't want to go through the physical pain He knew would come. Perhaps He wanted more time with those He loved on earth. Whatever His desires, He surrendered them when He said, “Yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Not only did Jesus humbly give the Father glory for all He did on earth - not only did He humbly make it clear that all He was provided with came from the Father - not only did He humbly point people to the Father in their time of need - ultimately Jesus surrendered to the Father even His very life. May we daily acknowledge our desperate need for the Father. But may we also daily surrender all that we want and all that we are to Him and find out what it is that He wants to do.



Lord, may your Spirit help me come to a place of surrender to You. In those places I am struggling to surrender, have victory. Give me the strength to not hold tight to my desires, plans, and goals, but be willing to trade them for Yours. Father, what do You want to do?

DAY 36: February 19, 2018

Prayer Focus: posture



Prayer Region: downtown

- Pray for church partners for **Arts Impact Middle School and Beatty Park Elementary**
- Ask Jesus to help you surrender all the areas of your life to Him.

Featured Contributor:

Cris Gordon is the Executive Director of the Columbus Dream Center. His heart is to work with the neediest people in the city, the homeless or those in severe poverty. He is passionate about loving them unconditionally just where they are and helping them take steps on their journey towards a relationship with Jesus Christ.

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Matthew 6:9-13, ESV

Recently a group of us gathered to pray using the Lord’s Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13, ESV: “Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.’”

As we used these verses and themes to guide our prayer that day, I was struck by the little sentence sandwiched in the middle: “Give us today our daily bread.” Jesus taught us to depend on him for our very sustenance. In fact, we are desperate for him to provide for our families, friends, churches, and ministries. Without him we can do nothing.

But that day, that little sentence made me ponder. Generally, requests for provisions easily roll off our lips as we are acutely aware of what we lack. But how often do we sit in silence, waiting for the Lord to show us what he’s already put in our hands or what new thing he wants to give us? As we waited on the Lord that day, it was remarkable how he spoke to different ones in specific and personal ways.

Today I’d like to suggest that we ask the Lord what he wants to give us for our current situation in our city. Like Moses in Exodus 4 or the disciples in John 6:5-14, does he want to do something amazing with the little resources we currently have, perhaps just five small barley loaves and two fish? You can almost see the twinkle in Jesus’ eye in John 6, NIV when he asked Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” because, as it says in verse 6, “he already had in mind what he was going to do.”



Lord, would you guide our prayers today? We want to see Your name glorified and Your kingdom come in our city. How do You want to meet needs here? How do You want to minister to those in the downtown area? The homeless, the community college students, the millennials, business professionals, artists and our government leaders? Would You show us what it means for You to “give us today our daily bread” from Your perspective? What is it that You are going to do so we can be in step with You?

DAY 37: February 20, 2018

Prayer Focus:

prayer



Prayer Region:

downtown

- Pray for a church partner for **Columbus Africentric Early College K-8, Columbus City Preparatory School for Girls, Columbus Downtown High School and East Columbus Elementary School**
- Ask the Lord to open our eyes to the needs of people around us.

Featured Contributor:

Jen M has worked with refugees since 1992 and is passionate about helping young adults who came to our city when they were children of refugees. This new generation of young adult “Cross Cultural Kids” have grown up between two worlds, living as children of refugees in North American communities.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me."

Proverbs 8:17, ESV

So often I set my intention to seek God's presence and narrowly turn my focus to two places; the Bible and my prayer requests. With the goal of seeking God in mind, I search the Scriptures frantically for a word, hoping that He will say something to me that feels timely and personal. Other times I show up to pray with a list of things to ask God for, believing that my words will lead me into His presence. While Bible reading and focused prayer are wonderful tools for seeking God's face, the truth is that God is always present and so often I am the one who is not. God is near to me, wanting to make Himself known, but my busy mind, busy body, and busy schedule keep me from being able to recognize His presence. God, who simply wants to be with me, offers me a different invitation. "Quiet yourself. Be Calm. Be with Me, here and now. Let's talk."

When I come into this quiet space, I look at my Father's face, and something amazing happens. I find a conversation stirring within my heart. "God, I am here. What do you want to say to me?" God and I can have a conversation about what is in His heart, and I can respond with what is in mine. This conversation becomes prayer. My prayer becomes the echo of His heart. In the quiet stillness of His presence as I look at His face my prayer becomes "Yes! Amen! May it be so!"

Proverbs 8:17 says, "I love those who love me; and those who diligently seek me will find me." God promises that if we are diligent in seeking Him we will find Him! God does not desire to stay hidden, He longs to be known.

Quiet your heart and your mind. Create space to be with the Lord and have courage to ask Him what is in His Heart. You will be delighted and surprised by the many wonderful things He has to say to you. You are His Beloved. He wants you to seek Him. You can rest assured that He will be found.

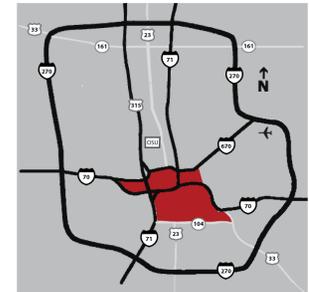


God, give me the courage to set aside time and simply be with You. I want to know what You have to say. I long to hear how You see me and my life. I desire partnership with You. You promise that if I seek You I will find You. To this promise I say, "speak Lord, for Your servant is listening". I seek Your face today. Amen.

DAY 38: February 21, 2018

Prayer Focus:

presence



Prayer Region:

downtown

- Pray for church partners for: **Forest Park Elementary, Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School, Fort Hayes Career Center, Lincoln Park Elementary and Livingston Elementary School.**

Featured Contributor:

Kelsie Meyers is a pastor and Spiritual Director at the Franklinton Abbey, a Contemplative Vineyard community in the heart of Columbus, Ohio. The Abbey community aims to help people slow down and pay attention to the work of God in their lives. Kelsie is passionate about people coming to understand how much God loves them, and in turn finding their own sense of purpose and call in their lives.

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.’ Peter said to him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.’”

Luke 22:31-33 ESV

Jesus gave a word of wisdom to Peter that Satan was going to pick him, and the other disciples, to pieces. It is easy to believe in Christ when you are comfortable, when every circumstance is going your way. How do you respond when depression, discontentment and discouragement descend upon you? We typically respond like Peter, full of passion and zeal for Christ...and full of disbelief that someone could think that we would deny Christ. However, denying Christ was only part of the prophecy. Peter missed the most important part: Jesus’ intercession for him.

Everyone has blind spots, areas of unbelief that we do not perceive. While Satan intends to expose our issues to destroy us, God uses Satan’s sifting to reveal our blind spots to us. His prayer is for us to repent of our sin and contend for His redemption in our lives.



Father, thank You for revealing the blind spots in my life. I repent of my sin and come to You for wisdom, healing, and faith that does not fail. Thank You for redeeming my life from destruction. Amen.

DAY 39: February 22, 2018

Prayer Focus:

repentance



Prayer Region:

downtown

- Pray for church partnerships with **Siebert Elementary and Oakmont Elementary School**.
- Ask Jesus for revelation on how He prays for the Body of Christ.
- Invite the Lord to search your heart and reveal any “blind spots”. Ask Him to give you grace to overcome them.

Featured Contributor:

Noe Mathis is a wife and mother of five teenage children. She is also the full-time co-director and project manager of Hope for Columbus, a 24/7 House of Prayer. She enjoys coaching teens and young adults in accomplishing their life goals.

"...bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

Colossians 3:13, ESV

One of the most difficult decisions in life is to decide to forgive someone that has caused a deep wound. As believers we know it is the right thing to do, however, knowledge of the moral, ethical and Christian thing to do doesn't make it any easier. Forgiveness is not optional. It begins with a decision rather than a feeling. If we wait for our emotions to lead us to forgive, it may never happen. The good news is this: God never expects us to do what he has not already empowered us to do by His Spirit.

The question then becomes how can I consistently forgive when I have been hurt? Deep wounds are not easy to heal. It requires an intentional process to move from wounding to healing. Forgiveness is difficult, but not impossible, no matter how deep the hurt. It is the most important step in healing which leads to the opportunity for reconciliation. Reconciliation is possible for those who are willing to forgive.

Forgiveness is not forgetting nor is it minimizing the pain. Forgiveness does not give permission for the insult, assault or injury to reoccur. The act of forgiveness is however, releasing a person from the mistake or offense and no longer holding it against them.

Honestly admitting that you have been hurt is the first step in forgiveness. Be honest with yourself, with God and others about your hurt. Confess to God in prayer that you have been hurt, and then ask God to give you a heart to forgive the one or ones who have hurt you. Show compassion and make allowances for those who have faults and have offended you. The truth of the matter is there have been times and will be times in the future when someone will need to forgive you and look beyond your faults.

After you have prayed for strength and guidance to forgive, the decision to forgive now becomes an act of obedience not an emotional reaction. When we think of how Christ loved us and forgave us for our sin, we are compelled to forgive one another.



Lord, I admit I have been deeply hurt and I desire to be healed. Please protect my heart O Lord from allowing this pain to develop into bitterness. Give me the heart to forgive, the compassion to look beyond the faults of others and the courage to let go of this offense. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

DAY 40: February 23, 2018

Prayer Focus:
reconciliation



Prayer Region:
downtown

- Pray for partnerships with **Southwood Elementary, Starling STEM PK-8, East Linden Elementary and Sullivant Elementary**

Featured Contributor:

Dr. Howard Washington has served as pastor of Second Baptist Church of Columbus for over 12 years. He loves teaching, preaching and building community within the body of Christ in order to transform lives and reach the world with the transforming love of God. He is married to Minister Floria Washington, and they have two married adult children and one grandson.