



# PRAY**40**<sub>FOR</sub>COLUMBUS

**2018 Prayer Devotional**

Week 4: February 5-11, 2018

[PrayForColumbus.org](http://PrayForColumbus.org)

## Pray Without Ceasing

Some people say: “It is impossible to pray without ceasing. We have to spend a lot of time to work and fulfill our other obligations every week. While we are working and fulfilling our other obligations, we cannot pray.” Is this true? No. This is not true. Actually, as we work and fulfill our other obligations, we should pray and ask God how we should work and fulfill these obligations so that we can do these things in a way that pleases and glorifies God. We can experience heavenly joy every day only if we follow God’s will every day and know that God is pleased with what we did that day.

Before World War II, there were no automatic laundry washing machines. All dirty laundry had to be hand-washed. At that time in China, a widowed and childless old laundry lady made a living by going to a college dormitory every day to collect dirty laundry and wash it for the students. It was miserable work. One day, a college student noticed an indescribable joy on this old lady’s face. This student was so amazed by this old lady’s joy that he had to ask her why she was always so joyful even though her work was so miserable.

This old lady replied: “Oh! I wash the dirty laundry for God. Every day when I collect the dirty laundry, I know washing this dirty laundry is the job that God assigned me to do. So I do my best to wash this dirty laundry clean. As I do my work, I also talk to God and thank God and praise God for giving me the strength to serve Him in my work. At the end of the day, I pray to God: ‘Lord, I have done with all my heart, mind, and strength to complete this job that you assigned me to do and now I am offering up to you this laundry that I have cleaned.’ Then I experience a heavenly joy in my heart because I can sense that God is pleased with what I have done.”

Indeed, we can experience a heavenly joy if we do everything as unto the Lord - have heart-to-heart talks with Him, praise and thank Him, and work as unto Him in everything we do. We can experience even more joy if we share this blessing with all the people around us to help them enjoy this blessing also. Let us learn to experience this heavenly joy.

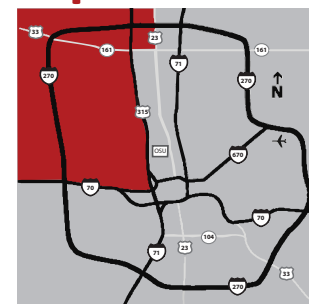


***Dear Lord Jesus, we pray that you will open our spiritual eyes and help us learn the joy of talking, walking, and working together with you every moment of our lives and experience the joy of pleasing you in everything we do, especially the joy of being the outlet of your love and the Gospel to the people around us.***

**DAY 22: February 5, 2018**

## Prayer Focus:

## posture



## Prayer Region:

## northwest

- Pray for the students and staff at Champion Middle School.
- Ask God to help us enjoy the blessing of talking and walking with Him in every moment.

## Featured Contributor:

**Pastor David Wan** and his wife, Pastor Anne Wan, both lead Faith Hope Love House of Prayer and have lived in Columbus for about 50 years. They were some of the earliest Chinese immigrants in the city and have spent many years advancing the Gospel of Christ among the Asian community. They have a burden to train the body of Christ on how to pray and live a balanced Christian life. For more information on their ministry, go to [www.fhlministry.com](http://www.fhlministry.com)

*"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."* Hebrews 4:12, NLT

Arise, Humble Warrior. The Father has placed His powerful weapon in Your hand. Speak His truth. And see the enemy fall.

Can you see it? The Lord has handed you the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). The majority of the word "sword" IS "word". He did not give it to you to just hold idly or lay to the side. Its purpose is for both defense and offense. But how do you wield your "sWord"?

In the original Greek, "word" is "logos," meaning "to speak intelligence; a word as an expression of that intelligence." He has handed you the "sWord" to speak over your situation.

A praying moms group was concerned about their children's interaction on social media and the Internet. Within a few days of asking the Lord to give them His Words to pray, they had over fifteen verses. Here is one example: a prayer based off of Psalm 101:4 - "Lord, may my child reject perverse ideas and stay away from every evil."

It is time to stand and use what God has placed in your hand. When Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt with an angry army pursuing them and the Red Sea in front of them, the people were scared (Exodus 14:13-16). Moses told them God would fight for them. They only needed to be still. Then the Lord told Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his arm. The water would divide so the people could walk through the sea on dry ground. Can you imagine how Moses felt before he did this? Was he nervous? Did he doubt? No matter how he felt, Moses did exactly what God told him to do.

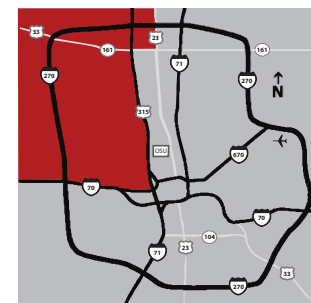
Friend, God is calling you to raise up your "sWord." His Word penetrates right to the root of the problem. If your enemy is sickness, speak God's Word to the sickness. It even divides joint and marrow. If the enemy is a broken relationship, God's Word divides soul and spirit. It can cut to the center of broken finances,



*Oh Lord, I thank you for teaching me and equipping me every day. I ask you to give me wisdom and to give me Your Words to pray over the situations that come before me. In Jesus name, Amen.*

**DAY 23:** February 6, 2018

Prayer Focus:  
**prayer**



Prayer Region:

**northwest**

- Pray for the faith partnership with Gables Elementary School.
- Pray for the armor of God over your life - especially for the sword of the Spirit (His Word)

**Featured Contributor:**

**Kathy Stauffer** is an Area Coordinator for Moms in Prayer International (formerly Moms in Touch Int.) She is passionate about encouraging women to 'be real' with God and with each other through her blog: <http://neverforgetthetruth.blogspot.com/> She loves to remind them how loved they are by their Father and the power He has placed in them. Moms in Prayer impacts children and schools worldwide by gathering women to pray for them. Read more at: [momsinprayer.org](http://momsinprayer.org)

There is nothing on earth that satisfies as much as being in God’s intimate presence. Everything else is a counterfeit. Once a person has experienced God’s presence, it becomes easier and more addicting. There is a four-step approach I have used many times, both personally and corporately, to settle in God’s presence. To start, remember authenticity is crucial. If you are genuine, God is always faithful.

## Preparation

I like to fast at least one day prior to deeply seeking God. This includes both food and media. It’s a time to prepare my heart and mind. There are multiple examples of fasting in preparation for God (1 Samuel 7:6, Acts 13:2-3). Just remember to keep it between God and yourself (Matt 6:16-18).

## Repentance

Sin always serves as a barrier to God’s blessing. I have found that it also makes it hard to enjoy intimacy with him. However, the act of repentance blasts this obstacle out of the way. Acts 3:19, ESV tells us, “Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord....” Be as honest with your sins as you can. You may need to write them down or tell them to someone else.

## Abandon

Worship music can play a vital role. My goal is to feel like I am isolated from this world, worshiping God. I push to get out of my comfort zone, setting the foundation for what may be uncomfortable in reaching out to God. Each person has their own level of comfort and formality. I just ask you to stretch yourself. Sing loud, raise your hands, jump, dance, however God leads. (Psalm 149:3)

## Stillness

Shift to a time to be quieter and focused on him. “Be still, and know that I am God,” he tells us in Psalm 46:10. Our society is hyper-connected. We are addicted to screens. It’s rare for people to stop long enough to focus on a single thing. Anything with a screen or an alert should be turned off. Find a place to sit, kneel, stand or lie down alone.

Ultimately, we should be listening for God to put something comforting or inspiring in our mind and feel loved by his warm presence.

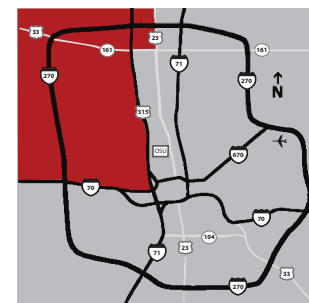


*God, help me to always seek your presence. Help me to slow my life down and include time pursuing you. Give me the discipline to be ever passionate about intimately connecting with you. I want to feel your Spirit ever more in my life. Amen.*

**DAY 24:** February 7, 2018

## Prayer Focus:

## presence



## Prayer Region:

## northwest

- Pray for Parsons Elementary School
- Ask God to stir in His children a desire for His presence.
- Pray for leaders to create environments where people can pursue God’s presence.

## Featured Contributor:

**Adam Ward** is an innovator. He has worked for Honda R&D, GE Healthcare and IBM Watson, but his favorite work are things he does in church and parachurch environments. He passionately believes that God has an incredible plan for everyone’s life. Adam is the Founder and Executive Director of WIIWT.com, a non-profit focused on sharing the gospel with all 2.5M residents in the greater Columbus area.

***“For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.”***  
2 Corinthians 7:10, ESV

Not long ago, I was heading up the steps to a subway platform in Brooklyn when a stranger came jogging up, at a “hurried” pace, passing me. Reaching the platform deck he continued walking fast with focus, like most New Yorkers. Then, without warning he just stopped. Suddenly he turned around, began walking towards me, then right past me and down the steps he went. Weird, right?

When I think about the word repentance, that overcast Brooklyn day quickly comes to mind. Repentance is a word in scripture that simply means to turn around and go a different direction.

Repentance is a major theme of the New Testament. John the Baptist taught it, Jesus preached it, and Peter encouraged it to be paired with baptism. So, why is it difficult for us to grasp? It’s difficult because repentance means we change paths. We give up our personal agenda of Earth and embrace the agenda of Heaven.

Repentance is more than simply being sorry. It is the process that leads to a life that is truly changed or different than before. Paul writes about two types of sorrow in 2 Corinthians 7:10, NIV: “Godly sorrow brings repentance which leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.” Godly sorrow is that deep understanding of the soul that we need forgiveness for our past sins, and hope for a purposed future. Through the love of God, we can receive forgiveness and hope. Repentance is a major player in that process. Worldly sorrow is ever present but avoided and ultimately kills us a little more each day. Godly sorrow brings awareness and embrace. It’s that embrace that releases the power and perspective we need to live in repentance. There’s always evidence that a person can see on their own journey of repentance, that’s why John the Baptist gave this admonition and encouragement in Matthew 3:8, NIV “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.”

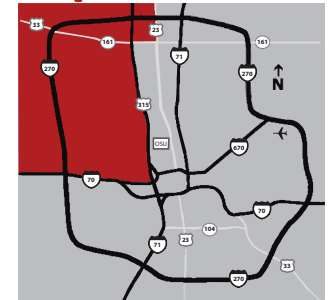
So, if you’re heading in a direction other than what the Bible illustrates and instructs, quickly turn around, like the guy that passed me twice in the Brooklyn subway that morning. Where you’re going matters and how you get there counts! That’s why repentance is a necessary part of the ongoing life in Christ.



***Lord, thanks for loving us and sacrificially making a way for us to live a fully free and satisfying life. Help us to repent for anything that we’ve done or allowed to create distance between ourselves and you. Give us the courage to embrace your forgiveness and the generosity to extend it to others.***

**DAY 25: February 8, 2018**

## Prayer Focus: **repentance**



## Prayer Region: **northwest**

- Pray for the faith partnership with Winterset Elementary School.
- Pray for the opioid epidemic especially on the city’s West Side.
- Pray for a revival of freedom through Jesus to love each other well.

## **Featured Contributor:**

**Brad Kochis** is a self-proclaimed misfit and the founding pastor of Lifepoint Naz in Columbus. He’s married to Melissa and they have an adult son and teenage daughter. He’s passionate about helping people connect the dots of their past hurts and present habits to the healing hope only Jesus offers.

The word *reconcile*, according to the dictionary, means "to bring into agreement or harmony; to make something consistent with something else." If we apply the strict meaning of this word to God and the world, it means to bring the world into agreement with God, or to make earth consistent with heaven. This sounds a lot like the part of the Lord's Prayer that reads "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:10).

Most of us are so familiar with this prayer that we often fail to stop and think about what the words actually mean. Basically, Jesus is asking God to let His will be carried out in this material world in *the same manner* as it is carried out in heaven. That's asking a lot, especially for a daily prayer! After all, how in the world can God's will be done on earth just as in heaven when this world is so broken and fallen?

To understand this verse better, we must first unpack what "as it is in heaven" entails. How exactly is God's will carried out in heaven? While the Bible does not give us a comprehensive picture of what life in heaven is like, we do know the following: in heaven, God's will is clear, unquestioned, unopposed, carried out immediately, and fulfilled to perfection.

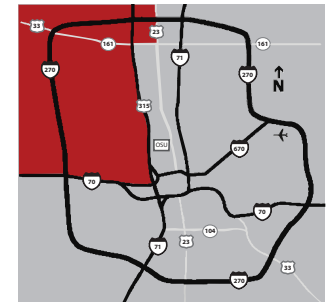
When we pray this part of the Lord's Prayer, we're asking God to allow His will to be carried out on earth in these ways. We're asking for faith and wisdom so that His will becomes clear and unquestioned to us and to others. We're asking God to remove all obstacles that might stand in the way of His will. We're asking God to move swiftly, and also for courage and a sense of urgency so that we do not delay in our obedience. And, of course, we're asking that every part of His perfect plan be carried out in our lives, families, churches, and communities.

There's a lot of meaning packed into this terse phrase, and therefore a lot of power too. Jesus is teaching us to make reconciliation a core part of our personal and corporate prayer lives. May God's people pray for reconciliation with great faith and persistence, until earth indeed looks just like heaven.



*Father in heaven, let Your will be done on earth and in our lives just as it is in heaven. We long to see the day when all of creation is reconciled to Your perfect will and perfect love. Give us Your heart and empower us to be the channels through which Your will is accomplished. In Jesus' name. Amen*

## Prayer Focus: **reconciliation**



## Prayer Region: **northwest**

- Pray for a church partner for **Ecole Kenwood French Immersion K-6**.
- Ask God to remove all obstacles that might stand in the way of His will in our lives.

### **Featured Contributor:**

**Isaac Surh** is the English Ministry Pastor at Korean Church of Columbus. He and his wife Hannah ministered in South Korea before being called to Columbus two years ago. They have a heart for worship, healing, and for reaching out to the Asian-American community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.