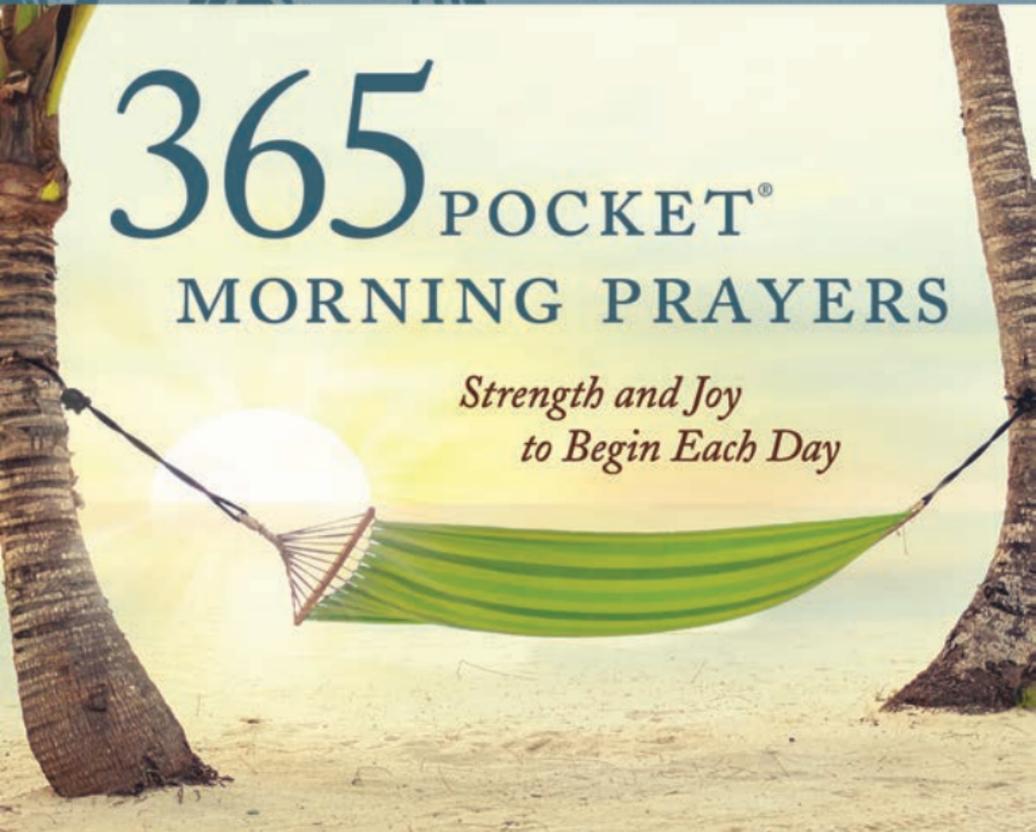


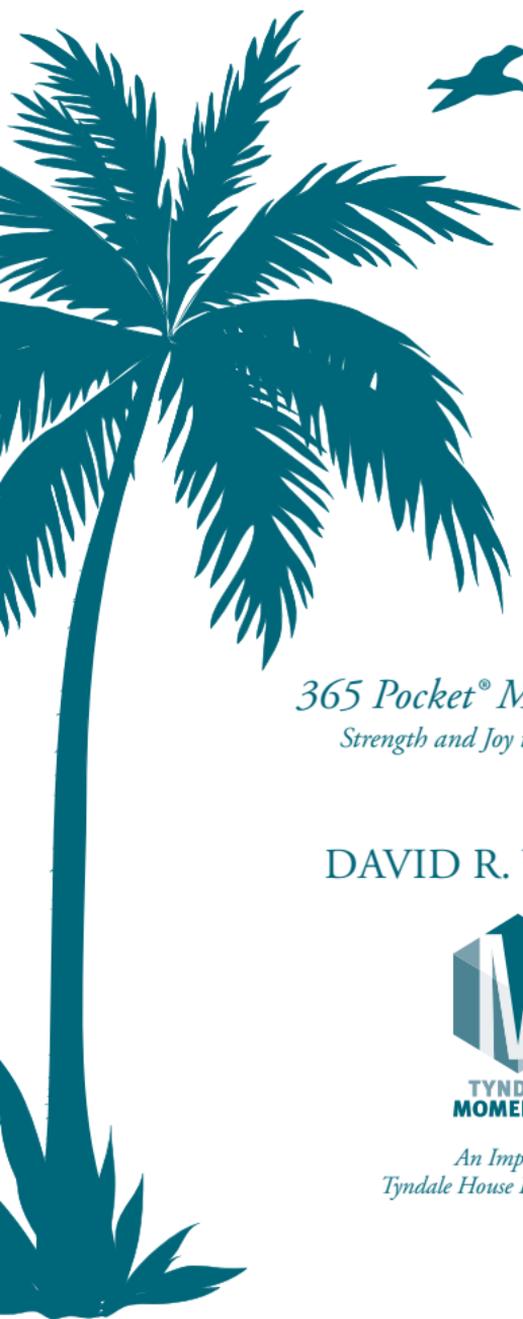


365 POCKET[®] MORNING PRAYERS

*Strength and Joy
to Begin Each Day*







365 Pocket® Morning Prayers
Strength and Joy to Begin Each Day

DAVID R. VEERMAN



**TYNDALE®
MOMENTUM**

*An Imprint of
Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.*

Visit Tyndale at www.tyndale.com.

Tyndale Momentum, the Tyndale Momentum logo, *365 Pocket*, and *LeatherLike* are registered trademarks of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Tyndale Momentum is an imprint of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois.

365 Pocket Morning Prayers: Strength and Joy to Begin Each Day

Copyright © 2016 by Barton-Veerman Company. All rights reserved.

Cover and interior images are the property of their respective copyright holders and all rights are reserved. Palm trees © OK-SANA/Shutterstock; gulls © Sparrowbh/Shutterstock; beach © Syda Productions/Dollar Photo Club; sunset © Nomad_Soul/Dollar Photo Club.

Designed by Jennifer Phelps

Produced in association with Livingstone, the publishing services division of Barton-Veerman Company.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978-1-4964-1334-5

Printed in China

22 21 20 19 18 17 16
7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Dave Veerman is a senior editor of the bestselling *Life Application Study Bible*. He has authored seventy books, including *365 Pocket Evening Prayers*, *Life Application Study Bible Devotional*, and *The Runner's Devotional*. He served twenty-six years with Youth for Christ and is a founding partner of Livingstone. Dave and his wife, Gail, live in Illinois and have two grown daughters and five grandchildren.

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a *privilege*. What an amazing truth that God invites us to talk with him. We don't have to perform a special ritual, and prayer isn't limited to certain times of the day or year. This means we can speak with God *anytime* because of what Christ has done: "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most" (Hebrews 4:16).

Prayer is *personal*. When you gave your life to Christ, you became a member of God's family—"born again" (John 3:3) and "adopted" (Romans 8:15-16). God is all-powerful, eternal, and the sovereign ruler of the universe, but he is also your Father. As God's child, you can talk openly and honestly with him—whether enjoying in-depth conversations or brief chats. He loves you and welcomes you. "And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father'" (Galatians 4:6).

Prayer is *powerful*. You may have heard the phrase, "Prayer changes things." It's true. We don't know how that works, just that it does, because that's what God promises. Scripture encourages us to "search for the LORD" (1 Chronicles 16:11), to "be near God" (Psalm 73:28), to bring all our "requests" to him, telling him "what [we] need" (Psalm 5:3; Philippians 4:6), and to "never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). That's because "the earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16).

This book was written to support and encourage you in your daily conversations with God. Called "morning

prayers,” each one is designed to help you see how you can honor and serve him for the next twenty-four hours and beyond. Each day highlights a different topic and includes a related Scripture passage (occasionally you will find two passages). The prayer itself may involve praise, confession, or challenge, all with the purpose of drawing you closer to God.

You have in your hands a year’s worth of prayers. You may choose to read and pray through each day consecutively. Throughout the book, you will find that the prayers appear in sets of seven days, with the sixth and seventh days shorter (two to a page).

Instead of reading straight through, another option is to consult the index in the back to find a topic that will help you with an urgent need or give words to something you may be experiencing.

Although each prayer is short, resist the temptation to read quickly. Instead, spend a few moments and think about what you are saying to God, personalizing each one. In these conversations with him, allow some time to listen.

Thank you for joining us on this quest for a deeper prayer life. We hope that by the end of this book, you will be inspired in your prayers, feel closer to God than ever before, and know how to put your faith into practice. God often does his powerful work in our hearts during these conversations. So stick with it.

With that in mind, let’s get going.

Dave Veerman

DAY 1

A prayer about FACING A NEW DAY *Rejoicing because God has made this day*

DEAR LORD,

I confess that sometimes I awaken tired, grumpy, and worried about what lies before me. I turn off the alarm, pull myself out of bed, shuffle to the bathroom, and muddle through my early morning routine with no enthusiasm for the new day. In fact, despite my schedule and responsibilities, I feel like falling back into bed and pulling the covers over me. But the writer of today's psalm convicts me of that dour attitude as he reminds me that *you* have made this day. This means that each day belongs to you. In light of that profound truth, I want to arise every morning with eager anticipation for what you have planned for me. Certainly not everything I face during the next few hours will be pleasant; some interactions or events may bring pain. Yet I can “rejoice and be glad” as I encounter whatever the day holds because you have given me these twenty-four hours, with all their adventures and opportunities, and because you will be with me in every moment.

This is the day the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. PSALM 118:24

DAY 2

☀ A prayer about GRACE

Living in light of undeserved favor from God

MY HEAVENLY FATHER,

When I consider how you have treated me, I am overwhelmed with wonder and gratitude. To be honest, I tend to think pretty highly of myself because I believe I'm a good person. That is, I try to live according to your Word, avoid sinful behavior and bad influences, serve at church and in the community, tithe, and help others. And after all, I haven't committed any really *big* sins. Sadly, this outlook, this false self-image, blinds me to my faults, depravity, and utter helplessness. The truth is, I am no better than anyone else because, like everyone else, I am a sinner—I was totally lost and bound for an eternity without you. Only through your mercy and grace do I have anything at all. Thank you, my Father, for loving me, sending Christ to die for me, saving me, and giving me new life. During this day, please continually remind me that I am a sinner saved by grace alone, by Christ alone, through faith alone. It's all about you, not me.

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. EPHESIANS 2:8-9

DAY 3

A prayer about GOD SIGHTINGS

Looking for divine appointments

O HOLY SPIRIT,

Looking back over my life, I recall many times when I was oblivious to your presence, totally unaware of your working in me and for me. The big moments stand out in my memory, of course, but I've often missed you in the small ones. Today's verses remind me that you direct my steps and are involved in "every detail" of my life. What an amazing promise! What a comforting and challenging thought! It means you want to guide me, protect me, and give me opportunities to glorify you. It means that nothing happens by accident or coincidence. Even disappointments, losses, and other setbacks reflect your perfect will for me. So now I implore you, Spirit of God, to make me sensitive to your leading this day—right now as I prepare and begin the day; in the morning and afternoon as I carry out my responsibilities and relate to a wide variety of people; in the evening as I wind down. Open my eyes to your work all around me.

The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand. PSALM 37:23-24

DAY 4

☀ A prayer for WISDOM

Needing godly insight and judgment

ALMIGHTY GOD,

Your thoughts are beyond my thoughts. You know everything about me and my world. Theologians use the word *omniscience* to describe the breadth of your knowledge: limitless, far beyond any finite understanding. I have studied and learned, in classes and on my own, for many years—and I continue the quest to improve my mind. Most would say that I am well-educated and intelligent. Certainly education is important, but I am painfully aware that knowing facts, having knowledge, is not enough, even if I were to learn much more about the world and how it works. I need *wisdom*, Lord—*your* wisdom—and insight into the true meaning of events, practical applications of that knowledge to real life, and discernment. I have a schedule, so I think I can anticipate what I will need to know and do today. In reality, I don't know what this day will hold—its challenges, temptations, choices, and personal interactions. But in each case, I pray that I will be wise in my responses and decisions. I want to honor you.

Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. PROVERBS 2:2

Wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it. PROVERBS 8:11

DAY 5

☀ A prayer about THOUGHTS

Focusing on what is “excellent and worthy of praise”

DEAR GOD,

Thank you for giving me the ability to think. The brain is a precious gift that allows me to analyze, evaluate, dream, and strategize. And my mind is always on, especially as I go through the day; everything I hear and see, every experience, triggers thoughts. I can't control what happens on the outside or even my first mental reactions, but I can choose which direction to take those thoughts, what I will dwell on. Sadly, often I let my mind drift the wrong way, toward the negative, dishonorable, and impure. News reports can elicit frustration or anger. Verbal or visual cues can move my thoughts to lust. Perceived insults can make me think of how to respond in kind. I may look good on the outside, but be the opposite on the inside. And that's wrong. Please help me, God, with my thought life. Give me the strength today to be forgiving and kind; not to take that second, lustful look; and to focus my attention and thoughts on what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable.

Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. PHILIPPIANS 4:8

DAY 6



☀ A prayer about FORGIVING *Remembering that I have been forgiven*

SAVIOR,

Often I have prayed, “Forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us.” I’m not sure I meant that, however, because I can easily hold a grudge, harbor a hurt. Today I expect to see someone who has hurt me deeply. Please give me the ability to let it go.

Make allowance for each other’s faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. COLOSSIANS 3:13

DAY 7



☀ A prayer about ASKING TO BE FORGIVEN *Healing a relationship*

LORD,

In a recent conflict with hurts on both sides, I spoke harsh and angry words that harmed my fellow believer and friend. I need to confess, to ask for forgiveness, with no strings attached. I pray that you will give me the opportunity and courage to say those simple words, *I was wrong. Please forgive me.*

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. JAMES 5:16