



365 Pocket™ Prayers for Graduates
Guidance and Wisdom for Each New Day



Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois

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365 Pocket Prayers for Graduates: Guidance and Wisdom for Each New Day

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ISBN 978-1-4143-7542-7

Printed in China

19 18 17 16 15 14 13
7 6 5 4 3 2 1

INTRODUCTION

If you've just graduated, congratulations! You're beginning a new stage of your life when many opportunities may be open to you. We hope this book of prayers will be helpful to you as you navigate the changes ahead.

Prayer is simply talking with God. As people of faith, we can come to him anytime, approach him anywhere, and pray about anything. God loves our honest, heartfelt prayers, and he cares deeply about the details of our lives. As we come before him with praise or petition, we demonstrate that we trust him and long to draw near to him.

Perhaps your faith is relatively new and you're not yet comfortable praying. This book is for you. The prayers we've developed can be claimed as your own conversations with God. As you pray through each topic and day, we hope you will become more comfortable talking with God and will even begin to form your own prayers to him.

Perhaps you've been a believer for years but need a little inspiration in your prayer life. This book is for you, too. We all have times when we repeat the same prayers over and over. Because this book includes a year's worth of unique prayers that cover a broad range of topics, it can help rejuvenate your dialogue with God.

Thank God that we don't have to be spiritually mature or "on fire" to have a meaningful prayer life! Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, God delights when you draw near to him. We hope this little book will help you do so.

You will find 365 prayers, arranged by days and topics. You can pray through each day of the year consecutively if you wish. Alternatively, look in the index for a topic that

will help you pray through an urgent need or give words to something you may be experiencing. Every few days you will also find prayers called *Prayerful Moments*. These are shorter prayers for days when time is limited or for when you need a quick word with God.

As you enter into a new prayer, take it slow. Spend some time thinking about what you're saying to God, and try to personalize each prayer for your own life. Making each written prayer your own honest praise or petition will make it more meaningful.

In your conversations with God, take some time to listen. Reading God's Word as a part of your prayer time gives the Lord an opportunity to speak to you, too. You won't want to miss what he has to say! We've included a Scripture verse at the end of each prayer to help you ponder what God might be communicating to you.

Thank you for joining us on this quest for a deeper prayer life. It is our hope that by the end of this book, you will be inspired in your conversations with God and—most important—feel closer to him than ever before. It is often in these special times of prayer that God does his powerful work in our hearts. So don't give up; stick with it. As his Word says to us, "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).

The privilege of prayer is that it ushers us straight into the presence of our loving God. And Scripture promises us that he won't disappoint! With that in mind, it's time to begin.

DAY 1

A prayer about NEW BEGINNINGS

When I'm nervous about change

LORD,

I'm at a great time in my life for a new beginning. I want a chance to wipe the slate clean and start over, a chance to do something different, a chance to escape from past patterns or hurts. It's exciting to think about taking on new challenges, yet I'm also nervous. The changes ahead will take me away from what's familiar and comfortable. What if I don't succeed? What if I don't like my new circumstances? Help me, Lord, to realize that I can't avoid change. It's just a part of life. Show me the best way to deal with it when it comes. Help me to see it not as a threat but as an opportunity. May I look at each day as a chance to get to know you better and start over with a new attitude. Teach me to trust you with my future.

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns. PHILIPPIANS 1:6

DAY 2

☀ A prayer about SEEKING GOD

When I am trying to find God

HEAVENLY FATHER,

I talk to my closest friends almost every day. We go out and do things together, we reminisce about fond memories, or we just enjoy being in the same room. I wouldn't expect to stay close to a friend if I never spent time with him or her. So why do I expect to feel close to you when I don't take time for you? Forgive me. Teach me that my relationship with you takes effort. Prompt me to talk to you every day. I want to be open and honest with you, just as I would be with a close friend. I'd like to tell you about my concerns, think about the future, and remember ways you've helped me in the past. Remind me to listen to you as well, and to think about what you're doing in my life and around the world. Help me commit to reading your Word daily so that I'll be better able to hear your voice and follow your guidance. I want to always remember that you are with me all day, every day. Thank you that you are always available and that I can talk to you about anything, anytime! I'm grateful that when I seek you, I will find you.

My heart has heard you say, "Come and talk with me." And my heart responds, "LORD, I am coming." PSALM 27:8

DAY 3

☀ A prayer about SUCCESS

When I am jealous of others' success

LORD GOD,

Sometimes I get jealous of people who are successful as the world defines it. Maybe they have more possessions than I do, they receive more scholarships or awards, or they are smarter or better liked. But help me to put this jealousy aside and remember that you don't say this kind of achievement is necessarily wrong—in fact, a lot of it is good. At the same time, you tell me to let you set the ultimate measure of success. Help me to put the most energy into pursuing the things *you* think are most important: loving you and those around me, having a godly character, serving you. My earthly achievements and material belongings have no eternal value and will stay here when I die, but your kind of success lasts forever. May I choose wisely which goals I will pursue.

Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” MATTHEW 22:37-39

DAY 4

☀ A prayer about RESPECTING OTHERS

When I want to show respect to those in authority

HEAVENLY FATHER,

Many people in my life lead me in some way—my parents, my teachers, my pastor, my boss. I appreciate them, but sometimes I get frustrated with them or think they should do things differently. Even so, I know you want me to treat them with respect. Teach me how to communicate that respect with my words and actions. You call me to encourage them, pray for them, and support them. Keep me from gossiping about them or criticizing them unfairly. If we have a conflict, please give me the courage and wisdom to deal with it privately and graciously. Thank you for the leaders you have put in my life. May I learn from them and please you by the way I treat them.

Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work.

I THESSALONIANS 5:12-13

DAY 5

A prayer about THOUGHTS

When I wonder if my thoughts really matter

LORD JESUS,

Sometimes I try to convince myself that it doesn't really matter what I think, as long as I do and say the right things. If I'm outwardly kind to someone, how does it hurt that I'm inwardly making fun of her? But I know that doesn't line up with your Word. You tell me that my thoughts show me the condition of my heart. If I don't catch them in time, sinful thoughts will eventually result in sinful actions. That's because if I think about something long enough, my heart will start trying to convince me that what I want to do is really okay. Please help me to guard my heart and my thoughts, Lord. I know I can't always trust my emotions to tell me what is right because they are skewed by my human nature. I need to trust in your Word because it comes from your heart, which is good and perfect and holy. Please control my heart and my mind. May my thoughts honor you—and may those right thoughts lead to right actions.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. PROVERBS 4:23

DAY 6 *Prayerful Moment*

☀ A prayer about PEACE

When I need more of God's peace

LORD JESUS,

How much I need your peace! Teach me that it comes from knowing that nothing can separate me from your love. No matter what happens in my life, you will be with me, and you promise me eternity in heaven. May my confidence in those promises give me the inner peace that comes from you.

[Jesus said,] "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid." JOHN 14:27

DAY 7 *Prayerful Moment*

☀ A prayer about CHOICES

When I wonder if I've made the right choices

LORD,

When I'm facing a decision, why is it often so difficult to know which is the right choice? Teach me to look to your Word for wisdom and also to seek counsel from wise believers. I know that sometimes there's more than one good answer to a problem. But when there's one choice that's morally right, please confirm it deep in my heart. Give me ears to hear your voice and courage to act on the right choice once I know what it is.

If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. JAMES 1:5