



365

POCKET[®] PRAYERS

*Guidance and Wisdom
for Each New Day*

365 Pocket® Prayers



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365 Pocket Prayers

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INTRODUCTION

Prayer is simply talking with God. We can come to him anytime and approach him anywhere. And we can pray about anything. God loves our honest, heartfelt prayers, and he cares deeply for 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. By including a year's worth of unique prayers that cover a broad range of topics, this book will 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 for GROWTH

When I want to grow spiritually

DEAR GOD,

I confess that I often want to be instantly mature in my faith. I lack the patience to work at it. Help me to remember that spiritual growth is like physical growth: I must start small, take one day at a time, and get enough nourishment. I know I can do this by challenging my mind to study your Word, asking questions about it, and then seeking answers through prayer, the counsel of other believers, and life's experiences. Help me to see each day as a building block and to commit to building a life of godly character one step at a time.

We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. COLOSSIANS 1:9-10

DAY 2

⚙️ A prayer about INITIATIVE

How does God continue to initiate a relationship with me?

HOLY GOD,

I believe that you sometimes initiate a change of heart in me so that I will desire to be in closer relationship with you. Selfish ambition and spiritual blindness steal my passion for you, and sometimes you need to point out these ways within me. Your Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, prompting me to remember you, confess my waywardness, and seek restoration with you. Lord God, thank you that you take the initiative in this way. But you don't only point out the offense; you also guide me back to the right path. You never initiate a change of heart and then abandon me. Thank you for constantly taking the first step. No matter how many times I wander, you are always ready to take me back and restore me into a right relationship with you.

“My wayward children,” says the LORD, “come back to me, and I will heal your wayward hearts.” JEREMIAH 3:22

DAY 3

A prayer of ANTICIPATION

When I wonder what great things God has planned for me

O GOD,

My life is so noisy—and sadly, it resounds more often with ringing phones and droning televisions than with praise and worship for you. Do I ever pause and wonder what momentous things you might be preparing to do next in my life? How many moments of awe-inspiring anticipation do I miss by never being still before you? I need your help to discipline myself. Help me to build a few moments of silent anticipation into each day, making time to pray and open myself up to what you want to do in and through me. I pray, God, that in these moments, you will reveal enough of your plan to make me ready for your great purposes in my life. I come before you with reverent awe and anticipation for the glorious future that lies ahead.

You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. PSALM 73:24

DAY 4

☀ A prayer about CHALLENGES

When I need to see how challenges will shape me

O LORD,

Thank you for your Word. How often we see our own struggles through the lives of the people in the Bible. I'm encouraged by the example of Paul, whose goal to preach the gospel in new places continually brought him fresh challenges. While difficult, those trials clearly caused greater growth in his relationship with you. Lord, what do you want me to learn from the challenges that come my way? And how might they strengthen my relationship with you? Please show me how to step out in faith so that I can move closer to you. May the struggles I face cause me to follow your leading into uncharted waters, and may I learn to trust you more and more. Then I know I will be accomplishing your unique purpose for me. Thank you for showing me that it is often through challenges that you make your plan clear to me.

Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God . . . is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. 1 CHRONICLES 28:20

DAY 5

A prayer for HOPE

When I need to fix my eyes on the hope of eternity

ETERNAL GOD AND SAVIOR,

For a prisoner on death row, a pardon offers hope of freedom. I was once a spiritual prisoner facing eternal death because of my sin. You have given me the ultimate hope of freedom by forgiving my sins so I can one day be with you forever in heaven. How can I thank you enough? When my life here and now seems impossible, you give eternal hope. Without hope, I could not persevere through the tough times. I would give up. As I walk through this life, may I fix my eyes on eternity. May I never forget where I am headed, and why there is no better place to be. For in heaven I will live in perfect relationship with you and others forever, with no pain or sorrow or suffering. What joy! Please help me to move straight ahead toward that goal. As I do, I know I'll gain a better perspective on the struggles and discomforts of this life.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation. . . . There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. I PETER 1:3-6

DAY 6 *Prayerful Moment*



⚙️ A prayer of CONFESSION

When I have a guilty conscience

MERCIFUL GOD,

I'm feeling guilty and my conscience is showing me that it's time to confess my wrongdoing. I know you are prompting me to seek forgiveness. I'm sorry for the wrong I've done. I am so grateful that you don't shut me out when I have sinned. Even my sin can be an opportunity for you to pursue me and call me back to your righteous path. Thank you, God, for removing my guilt, restoring my joy, and healing my broken soul.

People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

PROVERBS 28:13

DAY 7 *Prayerful Moment*

⚙️ A prayer about GOALS

How can goals help me move forward spiritually?

DEAR GOD,

Often I set long-term and short-term goals, but can I also set eternal goals? Shouldn't I spend more time thinking about my future home with you? Father, show me how to set goals that will keep me moving forward spiritually!

All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. 1 CORINTHIANS 9:25