

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY, + ACT.

2026 Focus: 12 Months of Prayer | March: Prayers of Confession

Each month, journey through a different biblical model of prayer.

Day 1 [John 1:1-5](#) | The Maker

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. John 1:3-4

The Bible begins with the epic narrative of God speaking the world into existence: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" ([Genesis 1:1](#)). Later, the apostle John writes a biography of Jesus and intentionally begins with words that overlap the opening line of Genesis: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" ([John 1:1](#)). Part of John's point is to connect his readers' understanding between the God who created the universe and Jesus, the Word. This Jesus, who walked, talked, and served with John, is life itself and "the light of all mankind."

The primary battle of the human heart is to see and adore Jesus for who he really is. He is the creator, sustainer, and essence of life. To know him is to know life, and life to the full. Our chief aim then should be to know him and treasure him in increasing measure. Rather than chasing after trivial pursuits, we are to center our lives on the joyful quest of knowing him more deeply.

TODAY: Pray to know Jesus more richly by humbling yourself and acknowledging your need for him. Ask God to open your eyes to his wonder and beauty and to captivate your heart with the fullness of who he is. Ask for strength to make him the central pursuit of your life and deepest desire of your heart.

Day 2 [Psalm 104:1-15](#) | The Invitation

He makes grass grow for the cattle, and plants for people to cultivate—bringing forth food from the earth. Psalm 104:14

The book of Psalms is a collection of songs and prayers to guide God's people through the wide range of life's valleys and hills. [Psalm 104](#) is a call to praise the creator God who made all things, including grass, trees, and livestock. The basic counsel in Scripture is to enjoy creation as a life-giving means to see and taste the generosity of God. When God's people experience the beauty and wonder of creation, it's meant to point them back to the benevolent heart of their Creator who spoke such blessings into existence.

One of the major challenges for us today is to enjoy gifts while keeping our gratitude directed at the giver. The blessings of God in creation are like the warming rays of the sun, directing our attention back to the source itself. The gifts of God should prompt our praise of God. He is the giver of all good gifts, including relational, vocational, physical, and spiritual. Any good thing we have is a gift from our Father above ([James 1:17](#)). This includes the eternal blessings of forgiveness and adoption, as well as the ordinary blessings of tasty coffee, a warm shower, or a reliable car to drive. He is the giver, and all gifts should lead to his praise.

TODAY: Take time to thank God through song. Join Ada Bible Worship as they sing “[Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing](#).” Consider especially the opening lines: “Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.”

Day 3 [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#) | The Competition

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

1 Timothy 6:17

Paul writes a letter to encourage and equip his young protégé Timothy, who lives and ministers in the large metropolis of Ephesus. In that day, Ephesus was an affluent city where residents could buy goods imported from around the world. Paul wants Timothy to remind the Ephesian church that they are free to enjoy the many good gifts God has provided them, but they need to guard their hearts and their hopes. Though it's natural to put one's confidence in material possessions or blessings, followers of Jesus should put their hope in God.

The same challenge for Timothy's first-century audience is a challenge for us today. Placing our hope in wealth means we're confident in what money or possessions can do for us. The problem is that trust in money is incompatible with trust in God. In the end, it yields discontentment and anxiety. While we may use and even grow our wealth, it should involve a healthy overflow of generosity and gratitude as we trust God. A key step in our spiritual health is to regularly take inventory of our relationship with money, which is the true competition for our hearts.

TODAY: Express thanks to God for the wealth and gifts he has given you. Gratitude is at the center of a heart rightly tuned to God, so take time to give him thanks for who he is and all he has done.

Day 4 [John 10:10](#) | The Replacement

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Jesus comes to bring true life. From the beginning of Scripture's story, God's people have searched in the wrong places—from Adam and Eve grasping the forbidden fruit in the garden to God's people forsaking him for foreign idols. The pattern throughout biblical history has been the struggle to seek and find life in the right place. As Jesus begins his public ministry, he identifies himself as the true source of life. If people are to experience this life, they must come to know Jesus, the one who gives it “to the full.”

Embracing Jesus as the source of life is the foundation for true heart change. We grow as we turn our heart's attention and affection from a lesser allure (especially sin) to Jesus, who is the source of life, joy, and peace. Fighting sin is not primarily about saying “no,” though it certainly includes that. Rather, it's about identifying and pursuing the better “yes,” which is the abundant life Jesus came to bring. When our hearts are more fully satisfied in him, the allure of sin and lesser pursuits loses its appeal.

TODAY: The best way to grow greater affection for Jesus is by getting to know him through the Bible. Join us for Ada Bible Academy this spring and learn how to share your faith and study the Bible for yourself. Learn more and register [HERE](#).



Day 5 [James 5:16](#) | Confess Your Sins

This year in Beyond the Weekend, journey through different biblical models of prayer—one each month. March's focus is Prayers of Confession.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

James was the younger brother of Jesus. After eventually coming to faith in Jesus as the Christ, he writes a letter calling believers to live in a way that faithfully reflects Jesus's life and teachings. For believers, faith and works should be aligned. In James's words, faith without works is dead ([James 2:26](#)). Near the end of his letter, he charges believers to pray in a way that reflects bold faith. Believers are to confess their sins to God, recognizing that the vitality of their walk with God impacts the effectiveness of their prayers.

It's possible to live in a state of being spiritually oblivious, unaware of the extent or severity of our sin. This can be caused by a lack of exposure to Scripture (which reveals our sin) or by an extended season of walking away from God and his ways. Prolonged rebellion can harden our hearts and sear our consciences. This is one of the major reasons it is so important that we read, study, and listen to Scripture consistently and apply it to our lives through regular confession. We all fall short of perfectly obeying God's Word. But confession provides us with a means to own up to such shortcomings and experience renewed intimacy in our walk with God.

TODAY: Spend some time in confession. Read a passage of Scripture that highlights God's commands for your life (like [Ephesians 4](#)), and then confess to him any shortcomings in keeping these instructions. Remember that God is overflowing in grace and mercy. He welcomes the repentant sinner with open arms.