

HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH PRAYER DIARY — SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE TIMES 9:00 & 10:45 A.M.

MONDAY—EVANGELISTIC PRAYER

Chronological Bible Reading: *1 Corinthians 15-16*
Monday, November 26

Jonah 1:3 But **Jonah rose up** to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.

Holy Master and Loving Savior:

God told Jonah to go up. Go to Nineveh and preach the word. Jonah hated those people, so he went down. Down to Joppa to escape responsibility.

Are there times I shy away from giving a word of testimony to the gospel? Lord, search my heart. The consequence of cowardly conduct is **I lose your presence** and the sense of your love. No wonder I struggle for security!

I thank you today that when I serve you, you are with me. Even if I have the whole world against me, it does not matter. But when I turn back from serving you, from ministry, from witnessing to _____ or to _____, and seek my own way, I am like a plane without a pilot.

Oh Lord, what has happened to me? How could I be so foolish as to shun any opportunity, and thereby lose the beaming joy of your face? This is too high a price! Help me return to my first love.

Another consequence of shirking my spiritual duties is **I lose all peace** of mind. A slip into sin destroys my inner peace. Like Jonah, I lose everything I could have used to calm my anxiety with. I cannot plead the promise of your protection when I am not right in your ways.

I am reaping my own deeds. I am filled with my own feelings and ideas. I want to stop playing Jonah and get out of this hot mess. It is much harder to shun the will and work and witness of God than to immediately surrender, yield my will and obey. Jonah lost time because he still had to go preach. Give me grace to go at your first call. Do this because Jesus is worthy. Amen.

TUESDAY—FOCUS ON CHRIST'S MIRACLES

Chronological Bible Reading: *2 Corinthians 1-4*
Tuesday, November 27

Mark 3:5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Merciful Savior:

No one wants to have a withered hand. Lord I do not want to be spiritually lifeless or useless. I know so many people who **need** healing, yet they do not **want** to be healed. I want to be saved from hell, but I want to be saved from my addictive habits and sinful bondage as well. I want to be saved from the power of evil, the love of sin, the vanity of fools, and the very ability to find pleasure in transgression. In my heart of hearts I hate myself, and long to be like Jesus! I desire to be what I am too weak to be, and do what I am too withered to do, **and yet I desire it**. So I cry with Paul in agony,

Rom. 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

I want to, but I cannot! My heart feels like a stone sometimes. I want to love Christ more than I do. I am withered and dried up. I want to be holy, but especially at the holidays, sinful desires come in and carry me away.

Give me the force of your command, *Stretch forth thine hand!* Emancipate me from the bondage of corruption! Your name is Jesus, so **save** me from my sins, because I am a real sinner and not just a poser. In Mark's account you see the disapproval in the hearts of the Pharisees, so surely you are knowledgeable of my own inner condition. Say to this dead sinner:

† 1 Cor. 15:34 Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God:

And some never will, unless I get woke to your righteousness. Amen.

FRIDAY—CORPORATE PRAYER MINISTRY

Chronological Bible Reading: *Romans 1-4*
Friday, November 30

Heb. 3:7-8 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will bear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Almighty and Everlasting God:

We come in obedience to your call. We come to fulfill our office as believers who are simultaneously kings and priests. What else can children be but bold in their Father's presence?

Our eye of faith may be dim, yet we enter your temple for prayer. Even though we sin, full access is open to repentance. We are grieved with the sense of our apathy, mediocrity and stagnation. This is why we come, even now. We are *diminished and brought low* (Psa. 107:39), but we come!

We come by way of atonement. We have *boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus* (Heb. 10:19). The high priest brought blood because the veil was **there**. We bring it now because the curtain is **gone!** It gives us liberty to advance.

We come in an unfailling way, by a new and living way (Heb. 10:20). It is a way always fresh because of a Lamb *newly slain*. Jesus died millennia ago, yet his worth is the same now as it was the moment it occurred, so we come! The way is always newly-paved by the cross, so make it new to our hearts and never stale. The way itself guides, brings and bears us near. This way gives us life with which to come. **Life is in the way itself.**

We come in a dedicated way, which [Jesus] hath consecrated for us (Heb. 10:20). It is a Christly way, because there is no coming except by the incarnate God. God with human skin on, that is our way to God. His substitutionary death is our pathway. We come to God by his representation.

We do not pray without Christ, sing without Christ, nor work without Christ. Help us perform our holy function in the right and righteous way. Amen.

WEDNESDAY—REVIVAL PRAYING

Chronological Bible Reading: *2 Corinthians 5-9*
Wednesday, November 28

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Glorious God and Heavenly Father:

You do not give like we do: a handout to the panhandler. You distribute your riches by the bucket. When Solomon asked for wisdom you gave him wealth and power also. Nearly every time someone in the Old Testament prays you give ten times as much as what is asked. What grace there was even under the law!

That is the habit of God. You not only redeem your promises, but when you could pay off in silver, you instead deliver in gold. Thank you Lord for not being stingy with me. You generously forgive my sins and are none the poorer. Why should you withhold your favor this week? Let me bathe in the river of grace. Pour floods on the dry ground and **bring us revival!**

Job 5:8-9 I would seek unto God, and unto God would I commit my cause: Which doeth great things and unsearchable; marvellous things without number:

Psa. 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

Eph. 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

So let me preach from my personal pulpit this week, because there is an ocean of mercy for sinners. There is an Ark large enough to hold everyone. Better yet, you do not find fault with the seeker.

You invite me to ask, so do not let me add to my other sins the sin of distrust, because that sin kills revival. Let me pray intimately, immediately, humbly and reverently for both wisdom and grace today. God, enlarge my vision of your Son Jesus! Drive out my doubts and fears for his sake alone. Amen.

SATURDAY—IN THE PSALMS

Chronological Bible Reading: *Romans 5-8*
Saturday, December 1

Psa. 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

Holy Lord and Glorious God:

You are good all the time, and nothing else but good to me. You cannot act unjustly or ever be unkind. Your goodness is beyond successful contradiction and without compromise.

This is a firm anchor when I am troubled or in trouble, and especially when storms arise from things I do not understand. Whatever may or may not be the truth about these events, there are certainties in your hand. They may not be within my grasp, but you hold them, and I cling to you! That keeps me from being carried away by hurricanes of anxiety and cyclones of confusion.

Lord no matter how confused I am, let me never think badly of you! No Jesus, **if I cannot understand you, still let me never doubt you.** You are good to those whom you have made good in Christ and have renewed their heart.

Psa. 73:2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

There is a great battle in my soul, because while all the time you are good, I must confess my sin. Can I expect a share of your grace? Yes, I do share it, but often I act like someone who has never received it.

If I see only the present age and forget the future, I soon grow envious and discontent. **Errors of heart soon affect my conduct. When I doubt your righteousness, my own integrity starts to waver.** Strengthen me in the inner man. Wisdom is expensive, but if I buy it, I no longer have to fret over anything. You show me what the end will be. Simply make me more fit for eternity.

This is the prize, the goal, and my desire. Give me grace for growth! Sink my soul **deeper** into you. Make me cling **tighter** onto you. Help me climb **higher** up for you. Do it all for your own glory and praise. Amen.

A DAILY PATTERN FOR PRAYER & BIBLE READING

Chronological Bible Reading: *2 Corinthians 10-13*
Thursday, November 29

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

GOD moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;

He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines of never failing skill

He treasures up His bright designs and works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread

Are big with mercy and shall break in blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace;

Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast, unfolding every hour;

The bud may have a bitter taste, but sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain;

God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain.

—William Cowper, 1774

