

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

MONDAY—EVANGELISTIC PRAYER

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 22-24*
Monday, January 28

Eccl. 9:4 For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

Precious Lord My Savior:

Life in its hardest form is better than death, and that is as true in the spiritual realm as in the physical. It is better for me to be the least in the kingdom of God than the greatest standing outside it. That means the lowest degree of grace is superior to the noblest development of unregenerate human nature!

Holy Ghost, whenever you conceive eternal life in a soul it is a generous deposit. Not even the refinement of education and academics can equal that eternal potential. This means the thief on the cross excelled Caesar in his throne! Lazarus lying among the dogs was better than Cicero among his Senators. The most ignorant Christian is, in your sight, superior to an Einstein.

Spiritual life is the only true badge of nobility, so help me take the message of life today to _____ and _____. Because without it, all people are only smoother or rougher specimens of the same lifeless clay, needing to be quickened because they are *dead in trespasses and sins* (Eph. 2:2).

Living, illuminating, lucid preaching of a pure gospel—however uneducated in technique or unrefined in style—is better than the most eloquent sermon delivered without your anointing. A living dog keeps watch better than a dead lion, so the worst spiritual preacher is to be preferred over the elegant orator who has words but no wisdom, and sound with no spiritual power.

Give me that anointing to witness to others! Quicken my prayers by your Spirit in them! Make me truly alive to all spiritual life. Let my earnestness answer to your urgency! Do not let me die in a grand performance where your presence was absent. Make me not a dead lion in the sight of a living God. Amen.

A DAILY PATTERN FOR PRAYER & BIBLE READING

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 33-36*
Thursday, January 31

Heb. 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

I've seen the lightning flashing, I've heard the thunder roll.
I've felt sin's breakers dashing, which almost conquered my soul.
I've heard the voice of my Savior, bidding me still to fight on.
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone!

The world's fierce winds are blowing, temptation sharp and keen.
I have a peace in knowing my Savior stands between—
He stands to shield me from danger when my friends are all gone.
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone!

He died on Calvary's mountain, for me they pierced His side.
For me He opened that fountain, the crimson, cleansing tide.
For me He waiteth in glory, seated upon His throne.
He promised never to leave me, never to leave me alone!

*No, never alone, no never alone,
He promised never to leave me, He'll claim me for His own;
No, never alone, no never alone.
He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.*

—Ludie D. Pickett, 1897



TUESDAY—FOCUS ON CHRIST'S CROSS

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 25-28*
Tuesday, January 29

Luke 23:48 And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.

Crowned and Crucified Lord:

All who saw you smote their breasts, but not for the same reasons. They all feared, but not all for the same cause. The outward manifestation of your passion and death looked the same to everyone, but the differences in response were as many as the people. Some viewed the same event skeptically, others believingly, just as some heard the voice of God while others thought it thundered (*John 12:29*).

Indefinite fear grounded on a lack of Biblical reasoning often alarms me. We will soon enter the season of storms and tornadoes, and sometimes the sky acts like you are angry. This event at the cross came when you closed the eye of day on those who were mocking and gawking at Christ. Maybe before the next morning they had forgotten. No doubt the next day they were greedy for another bloody spectacle. Like a shadow, emotion often crosses our minds but does not leave a mark. Why? Because **a beating of the breast is not the breaking of the heart.**

How often this has been the result in my own witness to others about Jesus! Many more have shed tears than have been saved. Many more wiped away tears than had sins wiped away. A handkerchief dried their emotions. ☹

They felt sorry they oppressed the innocent. But all they saw in you Lord, was maltreated virtue, suffering manhood, and honor disrespected by injustice. In the moral and spiritual result of their regret there was no redemptive value.

Others among the crowd exhibited emotion based on thoughtful reflection. They saw how they **shared** in the murder of your innocent Son, so later they got **saved**. Help me look beyond your sufferings to your sacrifice for me because,

Mark 15:39 Truly this man was the Son of God.

FRIDAY—CORPORATE PRAYER MINISTRY

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 37-39; Psalm 19*
Friday, February 1

Psa. 22:2-3 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou bearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

O, Our Holy God:

We will never succumb to the temptation to let go our hold on our only strength and solitary hope—prayer! Under no conceivable circumstance can we give place to the dark thought we should not read the Bible and pray. We did not in the days of trial and tribulation, and we will not now.

Even if our prayer is unanswered for seven years we will say, Lord you are still enthroned as the Holy One. That is settled in our minds. We will not allow the faintest breath of suspicion to condense on the fame of our Most Holy God! You are true. You are faithful. Psalm 22 was the worst of all cases. And since it is a Messianic Psalm, it shows how you did not deliver your Son **from** death, but delivered him **up** for our sins. Yet in due time, you did finally raise him from the dead. We do not know why you sometimes deal with us so strangely, but we should never think you unfaithful. **We will not distrust you.** Not for an instant.

We will never stop praying. The glare of daylight will not make us stop. The gloom at midnight will not make us quit our cries to our God. Why? Because we recognize **one of the Devil's main goals is to get us to lay aside the weapon of all-prayer** (Eph. 6:18). As long as we continue to cry, Satan knows he cannot devour even the weakest member of our flock. **Prayer always prevails in time.**

Our faith is even more resolved not to put our dependence anywhere but on you. Not on counseling fads or theological fancies. **Cold prayers beg for denial; red-hot prayer prevails.** We bring it as a battering-ram, our army of souls engaged in spiritual conflict, besieging the mercy seat to win the day over the demonic. With that confidence we pray right now. Amen!

WEDNESDAY—REVIVAL PRAYING

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 29-32*
Wednesday, January 30

† 2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Crucified Savior:

What did my sins really deserve, for the curse of God to have fallen on Christ? Forsaken by the Father, you made him a curse because he carried my sin!

I sin **willfully**, against light and knowledge. I sin **knowingly**, against love and mercy. I smite my breast as I watch Jesus voluntarily suffer and die. I confess I have **intentionally** offended.

If sin itself is rebellion, then let its sight bring tears to my eyes. **I slight the Savior in not considering the implications of the cross.** You hung on the tree in unutterable groans and griefs for me. Have I yet investigated this?

If I do not sense myself being **forgiven** much, I will not **love** much. If I do not **love** much I will not **pray** much. And if I do not **pray**, it shows I have no **faith**, for I place no confidence in you. And if I have no **confidence** in you, I will not **serve** you from my heart.

Oh! Shame on you, my hard foolish heart! Well should you be smitten. May God smite you now with the hammer of his Spirit, to break you in pieces. For **it is only brokenness that God blesses.** Oh, you stony heart! Oh, you cold granite soul! You flinty spirit of mine!

Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, for man the creature's sin.

And might I hide my blushing face while His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes to tears.

Love so amazing! So divine! Death is not the victor and evil not the master.
The cross conquers all. Sin is bound, chained and led captive. Glory! Amen.

SATURDAY—IN THE PSALMS

Chronological Bible Reading: *Job 40-42; Psalm 29*
Saturday, February 2

Psa. 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Holy Father:

I am full of passion, weak in wisdom, and wounded by experience. How can I get right and keep right, so I will be right and stay right?

There is no more important question I can ask. It is a noble ambition. It is your high but certain calling I must press toward. Yet nothing is harder than for me to stay straight. I cannot shirk from responsibility or shrink in the face of difficulty. **The way of wisdom is to live a pure life by grace.**

Make the Bible my chart, and help me *watch unto prayer* (1 Pet. 4:7). Nothing prohibits that, and nothing eliminates the need for it. I have to be like you, Lord—and this is exactly what you did (*Luke 21:36*), even though you were all the fullness of the godhead bodily.

Make my daily life match my study of the Bible. Make my mastery of your word mold and shape my daily activity. Let me take heed to the Holy Spirit, because no one is holy without him!

I have such an accurate roadmap to your will, I need never go astray. Help me follow the hard but right way.

I want to be holy, for you are holy (1 Pet. 1:15-16). So let me set a holy watch in my heart. Meditating on your word is the best maintenance plan. Let me keep a holy Bible before my eye. Meditating on your word is the best preventive medicine, and I need it so! It tells me your mind, empowers my spirit by the Holy Spirit, and brings my character into conformity to Christ.

No gimmick against sinning is equal to simply storing your word in my heart. There is no hiding from temptation unless scripture is hidden in my soul. Lead me not into temptation but deliver me from evil in Jesus' name, Amen.