**21 Days of Prayer**

**Day 1: First Things First**

As we begin this new year with this 21-day prayer journey, let us prepare our hearts to seek God first—seeking His face in humility. Ask God to search your heart and reveal anything that is compromising your relationship with Him. Confess any sin to Him and pray for His Holy Spirit to fill you anew with His presence.

May our spirits connect deeply with our Creator during these next 21 days as we, in unity, pray for God to act in powerful ways as we seek Him.

***Matthew 6: 33 (NLT)—But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.***

***Psalm 51: 10-12 (NIV)—Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.***

**Day 2: Your Grace is Sufficient**

Even the strongest Christian can find their faith wavering during this most challenging time that we all currently face. Paul, in the twelfth chapter of Second Corinthians, explains that he had been praying repeatedly for relief from a certain physical ailment, only to come to understand that his condition would remain. But that challenge did not negate God's purpose for Paul's life and ministry. God answers Paul by saying that His grace is sufficient. In other words, He is grace, and no matter what problems Paul might face, He was the complete answer! He would make sure the results of the work were perfect and complete through his power, despite Paul's weakness. What a reassuring portion of scripture for us to pray with today!

Today we thank God that His grace is sufficient for us. We thank Him that despite our losses and challenges during this past year, He will ensure the work He has planned for our lives is perfect and complete through His power. We pray that as His purpose for our life unfold that we will continue to rely wholly on His strength, always remaining focused on Him, rather than on our own limitations. We pray that He will continue to allow His power and His favor to rest upon us as we boast of Him and His glorious acts!

***But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.* 2 Corinthians 12: 9 (NIV)**

**Day 3: Listening for His Voice**

In 1 Samuel chapter 3, during a time of rare visitation from the Lord, a time described as spiritually dark, God chose to speak to a young boy named Samuel. Though initially Samuel did not recognize the source of the call, he obeyed the instruction of his spiritual mentor, Eli, and spoke these powerfully profound words, "Speak, for your servant is listening." And God responds to Samuel's words and begins to speak to him!

Today we pray that we would continue to listen for and hear God's voice. We pray that we will recognize when God is speaking and that we will respond with obedience to His voice. We pray that as we listen, God will speak clearly to us giving further clarity to the direction and the plans that He has for our individual lives and for our families.

*The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, Samuel! Samuel! Then Samuel said, Speak, for your servant is listening.* **1 Samuel 3: 10 (NIV)**

**Day 4: Faith for the Impossible**

In Matthew chapter 17, beginning at the 14th verse, a man brings his son to Jesus for prayer. He explains that he had sought the disciples for help, but that they were unable to help in Jesus' absence. Jesus listens, and then heals the boy and to provide freedom from the spirit that had been oppressing him. Later, in private, the disciples inquired of Jesus why had they been unable to provide help to the boy. Jesus pinpoints the problem--their faith. He expounds that if they had faith even the size of a mustard seed, they would have been capable of that miracle and of others of much greater magnitude, such as moving a mountain, a feat perceived as impossible.

Today we pray for faith. We pray for the great faith that Jesus praised individuals for in the pages of the gospels. We pray for faith to do things others would consider impossible. Today we pray for and with mountain moving faith!

***You don't have enough faith, Jesus told them. I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it would move. Nothing would be impossible*.
Matthew 17: 20 (NLT)**

**Day 5: The Right Time**

God has always had a plan for redemption and it has continued to unfold in history in His perfect timing. In Galatians chapter 4, Paul shares that Jesus came at just the right time, when the world was perfectly prepared for God's work-- the work of freeing us from bondage and adopting us into His family!

Today we pray for God's perfect timing. We pray that His redemptive plans would be revealed in us at the right time, and in the right places. We pray that according to His plan, He would connect us with individuals and communities who are spiritually hungry who have been longing to be free from sin and to become a part of God's family!

***But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.* Galatians 4: 4-5 (NLT)**

**Day 6: Empowered by His Spirit**

God has sent us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. We all have been given spiritual gifts to help others so that together we can advance His purposes in this world. Let’s be empowered by the Holy Spirit to use our gifts to do the things God has for us to do in boldness and love.

Today we pray that we will always seek to discover our spiritual gifts, to develop them and then to deploy our gifts to edify others.

# *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NIV)*

# Day 7: Ten Times Wiser

In the first chapter of Daniel, the nation of Judah has been defeated, and many of the young men have been taken captive--including Daniel and three others, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon, had plans to train these young men in the way of the Babylonians and then to return them to Judah to indoctrinate and influence others. However, Daniel, and the three others take a bold and powerful stand in this chapter- they would continue in the way that God had commanded. The results of their faith were extraordinary-- they were found to be ten times stronger, ten times wiser than all the others!

Today we pray for the children of city of Toledo, and of the surrounding area. We pray that they would be connected to godly men and women that would love and disciple them. We pray that they would come to know God and develop a life-changing faith walk. We pray that as they learn about God, they would be like Daniel and the three Hebrew boys who refused to adopt any ways that were contrary to God's will. We pray that the favor of God would be on each child, and that they would be ten times wiser, ten times stronger!

***Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.* Daniel 1: 20 (NLT)**

**Day 8: Restoration of a City**

While imprisoned by the Babylonians, the prophet Jeremiah was given a powerful vision from the Lord. In the first verses of chapter 33, Jeremiah saw that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed, but as the chapter continues, specifically in verse 8 and 9, God revealed the fullness of His plan. He would cleanse the people from their sins and then restore the city of Jerusalem! He would cause the city to be a place that would bring Him renown, joy, praise and honor!

Today we pray for the restoration of the city of Toledo. We pray that each person would receive the cleansing from and forgiveness of their sins and would turn to Him. We pray that the city would be a city of great prosperity and peace. We pray that Toledo would become a city that brings God renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations as they hear of all the wonderful things that God will do for this city, through us His people, His hands and feet!

***I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.*
Jeremiah 33: 8-9 (NIV)**

**Day 9: Fit Together Perfectly**

In chapter 4 of Ephesians, Paul discussed two key concepts with the church of Ephesus--proper relationship with other believers and the need to maintain unity. He further explained that unity is not uniformity, highlighting the fact that although the believers may not always agree on everything, that there is a sure path to peace-- focusing on the things that matter, not on matters of personal preference or prejudices. He continued on to unpack this concept throughout the entire chapter, and then in verse 16, he helped them to understand the significance, using the human body as an illustration--if every part works together, it causes growth in the body, and the body itself is built up in love!

Today we pray for the body of Christ. We pray that each part of the body will do its part, and that together, we would see this body grow, and built up in love. We pray that every individual will understand the importance of his or her specific role and do it in excellence and with excitement. We pray that each of us would focus on the things that really matter and put aside anything that would divide us. Today we pray for continued and growing unity and for healthy growth!

***He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.* Ephesians 4: 16 (NLT)**

**Day 10: Prosperity and Success**

In the first chapter of Joshua, Moses, the renowned leader of the children of Israel, has died and God selects his successor, Joshua. Joshua is promised God's continued presence and favor in Canaan, and then he is given the key to his future prosperity and success-He must diligently keep the law. He must study it and meditate upon it and let it guide his decisions daily.

Today we pray for true prosperity and success for all the citizens in the city of Toledo and surrounding area. We pray that as individuals commit their lives to you and meditate on your word, that their financial decisions will change and reflect your godly wisdom. We pray that prosperity and success would become the norm in all neighborhoods, and not the exception. Finally, we pray that as you bless and prosper them, that they would bless and teach others. We pray that the cycles of generational poverty would be broken and replaced with generations of prosperity and success!

***Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.* Joshua 1:8 (NIV)**

**Day 11: Enjoy Good Health**

In third John, John the Apostle, revealed a powerful truth--God isn't just concerned about our spiritual well-being, but He is also concerned about our physical well-being. In fact, the two are connected. John explained that the better one's physical health is, the more thoroughly he can do the work of God. While John denotes that health of the soul comes first in his mind, he also clearly prays for physical health to support it.

Today we pray for spiritual and physical health and well-being for all the residents of the city of Toledo and surrounding area. We pray that each person would find spiritual health in a personal relationship with God, and through godly community. We pray that physical health would become a priority, that people would receive education, take preventative measures, and change family traditions and dynamics that are physically and emotionally detrimental. We pray that as spiritual and physical health increase that individuals will be emboldened to more fully carry out your work!

***Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.* 3 John 1: 2 (NIV)**

**Day 12: Fearless Confidence**

In the fourth chapter of Acts, the religious leaders hear about Peter and John performing a miracle and preaching at the temple, and they place them in jail and demand that they cease speaking about Jesus. Peter and John respond that they will not stop speaking about what they have experienced. Because of the response of the people to the miracle, the religious leaders could not punish Peter and John without backlash, and so they are released. They return to the fellow believers, report what has happened and they all pray with such fervor that the place is shaken and they are filled afresh with the Holy Spirit and a fearless confidence to continue to share about their Savior!

Today we pray for a fearless confidence in sharing Jesus. We pray that our fervent prayers would shake the very city in which we are planted, causing detrimental thought patterns to be displaced and unhealthy cycles to be broken. We pray that we would continually be filled with more of God so that we are always confident and effective in our efforts to bring God and hope to our city!

***While they were praying, the place where they were meeting trembled and shook. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak God's Word with fearless confidence.* Acts 4: 31 (MSG)**

**Day 13: No Place Like Home**

In the sixty-fifth chapter of Isaiah, the prophet described a time that would come when the nation would no longer have to be concerned about their national security and peace. They would experience great blessings, the opposite of some of the things they had experienced due to their disobedience. He explained that they would enjoy the fruit of their labor, and that no enemy would be able to deprive them of their homes or of their crops.

Today we pray for a stabilization, security and peace in all of our neighborhoods. We pray that individuals will build homes and dwell in them, building up strong neighborhoods within and around the city. We pray that abandoned homes will be revitalized and that families in need of housing will find homes and reestablish vibrant communities. We pray that people will work together again to create a sense of family and cooperation among neighbors-- recreating the village that is necessary to raise a child. We pray that neighborhoods will be filled with people who find faith and hope in you and who help change the landscape of our great city!

***They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands.* Isaiah 65: 21, 22 (NIV)**

**Day 14: God’s Business**

In the fifth verse of the 112th Psalm, the author explains the manner in which individuals in business can please God. He explains that those blessed with prosperity should use their wealth to show favor to others, to promote their welfare and to assist them in their endeavors to secure happiness, now and in the world to come. The author further explicates that these actions are to be done with discretion and judgment so that one can take care of his family with good credit and reputation, but also be free to lend to some, and give to others.

Today we pray for business owners. We pray for peace for those who have experienced loss during this difficult time and we pray for your sustaining power and provision to be made manifest in miraculous ways. We pray that they would be prosperous and that they would use their prosperity to show favor and compassion to others. We pray for their continued growth and for each of their decisions to be guided by discretion. We pray for business owners to come to know you and the life- transforming power of your love. We pray that they would become mirrors of your love, your grace and your mercy to others.

***It is well with the man who deals generously and lends; who conducts his affairs with justice.* Psalms 112: 5 (ESV)**

**Day 15: The Chorus of the Redeemed**

In the fifth chapter of Revelation, John records a vision-- a song ministered to Christ by the chorus of the redeemed. The chorus is made up of individuals from every tribe, language, people and nation on earth, all focused on testifying of the work that Christ has done. He has redeemed his people from the bondage of sin, guilt and shame and made us kings and priests!

Today we pray that our congregations will reflect what John saw in his vision--redeemed individuals of all people groups coming together to worship Christ. We pray that eleven o'clock would no longer be the most segregated hour on Sunday mornings, but that the redemptive power of Christ would be more powerful than the fear and stereotypes that divide us. We pray that as the redeemed children of God, we will come together and testify of the miraculous work that Christ has done. We pray that as we worship together in our congregational fellowships that it would be a small glimpse of what we will experience in heaven, where we all will worship God together with no division as the chorus of the redeemed!

***And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.”* Revelation 5: 9 (ESV)**

**Day 16: Who is My Neighbor**

In Luke chapter 10, a lawyer and Jesus have an interesting interaction, one in which the lawyer attempts to "test" Jesus' knowledge of the law by asking him two pointed questions about the conditions for acquiring eternal life, and about defining who is the neighbor? Jesus calmly and precisely answers the first question with a question of his own to the lawyer, and then uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to bring clarity to his response to the second question. In the sharing of the parable, Jesus shatters the lawyer's preconceived notion of the neighbor, as he brings out the lesson that neighborly affection has very little to do with geographical nearness, but everything to do with the exercise of love and help in response to anyone in need.

Today we pray that we would be the neighbor to the people in our community and in the city of Toledo. We pray that we would respond in love to the needs that are present and use our resources and our time to help those in need. We pray that we would be blind to any distinctions that would limit or restrict how we respond to the needs of others. We pray that through our love for our neighbors that they would gain hope and come to know there is a God who loves them!

***And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.”* Luke 10: 27 (ESV)**

**Day 17: A Mind to Work**

As we continue to pray, let’s look at the book of Nehemiah and his endeavor to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. In chapter 4, he and those who were working with him are faced with opposition from Sanballat and Tobiah, two enemies of the Jews who hoped to continue to see the city and the wall lay in ruin. Nehemiah, however, was not distracted by the mockery of Sanballat and Tobiah, but he kept his mind and spirit focused on the vision and strategy that God had given him. And because he remained focused, and kept those who worked with him focused, the work continued to progress, as evidenced in verse 6.

Today we pray for leaders and for those who choose to work alongside them, that they would remain focused.  We pray that they would remain steadfast, and not be dissuaded by any naysayers, or by anyone who may not want to see the vision that they are to carry out actualized.  We also pray that God would connect others to each vision that have a mind to work, and that each godly vision would be realized more quickly than any of us can imagine!

***So we built the wall.  And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.* Nehemiah 4:6**

**Day 18: Live Generously**

In chapter 9 of 2 Corinthians, Paul points out the benefits the Corinthians will reap as a result of generous giving.  The principle he presents is clear-- we harvest in proportion to our planting, or "we get as good as we give." What does the one who gives generously get--God's grace.  Paul expounds that this grace goes beyond just the mere replacement of resources. God is so pleased by a generous life that he will not only replace resources given in Christian service, but He will multiply them to the point that at *all times* and *in all things* we will have *all that we need.* In other words, if we are generous, God will bring us to a place of all-sufficiency in Him!

Today we pray that we would live generously, as individuals, and as the body of Christ.  We pray that we will pour out into the community the resources that God multiplies in our midst.  We pray that as we pour out the resources, that God will establish us as all-sufficient in Him, having all things that we need at all times and in all things.  We thank God that His principles are eternal and constant!

***And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.* 2 Corinthians 9:8**

**Day 19: Gift of God**

Today we pray for salvation for people all around the city of Toledo, the region and the world. We pray that they would receive the gift of God that Jesus Christ made possible through His death on the cross. We pray for believers to be emboldened to share this message, knowing that the Bible speaks of the harvest as plentiful, but the laborers being few. We pray that as each person receives Jesus Christ, it would prompt entire households and neighborhoods to be open to gift of eternal life, as in the case of the jailer when Paul and Silas were set free miraculously, and he and his entire household were saved! And we pray that these new believers would be connected to a body of believers that will support and encourage them in their new faith walk.

Your prayers today will go a long way in preparing the hearts of individuals that we and others will minister to.

***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.* Romans 6: 23 (NIV)**

**Day 20: Immeasurably More**

When we bow our heads to pray, we speak to a God that has the power to do all things. This is the God that is celebrated by Paul in the third chapter of Ephesians. Because of His very nature, He knows what we want before we ask, and He makes provision for us far beyond what we could imagine that we need.  In the Old Testament, King Solomon had an open heaven to request anything of God, and he petitioned God for wisdom. We know that God granted his request, but what is equally important for us to note is that God also gave him much more- including personal wealth, and peace and prosperity for the nation of Israel.  As we get close to the end of this time of prayer and fasting, it is encouraging to know that we can go to God and ask of Him what we want, and that He will provide, but not only that, we can also expect that He will do immeasurably more than we can think, imagine or conceive in our minds.

Today we pray that God would do more than any of us can think or imagine in our church, and in our city, in this generation, and for the generation to come.  We pray that He would carry out His purpose in us and through us according to His good pleasure.  Today we pray that the work ould be accomplished by His power, and not through our own.  And finally, we pray in all things that He alone would be glorified, because without Him, we know that it would not be possible.

***Now to Him who is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly more than all that we dare ask or think [infinitely beyond our greatest prayers, hopes, or dream], according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen.* Ephesians 3: 20-21 (AMP)**

**Day 21: Shine!**

In Matthew chapter 5, specifically in verses fourteen to sixteen, Jesus uses a metaphor to explain the significance and impact He desired his followers to have on the world. He compared them to a light. Using this metaphor, He directly connected the world's salvation or knowledge of Him to the disciples' diligence in showing His characteristics through their words and deeds. Because of their good works, people would glorify and open up to God who is in heaven. The disciples' light was to be a reflection of the Light of the World, and was not to be hidden, but to be like a city on a hill, or a light on a lamp stand. He succinctly summarized His expectation of His disciples in a single word-- Shine!

Today we pray that we would reflect the Light of the World in our words and in our actions. We pray that we would be bold as we go public with our expression of His love. We pray that as we keep open house, and are generous with our lives, that many people, all around the city, would open up to God. We pray that they would come to know Him as their Savior, and as their generous Father in heaven. We pray that we would no longer be the best kept secret in our area, but that we would become like a city on a hill, a light on a light stand, that we might reach more people, and watch more lives be impacted by the life-transforming power of Jesus. We pray that as we shine, as Jesus commanded, individuals, families, neighborhoods, and our city would experience change.

You did it! Thank you for joining us in this 21-day journey using prayer to change lives!

*Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand--shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.* **Matthew 5: 14-16 (MSG)**