



2025 GUIDE

20 DAYS OF PRAYER

AUGUST 3RD — 23RD

WELCOME

We are so excited about what God is going to do in your life during the next 21 days. Prayer brings Heaven's influence into earthly situations. Prayer always works in us!

Many times, we act first and then want God to help out our situation; however, prayer should be our first response, not our last resort.

Understanding the necessity of prayer is not enough. In order for it to become part of our life, it needs to become something we actually do. I'm convinced most people don't enjoy prayer because they have never been taught how to pray. Some may have tried praying in the past, but became discouraged when they didn't see immediate results. Either way, prayer is a powerful part of a Christ-follower's faith walk and it is our goal to see you excel in this discipline.

When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him, you'll experience the presence of God that will change your life. Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life.

And then...
Before the day begins
Before you go to bed
Before you go to work or school
Before you send that text
Before you eat, drive, or travel
When bad things happen
Before bad things happen

In every situation: **PRAY FIRST!**

Prayer changes everything!

WHAT IS GOD LIKE?

As we step into the Fall 2025, join us for 21 Days of Prayer, a dedicated time to seek God and align our hearts with His purposes.

What is God like? It's a big question but an important one. What we understand about God will determine how we relate to Him. The more we know about God, the better our relationship will be. God reveals who He is throughout the Bible. Every name for God tells us something about Him. Reflect on God's character for the next 21 days and see how your love for Him grows.

Each day's devotional and prayer focus will be inspired by this plan, giving you practical ways to seek God and trust Him for greater things this year. This is more than a plan—it's an opportunity to start the year by giving God our first and best, trusting Him to lead us into all He has prepared.

Let's do this together! Stay plugged in, follow along, and let's believe together for all that God will do in and through us during this season of prayer!vx-v

Day 1

GOD IS OUR PROVIDER

Key Bible Verses: Romans 8:32, Genesis 22:9-19

Have you ever sat at the dining table and wondered which bill could be late so your lights would not be turned off? What about sitting in your car at the gas pump checking your account to see exactly how much gas you could put in your car? Life happens and sometimes, it happens fast. But there is one thing we have to keep in mind —

God always provides.

The thing is, God is not always going to provide in the way we think. We may want someone to give us money, but instead there's an error with our previous payment, and we now have a credit on a bill. We could be trying to figure out how far we can go on what gas we have left in our tank when we realize we don't have as many errands to run this week. God is able, and He provides for us.

Abraham knew what it was like to trust God to provide. Abraham obediently brought his son Isaac up the mountain to sacrifice him, trusting that God would provide a substitute.

In Genesis 22:9-19, Abraham was getting ready to sacrifice his only son when an angel called out for him to stop. There was a ram in the bush and Abraham used the animal instead of his son to be sacrificed. Just when Abraham thought he had no other option, God provided.

The Lord-Jireh means "The Lord Will Provide" (Genesis 22:14). God saw to it that Abraham would not have to sacrifice his son.

Every single day, each one of us has to make choices. The choice to make a payment, trusting God to provide financially. The choice to be nice, trusting that God's Word is true. The choice to make good decisions about life, trusting that God sees our good deeds. When we trust God financially, emotionally, and spiritually, He always provides because that's who He is. God is the one who provides.

Reflect:

- Is there anything you have ever needed in the past, received it, and wondered how did it happen?
- When were you able to help provide something to someone? How did it feel?
- What is one thing you need God to provide for? Ask Him for it.

Day 2

GOD IS HOLY

Key Bible vVerses: Leviticus 20:7-8, Exodus 31:13

In fact, God wants you to be different — and not just in personality and personal likes and dislikes. But to understand how each of us are called to be different, we can first see how God is different.

God calls us to be different, set apart for a greater purpose.

One of the names for God is the Lord-M'Kaddesh, which means “the God who sanctifies” (Leviticus 20:7-8, Exodus 31:13). Sanctification is a big, churchy word that means to set apart or separate. Often, the words holy and hallow are used in place of sanctify. We cannot make ourselves holy, so God did that for us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He calls us to be different, set apart for a greater purpose, like He called the people of Israel to be different from the world around them:

“Keep all my decrees and laws and follow them...You must not live according to the customs of the nations I am going to drive out before you...I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from the nations” (Leviticus 20:22-25).

Leviticus was a lawbook for the Israelites to follow. It showed God’s people what He was like, who He wanted them to be, and how He wanted them to live. It would have been easy for the Israelites to adopt the practices and beliefs of the surrounding groups: pagan worship, violent laws, human sacrifices, and more. But God wanted the Israelites to be different, not in opposition to those people, but examples of a better way to live in relationships with others and with Him (Leviticus 22-24). He wanted them to be different.

He wants the same thing for us today. Following Jesus is a counter-cultural way of life that invites outsiders to belong and transforms us the closer we are to Him.

Reflect:

- What does God’s desire to sanctify us (or set us apart for a greater purpose) say about who He is and what He’s like?
- How does knowing you are set apart by God change the way you act toward yourself or others?
- What is something you believe God has set you apart to do or accomplish?

Day 3

GOD IS FULL OF GRACE

Key Bible Verses: Ephesians 1:5-8

Grace can be a tough concept to grasp. God is often described as gracious, but what does that mean for us? We sing about it, we read about it, and we talk about it. But do we understand it?

Many of us operate under the assumption that God's grace is like human grace — imperfect, exchange-based, reactive, and subject to change. We feel the pressure to earn grace, and we have an enemy who wants to keep it that way.

Grace is a gift, purchased by Jesus' death on the cross and given to us freely out of God's love for us.

But the Bible is clear that grace is a gift, purchased by Jesus' death on the cross and given to us freely out of God's love for us. God's grace, His undeserved favor, is not a reward for human effort. God's grace is based entirely on who He is and who we are in Him.

God gives us grace because He wants to. By grace, we are adopted into His family, our debts paid and our sin forgiven. It is His pleasure and will to give us these things when we put our faith in Jesus.

No one can take away or lessen the power of this supernatural exchange. When we truly experience God's grace, we cannot help but be drawn to the One who gives it to us. We worry less about messing up and focus more on getting to know the God who loves us that much.

What if we stopped exhausting ourselves trying to earn God's favor and simply asked Him to help us see and receive what is already ours to rest in? How different would life be?

Reflect:

- Where in your life do you struggle to receive grace?
- Do you find it hard to give others grace? Ask God to help you view others' shortcomings the same way He does.
- Do you feel truly adopted, redeemed, and forgiven? If not, ask God for faith to accept these free gifts He wants to give you.

Day 4

GOD IS JUST

Key Bible Verses: Psalm 75

We have no shortage of being hurt, failed, and scorned in life. The question to ponder is, who do we trust to rescue us in our time of need? Who do we turn to and lean on when we are unsure which direction we are being pulled? Who can we rely on to serve justice when we desperately want to do so ourselves?

Psalm 75 describes God as the ultimate judge — righteous, holy, fair, and equitable in all things. **God is the only one capable of righting every wrong, the only one we can trust to always do the right thing.**

God is powerful, mighty, and capable of all things. But He doesn't wield his might carelessly. One day, His Son, Jesus, will return to earth to deliver judgment and bring Christians to His heavenly home where we will dwell with Him forever. We can praise God in good times and bad times, through successes and disappointments, because we know that He will set things right. One day, God will **"cut off the horns of all the wicked, but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up" (Psalm 75.10).**

We must rely on the mercy of the only One who is able to turn all that is upside down right side up.

Our response to betrayal and hurt should be to run to the Lord, the only One able to calm our fears and provide assurance and promises us hope for redemption. When the going gets tough, we must rely on the mercy of the only One who is able to turn all that is upside down right side up.

Reflect:

- Does viewing God as just and holy change the way you handle hurt and betrayal?
- How can you move forward knowing God will take all that is wrong and make it right?
- How does viewing God as fair and righteous change the way you interact with others?

Day 5

GOD IS, THE I AM

Key Bible Verses: Exodus 3:1-15

Have you ever been assigned a task you felt was too big to accomplish? Your initial thought is, “Who am I to carry this out?” Whether it’s in your career, marriage, volunteer role, parenting, or school, we all have moments in which we wonder, “Why me?”

Moses had a similar reaction in the book of Exodus. God sent Moses to carry out His plan to deliver the Israelites from Pharaoh. Moses’ first question was, “Who am I to carry out this great task?” His second question, however, was even more important. He asked, “What name do I give when I say who’s sending me?” God responds, **“I AM WHO I AM...I AM has sent me to you” (Exodus 3:14).**

We describe ourselves by what we do or how we’re connected to others, like, “I am a businesswoman” or “I am a mother.” God does not need qualifiers that describe Him in relation to something else. Everything finds its definition in relation to God. When He referred to himself as “I AM,” He reminded Moses He had all authority and had always existed. God is all-powerful, unchanging, and constant.

Scholars say Jehovah or Yahweh, translated as “the Lord,” comes from the Hebrew word for “I am.” Yahweh is used more than any other name of God in the Bible for a total of 6,519 times. Over and over again, God’s people are reminded of the power of I AM.

Knowing God equips us to know who we are and what we’re called to do.

When we feel our assignments in life are overwhelming, it is human to ask Moses’ first question, “Why me?” However, it is vital to ask the second question that changes everything: “Who is sending me?”

Reflect:

- What’s one area of your life where you feel overwhelmed and unable to accomplish the task at hand? Is this something God has called you to do?
- How does knowing the characteristics and power of God change your perspective on that task?

Day 6

GOD IS OUR BANNER

Key Bible Verses: 1 Corinthians 15:57, Exodus 8:15

Sometimes God's promises to us involve a fight. We have to fight to keep our focus on Him, fight to move towards the promise we know God has laid on our hearts. We have a real enemy that would love nothing more than to get us sidetracked and doubt God's promises. **So we fight saying that we are going to believe God will do what He says He will do, and we keep fighting until we see that promise come to life.**

In Exodus 17:8-15 the nation of Israel, freed from great oppression in Egypt was traveling to the land God promised them. Yet, Israel was fighting, again.

As the Israelites were fighting in the valley, Moses was on the hill top lifting his hands in prayer for these great fighters. Israel fought hard, and with the prayers of Moses and the help of his companions, Aaron and Hur, the Amalekites were defeated. Moses knew that it was solely because of the Lord's hand of protection and blessing on the Israelites that they won the battle.

"Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my banner" (Exodus 17:15).

In battle opposing nations would fly their own flag on a pole at each of their respective front lines. This was to give their soldiers a feeling of hope and a focal point. This is what God is to us: a banner of encouragement to give us hope and a focal point.

The Lord protects us, covers us with love, and blesses us continually. The Lord is our banner. He protects us; He covers us with love; He blesses us continually. The Lord gives us hope and a place to focus during the tough fights when the enemy is trying to make us doubt God's promises

When was the last time you sat and thanked Jesus for all the ways He is a banner in your life?

Reflect:

- What is one way the Lord has been your banner?
- How can you focus more today on the Lord and all the things He does for you throughout the day?

Day 7

GOD IS GOD ALMIGHTY

Key Bible Verses: Genesis 17:1-8

As a child, there is no hesitation in asking our parents to provide for our needs and wants. God wants us to come to Him in the same way. **In Genesis 17:1-8, God calls Himself El Shaddai, which means “God Almighty,” to Abraham.**

El is another name that is translated as "God" and can be used in conjunction with other words to designate various aspects of God's character. Another word much like Shaddai, and from which many believe it derived, is shad meaning "breast" in Hebrew. This refers to God completely nourishing, satisfying, and supplying His people with all their needs as a mother would her child. Connected with the word for God, El, this denotes a God who freely gives nourishment and blessing, He is our sustainer.

God is a loving God that wants to care and provide for His people. We must understand that our prayers are not a burden to God. The same way a parent celebrates their child coming to them for help, God wants to hear our prayers. He wants to lift our burdens. **Matthew 11:28 says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”**

If we begin to understand that God is our sustainer, then we will pursue a relationship with Him daily. We will understand that we are not walking through struggles alone. Each day our Heavenly Father goes before us. **A verse from Hillsong's song “At the Cross” says it best:**

**“You go before me.
You shield my ways.
Your hand upholds me.
And I know you love me.”**

Reflect:

- How does your view of God compare to the description of El Shaddai?
- What is one way you need God to sustain you right now?
- What is one way you can encourage yourself & others by understanding God is our sustainer?

Day 8

GOD IS OUR HEALER

Key Bible Verses: Exodus 15:22-26

The Bible describes God as the Lord-Rophe (or Lord-Rapha) more than 60 times. The Lord means “God” and Rophe or Rapha means “to restore,” “to heal,” or “to make healthful.”

In **Exodus 15:26**, God promised Moses and the people of Israel, **“If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in His eyes, if you pay attention to His commands and keep all His decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.”**

Healer is an integral part of God’s character. God cares about every area of your health — your physical health, your mental and emotional well-being as well as your spiritual vitality (Psalm 103:2-3). When we understand that God is the Lord-Rophe, the Great Physician, we recognize that no healing happens apart from Him. Only He can provide lasting healing from our brokenness.

So often, we want the healing without the dealing. But God has to deal with the source of our pain — the rejection, the hurt, or perhaps the betrayal — to heal us. Our Healer has never and will never change (Malachi 3:6). Jesus still does miracles. God works through modern medicine, just like He worked through ancient Israel’s laws to protect them from disease.

The Gospel is the physical, moral, and spiritual remedy for all people. Because in Christ, we have eternal life, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and connection with God (Isaiah 53:5).

Reflect:

- When you think about your overall health, what can you begin to give God today for healing?
- What are you grateful to God for regarding your health today?

Day 9

GOD IS OUR LORD

Key Bible Verses: 2 Samuel 7:18-24

Today, many parents name children based on what's popular or what sounds good, without much meaning beyond a nod to a family member or friend. But in biblical times, a name was important. Often, much of a person's character, experience, and outlook was affected by their name.

God had multiple names which expressed important aspects of Him to His people. God's people in Old Testament times understood the power, importance, and impact of God's names.

In 2 Samuel 7:18-23, King David calls God “Adonai,” which means master and Lord. David, a respected and powerful king, acknowledges that his greatness before man is nothing compared to the greatness of God. In calling God “Adonai,” David is acknowledging God's sovereignty. God alone has all authority and all power. He is able to do anything, and He's always right.

God showed this side of Himself to Israel by making a way for His people to escape captivity and settle in a new land (2 Samuel 7:23). And just as God performed great and awesome wonders for Israel, He's done the same for us.

God made a way for us to be in relationship with Him by sending His Son, Jesus, to pay for our sins. When we accept Jesus as our savior, we also acknowledge God as **“Adonai,” our master and Lord (Matthew 10:32).**

As we move into a relationship with God, we are established as His people and like Israel, we become His people forever (2 Samuel 7:24). This recognition changed David, and it changes us. David saw himself as a servant whose job was to bring God's glory. **Like David, when we know God as “Adonai,” the focus of our lives shifts from serving ourselves to serving God and others.**

Reflect:

- What does it say about God's power that a king of David's stature made himself a servant to God?
- How does seeing God as “Adonai” change your understanding of His character?
- Would you consider yourself a servant of God? Why or why not?

Day 10

GOD IS AWESOME

Key Bible Verses: Genesis 1

Have you ever passed a police officer parked on the side of the road and felt the need to check your speed limit and sort of make sure you aren't doing anything obviously wrong? Even the most law abiding citizen probably feels that way. That is what we could refer to as a healthy fear and reverence for law enforcement. Sometimes just seeing a police car can trigger that response. That speaks to the level of respect we have for the role of a police officer and what he or she represents. It is similar, on a smaller scale, to the heart and attitude we should have towards God.

We read things in the Bible about being awe struck and fearing Him. That doesn't happen because of what He has done for us, but instead simply because of who He is. **God is Elohim.**

Elohim is the first name the Bible uses for God and literally translates "God." Some scholars believe Elohim derived from 'êl which, in turn, originates from the root word, 'wl (which means "strong"). Others think that Elohim is derived from another two roots: 'lh (which means "god") in conjunction with 'elôah (which means "fear").

What does Elohim tell us about God? **He is transcendent, mighty, and strong.** He is not human. As much as we like to make sense of God by thinking about Him in human terms, even His most common name reminds us that He's not like us. Before earth existed, God did. He made us as well as everything we see and know about the world. Recognizing our place as His created should stir in us a healthy fear, an awestruck respect.

Reflect:

- Have you ever been in awe of who God is? When?
- Does the way you talk to and about God communicate that you respect Him? Why or why not?
- What is one way knowing God as Elohim will affect the way you approach Him?

Day 11

GOD IS LOVE

Key Bible Verses: 1 John 4:7-17

Our culture is obsessed with love. Romance novels and movies teach us that love should make us feel good and we should do whatever it takes — even if it's wrong — to get it.

But sex-crazed passion isn't all there is to love — if that's even love at all. When the New Testament was translated from Greek, at least four words were translated as love:

**storge (liking someone through the fondness of familiarity),
philia (the love between friends),
eros (the sense of 'being in love'),
agape (unconditional 'God' love).**

With so many emotions wrapped up in one word, it's easy to see how the idea of love can be misconstrued.

In a letter to early Christians, John, one of Jesus' closest friends, gives us a better way to understand love. **1 John 4:8 says, "God is love."**

Love is not something God does; it's who He is. God is the source of our ability to love. And when we look to God as the standard of what loving looks like, it changes how we treat each other. God's love is best demonstrated in Jesus' life and death. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God's love is self-sacrificing; it doesn't rely on feelings or lust. God's love is forever and complete; it's not keeping an eye out for someone or something better. When we look to culture, love has become a confused, muddled word. But in Christ, love has been redeemed.

Only when we truly know God are we able to love as He loves. John's challenge to the churches in his day is the same challenge we face today. Having experienced this love, we are called to go out and share it with others (1 John 4:11).

Reflect:

- What is one way God has shown that His love is different from what the world offers?
- What is one way you can show God's love today?

Day 12

GOD IS INFINITE

Key Bible Verses: Romans 11:33-36

Imagine yourself on a sandy white beach, ankle-deep in crystal blue ocean water with a teaspoon in your hand. Now fill the teaspoon with the water. Look at the finite amount of water in the teaspoon. Look at the infinite span that is the ocean. The difference between the water in the teaspoon and the water in the ocean comes about as close as we can to understanding who we are compared to who God is, what we know compared to what God knows, what we can do compared to what He can do.

God's understanding is infinite. Nothing has ever surprised God or occurred to Him. The solution to our problem exists before we even have the problem. God knows everything past, present, and future. The depth of His power and resources can not be measured — neither can the depth of His love, which was revealed to us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

For who He is and what He does, Paul praises God. John marvels in **1 John 3:1**, “**How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!**”

**The God who needs nothing, wants us.
It is only right that we, too, praise Him.**

As vast as the oceans are, they still have boundaries. God is neither defined nor confined by boundaries. When we are connected to Him through Jesus, there are likewise no limitations to what is possible in our lives.

Reflect:

- How would your spiritual life change if you stopped trying to define God and learn to stand in awe of Him?
- What kind of shift would this cause in your attitudes? Your prayers? Your actions?

Day 13

GOD IS MERCIFUL

Key Bible Verses: 2 Peter 3:8-9, Deuteronomy 4:29-31

“Today is a good day for a good day” has become a popular phrase recently. It might seem cliché. But clichés are cliché because they are true.

God’s mercy is new every morning (Lamentations 3:23). Each day, God reveals His mercy to us in a way that we haven’t ever experienced before.

When we wake up, we have a decision to make. We can embrace God’s mercy and choose to have a good day. Or, we can dwell on yesterday’s sin and struggles, and choose to have a bad day.

God is merciful. God’s merciful compassion is infinite and inexhaustible. God demonstrated His mercifulness by sending Jesus to take the judgment that was rightfully ours. God waits and works now for all people to turn to Jesus and to live under His justification (2 Peter 3:9).

Each day, we wake up anew and we start fresh. It doesn’t matter what we did yesterday, God’s mercy is available to us today. We have been given a clean slate. The question is what will you do with it?

Reflect:

- Is there an area of your life where what seems like God’s inaction might be His mercy?
- How does understanding that God is merciful change your view of who He is and how He works in our lives?

Day 14

GOD IS WRATHFUL:

and that's a good thing

Key Bible Verses: Nahum 1: 2-8

We don't like to think about God's wrath. "Wrath" makes us think of uncontrolled tempers and impending punishments. It's difficult to associate that word with the heavenly Father who loves us completely.

But it's precisely because God loves us that He feels wrath.

Unlike human wrath, God's punishment is holy because it is never the result of a bad temper. He is never out of control. God's anger is against sin and evil because sin destroys us and keeps us separated from Him. We don't want a god who isn't against sin and evil. Only a God who loves us could hate sin so much He would do whatever it took to rescue us from it (Ephesians 2:1-4).

Every human being, until the Holy Spirit changes them, is an enemy of God. The Bible says God is patient with us, even when we resist Him, because He wants everyone to be saved (Romans 9:22-23). Every human being, until the Holy Spirit changes them, is an enemy of God (Romans 8:7-8). We hate Him because we want to be our own boss, but God tells us that:

"If you love Me, you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

God has given us everything. All He asks is that we serve and love Him. God hates sin and evil, and we should, too. But we don't. So we deserve His wrath. Yet God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to receive His wrath in our place (John 3:16).

If we don't deserve God's wrath, then Jesus died for nothing. But if we accept Jesus' death as the punishment we deserve, we can be sure that God's wrath will never fall on us.

Reflect:

- Have you ever thought of yourself as deserving God's wrath? Why or why not?
- What's one thing you learned about God's wrath leaves you more in awe of Him?
- Can you remember a time when you asked Jesus to absorb God's wrath on your behalf and be your savior? If so, take a few minutes right now to thank Jesus for saving you. If not, you can make that decision today.

Day 15

GOD IS PEACE

Key Bible Verses: Philippians 4:7, Judges 6:11-24

In Judges 6:11-24 Gideon's hiding away, head down, working hard. Many of us could say the same about our day to day. How often do we toil away rarely lifting our eyes off our tasks to have an encounter with the Lord?

God calls Gideon to take his eyes off his tasks and onto Him. When God gives Gideon the details of His plan, it's clear that Gideon's self-evaluation falls much shorter than God's view of him. Gideon is so caught off guard he questions God (Judges 6:15). In a simple plea starting with "Pardon me, my Lord," Gideon basically tells God,

"You must be mistaken! Not me! I'm weak, unequipped, not capable! You can't mean me, Lord!" Gideon trembles with fear of the unknown, his anxious thoughts made clear in his words.

When we doubt and face fear we can know that we can have peace.

The story doesn't end here though. Even when we experience doubt and fear, we can know that we can have peace. In God's infinite goodness, He fills Gideon with the fullness of His peace. He will do the same for us. Gideon is so overwhelmed after his encounter with God that he stops and worships right where he stands, building an altar to the Lord. He called the altar the Lord-Shalom or "The Lord is Peace" (Judges 6:24). He is changed in that moment from doubt-filled to peace-filled.

Spending time with the Lord in prayer, in worship, and in reading His word enables us to experience the peace that can only come from our Creator. He knows what we face and what we fear, and He is faithful to equip us to move forward in confidence. In peace.

Reflect:

- What is one way you can make regular time with the Lord a priority in your day to day routine?
- When was one time you experienced God's peace in your life?
- In what area do you need to ask God for peace?

Day 16

GOD IS OUR COMFORTER

Key Bible Verses: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

The doctor walks in with a pained face and a positive cancer diagnosis. A policeman knocks on the door to deliver news no parent ever wants to hear. Someone who promised never to leave walks out. A rejection letter crushes future plans.

We all need comfort sometimes. Pain, heartache, and tragedy are everywhere. There is no physical way to escape it. But we are not stuck, doomed to waiting for the next blow because we serve a **God who is the Father of all compassion and comfort.**

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, Paul speaks from his own tragic experiences about the power of God's comfort. Paul was no stranger to hardship. He experienced immense suffering that should have broken him. But he knew where to run during hard times, and he testified time and time again to the faithfulness and reality of God's comforting arms.

Not only did Paul's life show what it looks like to receive supernatural compassion, he showed how that same compassion overflows to others. Paul devoted his life to sharing the Gospel. He was an incredible encourager to Christians all over the world, regardless of his circumstances. But Paul was not a superhero. The impact of his ministry was a direct result of the Holy Spirit inside of Him. As Paul clung to God, the loving comfort he received was more than enough to share with others.

There is no end to God's compassion. **His desire and ability to wrap His arms around us are not constrained by circumstances.** Whether our hardships are the result of someone else's actions, our own unwise decisions, or pure chance, God wants to be our protection and strength.

Like Paul, we have the Holy Spirit inside of us. That means we have access to an unlimited amount of comfort to receive and give to others.

Reflect:

- How do you usually respond to hard situations?
- Where have you seen God's comfort in your own life?
- Do you know someone who needs the kind of comfort only God can give? What would it look like to comfort that person the way God has comforted you in the past?

Day 17

GOD IS SOVEREIGN

Key Bible Verses: 1 Chronicles 29:11-13

Whether we win the lottery or spend our last \$5 on the burger in front of us, we choose to trust in a sovereign God. We trust because God is a good Father who gives good gifts to His kids. Because He promises to work all things together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

God is above all, orchestrating every detail of our lives every moment of every day. Knowing God is sovereign means we can trust Him regardless of our circumstances. John Piper once said, **“God is always at work doing hundreds of thousands of things at once... He may show us one.”**

Sometimes, the Lord gives us a glimpse of the bigger picture but He does not have to. In **Job 38**, God reminds Job and his friends why He doesn't have to explain himself. He asks them, **“Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place?”**

When we don't feel the truth, we claim it until our head knowledge connects to make our hearts feel it. God, who sent His Son to die for our sins, has the right to act as He sees fit because His ways are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Hebrews 11:1 tells us faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. We believe in the Lord's supreme authority to rule, and we choose to live in that truth.

Reflect:

- Do you find it easy to trust God to make decisions about your life? Why or why not?
- Is there an area of life where you are questioning God's sovereignty? What is one promise God makes in the Bible that you can apply to that situation?

Day 18

GOD IS OMNISCIENT

Key Bible Verses: Psalms 139:1-6

Remember trying to get away with something as a kid? Grandma was always quick to say, “I may not know, but God knows.”

At some point, you probably wondered, “Does He know everything?”

The answer is yes, He does. **God is omniscient or all-knowing. He has infinite awareness, understanding, and insight.**

Psalm 139 starts, “You have searched me Lord, and You know me.” That word “know” in the Hebrew is “yada,” which means to know, to perceive, to recognize, to consider. It appears more than 900 times in the Old Testament.

Psalm 139 reminds us that God knows our words before we speak (Psalm 139:4). God knew us before we were born (Psalm 139:13, Jeremiah 1:5). He knows our hearts, and He knows our concerns (Psalm 139:23, Jeremiah 12:3). He knows everything. God knows every sinful thought and action I have ever had or will have. That may seem terrifying, but it’s actually freeing. God knows everything you’ve done, yet He still loves you. He still sent His Son to sacrifice for you.

We can never escape God’s attention, so how should we respond?
Do we fear? Do we quit?

No! Just as David did, we ask God to search us, to know our hearts, to test us and lead us (Psalm 139:23-24). We respond with praise and gratitude knowing that God who knows everything is guiding us through life.

Reflect:

- How does it make you feel to know that God knows every detail about your life and still loves you?
- When is the last time you asked God to search your heart?
- Take a few minutes to do that today.
- How can you take action based on what you heard from God or read today?

Day 19

GOD IS SELF-SUFFICIENT

Key Bible Verses: Acts 17:24-28

Remember the first time you realized you were pedaling your bicycle on your own? Realizing your mom or dad let go and you don't need them anymore is freeing. You're filled with triggers independence and confidence as it sinks in that you are in control. You can pedal wherever you want to go.

We can reach this same point in our relationship with our heavenly Father. When things are going well, we cruise around on our own like we don't need Him — until we hit that speed bump or pothole. In that moment, we're reminded that we're still fragile and we'll always need our Dad.

Unlike us, God really is self-sufficient. All things are His to give. All we have comes from God, and we have nothing to give Him that He has not already given us. God made the world and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). Every good gift is from Him. God doesn't need palaces or temples. Instead, He chooses to live inside each of us, filling us with His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. God put life and breath in us so we might seek Him through our own free will. When we do, He will be found as He isn't very far away.

God doesn't need anything from us. He desires a relationship for us, knowing that our lives are full when they are shared with Him.

Reflect:

- How does it feel to know God isn't looking to get anything from you?
- Is there anything you've been doing because you feel like God needs you to do it?
- What, if anything, needs to change based on what you read today?

Day 20

GOD IS GOOD

Key Bible Verses: Psalms 119:65-72

Psalm 119 declares that God is good and what He does is good (Psalm 119:67). However, we all go through things that make us question God's goodness.

When you are facing difficult or painful circumstances, you may find yourself asking, "If God is good, why does He allow bad things to happen?" This is a natural response when life is turned upside down. It is hard to sing about a good Father when you're facing sickness, infertility, or a job loss.

The best way to overcome doubts about God's goodness is to understand the importance of perspective. Even God's Son had to face difficult and painful things while on earth. He was tortured and endured a painful, unjust death. However, Jesus' death and resurrection also made a way for us to be reconciled with God. Through something that seemed bad God was able to do something very good.

Sometimes, you will be able to look back at painful seasons and see how God ultimately used them for good. Other times, you will never fully understand the purpose of your pain here on earth.

Bad things happen in life and will continue to happen as long as we are living in a broken world. Yet, Jesus has told us to not give up because He has overcome the world (John 16:33). If we have a relationship with Jesus, we have the hope of spending forever with God in heaven, regardless of the evil we face here in this world.

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." We can trust that God is good, even when our circumstances don't make sense. We can't see things the way God sees things, but we can trust that from His perspective all of our pain is working toward something good.

Reflect:

- What circumstances have caused you to question God's goodness?
- How does considering God's perspective affect your assumptions about His goodness?

Day 21

GOD IS OUR FATHER

Key Bible Verses: Romans 8:15-17, Matthew 6:5-15

Have you ever had a relationship with someone that made you feel special? People with “connections” get special treatment. They might get backstage passes to a concert, access to a VIP lounge with a buffet, or the best seats at a game. Those kinds of associations turn us into somebody, not on our merit, but based on who we know.

In the Bible, we are told over and over that when we accept Jesus, we become children of God.

In the Bible, we are told over and over that when we accept Jesus, we become children of God. Wow, that is some connection! What other religion or belief system offers adoption by the creator of the world (Romans 8:15-17)?

The Bible also says we can cry out to God as **“Abba, Father” (Romans 8:15)**. That is an intimate term that is similar to the word, “Daddy.” If we have God as our daddy, it changes our approach to Him. We go from feeling like terrified slaves of an unknowable God to being children who can run up and sit in His lap to be loved on by and learn from Him. We see Him as someone to run to when in trouble rather than someone to hide from.

God as our daddy changes how we see ourselves too. When we see ourselves as a beloved child of God, we see ourselves as somebody who matters no matter where we sit in the stadium.

Reflect:

- Do relationship issues with your earthly father keep you from seeing God as “Daddy”? How do you think spending time with “Abba” by reading the Bible and getting to know Him might correct your view of who He really is?
- Have you made the connection with God to become His child? If you haven’t yet, you can right now.