

2023 Prayers For Mission Guide



The New Testament gives guidance to help us know what to pray about based on the things Jesus and the apostles prayed about. In **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** Paul wrote this,

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Paul says that we are to always be in prayer and in those prayers to constantly be rejoicing and thankful. As we start each day, let us express our thanks and joy to God!

Jesus and his apostles have much to teach us about prayer. Here are some of the things they prayed about that we can imitate:

1 John 1:9 – Prayer of Confession

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

We can confess our sins to God in prayer. Repentance is part of the Christian life. Repentance means to make a turn. Turn from evil to God.

Matthew 9:37-38 – Pray for Workers

“³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Acts 4:29-31 – Prayer for boldness and miracles

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

Acts 13:2-3 - Fasting, Prayer and Worship to send out missionaries

² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 10 – Praying for Connection with People of Peace

“About noon the following day as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray.” – Acts 10:9

“Cornelius answered: “Three days ago I was in my house praying at this hour, at three in the afternoon. Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me” – Acts 10:30

Peter and Cornelius were both praying when God connected them and this opened the doors for millions to be reached through the mission to the Gentiles.

They prayed for those in prison (Acts 12) and even prayed while they themselves were in prison (Acts 16).

They prayed about everything.

It is important that strategic prayer characterizes Backyard church. This helps us form a culture of prayer, where everything we do is taken to God in prayer. As you can see above, ***a church in prayer is also a church on mission***. Prayer leads us to people who lead us to people as God connects the dots. We open ourselves up to His lead, depend on Him in all things, and follow where He takes us. This often leads to effective outreach, making disciples and starting new churches.

In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) Jesus sent his apostles out to make disciples of the nations. Jesus' next instruction was to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come (Luke 24:49 & Acts 1:4). We are reminded that there is no mission without the Spirit's help. It was the Spirit's coming in Acts 2 that led to 3000 conversions!

Jesus also told them to start where they were (Jerusalem) and go out to the surrounding region (Judea) and then outward to Samaria (even further out) and the ends of the earth. This is exactly how the book of Acts unfolds. They start in Jerusalem (Acts 2) and eventually move out to the surrounding regions. By the end of Acts Paul has taken the gospel to Rome (the ends of the earth)!

We are taking these principles and developing a prayer strategy for BYC in 2023. Here are some prayers to pray daily in January.

We start each day with a 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 prayer – one of rejoicing and thankfulness. Then we add in some specific things each day/week:

Week 1 – Pray for Jerusalem (our city)

- Jan 1 - Pray for God to raise up workers to enter the harvest field locally
- Jan 2 - Pray for the harvest (the last, least and lost, on the margins & most vulnerable)
- Jan 3 - Pray for boldness & protection from the enemy
- Jan 4 - Pray for connection with people of peace & for our neighborhoods/neighbors (by name)
- Jan 5 - Pray to make disciples & start new churches locally
- Jan 6 - Pray for local leaders (mayors, city counsel, etc)
- Jan 7 - Pray for God to support local leaders (BYC leaders by name: Birds, Clemens, Dabbs, Hendersons, & Daniel) & raise up spiritual leaders in our city

Week 2 – Pray for Judea (Our state/region)

- Jan 8 - Pray for God to raise up workers in our state/region
- Jan 9 - Pray for the harvest (last, least, lost, on the margins & most vulnerable)
- Jan 10 - Pray for workers in our state to have boldness & protection from the enemy
- Jan 11 - Pray for connection with people of peace
- Jan 12 - Pray to make disciples & start new churches in Alabama/the South
- Jan 13 - Pray for state/regional leaders (governor, state congress, state judiciary, etc)
- Jan 14 - Pray for God to raise up spiritual leaders in our state/region

Week 3 – Pray for Samaria (our nation)

- Jan 15 - Pray for workers in our nation
- Jan 16 - Pray for the harvest in our nation
- Jan 17 - Pray for workers in the US to have boldness & protection from the enemy
- Jan 18 - Pray for connection with people of peace
- Jan 19 - Pray to make disciples in our nation
- Jan 20 - Pray to make disciples & start new churches in this nation
- Jan 21 - Pray for God to raise up spiritual leaders in this nation

Week 4 – Pray for the ends of the earth (the nations)

- Jan 22 - Pray for workers around the world (support for them and raise up new ones)
- Jan 23 - Pray for the harvest around the world & ministries we support (Promise, Metro)
- Jan 24 - Pray for boldness & protection from the enemy for those on mission in various countries
- Jan 25 - Pray for connection with people of peace
- Jan 26 - Pray to make disciples & start new churches
- Jan 27 - Pray to start new churches around the world
- Jan 28 - Pray for God to raise up spiritual leaders around the world

**We end January praying through these prayer prompts from
Shodankeh Johnson for January 29, 30 and 31**

1. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field.
2. Pray for open doors to engage the lost.
3. Pray that God will reveal persons of peace.
4. Pray for the gatekeepers of the community.
5. Pray for the protection of the Lord.
6. Pray for miracles.
7. Pray for movements (DMM) around the world.
8. Pray for the movement of God.
9. Pray for more partners.
10. Pray for more boldness.
11. Pray for deliverance.
12. Pray for spiritual breakthroughs as it relates to strongholds of the enemy.
13. Pray for provision because the commission is greater than my resources.
14. Pray against my own personal strongholds.
15. Pray for my family.
16. Pray for the disciples in my care (church).

As we pray through this we can take note of what God is prompting us toward. You might journal your thoughts and prayers along the way. As we seek God's guidance, let us be attentive to His leading and follow Him wherever He leads. If there are certain locations that seem to be cropping up in our prayer time, let us pray over those areas and reach out to people there to see if God is opening a door there.