

**DOTHAN**FIRST



# Dear Dothan 1st Church Family,

Welcome to 21 Days of Prayer! We are excited about what God is going to do in your life during the next 21 days. We pray and believe this often, God whatever You're doing, do it in Dothan First. **Prayer brings Heaven's influence into earthly situations**.

More than ever, we are in desperate need of the move of God in our world, our nation, our community, and our families. Prayer is a key ingredient in navigating this journey with the hope and assurance of Jesus. We know the God who holds the future in His hands, and we have complete access to Him through prayer!

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

As we go on this journey over the next 21 days, you will see that every day there is one topic, a corresponding verse, and a prayer for that day. The Word of God is one of the most valuable tools we have to build a dynamic daily prayer life. It brings power, truth, and encouragement to our prayer time, and it has the ability to dissolve fear, worry and anxiety as we place our trust in His promises.

Our intent is to have this guide help you find a new level of purpose, effectiveness, and enjoyment in your prayer life. While prayer does take commitment and can require discipline to develop into a daily habit, we also want to remember that it's a "get to" not a "got to." It's a privilege to be able to come to God in prayer!

When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with God, you'll experience His life-changing presence! You'll be reminded...

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
Before you worry....in every situation....
PRAY FIRST! Prayer changes everything!

We love you, church family!

Mark & Michele Benson

# A FEW TIPS AS YOU PRIORITIZE PRAYER OVER THESE NEXT 21 DAYS...

Prayer is most effective when it isn't something we do every now and then, but when it's a lifestyle we cultivate. To understand how to have a lifestyle of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

#### **HAVE A CERTAIN TIME**

Jesus got up early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God — whether it's first thing in the morning, at lunch, or in the evening — and faithfully keep it.

#### HAVE A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a specific place He went to pray. Having a designated place to pray helps us remove distractions and frees us to worship and pray out loud.

#### **HAVE A CERTAIN PLAN**

When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it "The Lord's Prayer." Our desire is for this resource to be a guide for your time with God. As we pray every day, consider incorporating some worship music, or additional time to read the Bible or journal. Not everyone's approach will look the same, but it does help to have a plan for connecting regularly with God!

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# "THEN YOU WILL CALL ON ME AND COME AND PRAY TO ME, AND I WILL LISTEN TO YOU."

JEREMIAH 29:12 (NIV)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# SURRENDER



**JOHN 3:30 (NLT)** 

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

God, as I prioritize prayer over these next 21 days, I do so from a place of surrender. In this moment, I surrender my plans, my ambitions, my ways, and I ask that Your will be done in my life. I am making more room for You to move, to speak, to heal, to reveal, and to have Your way. I pray there would be more of You, and less of me. As I draw near to You, help me grow in my faith, and experience You like never before. I am expectant for all You will do! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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# PEACE

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

# "I AM LEAVING YOU WITH A GIFT—PEACE OF MIND AND HEART. AND THE PEACE I GIVE IS A GIFT THE WORLD CANNOT GIVE. SO DON'T BE TROUBLED OR AFRAID."

JOHN 14:27 (NLT)

#### PRAYER:

Father, today I acknowledge Your presence and embrace Your gift of peace. Help me to recognize the ways I try to find peace outside of You, as I know what the world offers me will never be enough. There is no substitute for the lasting peace I can find only in You. Although in this world there are many things I will never understand, thank You for a peace that passes all human understanding. I praise You for Your supernatural peace and receive it even now. I pray Your peace would guard my heart and my mind. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



### FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

"YOU CAN DEVELOP A HEALTHY,
ROBUST COMMUNITY THAT LIVES
RIGHT WITH GOD AND ENJOY ITS
RESULTS ONLY IF YOU DO THE HARD
WORK OF GETTING ALONG WITH
EACH OTHER, TREATING EACH
OTHER WITH DIGNITY AND HONOR."

JAMES 3:18 (MSG)

#### PRAYER:

Lord, I come to You asking for You to bring supernatural health in every one of my family relationships. I know that there is hard work involved in truly getting along with each other, and I am willing to put the work in. Reveal the areas where I need to put myself aside and walk in love, grace, forgiveness, and selflessness. May I see those in my family as You do, believing the very best in others. Help me to honor my family both in words and actions. I pray You would bring restoration and healing where it's needed. Help us let go of things that don't matter, and embrace the things that truly do. Thank You for leading me and guiding me as I entrust my family to You. I am believing the best is yet to come for my family. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# WORRY

"DON'T FRET OR WORRY. INSTEAD OF WORRYING, PRAY. LET PETITIONS AND PRAISES SHAPE YOUR WORRIES INTO PRAYERS, LETTING GOD KNOW YOUR CONCERNS. BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, A SENSE OF GOD'S WHOLENESS, EVERYTHING COMING TOGETHER FOR GOOD, WILL COME AND SETTLE YOU DOWN. IT'S WONDERFUL WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHRIST DISPLACES WORRY AT THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE."

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7 (MSG)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### **PRAYER:**

Father, today I surrender my worries and every care I have to You. I am going to turn my list of worries into my prayer list. When my mind feels out of control, I pray You'll help me renew my mind with Your Word. I command anything not of You to leave in Jesus' mighty name. I proclaim I have a sound and healthy mind. I lay down all worries, all my physical and mental anxiety, and any attempt at trying to control it all. I surrender it all to You. (Tell Him the things you are laying down right now.) I need You and Your peace that transcends my human understanding. Even if things are unstable around me, I pray Your peace will be evident in my heart and life. As I step into praising You, dissolve my worry and fear. I place my concerns before You and make You the center of my thoughts. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

### ALL WILL KNOW JESUS

# "FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO SEEK AND SAVE THOSE WHO ARE LOST."

21 DAYS OF PRAYER **LUKE 19:10 (NLT)** 

#### PRAYER:

## FREEDOM

"NO TEMPTATION HAS
OVERTAKEN YOU EXCEPT WHAT
IS COMMON TO MANKIND. AND
GOD IS FAITHFUL; HE WILL NOT
LET YOU BE TEMPTED BEYOND
WHAT YOU CAN BEAR. BUT
WHEN YOU ARE TEMPTED, HE
WILL ALSO PROVIDE A WAY OUT
SO THAT YOU CAN ENDURE IT."

I CORINTHIANS 10:13 (NIV)

#### PRAYER:

God, there are many things on this earth that will try to keep me from living the way You want me to live. You sent Your son Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead, erasing sin for all mankind - and that includes mine! Because of the sacrifice of Jesus, I have a new life and a free life. I pray You would give me strength to overcome temptation and sin. I am thankful nothing on this earth has more power than the name of Jesus. I have victory in my life because of the victory of Jesus on the cross. Help me desire you more than anything or anyone else. Thank You for Your freedom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# DAY 7 GOVERNMENT

"I URGE YOU, FIRST OF ALL, TO PRAY FOR ALL PEOPLE: ASK GOD TO HELP THEM; INTERCEDE ON THEIR BEHALF, AND GIVE THANKS FOR THEM. PRAY THIS WAY FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY SO THAT WE CAN LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES MARKED BY GODLINESS AND DIGNITY. THIS IS GOOD AND PLEASES GOD OUR SAVIOR, WHO WANTS EVERYONE TO BE SAVED AND TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH."

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 (NLT)

#### PRAYER:

God, today I pray for our government. I pray blessing on their households and families. I pray for those in authority to surrender to You to lead and guide them. I pray You would give them wisdom to lead and for peace and healing to flood our nation, and the truth would prevail. Move in ways that are beyond what we could ask for, dream of, or imagine because that is the kind of God You are. Work all things for good for those who love You. I pray those in authority will surrender to You. I pray Your Name would become known and You would do a supernatural work in our nation, as we become desperate for more of You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

DAY8
HEALTH



#### "LET ALL THAT I AM PRAISE THE LORD; MAY I NEVER FORGET THE GOOD THINGS HE DOES FOR ME. HE FORGIVES ALL MY SINS AND HEALS ALL MY DISEASES."

PSALM 103:2-3 (NLT)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

Father, in the Name of Jesus, I come before You asking for healing for \_\_\_\_\_\_ (name yourself or someone who needs healing). My hope is in You as our healer. Your Word says You are the God who heals. Thank You, Jesus for dying on the cross so that we can receive healing. I believe You are a miracle working God. Thank You that the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me. I stand in faith believing for healing for (name yourself or someone who needs healing)\_\_\_\_\_. Nothing is impossible for You, God! I look back on Your faithfulness and I trust You will be faithful again. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# WISDOM FOR LEADERS

# "IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, LET HIM ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT REPROACH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN HIM."

JAMES 1:5 (ESV)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

God, today I come before You on behalf of my pastors, leaders, bosses, and all those in a position of leadership. This time is beyond challenging, and Your Word promises if we need wisdom, we can simply ask, and You WILL give it to us! So today I call on You for wisdom and ask You to give it generously to every leader in my life. Give them what they need to navigate this season with grace, intention, God-inspired ideas, care, and concern for Your people. I believe even right now You will begin to bring answers and solutions for everything they are facing. Thank You for them and I pray you would encourage them with Your truth. May they be strengthened and know they are equipped for the task at hand. Nothing is too great for You, and I believe you are pouring Your wisdom into them even now. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

### POWER OVER THE ENEMY

"FOR WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST FLESH-AND-BLOOD ENEMIES, BUT AGAINST EVIL RULERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE UNSEEN WORLD, AGAINST MIGHTY POWERS IN THIS DARK WORLD, AND AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES."

EPHESIANS 6:12 (NLT)

#### PRAYER:

Father, I recognize there is a real enemy at work in this world. Give me wisdom to discern the work of the enemy around me, and to oppose his schemes and plans. I don't live in fear, but choose to live in faith. Just as Jesus defeated the enemy though the work of the cross, I also claim victory in my life. You have equipped me with the armor of God and the power of Your Word (the Bible). Therefore, I will meditate on your Word. I will walk in truth, allow Your peace to be my guard and my guide, and hold faith as my shield. Thank You for always planning a way for me to be victorious. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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DAY 11
UNITY



"THEREFORE, AS GOD'S CHOSEN PEOPLE,
HOLY AND DEARLY LOVED, CLOTHE
YOURSELVES WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS,
HUMILITY, GENTLENESS AND PATIENCE. BEAR
WITH EACH OTHER AND FORGIVE ONE
ANOTHER IF ANY OF YOU HAS A GRIEVANCE
AGAINST SOMEONE.

FORGIVE AS THE LORD FORGAVE YOU. AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES PUT ON LOVE, WHICH BINDS THEM ALL TOGETHER IN PERFECT UNITY."

DAYS OF PRAYER

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14 (NIV)

#### PRAYER:

Father, I come to You today asking that unity would sweep across our nation, across our city, and across our churches like never before. Your Word is clear on the selflessness it takes for unity to be developed and grow. I want to do my part and act in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, and ultimately love. Give me eyes to see the everyday opportunities that are right in front of me to do so. Help me put into practice the commandment of loving my neighbor. Holy Spirit, make me aware and lead me in putting on love in every decision, response, conversation and in every action. As Your church, let us lead the way in unity. Use us to bring change in our families, communities, workplaces, and friendships. I am believing for You to move powerfully as we choose to represent You well in unity. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# PURPOSE

# "FOR WE ARE HIS WORKMANSHIP, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS FOR GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED BEFOREHAND, THAT WE SHOULD WALK IN THEM."

**EPHESIANS 2:10 (ESV)** 

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

Father, thank You for creating me on purpose and for a purpose. As I discover all You have for my life, help me live with intentionality each day. I want to be used by You and put the gifts You've given me into action. Show me even more ways to make Your name known to others. Increase my awareness of everyday opportunities where I can live out my specific purpose. Thank you for using me to make a difference! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# STRENGTH FOR THE CHURCH

### "SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH; SEEK HIS PRESENCE CONTINUALLY!"

1 CHRONICLES 16:11 (ESV)

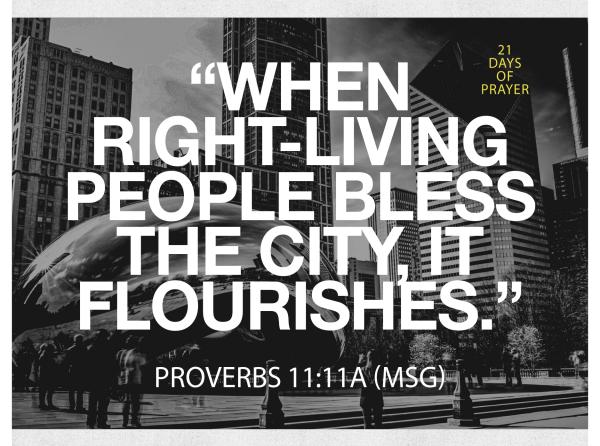
21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### **PRAYER:**

God, I thank You for the gift of the Church. All across the world, thank You that You mobilize churches to be carriers of Your Good News. I pray during this challenging season, You would continue to strengthen Your church so that those of us who make up the church would walk in boldness, unity, and generosity. I pray you would energize the efforts of the church so more people would come to know you and experience total life change. We pray for Your protection, blessing, and empowerment over Your church. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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# OUR CITY

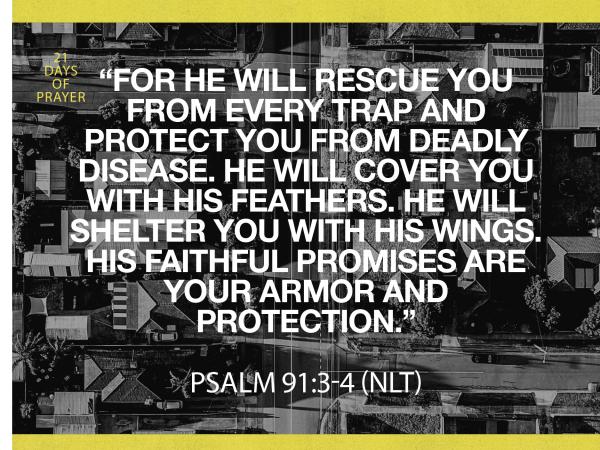


#### PRAYER:

God, today I pray for my city. I believe You have planted me in this community on purpose. I pray Your Holy Spirit would continually remind me to speak life and blessing over my city. May we would walk in unity and love for one another. Please use me to be a part of solutions to problems. Help me have a selfless heart and generous hands. Show me opportunities to give back because I believe that as I bless my city, we will flourish! In Jesus' Name, Amen



# PROTECTION



#### PRAYER:

God, today and every day I ask for protection over me and my family and loved ones. I ask You to watch over our finances, possessions, health, and safety. Thank you for Your angels surrounding me and protecting me from any evil or danger. I find comfort in Your promise of protection and live in the shelter in Your presence. I have nothing to fear as I confidently rest in Your protection. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# DAY 16 LOVING ONE ANOTHER

"DO NOTHING OUT OF SELFISH AMBITION OR VAIN CONCEIT. RATHER, IN HUMILITY VALUE OTHERS ABOVE YOURSELVES, NOT LOOKING TO YOUR OWN INTERESTS BUT EACH OF YOU TO THE INTERESTS OF THE OTHERS."

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 (NIV)

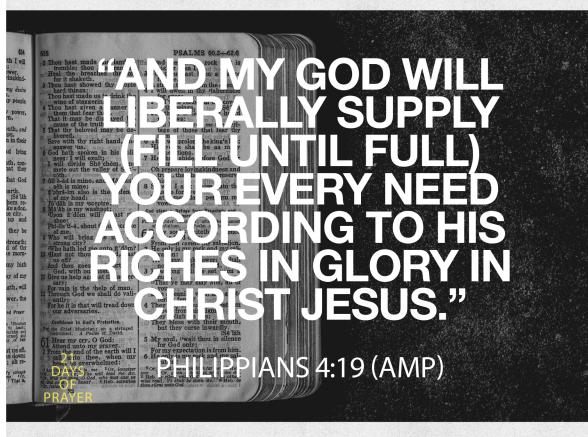
21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

Father, I ask You to continue to transform me to be more like You. I want to walk in selflessness, preferring others above myself. Help me put on humility and become genuinely interested in others. I want to take the time to understand, to learn, to show love through listening, responding, and through my actions. When pride or selfishness tries to creep in, may humility prevail. Help us collectively, as Christ followers, show the world we are Yours by our love for You and for one another. May we model our lives after You and exemplify unconditional love. Show me where I've put conditions on my love for others. Teach me in the everyday moments about sacrifice through my time and being willing to pause for others. Help me love like You do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# PROVISION





#### PRAYER:

Lord, I thank You for being my source. Your Word says You withhold no good thing, so I thank You for Your goodness to me. Even before I ask, You know my needs. You said that the things I desire in accordance with Your will, will be given to me if I ask You. Because I trust in You, I ask You now to meet my needs. As I choose right living, I know my life will flourish. Thank you that no matter what surrounds or overwhelms me, I can lean into Your provision. You are the God of more than enough. I've seen You move mountains, and I believe You'll do it again. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# DAY 18 GRACE

"LET NO CORRUPTING TALK COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTHS, BUT ONLY SUCH AS IS GOOD FOR BUILDING UP, AS FITS THE OCCASION, THAT IT MAY GIVE GRACE TO THOSE WHO HEAR."

EPHESIANS 4:29 (ESV)

#### PRAYER:

God, my desire is to be an extension of Your grace to others. I don't want to be quick to judge or quick to assume, but to believe the best in others. I pray I am continually transformed into Your likeness by understanding Your grace for me so I can extend grace to others. Help me think before I speak and listen before I respond. May the words I speak build others up. Increase my awareness so others can feel grace, kindness, and Christ-like love. I pray You would help me grow daily in giving grace as You do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

#### DAY 19 HOPE

"WE WHO HAVE RUN FOR OUR VERY LIVES TO GOD HAVE EVERY REASON TO GRAB THE PROMISED HOPE WITH BOTH HANDS AND NEVER LET GO. IT'S AN UNBREAKABLE SPIRITUAL LIFELINE, REACHING PAST ALL APPEARANCES RIGHT TO THE VERY PRESENCE OF GOD."

HEBREWS 6:18-20 (MSG)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

God, I am so grateful for Your unfailing and unchanging character. Trustworthy and faithful—that is who You are. I thank You that I can trust in Your promises and can dwell in Your presence. I place all my burdens at Your feet. Thank You for turning everything around for my good. As disappointment and discouragement tempt me, may I let hope anchor me. Holy Spirit, remind me that my hope is always steadfast in You. I choose to hold on to the hope You give me today and never let go! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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### BOLDNESS FOR BELIEVERS

### "THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE SUCH A HOPE, WE ARE VERY BOLD."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12 (NIV)

DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

Lord, I am asking for an increase of boldness for all followers of Christ, including myself. You have given me the gift of a new life, and there are many people around me who are in need of all that You have for them. I pray You would give me boldness in sharing the Good News of Jesus with those in my influence. It's not an accident that I live where I do, work where I do, and have the family that I have. I pray you would increase my awareness and love for those around me. I ask you to give me the right opportunities and the right words to share with others. Thank you, God that You will embolden me so more people may know You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# DAY 21 BREAKTHROUGH

"FOR I AM ABOUT TO DO SOMETHING NEW. SEE, I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN! DO YOU NOT SEE IT? I WILL MAKE A PATHWAY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS. I WILL CREATE RIVERS IN THE DRY WASTELAND."

ISAIAH 43:19 (NLT)

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

#### PRAYER:

Father, in Jesus' Name I am believing for a breakthrough in \_\_\_\_\_ (be specific about where you need a breakthrough.) I am believing what Your Word says: You ARE about to do something new and You WILL make a pathway through hardship. I declare You have a plan to prosper me and what the enemy meant for evil, You will turn around for good. Give me vision for what is ahead and hope for the future. I know You are a miracle working God, and nothing is impossible for You! In Jesus' Name, Amen!

We hope you've enjoyed this 21-day journey as a church family, and we want you to know this is only the beginning! Our prayer is for you to build a habit that will continue for a lifetime. We hope you've experienced the presence of God in a new way, and that you have found how prayer truly changes everything: our hearts, minds, attitudes, perspectives, our families, workplaces, cities, and our plans. We want to leave you with a powerful passage from Romans 12:1-2 as you continue to grow in Christ.

"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life— your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." - Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)

#### The best is yet to come!

- Mark & Michele Benson



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