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## 31 Days of Prayer: Day 1

Daniel Berk, Chicago, IL, USA — Sunday, 31 December 2017

Editor's note: Join disciples around the world in January as we devote ourselves to prayer and action. Each day, Disciples Today will publish a devotional from 31 Days of Prayer by Daniel Berk. Follow along on Facebook with your comments and prayer requests. We look forward to an amazing year as we seek God together!

### Read Psalm 145 (NIV)

A psalm of praise. Of David.

#### Daily Devotional

If a life of prayer were something easily attained then wouldn't every Christian have a thriving and fruitful life of prayer? But for so many, this isn't the case. In my own life, prayer is something that so easily turns into an "as-needed" practice of mine.

- I'm busy.
- I have a lot of important things to do.
- Why waste time praying when I can go out and make an actual difference?
- God already knows what I'm thinking, why should I tell him anyway? Isn't that just redundant?
- God doesn't actually care what I'm going through.
- These problems aren't really "prayer problems."

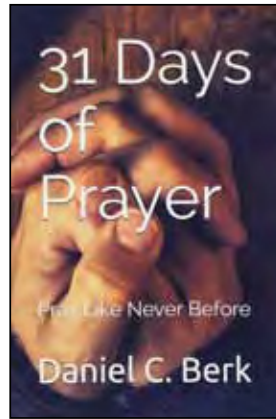
Anyone else that finds it difficult to maintain a strong life of prayer might agree that these are all too common for the struggling-to-pray Christian. I'm sure this only hits the tip of the iceberg. We can become angry with God and not want him involved in a situation or decision-process. Maybe we've prayed the same thing over and over again and are tired of not observing a noticeable response.

Whatever the reason is for why you don't pray, this book is to remember (or discover!) the reasons we should pray.

#### Daily Challenge

Re-read the Psalm of prayer above. Read each verse individually, and pray them to God, but only if you are sincere. "I will exalt you, my God, the King;" is the first verse. Will you exalt God? Will you truly praise his name forever? Ask yourself questions about each statement. What glorious splendor do the people speak of that David refers to? What promises does God make that makes him trustworthy? As you read through the passage, allow God to change your heart, and ask him to increase your faith in the power of prayer.

www.DisciplesToday.org hosts thousands of pages of news, articles and images to help connect disciples and churches around the world. All information and content is freely available for everyone.



### Latest Stories on www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to [www.DisciplesToday.org](http://www.DisciplesToday.org) to read the latest Hot News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

#### • Generational Lift Workshop Series

*Disciples Today* — Tuesday, 02 January 2018

In 2017, the Hampton Roads Church set out to interrupt inclinations of a generational drift as warned about in Judges 2:16-19. Leaders sought to raise faithful expectations of all generations living a life in Jesus through a teaching series entitled "Generational Lift." Throughout this series of inspiring lessons covering...

#### • Will 2018 Be the Year of Your OYC?

*One Year Challenge* — Friday, 29 December 2017

On Christmas Eve, many disciples on a One Year Challenge shared Christmas with friends who celebrated the holiday for the first time in their lives. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, disciples at this One...

#### • "THRIVE" Northeast US Conference July 20-22

*The THRIVE Conference Coordinators Team, Boston, MA, USA* — Saturday, 23 December 2017

We are so looking forward to gathering with thousands of you from the Northeast and around the globe to be inspired, equipped and empowered to THRIVE at the

#### • Good News as "Moonlight Helmsman" Grows in Popularity

*Disciples Today* — Tuesday, 19 December 2017

We previously published a news article about retired evangelist Rick Maule and his book Moonlight Helmsman. His goal to raise at least \$20,000 in sales from the book has been exceeded, and the Lord has...

To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow the International Churches of Christ

## Join Daily Prayer Devotionals in January

### Disciples Today

How can you make a difference in the world in 2018? By going to the source of all power, light and love. Join disciples around the world in January as we devote ourselves to prayer and action.



To help us unite together, on Monday, January 1, Disciples Today begins publishing a daily devotional on prayer from 31 Days of Prayer by Daniel Berk, a young author from the Chicago Church of Christ. We will also share sermons, book recommendations, and other quiet time material to help strengthen your prayer life.

Below is an excerpt from the introduction to 31 Days of Prayer to begin the series. And stay tuned for an exciting announcement about connecting with others in global prayer in 2018!

The goal of the series is to provide a platform for people young and old alike, whether spiritually mature or barely crawling in Christ, to ignite their flame inside for prayer, and the all-consuming power prayer has in our lives through God...Every single day has a scripture about prayer along with a small devotional. These two parts are then followed by the absolute most vitally important part of this entire book. No amount of reading, studying, learning, or the like can truly change your prayer life. The only thing that can improve your prayer life is praying, and every daily challenge includes a prompt for prayer. These prompts are created to help you get started with a specific topic or idea in your prayer for that day, but the hope is that you will also be learning throughout this book to pray consistently through the things that are important to God.

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### • UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Spring Leadership Meetings

Orlando, Florida USA  
March 19-23, 2018

#### International Campus Ministry Conference

Cincinnati, Ohio USA  
July 5-8, 2018

#### 2018 NE US Christian Conference

Providence, Rhode Island USA  
July 20-22, 2018

#### Florida Discipleship Conference

Orlando, Florida USA  
August 3-5, 2018

#### International Singles Conference

Phoenix, Arizona USA  
August 30 - September 3, 2018

#### Central American Conference

Panama City, Panama  
October 5 - 7, 2018

#### 2020 World Discipleship Summit

Orlando, Florida USA  
July 2-5, 2020

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN  
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



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## Celebration Sunday

We have set aside today for "Celebration Sunday". We do so to remember what God did through us last year. After services we will enjoy a chili supper. Though chili is not quite a feast, it is a warm food that comes from warm and grateful hearts. As a side note there will be small cups available so that you can taste the different pots of chili available.

2017 was a good year and a challenging year for many of us. As we look forward to 2018 know that God will be with us each step of the way.

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.  
One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.  
They speak of the glorious splendor of your  
majesty—  
and I will meditate on your wonderful  
works.  
They tell of the power of your awesome  
works—  
and I will proclaim your great deeds.  
They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.  
(Psalm 145:3-7)*

-KW

### Cold Old Buildings

With the bitter cold temperatures recently it is a tremendous challenge to heat our old building. We are doing the best we can but things still may be cool. Please bring extra clothing just in case it is cooler than you like.

### Prayers For the Bowling Green Team

Now that the leader's have been selected for the Bowling Green planting please pray for the team that God will assemble.

### Prayers For Patricia Washington

Please continue to pray for Shann Perkin's mother, Patricia Washington.

### This Year's Theme

This year's theme will be "Small Groups Big Impact". We will be focusing on making all of the small groups within the church a tight knit family that really affects the world around them. Most of our thoughts and discussions will directly from God's word and we will use thoughts that come from a book written by Jim Egli and Dwight Marable. The books can be purchased in paperback for around \$12.00 and in Kindle around \$6.95.



### First Small Group Midweek in January

We will be having our first small group midweek the week of the 24th. We will use this time as a group discipling time. Talk with your small group leader regarding the time and the place.

### Attitude Axiom #6 OUR ATTITUDE CAN GIVE US AN UNCOMMON POSITIVE PERSPECTIVE

An uncommonly positive perspective is able to help us accomplish some uncommon goals. I have keenly observed the different approaches and results achieved by a positive thinker and by a person filled with fear and apprehension. For example, in ancient Israel when Goliath came up against the Hebrews, the soldiers all thought, *He's so big we can never kill him.* David looked at the same giant and thought, *He's so big I can't miss!*  
-John Maxwell, Attitude 101

### Prayer Requests

Eugene Hovecamp's mother  
Kato Wilbur's mother

### CONTRIBUTION on 12/31/17

<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$7,800.00</b>
Contribution Total	\$18,819.75
2018 Special Missions	\$25.00
2018 Special Missions YTD	\$725.47
Poor	\$602.17
Music Media Ministry	\$0.00

Along with our regular contribution we will be taking up a contribution on the first Sunday of each month for our Music/Media Ministry. On the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays we will collect unrestricted funds to be sent to Hope Worldwide to be used to help the poor throughout the whole world and also to fund some of our local benevolence projects we are working with in Louisville. Just make the notation on your check for "the poor". We will make sure it goes to the right places. Thank you for your support.  
-Sean Finch

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CCB: <http://thelcoc.org/thebridge>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

1/7/18

**Sunday Worship**

1/7/18

**Leader's Meeting 12:30pm**

1/10/18

**Midweek Meeting**

1/14/18

**Sunday Worship**

1/17/18

**Midweek Meeting**

### Louisville Church of Christ Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Louisville Church of Christ is to bring people to Jesus and membership in his family—by connecting them with a vibrant, spirited church family that reflects the diversity of our metro Louisville community—to help them grow in Christ-like maturity and to become equipped for their personal ministries in the church and their life's missions in the world—in order to glorify God and advance the cause of Christ.

### Ministry Staff

Keith and Jayne West  
Brian and Shann Perkins  
Andy Biskis-Campus

### Advisory Group

Brian and Shann Perkins-Church  
Keith and Jayne West-Marrieds  
John and Betsy Hackman-Marrieds/ Hope  
David and Tammy King-Singles  
Andy Biskis-Campus  
Teens