




TWENTY ONE | **20**
DAYS OF PRAYER | **24**





In the tapestry of prayer, it's easy to fall into the misconception that we are merely updating God on our plans. However, the essence of prayer lies in surrender, in aligning our desires with God's agenda.

This devotional booklet serves as a guide, urging you to utter the profound words, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done," recognizing that true power and purpose unfold when our hearts echo God's intentions.

Embrace the journey of prayer not as a monologue but as a dialogue, where your heart aligns with the Creator's heartbeat. Through this process, you'll discover that the pursuit of His will is not a constraint but a delight.

Our earnest prayer is that this devotional will take your prayer life to a new level as you journey with us over the next 21 days.

Much love,

Boyd & Sharon Ratnaraja
National Leaders Elim New Zealand







WELCOME

Greetings Church,

I want to congratulate you for committing yourself to the next 21 days in Prayer. This has been a key part of the unity and strength of Elim Churches throughout the Nation.

You are about to step out into the spiritual front line. So before you take part, remember to prepare your heart and mind, put on the full Armour of God.

Through your commitment in prayer, I am believing that over the next 21 days, God will not only hear your prayers but will grant your request.

Pray, believe, and receive.

Nu Telea
Elim Prayer

DAY 1

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-6 (ESV)

(Also: Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27)

It has always amazed me that God would make loving Him a command. And not just any command, but as Jesus tells us, the greatest command of them all. He must be pretty confident that He is worthy of all of our love. It seems humans in history have come to the same conclusion. Apparently, loving God with every aspect of our being, is the greatest aspiration and fulfilment for us, His creation.

Have you ever tried it though? There's more to it than just acknowledging it's our most important purpose. And it's much greater than living an incredibly disciplined life, where all of our effort is centred on achieving humanity's greatest fulfilment. Above all of that, it is realised in the simple act of following His lead - receiving and reciprocating. The disciple John called himself the beloved disciple. In embracing that he was deeply loved by Jesus, he becomes a prime example of someone who has come close to living the greatest command.

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this is love, not

that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. We love because he first loved us.”

1 John 4:8, 10, 19 (ESV)

Standing confident in His love for us, ultimately demonstrated at Jesus' cross, is the only heart position from which we can step into the mystery of loving God with all we are. Stand strong, beloved son, beloved daughter!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Thank you for loving me, Father, Son, Holy Spirit
2. Help me identify first & foremost as a beloved child of God
3. Enable me to love you deeply in response, God

**- Ps Gabriel Chan
Elim Church Dunedin**

DAY 2

Read Psalm 19:14 & Luke 6:45

Today, there is a battle going on, and the battle is for your heart! The choices that we make, the words that we speak, the things that we watch, hear or taste even, can influence this battle. As the church, we want to fill our hearts with God's goodness, because that is what will win a battle!

In our reading in Luke, Jesus is speaking to His disciples and He is preparing His disciples to go into the world to influence it, reach it and love it. Jesus would know that the best way for them to be capable of influencing and changing the world around them is to have the right heart attitude!

Jesus gives His disciples (and us too) a great example of how they might be able to prepare their hearts to change and influence the world for good. Something that we see in the chapter of Luke 6, is that Jesus spends some alone time with the Father in prayer. What a great way to prepare His heart! And it would be from those intimate times with the Father, that Jesus would be storing God's life-giving words into His heart. Remember our scripture says that our hearts are actually a storage place, so fill it up with God's good Word. Why? Because whatever you store up in your heart, will come out of your mouth!

Today, before you go out into "the world" to go to work, to school or to whichever place you are going to, why not spend some time in God's Word, filling your heart with His truths and His love for the world, and while you're out and about, meditate on His words in your heart, and the goodness of God's Word will flow out of your mouth today.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Take a minute today to be silent before God
2. Take that minute to meditate on the words that you have read in the Bible
3. Pray blessings over your heart today! Your heart is such a powerful gift from God

**- Ps Charlie Tuaiti
Elim Church Tokoroa**

DAY 3

Psalm 37:26 They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be blessed.

Generosity doesn't just mean giving something away you don't need. Generosity is seen at its best when we look to our heavenly Father who gave to us his only son, who blesses us with all we need, even before we know to ask!

True generosity is a godly principle that includes unselfish giving, kindness, compassion, and empathy. To see or anticipate a need and to respond without the expectation of favour or payback.

As God's children, we are encouraged to be generous in all that the Lord has blessed us with. Generous in practical and financial ways, generous with our time and effort, generous with our compassion, empathy, and support and generous in our prayer for those who around us. To generously lend a hand to those in need, endeavouring to reflect God's love and kindness to all.

And then there is this amazing outcome! Not only are those around us blessed, but our generosity releases blessings to the next generation to come. How good is He! Today let's firstly give thanks for God's great generosity towards us.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Lord, give me a heart of generosity and compassion, without expectation or reward
2. Open my eyes to see the opportunities you have prepared for me and give me courage and strength to respond without hesitation
3. Lord help me to lend my time, my effort, my love to all those in need

**- Ps Mary Ponder
Elim Church Westport**

DAY 4

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Life is full of the unexpected. What gives us the right perspective? What keeps us on solid ground and enables us to navigate the challenges of life? It is trusting in God with all our heart.

But to really trust someone, you need insight into who they are - their character, what they have done in the past. This insight forms the picture that enables you to choose trust, having confidence in what they might do in the future.

Take a moment to recall how you've seen God's goodness in your life. Remember what you've heard about God at work in the lives of others. Consider the Cross, where He paid the ultimate price to free you from sin and bring you close to Himself. The more we reflect on what we have known, experienced and seen of God at work in our world, the more we remember He is trustworthy. To trust Him now becomes the obvious and appropriate response, but more than the right and appropriate thing to do, trusting God with all your heart is also the key to keeping your heart healthy.

Romans 15:13 says 'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.'

In a world where fear, anxiety and a lack of hope are so prevalent, God has given us the way to step into peace, joy and hope in abundance. The way is trust! When we trust

Him with all our heart, anything is now possible, because we find ourselves being directed and empowered by God Himself.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you the right path to take.

PRAYER POINTS

1. "God I thank you for the way you have shown me already that you are trustworthy". Take a few moments to thank Him for how He has been good to you in the past.
2. "God I hand over to You the things that are concerning me" (Name them). "I choose to trust you, please show me Your perspective".
3. "As I choose trust, give me the courage Lord to follow Your lead and step into the new opportunities you have for me. Let me set an example for others to follow".

- Ps Jeff Parker
Elim Church Cambridge

DAY 5

There is much to protect in our lives as we see chaos and change on a local, national and global front right now. Whether your priority is to protect your family, your friendships, your vocation, your church, or your investments, none of them seem exempt from the commotion of current events.

So what matters most in your life that is worth protecting?

Amongst the wisdom in scripture, we see a verse that speaks loud and clear highlighting the very thing that matters most and is of the highest priority to protect in the Christian life.

Proverbs 4:23 “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it”. When we read “Above all else...” it’s saying first things first, this is top of the priority list, or everything is of lesser value and importance than this. So “Above all else, guard your heart...” means first and foremost protect your heart, fight for it, keep it safe, be prepared for a threat or attack. To “guard” means to be trained, positioned, armed, and alert, so to effectively guard your heart you must do the same.

- Be “trained” like a soldier (**Psalm 144:1**) “Blessed be the Lord, my rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle;”
- “Positioned” in the Lord (**2 Chronicles 20:17**) “You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”
- “Armed” for battle (**Ephesians 6:13**) “Therefore take up the whole armor of God,

that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.”

- “Alert” (**Luke 21:36**) “Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.”

It is paramount that your heart is protected. The Bible warns us to avoid a double heart (**Psalm 12:2**), a hard heart (**Proverbs 28:14**), a proud heart (**Proverbs 21:4**), an unbelieving heart (**Hebrews 3:12**), a cold heart (**Matthew 24:12**), and an unclean heart (**Psalm 51:10**). If a reservoir is polluted it’s no good attempting to sanitise the water in the pipes and valves lower down the line, the problem is at the source.

If your heart (your wellspring of life) is polluted it will spread into every area of your life. Guarding your heart will enable pure, pleasant and bountiful water flowing from it into every aspect of your life.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. God show me the things I’m trying to protect in my own strength and not surrendering to your protection
2. God show me the things that may be polluting my heart and need to be removed
3. Help me to be vigilant, alert and consistent in protecting my heart by keeping short accounts and monitoring what I am allowing in

- Ps Nathan Finlay
Elim Church Thames

DAY 6

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. **Matthew 5:8**

To see God is a thought that many Jews in ancient times considered to be absolutely impossible. From a very young age, they would have been taught that no man can see God and live (**Exodus 33:19**) - He is too holy. In fact, the Israelites had many laws which preserved their moral and ritual purity, so that the presence of God could dwell in their midst. The holy, and the impure cannot dwell together. But when Jesus is speaking these words to His listeners, He is not placing importance on these external signs of purity, but on the heart.

In today's world, when we're presented with the idea of purity, we almost immediately refer to things such as abstinence, being sober, and having a squeaky clean criminal record. Whilst those things define purity to a certain degree, they are external purities. Being pure in heart is about internal purity.

The heart, which is the centre of all parts of human existence (**Proverbs 4:23**), is where our actions, our behaviours and that which we do in our external world, flows from. When we experience a shift in our hearts, we experience a shift in our lives.

The truth is, seeing God is not based on our ability to perfectly perform rituals and obey the law. Seeing God is not about making sure our external world is well put together. Seeing God is not dependent on how good our outward behaviour and actions may be.

Seeing God begins with a heart that is pure. Pure in the Greek language is defined as something being without stain or unmixed. A heart that is pure, is a heart that is unmixed. A heart that seeks to glorify God only. A heart that is constantly turning toward God. A pure heart is undivided in its devotion towards God.

Today, if you want to be counted among those who see God, you need to ask 'am I undivided in my devotion towards God?' Is He the only thing that you are seeking after? I have heard it said that the pure in heart see God because God is all that the pure in heart see. Today, seek your heart and look for anything that could be dividing your devotion to God.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Search me and lead me Lord
- Psalm 139:23-24
2. Help me to guard my heart
- Psalm 119:9; Proverbs 4:23
3. Help me to love like You Lord
- 1 Peter 1:22

- Ps Don Lafaele

Elim Christian Centre Manurewa

DAY 7

John 14:27 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled”. There is a war going on for our attention and our affections. The constant noise of various forms of media compete for our attention while the lure of excessive consumerism seeks to win our hearts by promising that the accumulation of the next thing (house, car, outfit, phone, meal, experience etc) will be the one that will settle our hearts. While we may know these things are not going to fulfil on their promise, this knowledge alone is not enough to break their allure. As John Mark Comer says “the problem isn’t that we tell lies but that we live them.”

If we are going to live God honoring lives we have to find a way to win this war. **Romans 16:20** tells that the God of peace will soon crush Satan under His feet. What is the disposition of God when he is about to crush Satan? Complete peace! This should encourage us that the peace that Jesus offers is not passive but it is a wrecking ball to all the idols that seek to win our attention and affection. We are not called to a theology of peace but a life saturated by the radical peace of God. In Philippians, Paul encourages that if we will pray about things the peace of God will guard our hearts (affection) and mind (attention).

Does your prayer life result in your heart and mind being guarded by God’s peace? How might your prayer life change to see more of the fruit of peace?

What would your workmates, family and friends notice different in you if lived with a greater measure of peace?

PRAYER POINTS

1. Think of something that is causing you anxiety – Speak the peace of Jesus over this situation.
2. Ask the Lord to saturate you in peace that it would guard your heart and mind.
3. Pray that the peace of God on your life would speak so strongly of Him that others would come to Jesus

- **Ps Aaron More**
Elim Church Alexandra

DAY 8

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

“But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

My husband Steve has a list of Green family rules for life. They include things like saying hello to every dog you come across while out walking, and stopping by the beach as the first activity while on holiday – rain or shine. All are things he considers to be essential to a life well lived!

While raising our two boys there have been many times over the years I have heard myself saying: “In this house...” or “In this family...” On occasions when one of the kids has become discouraged with their lego building and threatened to smash the whole thing apart, when there have been unkind words shouted between bedroom walls, when someone would rather slink off to their room than pitch in after dinner to get the dishes done, I have responded with a reminder about some rules in our house: In this family, we don't quit. In this house we use kind words. In this family we contribute to getting the work done.

These (and many more) are all things that as a family we value, we consider to be important and they have become non-negotiables in our home.

“But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord”.

When it comes to the things of God what are the things you consider to be the most important? What is it that you want to become set in stone as non-negotiables for your family and household? Is it church on Sundays? Is it praying together as husband and wife? Is it serving in God's house? Is it giving your best and first? Is it time in the word?

Take a few minutes today to consider the things that you want to build your family on. Write them down, commit them to prayer and begin this day as a house that serves the Lord!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Pray for your immediate family members for strengthening of their relationship with the Lord or for them to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour.
2. Ask God for His guidance and direction for areas in your family life he wants you to surrender to Him.
3. Pray for God's Holy Spirit to fill your home. Pray God's blessing and protection over your land, your house and your family.

- Ps Beccs Green
Elim Christian Centre Botany

DAY 9

Psalm 127:1-2 (NKJV)

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.

As a wise builder, Solomon constructed the magnificent temple of the Lord and he warns in this passage, unless we are depending upon the Lord to build the house then it is useless, and we build in vain.

Perhaps, by “house” Solomon was not only thinking of a building, but also of family having built the temple of the Lord for the family of God; and though as Christians we may not be building a house or a temple; we are very much building our lives for Christ and the church for our King.

The idea of building with God is echoed in the New Testament. Paul in **1 Corinthians 3:10** says, “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Jesus himself in **John 15:5** said that apart from Him we can accomplish nothing. A key parallel to this verse is Jesus’ parable in **Matthew 7:24–27** where He compares those who hear the word and build on solid foundations with those who ignore Him and build on sand where no amount of self-effort or ability can overcome the weak grounding.

We can often put large amounts of effort into building things into our lives. However all the effort spent on building and protecting things that are not of God and outside of God’s timing, will lead to tiredness and stress.

In contrast, by seeking God and doing God's will, we find His grace, His strength and His peace as we build. This is true of anything, physical or spiritual: That only that which is based on truth and wisdom can last.

I encourage you to take a minute and note all that you are building in your life at this time, both spiritually and physically and bring that before God today as you pray through today’s prayer.

Many blessings

PRAYER POINTS

1. Heavenly Father, thank you for Your plan and purpose in my life, for the skills and abilities that you’ve given me to build something today. Thank you for the provision of Your strength, that lifts and upholds me in my times of need. Like Solomon, I ask God for your wisdom to steward every gift, talent, and ability that you’ve blessed me with to fulfil the purpose that You have for my life.
 2. May I discern Your voice each day and your plan and purpose for me, for family, at work and in Church ministry; that I may wake expectant, walk in Your peace and sleep in Your rest each day.
 3. And Lord give me the humility to stay in step with Your ways, surrender what is not of you and correct my path – that I may not build in vain but walk in obedience to Your word.
- In Jesus name I pray
Amen

- Ps Sef Ulugia

DAY 10

Psalm 90:1 A prayer of Moses the man of God. Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

Psalm 90 opens with the introduction, “A prayer of Moses the man of God.” Moses led God’s people out of captivity into their future. The man who faced all the obstacles of an obstinate and disobedient people, who stayed faithful to God’s leadership. Moses - THE man of God, and the man of GOD. What an honour to be described by others as a man of God, or a woman of God, but what does that mean? To be a man or a woman OF something? Jesus called James and John ‘Sons of thunder’ - because the language didn’t have adjectives. What Jesus meant was, ‘They were like their thunderous father’ - probably loud and possibly angry or argumentative. So the phrase ‘son of’ can be thought of as an adjective: Moses was a Godly man, a man who demonstrated the character of God. And what is the FIRST thing this Psalm says this type of person does? He prays: ‘Lord, you have been our DWELLING PLACE throughout all generations.’ Literally, “God, dwelling place you have been and are in all (our) generations.” God - You are the place where we live, move, and have our being, the place where we find hope and healing, and safety. This is true both now for me, for my family, and for my future generations to come. This has been true for generations past, even, in fact, before creation came into being (v2)!

Thank you, Father, that you are our retreat, our dwelling place, the place where we can rest, find safety and security, and enjoy all the benefits of being in the ‘family home.’ As we become ‘men and women of God’ - we look

forward to continually finding our lives and hearts ‘dwelling’ - living, existing, functioning, and ministering - in You.

“...but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” Jesus, **John 14:17**

PRAYER POINTS

1. Father - today I declare that YOU are my dwelling place. I find my identity in You. Thank you that you dwell in me.
2. I pray that my family, and my church family, will be places of safety and security - points of strength for each other and our children, not places we try to escape from, but places that build Your strength into us.
3. We long to be men and women of God - like you, people who describe you because we express you. Today I pray for ____ (three of my close friends) - that they will be a man/ woman of God: strong in prayer, living in Your presence, who know what it means to dwell in You.

- Ps Ken Roach
Elim Church Porirua

DAY 11

“How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!” For harmony is as precious as the anointing oil that was poured over Aaron’s head, that ran down his beard and onto the border of his robe. Harmony is as refreshing as the dew from Mount Hermon that falls on the mountains of Zion. And there the Lord has pronounced his blessing, even life everlasting.”

Psalms 133:1-3 (NLT)

Perhaps this verse is better recognised when it says ‘people dwelling together in unity’. I really like the New Living Translation which uses the word HARMONY.

When we use the word harmony from a musical viewpoint, we need three ‘different’ notes to create a chord - harmony. Three notes that ‘sound different’ and are ‘in different places’ on a piano keyboard or a guitar’s fretboard.

Q. What are some differences that are in our homes that when combined create harmony – or not?

If there’s no harmony we have ‘discord’ and we need to consider the act of reconciliation. This does not necessarily mean we are fixing a problem, it is more about changing how things work together.

RECONCILE

- 1: to restore to friendship or harmony
- 2: to settle or resolve differences
- 3: to make consistent or congruous (in agreement or harmony)

Some common synonyms of reconcile are accommodate, adapt, adjust. When we reconcile things we action and demonstrate the pursuit of compatibility where things seem to be incompatible.

The Church in the Book of Acts recognised this and were committed to be united in love for one another in their actions - as well as in their hearts and thinking. This is something we have to choose and prioritise. Just like team players who make decisions for the benefit of the team rather than self. “Unity does not mean sameness. It means “oneness of purpose”.

PRAYER

Dear Lord, cause us to increase the fruit of humility and patience in our lives through your Holy Spirit. May we see ways to work together to create the harmony of unity.

PRAYER POINTS:

1. Eyes to see the wonder of ‘difference’.
2. Heart to know how to work together.
3. Unified vision to reach a common goal.

- **Ps Tom Hatch**

Elim Christian Centre Blenheim

DAY 12

Proverbs 24:3–4 (ESV): By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

I have built a house and renovated several - all you have to do is follow the instructions! Building a household/whānau needs a lot more than instructions, as you have no doubt discovered.

Wisdom is founded on knowledge and understanding. Making the Word of God the main source of knowledge - this is where prayer finds its place because we need to ask the Holy Spirit for understanding and insight.

1 Corinthians 1:30 (ESV): And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom...

So, Jesus is the rock we build on, and His Word will help us stand through the storms of life!

Pray for understanding, and for wisdom from above - you could turn this verse into a prayer - **James 3:17 (NLT):** But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere.

Check out the first 11 verses of **Proverbs 2**, and turn it into a prayer -

For example - "Lord, I am receiving your words and treasuring your commandments. I am anticipating gaining wisdom and understanding. (That will show me how I can build up my household). I am searching for insight and understanding like hidden treasure..... " (to figure out how I can raise godly children).

Turn the whole section into a conversation and a request from God, using your own words, and inserting your own unique requests.

As for me and my house!

- Ps Mike Knott
Elim Church Greymouth

DAY 13

Luke 10:1-7 (NLT) The Lord now chose seventy-two other disciples and sent them ahead in pairs to all the towns and places he planned to visit. These were his instructions to them: “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields. Now go, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Don’t take any money with you, nor a traveller’s bag, nor an extra pair of sandals. And don’t stop to greet anyone on the road. “Whenever you enter someone’s home, first say, ‘May God’s peace be on this house.’ If those who live there are peaceful, the blessing will stand; if they are not, the blessing will return to you. Don’t move around from home to home. Stay in one place, eating and drinking what they provide. Don’t hesitate to accept hospitality, because those who work deserve their pay.

A time of maturity comes for every believer when they grasp that they have not only been saved by grace, but also called out and commissioned by God. If salvation was the end of God’s work, we’d have no reason to exist on the earth after that moment of conversion.

The exhilarating truth is that God wants to use us to impact the lives of others. We see in this passage that Jesus sends a bunch of disciples out, admittedly with a warning of the challenge that lies ahead, but with a clear instruction to bring peace to the home that may host them.

In the passage, Jesus instructs his disciples to make an initial declaration of peace as their priority. ‘When you enter someone’s home, first say, May God’s peace be on this house.’

Peace is certainly not the absence of challenge, but it is the still, quiet, content, and resolute heart within the storm. It would be odd of Jesus to instruct his disciples to declare peace upon a home if they were feeling unsettled, anxious, and uncertain, and yet humanly speaking, they would have had every reason to feel that way as a result of their journey. They had been sent out as lambs among wolves. That doesn’t sound peaceful at all, and yet the disciples journeyed out into unknown circumstances and could emerge on the other side with peace because of their trust in the one who sent them.

And so it was with the disciples that the peace Jesus gave them on their journey, would be the very peace that he would have them declare of the house that hosted them.

May we too be reminded that God sends us out as light in a dark place but that he always equips us to do what he calls us to do. As we take confidence in the one who has sent us, we are empowered to carry the very thing that we’ll deliver to those we come across.

You are a peace bringer, a light bearer, an encouragement, and a blessing, not because you are great, but because the one who saved you and called you is. And perhaps it’s that season where you felt like a lamb among the wolves that helped you to discover God’s peace for yourself so that when you step into someone else’s world, you too can declare, ‘May God’s peace be upon this house’.

DAY 14

Isaiah 56:10 His watchmen are blind, all of them know nothing. All of them are mute dogs unable to bark, dreamers lying down, who love to slumber.

Being employed to sit high up in a watch tower, back when watchtowers were a thing, was no doubt a very lonely and at times boring affair, hence why falling asleep would have been a very real occupational hazard. There were no smart phones to scroll, or flasks full of hot chocolate to sip, or cosy puffer jackets to keep the night chill at bay. It was simply a cold stone tower, with only the enemy's arrows falling from the sky as entertainment to ease the boredom. This being the case, Isaiah's word would have been very relevant to any watchmen who had moments of ineffectiveness and weariness in the watchtower.

You and I will never (most likely) be asked to sit in a stone tower and watch people, keeping an eye out for the enemy. As God's people though, we have all been asked to do our part in the cosmic battle of good vs evil, and our most effective weapon in this battle is prayer. Consider Paul's words to the Church in Corinth:

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

This passage of scripture is a great reminder of the insane power of prayer, and how cool is it that we get to blow the devil's stuff up with this powerful weapon. If you're anything like

me though, there have probably been times that you have forgotten this powerful truth, and your effective prayer bombs have gathered a little dust. Or it could be that the business of life has simply caused you to become tired and like the weary watchman you've fallen asleep on the job. Well maybe it's time to wake up and get effective at dropping those powerful prayer bombs once again.

How are we to do this? Paul suggests the following in **Ephesians 6:18** - Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

According to this passage any time is a good time to pray; morning, noon or night and anytime in between. Pray about whatever and whoever the Spirit brings to your mind. Pray with tongues, or with words. Pray out loud or quietly in your heart. Pray for believers you know and for the global church that God knows. So, what are you waiting for?

Pray

Bombs away

- Ps Tony Pantel
Timaru Elim

DAY 15

Isaiah 56:7 “For my house will be called a house of prayer for all the people”

When I reflect on my life in Ministry, I was zealously desperate to serve the Lord from the time I said yes to Jesus. I was overwhelmed with the thoughts of God the Father and his love for his people. I've had the privilege of seeing many parts of the world over the years. Travelling to Guatemala and Argentina with Ps Mike Knott, taking a team of Bible College students to Samoa, travelling with Ps Bob Lawson and Ps Mike Griffiths to Cambodia and China, taking numerous trips to the Philippines and travelling with Taua and my daughters to Europe. One thing is so obvious when I visit churches and encounter people overseas. There's a deep passion wherever you go for God and God is at work through the Church in these nations.

God wanted his “house of prayer” to be a house for all people. That we would all be welcomed. This was confirmed in Christ when he crossed cultural barriers to reach the lost. He desired that none would perish but all come into the fullness of the knowledge of Christ. He commissioned his disciples to reach the World with the message of the Gospel.

In my church, we have over 20 different nationalities represented. From Asia, Africa, the Americas, Pacific and Europe. It's such a wonderful sight to see that in our diversity we are still one in spirit as we worship the Lord. This is the heart of God for his house and should be ours too. Let's believe together.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray that God would increase the missions work to nations in your Church.
2. Pray that your Church will have a heart for all people and wisdom in how to connect them to the life of your Church.
3. Ask God to give you a burden for a particular nation to pray for and begin to intercede for that nation.

- Ps Nu Telea

Elim Church Christchurch

DAY 16

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Most of us are very familiar with this passage, which recounts the last words of Jesus to his followers before ascending into heaven. We've heard all the sermons that state this is 'The Great Commission' and not the 'The Great Suggestion', and that this passage is about evangelism. But, what you may not be aware of is that this passage is also about spiritual warfare.

When Jesus triumphed over death, he was granted authority over all things. Satan has no claim over God's people because the power and authority of enemy spiritual beings were nullified at the cross. God gave the risen Jesus all authority he had once given to them. This is why the Great Commission begins the way it does.

'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'

God was reclaiming the nations so that they would once again be included in His family. Therefore, we have been given a mission of invading the demonic strongholds of this world with the message of the love of Jesus Christ. Wherever believers gather as a group, God is present (**Matthew 18:20**). The people of God are collectively God's temple (**1 Corinthians 6:19**). In other words, every believer is sacred space, the special place where God's Spirit resides. Wherever believers gather the spiritual ground we occupy is sanctified amid the powers of darkness.

Only the Great Commission accomplishes the ends to which God has been working as well as the defeat and punishment of rebellious evil spirits. The Great Commission is thus a comprehensive plan for spiritual warfare.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Pray for boldness to share the love of Jesus to those around us (**Acts 4:29**)
2. Pray for opportunities to share the Gospel message (**Col. 4:3**)
3. Pray that our nation is set free from spiritual captivity (**2 Tim. 2:25-26**)

- Ps Ants Cuthers
Elim Church Hamilton

DAY 17

1 Timothy 2:1-2-4 – I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

When we pray, it's not uncommon to find our prayers centring around ourselves. We pray for our own issues and what we are going through. We pray for the job or car or spouse we want. We pray for peace in our situation and for the issues of the day. Often we give very little prayer attention to those outside of ourselves and our immediate families and friends. But our faith always finds its full expression in the corporate, in a world beyond just me. In fact, when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, he gave them the Lord's prayer. This begins with "our father", not "my father". In fact, in the Lord's prayer, after honouring God, our next step is not to ask for what we need, but to pray that God's kingdom would come and His will be done on earth. Before I ask for what I need, we are to seek the heart and will of God for the world around us.

In this passage in Timothy, we are urged to pray for all people. But particularly for Kings and those in authority. I'm not sure how many of you have the King on your "people to pray for" list! However, scripture teaches us that this is a God honouring thing to do, to regularly pray for those in authority over us including the government.

What do we pray for, for them? The best thing to pray according to verses 3 and 4, is that they would be saved! That they would come to the knowledge of God and faith in Jesus. As those in authority over us prosper and are saved, so too will we prosper and have peace.

So, pray today for those in different levels of authority over you. Pray for wisdom for them, but more than that, pray that they would be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth!

Jeremiah 29:7 (NIV) Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD

**- Ps Steve Green
Elim Christian Centre**

DAY 18

Psalm 2:8 (NIV) Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

As a Dad of three daughters, I've been asked for many things from them. From "can we play" to "Dad, I need some new clothes" or "can I borrow your car?" to "Dad can you help me?"

One thing I've never been asked for from them is "what are you going to leave us when you're not here". I've never been asked by them about the inheritance.

We see from the story in **Luke 15**, the prodigal son asked his father for his inheritance in advance. In that case, it was a selfish request that came from a wrong motive. God, on the other hand, invites a person to ask for his inheritance, which in **Psalm 2:8** includes the nations of the earth.

I have a whole list of things that I would ask for, a bigger building, more finance, more team. I have a list that includes a new engine for the truck and to lose 10kgs this summer. But one thing I haven't thought about asking for as an inheritance is a nation.

I think this scripture is about more than asking for more land or more material things, it's about asking that the name of Jesus be lifted higher amongst every people group. It's asking that in every neighbourhood the power of Jesus Christ would be on display and functioning.

I'd like the inheritance that I leave for the next generation to be a church that saw thousands

of people who said "YES" to Jesus and walked with God all the days of their lives. People that found his forgiveness, his freedom, his healing, their purpose and then, eternity spent with him. That's what I'm asking for, that's my heart's cry, that's my prayer.

What an inheritance that would be; Jesus name lifted high... Jesus' name praised in every street and neighbourhood. Now that's something I'm going to continue to pray and ask for.

So, what are you asking for?

PRAYER POINTS

Ask that:

1. Jesus' name be lifted high in every place.
2. Every people group praising God.
3. The local church making God's name famous.

- Ps Darryl Booth

Elim Christian Centre Pukekohe

DAY 19

We all have significant moments in our lives that we reflect on, but others we forget until we hear that song or come across that photo. It was a common practice in Biblical times for a stone memorial to be built to remind the passerby what happened in that particular place. Commonly called standing stones, they were reminders of significant moments and, most importantly, of God's faithfulness.

One of these significant moments was when the Israelites, led by Joshua, finally entered the Promised Land. After 40 years of wandering in the desert, the Israelites crossed into the Promised Land through the miraculous parting of a flooded Jordan River. During the crossing God instructed Joshua to take twelve large stones from the centre of the parted Jordan and use them to erect a memorial on the other side.

That evening, Joshua stood in front of the pile of twelve stones and addressed the Israelites. He announced that when future generations saw the stones they should remember that the LORD dried up the flooded river in front of their eyes, so they could cross the Jordan on dry ground. Joshua concluded:

"He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God." **Joshua 4:24**

The Biblical concept of standing stones flows into the New Testament. **1 Peter 2:5** tells us that as followers of Jesus we are 'living stones'. It goes on to say that we are 'holy priests' -

ministers pointing the way to Jesus. We are called to live our lives as tangible, visible, living standing stones – so that, when people look at us, they will be pointed to a faithful, loving, miracle-working God through our life and testimony. And people will know that the LORD is real, faithful, powerful, and worthy of their praise!

Is there something in front of you right now, that you need God's help and breakthrough in? It may be to do with your health, your finances, your family, a broken relationship, or guidance on which direction to take. Today, know that our God is the Healer, the Provider, the Counsellor and the Bringer of Peace. He is the Good Shepherd and Guide, God of the breakthrough and He loves you with everlasting love. Let Joshua remind you today that the LORD is powerful!

Take a moment to reflect on the significant 'God moments' that have happened in your life. Times where God showed up, and let them encourage you. Hindsight is a wonderful thing. As we look to our own 'standing stones' and remember those moments, we are reminded to trust God. Could it be that right now, God is working behind the scenes of your life to create another standing stone moment?

Today choose to be a living stone, that when people look at how you live your life, they see Jesus.

DAY 20

Psalm 22:27 (NLT) The whole earth will acknowledge the LORD and return to him. All the families of the nations will bow down before him.

In January 2020 I had the privilege to travel to India for the first time. My senses were overloaded with the extremes in this nation. Crowded streets, poverty, religion, amazing food, and the traffic! Oh boy, the traffic is an experience in itself!

One of the highlights for me was our visit to a home for girls that had been rescued from sex trafficking. My heart broke as I saw these girls, many the same age as my own daughters. How could someone do such horrible things to these girls, these children? As we gathered to meet them, I noticed some much younger children as well and discovered that these were the children of some of these girls, some were mothers at the age of 13! What a challenging situation, yet the love of God beamed from their faces. In a place of hopelessness, the hope of God had broken through, where fear had ruled, the love of God had overcome, and where the devil had meant to destroy life, God was rebuilding and restoring life.

I was reminded again that despite the circumstance, the love and goodness of our God can break through. That the work of faithful people in the neediest of situations is making a difference in the lives of those they are reaching. And we get the privilege of playing a part in that through our prayers and support of our Elim Global partners.

Please pray today for all our Elim Global partners;

1. That they would know God's leading in their churches and ministries to find new opportunities to share God's love;
2. That God would continue to provide resources, people, finances, facilities etc to enable them to minister;
3. That God would stir the hearts of our churches in New Zealand to pray for, give towards and send people to the nations to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**- Ps Chris Bethwaite
Elim National Administrator**

DAY 21

Joshua 1:3 (NIV) I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

As every good Bible teacher knows, context is everything. God had promised the people of Israel, God's chosen people, to give them their own land, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of abundance, of prosperity, the "Promised Land". Following the death of Moses, it was Joshua son of Nun who was chosen to lead the people into this new land. And the word was that wherever he set his foot that land would be their inheritance. In the book of Numbers chapter 13, Joshua had gone to spy out the land with Caleb and ten others. But that was a different time. Back then he entered in as a spy but today God wanted him to enter as a leader. Back then he went in secret, but today God called him to go with boldness and courage.

Two thoughts stand out to me in this passage. Firstly, these people were seasoned walkers. They had just walked around in the wilderness for 40 years but not once did they claim the wilderness as their promise. They recognized that the wilderness wasn't it. They lived in the wilderness, but it wasn't their home. Secondly, we know an entire generation died in that wilderness. People who were connected to the past. Connected to the broken spirit of slavery in Egypt. Before they could step into the new promise, they had to die to the brokenness of their past, it was in the wilderness that formation began. They had to become a nation in the wilderness before they could become a nation in the land.

Aotearoa is a land of promise. There's so much opportunity here. I believe that God's promise to Joshua, we can claim today. We can walk the breadth of this land and wherever our feet treads God will give it to us.

Let's believe God and take ground!

1. Pray for Aotearoa – South land of the Holy Spirit. We claim this land for the Lord.
2. Pray that God will open our hearts to see the opportunities to reach the people of this nation.
3. Pray for the unity of the Church in New Zealand. That churches would flourish in the land.

**- Ps Nu Telea
Elim Church Christchurch**

