

21 Days of Prayer Guide

Day 1

Romans 1:21

“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

This verse should strike a measure of fear in all of us. Because what happened to them can surely happen to us. But it is also powerfully instructive for us. The direction of our lives is determined by what we do when we see the greatness of God and when we experience the goodness of God. God deserves our worship and our gratitude.

So, today, pray for eyes to see him for who he truly is and a heart that responds in awe and worship. Glorify him, make much of him and give thanks. Recall how God has worked in history, remember his blessing and goodness to you. Speak your praise and thanksgiving to God.

Day 2

Romans 1:22–23

“Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.”

We all place value on a variety of things. And without thinking we “exchange the glory of the immortal God” for temporary, transient fleeting things. We ascribe value where there is no eternal value. Where have you exchanged the glory of the eternal for things that don’t last? Would you confess that today? Ask God to give you a heart that is awed by him and unimpressed by the things of this world. Maybe you just need to ask God today to open your eyes to see him. Like Moses, you want to say to God, “Show me your glory.”

Day 3

Romans 2:4

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?”

God’s desire is not to exact revenge on us. He takes no pleasure in our destruction. He is infinitely kind, longing for us to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Sometimes we misinterpret God’s patience. We think he’s being slow, even reluctant to discipline, or maybe we even think he doesn’t see or care and ultimately will not respond to our sin. But that couldn’t be further from the truth.

Today, I want you consider where might God be waiting for you to repent. Thank him for his patience with you, for his kindness, and pour out your heart in confession and repentance. Pray also for your One, that they would see the kindness of God and that would drive them to repentance

Day 4

Romans 3:20

“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.”

It is God, through his Word and by his Holy spirit, who brings conviction of sin. Only those who are aware of their sin will seek the help of a Savior. Pray for your One, that God would uncover their sin and cause them to see their great need for him. But don’t neglect to examine your own heart. Maybe even pray Psalm 19:12–13, “But who can discern their own errors?”

Forgive my hidden faults. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.”

Day 5

Romans 3:21–25

“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.”

We are all the same; we all miss the mark. We all sin. And all of us are justified, made righteous the exact same way: by grace through faith in Jesus. You and I are not any better than anyone else. Our sin was so bad, Jesus had to die for us, just like everybody else. Today, ask God to fill you with gratitude for this inexpressible gift of grace. Thank him that he made that known to you. And pray for a humble heart—a compassionate heart—for those who have yet to receive God’s gift of grace.

Day 6

Romans 4:25

“He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.”

Jesus’ death and his resurrection were deliberate, purposeful acts of God on our behalf. They demonstrate his carefully orchestrated plan to redeem. Jesus’ death and resurrection prove God’s relentless pursuit of us. He has intentionally worked so that we might be forgiven and justified.

Today, we absolutely must thank him. “He was delivered over to death for our sins and was

raised to life for our justification.” And thank him that his goodness and mercy continue to pursue you. And pray for your One today. Pray that they would see clearly the God who deliberately and purposefully acted on their behalf so that they could be justified before him.

Day 7

Romans 5:3–5

“Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.”

Many of us know this from our own experience: God’s love for us, his grace poured out on us, does not exempt us from difficulty and hardship or from suffering. But in love, God works through those very things to call us to hope in him. He has a divine purpose in everything we face.

Where you are hurting or disappointed today? Would you begin just by being honest and telling God just that, “God, I’m hurting, I’m suffering. God I’m feeling overwhelmed by this disappointment.” Pray that he would help you believe that rejoicing and hope are possible. Ask him to show you the pathway to hope that he has laid out for you. And if this isn’t your reality today, pray these things for others you know who are suffering.

Day 8

Romans 5:6–8

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

You know what? You should memorize these verses and just say them over and over and over again. Because nothing will give you greater joy than the truth contained in these three verses. Listen: You were powerless (not just weak). You were ungodly (not a pretty good person). You were a sinner who deserved death. But even in that condition, God loved you so much that Jesus died for you.

Today, speak your praise. Tell God how awed you are by him and his great love. And remember, if he would do that for you when you were a rebel and a sinner, how much more is he willing to do for you as a son or daughter. So, let your praise give you confidence to ask. Ask him to help you today, provide for you today, protect you today. Whatever you need, ask him, because he loves you.

Day 9

Romans 6:12–13

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”

All day long, you and I are going to give ourselves to something. Something or someone will occupy the throne of our hearts. We’re going to serve and obey either the desires of the flesh or the desires of the Spirit. And Galatians 5 tells us that those two desires are always contrary to each other, in a never-ending tug of war. So today, express your desire to yield to the Spirit. In fact, pray specifically that God would help you as you seek to offer every part of your life to him for his purposes and his glory. Pray for eyes to see clearly when and where you are being drawn away and motivated by selfish desires. Ask God to give you the strength to offer yourself to him for his purposes alone.

Day 10

Romans 6:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

It's stunning. What we've earned, our rightful wage, is death. Not just physical death, but permanent separation from life and the Life-giver. But, the gift we've been given is eternal life—life everlasting in Christ, connected to Christ, full of Christ. What I deserve is to be cut off from him, but instead, what he offers me is a constant, intimate connection to him forever! So, be glad today. Tell him how thankful and overwhelmed you are by his gracious goodness. Thank God for the person or people who told you about this wonderful gift, the people who introduced you to the gospel. And pray for your One. Ask God to help you as you tell them about this amazing gift.

Day 11

Romans 7:13

“Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful.”

In an age where people reject moral absolutes, God's law still stands. His Word calls out our sin. And, oh, how we need this. We can't confess what we aren't aware of. We can't turn from what we don't recognize as sinful. The exposure of sin is good for those of us who are near to God and it is good for those who are far away. Today, would you be so bold as to ask God to bring conviction? Ask him right now to uncover what you can't see. And right now, ask him to lead you to repentance. And then, pray for your One, that they would recognize their sin and how it has separated them from God. Ask God to give them a longing to be made right with him.

Day 12

Romans 7:24–25

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

Sometimes the awareness of our own sin can be overwhelming. We seem to be completely unable to free ourselves and rid our lives of sin. When we feel defeated, we must remember that Jesus has won the victory. And when we think about others, we often give up on them because we find it hard to believe that they could ever be delivered. What is impossible for men is entirely possible for God. He rescues from bondage to sin. He delivers. He heals. Today, thank him. “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!” And then, call out the names of those you know who are still bound by sin. Ask God to deliver them today.

Day 13

Romans 8:1–4

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

No condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. What a sweet declaration. No condemnation! How can that be? No condemnation! Not because I am not guilty, but because full payment for my offense has been made by Jesus Christ. No condemnation! What else do you and I need to be glad, to sing for joy, to overflow with thanksgiving and praise. So, let it out. Today, let this be your repeated prayer of praise: Because I am in Christ Jesus, there is no condemnation. Tell God, “Thank you.” Tell him how amazed you are that he would do that for you. And then pray that God would help you articulate this wonderful truth to your One.

Day 14

Romans 8:12–13

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.”

Because I am no longer condemned, because I’ve been released from bondage, I am now free to live by the Spirit. But I must choose. I must put to death the misdeeds of the body. I am called to be holy, not in order to achieve right standing with God, but because I have already been gifted right standing with God.

Pray today that God would strengthen you to say no to sinful, fleshly desires. Ask him to help you act decisively in repentance. Pray for resurrection power at work in you to help you live according to the Spirit. And as you go through the day, pray these same things for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Day 15

Romans 8:26–27

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

Let’s be honest. Sometimes we just don’t know what to pray for. We don’t even know what we want in certain circumstances. We’re even less confident of what God wants. What comfort: The Spirit is interceding for us in perfect harmony with the will of God. So, we can confidently say, “Not my will, but yours be done.” We can surrender every circumstance and situation to our Father who loves us and has promised to do us good.

So today, tell him where you feel weak. Confess where you don't know what to ask for. And pray over those areas of concern that his kingdom would come and his will be done.

Day 16

Romans 8:31–32

“What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”

He is for you, he's not against you. He gave his only Son for you. Why would he withhold from you now? It makes no sense. He's been generous with us in the most significant way. And we can believe that he will be the same gracious, generous God today and tomorrow that he was yesterday.

Psalm 84:11

“For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.”

So, what do you need today? Ask him. What good thing are you longing for? Ask. And then, trust him to do good to you. Pray that God would fill your heart with faith in his infinite goodness.

Day 17

Romans 8:35–39

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: ‘For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Let’s be honest, trouble makes us wonder. Hardship and persecution can breed insecurity. But God’s love for us has been eternally secured on Calvary.

I know the love of Jesus because he demonstrated it on the cross. I am connected to the love of Jesus by faith in his conquering of death, hell, and the grave. I am secure in the love of Jesus because he has already won the victory. It is finished. So, today, ask God to renew your confidence in his love for you. Pray for a heart that is secure in his “never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.” And pray for opportunities to share this wonderful truth with others.

Romans 9:1–4

“I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel.”

We might feel this way about a few people in our lives, those closest to us. But it’s not likely that many of us have this kind of angst for the multitudes who do not know Christ.

Romans 10:1

“Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.”

Ask God to break your heart for those who are separated from Christ, cut off from him. And pray that in breaking you, he would lead you to action. Ask God to show you specifically what you can do today to bring salvation to those who don’t know him, whether they are close by or a world away.

Day 18

Romans 9:14–16

“What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses,

‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,

and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’

It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy”

That God chooses mercy and compassion for any of us is absolutely astounding. That should cause our hearts to erupt with praise. We are saved because of him, because he chooses mercy. Not because of our effort. And no one else is saved because of our effort either. Salvation belongs to our God. So today, just ask him to pour out mercy on your One. Ask him to open their eyes to see and believe his compassion for them.

Day 19

Romans 10:9–10

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Two things are required: a declaration and a belief that Jesus is Lord. He is God. He’s in charge. He’s Master, Lord. This is the declaration of submission and surrender. This is a rebel laying down his weapons, relinquishing everything.

God raised him from the dead; this we must believe. Not just that he raised Jesus, but why he died in the first place. And if he slayed his Son for my sin and then raised him for my life, then he can do anything. And he deserves my devotion and my worship and my surrender.

This kind of declaration and this kind of belief change everything. Pray today that God would bring your One to confess that Jesus is Lord and to believe that God raised him from the dead. And ask God to use you to help them get there.

Day 20

Romans 10:14–15

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

It’s that simple: they can’t believe unless they hear. And they won’t hear unless the truth of the gospel is spoken. And nobody is there to speak unless God has sent them.

There’s so much in here that we can pray today. Ask God to send you. And if not you, ask him to send someone else. But you and I are already in places where we have been sent. We’re in relationships because God put us there—and we need to speak. Pray for words, pray for courage, pray for boldness. And pray that your One would hear—really hear and believe and call out.

Day 21

Romans 11:33–36

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

‘Who has known the mind of the Lord?

Or who has been his counselor?’

‘Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?’

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.”

Who of us could have ever imagined or devised so great a plan for redemption and reconciliation? What a remarkable, loving God we have. How ingenious he is. Oh, how wise and

good. Today, on Easter Sunday, rejoice! Rejoice because your wise and good God made a marvelous plan to save you. Rejoice because he did it all, not because he was obligated to do so, but because he loved us. Rejoice. Give thanks. Revel in the awesome goodness and power of your God. Christ is risen from the dead! Death is defeated. The victory has already been won. Shout. Sing. Rejoice.