



21 DAYS
OF PRAYER
WITH
THE GOSPEL CHURCH



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to The Gospel Church's 21 Days of Prayer

“If my people, who bear my name,
humble themselves, pray and seek my
face, and turn from their evil ways,
then I will hear from heaven, forgive
their sin, and heal their land.”

2 Chronicles 7:14



We believe that God gives power to our prayers and our words, and we know that God is going to work in our church and in your life as we set aside this time to pray to Him.

As we are entering into a season of transition as a church, we want to spend 21 days intentionally praying together.

During this time, we want to lay a foundation of prayer as we forge ahead. We will pray for ourselves, our church body, and our mission to Nashville and the Nations. We will praise God for who He is, thank Jesus for what He has done, and seek guidance from the Holy Spirit.

As you get ready to join us on the journey, you will find three tools on the following page that will help guide you. Remember, prayer is just talking to God, and He isn't expecting fancy words or perfection. God wants our real, honest selves to simply talk to Him.

Our heart as a church is not to wait until this season is over to continue the mission. We want to push forward with the mission and see God move in our midst right now.

So join us in these 21 days of prayer!

INSTRUCTIONS Here are some action steps that might help you get going each day.

*Pause &
Reflect*

Find a way to pause whatever is happening so you can spend the next few minutes focused on the day's prayer focus. This might mean you change the station or turn off the music. It might mean stepping into a quiet room or going for a walk outside. Whatever it takes for you to pause the busy life around you, go for it. Take a deep breath and pause.

Read

Sometimes when we don't have a clue what to say to God, it helps to have a Scripture to prompt our words. Each day we have provided a verse and a small thought for you to pray. Take a moment to read them, and then put them in your own words when you pray.

Speak

Finally, when you're ready, speak your prayer out loud. There is power when we move beyond the thoughts in our heads and use our mouths for the glory of the Lord. This might be uncomfortable at first, but the more we speak out loud, it just becomes our new norm for prayer. Remember what we said at the start—prayer is just talking to God and He loves to hear His children speak.

WEEK 1

Prayer Focus:

Personal Relationship with God

DAY 1

PRAY FOR GOD TO DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Read Jeremiah 33:3

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and incomprehensible things you do not know.

One of my favorite stories about prayer is about a monk who prayed in the same spot every single day for 20 years. He had knelt to pray so many times in that spot that his knees had ingrained an indentation on the temple's wooden floor.

Because he had spent so much time with God in the same place over and over again, he experienced a true intimacy with God.

God promises us that if we spend time with him, we will grow in our relationship with him.

James 4:8 tells us that if we “draw near to God, he will draw near to you.”

So over these next 21 days where we are carving out intentional time to spend with God in prayer, let us pray that we would grow in our faith and experience true intimacy with God.

And the word intimacy simply means “a close familiarity or friendship.” We want this time in prayer to help us grow closer to God and know him as a friend and father. We pray that in our time of prayer, he would tell each of us great and incomprehensible things that we do not currently know about him.

So today as we begin these 21 days of prayer, let us pray that as we draw near to God, he will draw near to us, and we will grow in our relationship with him.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that over these next 21 days of prayer, that I will come to know you more deeply. You tell us that if we draw near to you, you will draw near to us. Please let me experience you more fully and come to know you as a father and a friend during this time.

Read Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

As Christians, we are called to live a life of holiness. A life that reflects Christ to the world. C.S. Lewis says that God desires to make each of us like “little Christs.” We are striving for our lives to look like Jesus’ life.

Jesus himself gave us this standard in Matthew 5:48 when he said, “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

If that goal sounds unattainable to you, it’s okay. Take a deep breath. Jesus knew we would never hit that mark of perfection. That is why he came to earth and died on the cross in our place. But he does desire for us to push ourselves to become holy like he is holy.

As 1 Peter 1:14-15 says, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

This process of becoming holy is called sanctification, and our sanctification is an ongoing process. On this side of heaven, we will never reach the perfect mark of holiness, but God does desire for us to pursue it. Not only does he want us to pursue it, but our holiness is a sign that we are his children. It signifies our spiritual transformation.

So today, let us pray that we become holy like he is holy. That he would form us into “little Christs.”

Prayer: Lord, you are holy and perfect while I am a sinner in need of your grace. I pray that you would make me holy like you are and I would not be conformed to the world around me. Let my life be a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to you. Where there is sin in my life, please reveal it, so that I can confess it to you and repent. I pray you would make me holy and more like Jesus.

Read Psalm 37:4

Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires.

Do you ever notice how people who hang out all the time begin to act like one another? It's because they are always with each other. If we want to become more like God and have his desires become our desires, the more time we need to spend with him.

In John 15, Jesus tells us, "Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me."

When we remain and dwell with God often, we will be connected to the vine and begin to act and think like he does.

The way we remain in Christ is through spending time in God's Word and prayer. And when we abide in the Word, he says "we will bear much fruit."

We are able to be used by God because we are full of Him. When we read the Bible and spend time with God, our lives are transformed into lives that look more and more like Christ. Our desires become the desires of God.

As C.S. Lewis put it, "Give me yourself and in exchange I will give you Myself. My will, shall become your will. My heart, shall become your heart."

So when we read Psalm 37:4 that says, "Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart," we should not interpret it to mean that God is going to give us everything that we want. Instead, we should read it as, if we delight in the Lord, our desires will be aligned with his. So he will want to give us our heart's desires because they are the same as his.

So today, let us pray that God would transform our hearts to make our desires align with his desires.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that I can spend time with you and know you. I pray that as I remain in you, that you would replace my desires with your own desires. Let my will become your will. Let my heart become like your heart.

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!

Who are you, and what defines you? What is your identity? That's a question many of us struggle to answer.

Too often, we base our identity on what we do, what we have, or what other people think about us. We look to the wrong places to find our identity. By doing so, we place our identity on very shaky ground.

Instead of finding our identity in and of ourselves, God intends for us to find our identity in Christ.

If you are a Christian, you've been made new and you've been given a new identity. And that identity is found in Christ, not yourself.

No matter what your past is. No matter how you would define yourself. No matter how others would define you. As a Christian, you are a new creation with a new identity.

And as great as this truth is, we are forgetful people. We tend to forget this. We let other things in our life define us and tell us who we are. And we start to lose sight of who God says we are.

So today, let us pray and ask God to remind us that our identity in Christ. Confess that you have the tendency to let other things define you and ask him to replace those old sources of identity with the new source that is Christ.

Prayer: Lord, it is so easy for me to look to myself and the world around me for my identity. I pray I would remember that I am a new creation who has been given a new identity, and when you look at me you see Jesus. No matter what comes my way today, let me remember that my identity is in Christ and that I am a child of God and You love me.

Read 1 Peter 4:10-11

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Spiritual gifts are something every believer is given when they receive the gift of salvation. Just as the gift of salvation is by grace through faith, so are the spiritual gifts.

Everyone does not receive the same gift though. Just as there are many different parts to the human body that work together as one, different spiritual gifts are given to the members of the body of Christ to work as one.

This is why 1 Corinthians 12:12 says, "For just as the body is one and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body—so also is Christ."

So you have spiritual gifts that God has given you, and they were given to you so you could steward them well and serve the church with them.

So, what are the spiritual gifts that God has given to his people? Here is a list:



EVANGELISM
LEADERSHIP
MERCY
ADMINISTRATION
PROPHECY
GIVING
TEACHING
EXHORTATION
SERVICE
HELPS
WISDOM
HOSPITALITY
DISCERNMENT
FAITH
KNOWLEDGE
PASTOR/SHEPHERD

As you were reading through the list above, did any resonate with you? Perhaps that could be the gift or gifts you have been given.

You can also ask your Christian friends which gifts they identify in you—very often they can see what you cannot and can observe which skills God has divinely assigned to you.

Even more so, let us pray about it and ask God to lead us toward whatever gifts He has given us, he can make it clearer to us.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for all the gifts that you give us, including spiritual gifts. You allow us to serve you and the church by using the gifts that you share with us. I pray that you would show me how you have wired me to serve the church and others. Please reveal to me the spiritual gifts you've given me.

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Many companies have a cool mission statement but it doesn't actually impact anything they do.

But when done correctly, mission statements are the foundation beneath an organization and are the motivation behind everything they do. And to be an effective member of the team, you must understand and own the mission as your own. And the same is true for the disciples of Jesus and for us as the church today. The mission statement of Jesus should affect the way we live our life.

Jesus actually gives us his mission statement very clearly in Luke 19:10 when he says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." That is it. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Of course, we could add more to that in that Jesus is for his Father's glory and desires to fill the entire earth with his glory. But at the basis of it, Jesus came to reconcile those who were rebels and make them sons and daughters of God. This mission that Jesus was on should remind us that experiencing God in private should lead to declaring him in public.

Our faith may be personal, but it is not meant to be private. It is meant to be shared with others. This is the mission. "To seek and save the lost." This is why, in Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands his disciples again to "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."

Once we experience Jesus personally we have a responsibility and obligation to God to join him on his mission.

So today, let us pray that God would use us to accomplish his mission of seeking and saving the lost.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for coming to seek and save the lost, and that includes me, first and foremost. I pray that now that I have experienced you and your grace, I couldn't help but share that experience with others. Please show me how you want to use me to make disciples around me right where you have placed me.

DAY 7

THANK GOD FOR ALLOWING YOU TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM

Read Psalm 107:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his faithful love endures forever.

All week we have been praying to strengthen our personal relationship with God. And as we wrap up the week, we want to end by thanking God for allowing us to have a relationship with him.

In our sin, we are separated from God. We do not have the ability to have a relationship with God.

But because of God's grace and great love for us, He sent His Son to die on the cross in our place so that we could have a relationship with Him and have eternal life.

As Tim Keller says, "The Gospel is that Jesus Christ came to earth, lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died.

So today, let us pray and thank God for sending Jesus to die on the cross so that we could have our sins forgiven and have a relationship with God.

for He is good

Prayer: Lord, thank you for loving me despite my sin. Thank you for giving me grace and allowing me to have a relationship with you. I thank you for Jesus taking my place on the cross so that I could experience life with you.

WEEK 2

Prayer Focus:
The Gospel Church

Read John 17:20-21

I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me.

In these verses we find Jesus praying for all those who would come to know Him as their Lord and Savior. Of all the things that he could have prayed for, he chose to pray for believers to be united.

This theme of unity was seen throughout Jesus' ministry. In Mark 3 Jesus is speaking to the Scribes and the Pharisees and says, "A house divided against itself cannot stand".

These very words were used by Abraham Lincoln as he campaigned for a Senate seat in 1858. Lincoln understood that our country could not be divided north against south, slave against free, any longer. If the United States of America was to grow and flourish, the country had to be united.

In much the same way, we as the church cannot bear to be divided. We need to be united if we hope to fulfill the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Thankfully, our unity is not something that has to be manufactured. In fact, we have already been made one by the sacrifice of Jesus.

Ephesians 2:11-22 tells us that the death of Jesus Christ has broken down the dividing wall of hostility between all people, uniting us by His blood. It doesn't matter if we come from different backgrounds, cheer for different football teams, or belong to different political parties. We are all one in Christ, just as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one.

When we are divided we will constantly push our own agenda, fight for our own preferences, and fail to welcome newcomers in. But if we are united, we will more faithfully and effectively preach the good news that Jesus came to save sinners and bring them into the family of God.

I think it is safe to say, if Jesus prayed about it, then we should too.

So today, let us pray today for unity within our church.

Prayer: Lord, I ask that you would be with The Gospel Church . Please protect our church from the distractions of this world and the attacks of the Enemy that would seek to divide us. Use these days of intentional prayer to unite our hearts and minds as we seek to glorify you in all that we do.

Read Acts 2:38-41

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call." With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, "Be saved from this corrupt generation!" So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.

As people from across the world had gathered for the Jewish feast of Pentecost the Holy Spirit fell upon them. Suddenly people were speaking in different languages and the crowd was thrown into confusion.

Peter, understanding what had happened, addressed the crowd and preached, explaining that this was a fulfillment of the prophecy in Joel 2:28-32. In response to this message, about three thousand people were saved and added to the family of God.

For us, this experience almost seems unfathomable. How could so many people be saved at one time? The answer is simple. This is the power of God. When God intervenes, lives are transformed. And we see this power displayed all throughout the book of Acts.

We see the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch in Acts 8. We see Saul become Paul in Acts 9. We see Lydia's entire household be baptized and the Philippian jailer give his life to Christ in Acts 16. Over and over again we read about the movement of God in the world.

The good news is that these events are not confined to the pages of Scripture. Hebrews 13:8 tells us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever". This means that God is still in the business of doing miracles, saving people, and transforming lives.

So today, let us pray boldly for God to move in our midst. That at the end of this year, we could look back and celebrate salvations and baptisms, and a city that is being transformed by the power of Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you that you are the same yesterday, today, and forever. I thank you that you are a God of miracles and that you bring about transformation and new life. I pray that you would work mightily in my life and in the life of our church to preach the good news of Jesus Christ. Would you use us to start a spiritual revival that results in salvations, baptisms, and life change in Nashville and across the world.

Read Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

There is only one organization in the entire world that exists to reach those who are not yet a part of it. No, I am not talking about multi-level marketing schemes. I am talking about the church.

Think about it. Our purpose as a church should be to fulfill the Great Commission. To be the hands and feet of Jesus to a broken, a lost, and a dying world, ambassadors of Christ carrying with us the message of reconciliation.

This task may feel overwhelming. But let's look back at the verses above. Here we see a picture of a rapidly growing church. So much so that Scripture says the Lord was adding to their numbers daily! So what did the early church do?

They devoted themselves to reading Scripture and met for corporate worship. They spent time with one another, shared meals, and prayed together. They cared for those within their midst by sharing their resources. And did we mention they ate together? Now that doesn't seem so hard.

Let's not be fooled. We can't just hope that our lives will preach the gospel for us. But if we hope to reach Nashville and the Nations with the Gospel, then we should learn from the early church.

Commit to reading your Bible. Make coming to church on Sundays a priority. Participate in a Life Group and serve on Sunday mornings. Eat with one another throughout the week. And invite your family, your friends, your neighbors, and your coworkers to come with you!

These things aren't a checklist that earn us favor with God. They are a recipe for creating a community that reaches others with the Gospel!

So today, let us pray for our church to live in authentic community with one another, just as the early church did. And let us pray that God would add to our numbers daily, those who are being saved.

Prayer: Lord, I pray and ask that you would help us as a church to live as the early church did: studying Scripture, praying together, and prioritizing fellowship with one another. In doing so we ask that you would add to our numbers. Help our church to grow not only numerically, but also in diversity. May our church family be filled with people who are both young and old, rich and poor; a beautiful tapestry of people from all races, backgrounds, and walks of life that displays the Kingdom of God in its fullness

Read Exodus 17:11-13

While Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed, but whenever he put his hand down, Amalek prevailed. When Moses's hands grew heavy, they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat down on it. Then Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other so that his hands remained steady until the sun went down. So Joshua defeated Amalek and his army with the sword.

Moses was the leader of the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness on their way into the Promised Land. The Lord used Moses in mighty ways, but this story illustrates that Moses could not lead on his own.

When the Israelites were fighting against the Amalekites, Moses had one job to do. He needed to lift his hands and intercede on behalf of the Israelites. If he did this, the Israelites would prevail. If he did not, their enemies would prevail.

Moses knew what to do, and was able to do it for a short time. But after a while, he required the help of those around him. Thankfully Aaron and Hur were there to provide a place for Moses to sit and a support when his arms grew weary.

Just as Moses needed help, so too do church leaders. It is a taxing job to be a pastor, a preacher, an elder, or a member of the church staff. Church leaders may be able to do some of the work under their own power, but they will inevitably require the help of those around them in order to lead well. And we see in Ephesians 4, that the church was not designed for the staff to do all the work of the ministry.

This is where church leaders need your help. Volunteer your time and use your gifts to serve in the church. Encourage the church staff, pastors, and elders as you see them working hard. But most importantly pray for them.

So today, let us pray for our church leaders. Ask God to strengthen them and sustain them for the work that they are doing.

Prayer: Lord, I pray now on behalf of the staff and the elders at The Gospel Church. I pray that you would strengthen them for their work. If they are discouraged, bring them joy. If they are uncertain of what to do, provide wisdom, discernment, and clarity. If they have doubts or fears, give them peace in knowing that you are in control. Continue to use them to minister effectively in our church, our city, and our world.

Read Titus 1:6-9

An elder must be blameless, faithful to his wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer manages God's household, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather, he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

As we think about hiring the next pastor for The Gospel Church, it can be easy to focus on resumes, theological training, and preaching samples. After all, each of these are measurable standards which clarify whether someone is competent to take on the role of pastor. But look at the verses above.

When describing what it takes to become an elder, an overseer, or a pastor, Paul makes it clear that character, not competency, is of prime importance. Without a Christlike character, it doesn't matter how competent you are; you simply won't be fit for the job.

So as you pray for God to bring the next pastor to our church, pray that He would provide more than just a skilled communicator or a charismatic leader. Pray also for a man who displays the character of Christ. A man who is humble and faithful. A man who is known not only for his leadership, but also for his love.

Pray also for the pastoral search team. As they are reading through applications, sifting through resumes, and preparing for interviews, ask the Lord to provide them with wisdom and discernment. Pray that God would give them eyes to see beyond a candidate's qualifications and into their character.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for whoever you are calling to be the next pastor at The Gospel Church. I ask that they would not only be competent, but that they would display Christlike character. Would you make it clear to the pastoral search team who you are calling to fill this position, and would you make it clear to that pastor that this is the church you are calling them to.

Read James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. Because if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like someone looking at his own face in a mirror. For he looks at himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of person he was. But the one who looks intently into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer who works—this person will be blessed in what he does.

In our culture, we place a high value on knowledge and intellect. This desire for knowledge has driven a wild increase in the number of people pursuing higher education. In 2013, there were over 8 times as many students enrolled in higher education programs than there were in 1960. This trend shows no sign of slowing down.

Eventually, this pursuit of knowledge ends with a degree and graduation. People trade the classroom for the workforce with joy, eager to put into practice the things they had been learning for so many years. After all, you can't stay in college forever.

Do you remember your graduation day? Can you recall how excited you were to close that chapter and begin to apply your knowledge in the real world?

Even though none of us will ever “spiritually graduate”, we must take this same energy and enthusiasm into our spiritual lives.

We cannot simply sit in the sanctuary on Sunday or participate in a Life Group as a “hearer” only. We must also be “doers”. People who “practice what we preach” and live out the gospel in every aspect of our lives.

Our church is filled with people whose lives have been radically transformed by the power of Christ. We have been given a new life! Now let us live like it.

So today, let us pray that our faith would lead to action. Pray that our church would live out the gospel.

Prayer: Lord, thank you that you have given us Your Word to study and a church to be a part of. As I engage with Your Word and participate in the body of Christ, I pray that you would help me to be more than a consumer. Allow me to take these blessings that I have been given and use them to bless others. Help me to put my faith into action and live out the gospel today and every day.

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.

All week we have been praying for God to work within our church and use our church to expand His Kingdom. Now we want to come to the Lord with a heart of gratitude, thanking Him for the blessing that it is to be a part of the family at The Gospel Church.

Paul understood what a blessing the local church was. That is why he was passionate about planting churches wherever he went. He knew that his fellow believers needed one another to become all that God wanted them to be.

These verses in Ephesians paint a beautiful picture of what it looks like to be part of a local church. We are no longer foreigners and strangers, lost, without a sense of community in this world. Instead, we are citizens with one another, members of God's household that has been growing ever since the earthly ministry of Christ himself.

And God uses the local church to strengthen our faith. If you want to grow in holiness, if you want to walk in step with the Holy Spirit, if you want Jesus to be the cornerstone of your life, then you must surround yourself with other believers.

Thankfully, the Lord has given us this church and this community to do just that. To give us a community where we belong and a church to strengthen our belief. To help us find our place and our purpose in Nashville.

So today, let us pray and thank God for giving us The Gospel Church, a group of fellow believers to encourage us and support us as we seek to expand the Kingdom of God in Nashville and across the world.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for the gift that is my church, The Gospel Church. Thank you for the ways that you have used the people of The Gospel Church to help me grow in my faith. Thank you that I am not alone on this journey. Help me to see my participation in the life of The Gospel Church not as a burden, but as a blessing. Use me to bless my church as I have been blessed.

WEEK 3

Prayer Focus:

Nashville and the Nations

Read Jeremiah 29:7

Pursue the well-being of the city I have deported you to. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for when it thrives, you will thrive.

We live in an incredible city that is growing rapidly. Some reports say that more than 90 people are moving to the Music City every single day.

As our city is growing, our desire as a church is to seek the welfare of this great city and to see the gospel spread like wildfire.

As Christians, we should always seek the welfare of the place where God has sent us. We should think of ourselves as sent to Nashville by God for his glory. Because we are. Let us flourish where we have been planted.

Jesus himself told us in Matthew 22:39 that we are to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

We want to love our neighbors and serve our city well. We have an ever growing mission field right where we live, full of men and women who need to hear the hope of the gospel. With an ever growing population and demographic, we truly believe if we reach Nashville with the gospel, we will also reach the world with the gospel.

So today, let us pray for the welfare of Nashville and that our city would flourish. But even more so, let us pray for a spiritual revival to take place here in Nashville and for many to come to know Jesus and transform this city with the gospel.

FOR NASHVILLE
AND THE NATIONS

Prayer: Lord, I pray for the welfare of Nashville, TN. I pray for the good of the place where I live. I pray for those who are in need to know your provision. I pray for those who are suffering to find your peace. Ultimately, I pray for the spread of the gospel in this city.

Read Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his wondrous works among all peoples.

From Genesis to Revelation, it is clear that God desires all people of all nations to know and worship Him. And yet there are still about 7,000 unreached people groups in the world today who have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God calls all of us to have a role in and be a part of global missions. This is what we mean when we say our church is for the Nations.

We are all participants in the bigger story, in God's plan to bring redemption to all peoples.

There are many ways that we can participate in global missions including going, giving, and praying. During this time, we want to focus on prayer.

Today, let us pray that the gospel would reach every single one of the 7,000 unreached people groups.

Let us pray for more missionaries to be called to go to these areas, even fellow brothers and sisters from our church. Let us also pray for global missions opportunities to present themselves so our church can come alongside churches, missionaries, and missions organizations all across the world.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that you would declare your glory among the nations and the gospel would be heard by every person on this earth. I pray that you would give me a heart for the nations. Let me remember that there is a need for the gospel in every nation and culture. I pray that you would allow The Gospel Church to grow in global missions opportunities, and I pray you would show me how I can be a part of these opportunities.

Read Ecclesiastes 4:9

*Two are better than one,
because they have a good return for their labor.*

The book of Ecclesiastes seeks to help its readers understand how to live wisely amid the many challenges of life. While a trip through Ecclesiastes can feel bleak at times, it is also a great source of encouragement.

In today's verse, we see the truth that working together is more profitable than working alone. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work".

While we can easily apply this truth to our own individual lives, I think we would be remiss if we did not also apply it to the work of the church. If we hope to make an impact in Nashville, then we would benefit by partnering with other Christian ministries and organizations to reach our city.

Thankfully, there are a multitude of wonderful organizations, non-profits, and ministries that are doing the work of Jesus all across our city.

By partnering with different organizations in Nashville, we increase our gospel impact and theirs. That is why our church is committed to serving alongside Nashville Rescue Mission to minister to the homeless in our city. That is why we partner with AGAPE to serve families who are in foster care or in the process of adoption. And this is why we partner with West End Middle School to serve students in our community.

So today, let us pray that God would use these partnerships to make the name of Jesus known throughout our city.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for the organizations that we are able to partner with. Thank you for the work that Nashville Rescue Mission, AGAPE, and West End Middle School. Please bless the efforts of these organizations and allow us as a church to continue to partner with them in serving our city.

Read 1 Corinthians 16:19-20

The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla send you greetings warmly in the Lord, along with the church that meets in their home. All the brothers and sisters send you greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss.

It is not uncommon for Paul to end his letters like this, with a reminder of the churches and Christians at work in other areas. His closing remarks served as a reminder that these churches were all on the same team, unified under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and striving for the same goal of gospel advancement.

It seems to me that we could all use this reminder from time to time. Many times I am guilty of thinking only of The Gospel Church. In doing so I fail to recognize the work of other churches around me and that their work is serving the same purpose of advancing the gospel!

While I certainly hope and pray that God will continue to grow our church and expand our gospel impact, I should also be praying that God would do that in other churches in the Nashville area.

When I begin to think and pray for God to use not just our church, but every local church, I am filled with hope and eager anticipation at all that God could do in and through us as the unified body of Christ.

So today let us pray for more than our own church. Let us also pray for the work of Axis, Ethos, Immanuel, Redemption City, and all the other churches in the surrounding area.



Prayer: Lord, I am so grateful for the multitude of churches in the Nashville area. Thank you that we are not alone in our calling to reach our city for Christ. I ask that you would help us as churches to see our unity in the body of Christ and work together to expand your Kingdom.

Read Philippians 1:3-5

I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Have you ever experienced “tunnel vision”? I am someone who frequently gets laser focused on one task, giving all my energy to that which is right in front of me. At times, tunnel vision can be a good thing. It can provide great focus to our work and allow us to concentrate on what is important. At other times, it can be detrimental.

One area where we need to be careful to avoid tunnel vision is our spiritual life. We need to be sure we aren't so focused on what God is doing in Nashville that we “miss the forest for the trees”.

God is working all across the world to bring about redemption, new life, and transformation. There are Christians all around the world who are fulfilling Jesus' command in Acts 1:8 to be witnesses, “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” In doing so, they are helping make the vision of Revelation 7 a reality; the throneroom of God filled with people from every nation, tribe, people, and language.

That is why I am so grateful for our church partnerships all over the world. From Kings Church in Washington D.C., to Rescue Mission Church in Colombia, to Middle East Ministries in Israel, our church has a front row seat to what God is doing not only in our city, but across the world.

So today let us pray for our global partners. Their faithful partnership in the Gospel is not only an encouragement to us, but it is the fulfillment of a command that brings us ever closer to the reality of Heaven that awaits us!

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for our global ministry partners who are a reminder of all the work you are doing around the world. I pray for all of our global partners today: Kings Church in Washington D.C., Rescue Mission Church in Colombia, and Middle East Ministries in Israel. Bless the works of their hands and use them to expand your Kingdom.

Read Matthew 24:14

This good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations.

With everything going on in our own country right now, it's easy to lose sight of what is going on around the world.

While most of us probably won't be going on an international mission trip in the foreseeable future, we still have the responsibility to care for the global church.

When it comes to international missions, I have heard many pastors say: "Some of us can go. Most of us can give. But all of us can pray." While we have not been able to go as much as we would like during this past year, we can all still give and we can still pray.

We want to challenge our church to pray for churches all over the world. God is at work all over the world just like he is here at our church in Nashville.

Today, let us pray for the global church, our brothers and sisters in Christ all around the world.

Prayer: Lord, I pray for the church all around the world. Thank you that we get to be a part of your global church. Thank you for the opportunity to spread your love and hope to a world living in darkness and despair. We pray that you would strengthen your church and remind us of your love toward us.

DAY 21 THANK GOD FOR MAKING DISCIPLES IN NASHVILLE AND THE NATIONS

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Jesus did not have to share the Great Commission with his disciples. He could easily carry out his mission without us. But instead, he decides to include us in his mission and work through us to accomplish it.

So when it comes to both local missions and global missions, we want to acknowledge that God does not need us to reach Nashville and the Nations. But in his grace, he allows us to be a part of his mission and we get to be his hands and feet in both places.

So as we wrap up our 21 days of prayer, let us thank God first and foremost for offering us salvation through his Son, Jesus Christ. Without Jesus, we would not have a relationship with God.

Thank God for letting us be a part of making disciples in Nashville and the Nations. Our Father is so gracious to us in so many ways, one of those specifically being that he uses a bunch of broken people to share the gospel with others.

So today, let us thank God for all that he has done for us and that we get to be a part of sharing the best news in the world with others.

Prayer: Lord, I pray that I don't take my relationship with you for granted. Let me walk in gratitude because of all that you have done for me. I thank you for allowing me to be used to make disciples both here in Nashville and in the Nations. Let me never forget that you don't need me to accomplish your mission, but in your grace, you allow me to be a part of your mission.



THE
GOSPEL
CHURCH