

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

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**01**

## WEEK 1

### PRAYER AS WORSHIP

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name.*

Prayer is our invitation to commune with God Himself and in its purest form, begins as worship simply by addressing Our Father in heaven. We acknowledge His place in the world and our lives. We honor His name and His power. The spoken words to a loving Heavenly Father are a testament to His authority and divinity. Our prayers are futile if they are directed toward any other entity. We worship our Father when we acknowledge His rightful place on the throne, and we express our faith in a sovereign God when we make known our requests. To pray is to worship.

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## THE NAME OF GOD

PROVERBS 18:10

Jesus is our strong tower, protector, refuge, strength, and our source of peace and safety. This is something we cannot find in anything or anywhere from the world. In these past few years, you may have heard the phrase “uncertain times” more than once, and that can be a troubling phrase for us. Uncertain times can cause all sorts of emotions because it means we might not have walked that road before or cannot predict what is happening. However, if we look to the truth found in Proverbs 18:10, we see that God has given us the promise that in these very times, He is our strong tower and the One we should be running towards instead of maybe trying to change our circumstances.

Security can't be found in circumstances. Circumstances can change. They can take us by surprise. But God, our fortress, our strong tower, never changes, and nothing ever catches Him by surprise. No other person, and nothing else on this earth, can bring us the peace and safety that He can . . . and does . . . and will. So, as we step into another year, no matter what you experience, no matter how uncertain the times may be, you can be certain of this: Your help comes from the Lord your God. So let's run to Him and stand firm in Him and live in the certainty of His love and provision for us.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your faithfulness and unconditional love for us. Thank You for Your open arms holding us tight and being our safe place in the midst of any uncertain times. Help us to always run to You, to keep our eyes fixed on You, and to never forget Your promises. Convict us when our time and energy is spent on anything other than something that brings glory to Your name. Guide us on our individual paths to remember You are always here regardless of how uncertain the journey or times seem.

In Your precious and holy name, amen!

## HE IS HOLY

EXODUS 15:11

The holiness of God appears in all our new beginnings—the one that began when He found us at the end of ourselves; the one that began when we learned to trust Him to take the lead; the painful ones and the joyful ones alike. The holy, holy, holy God was there. Because we are His and because He is holy, we are able to begin again.

He is matchless in perfection. He is able to do abundantly more than we can imagine. This God, who knows the beginning and end of all creation, radiates holiness. Yet here He is, enveloping us. He sits beside our spouses at the same time He watches over our children. He walks with our mothers just as He rejoices with our grandmothers in eternity. Can you comprehend it? His holiness surrounds us daily. His holy mercy greets us in the morning with the warmth of the sun. His holy providence guides us as we work, study, and accomplish mundane day-to-day tasks. His holy love pierces through our fears as we lay down to sleep.

As we anticipate the new beginning He is writing for us this year, we can trust in His ever-faithful hand on our lives. We can choose to praise Him with a victory song in the here and now, knowing full well that there is no one like our God: “Who among the gods is like you, Lord? Who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” (Ex. 15:11).



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

You are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end. Would You open our eyes to see Your holiness, not only on the mountaintop but also in the valley. Tune our hearts to sing Your praises as we do the hard and holy work You have set before us.

Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting the majesty of who You are, and help us to remember all that You have done. Until the day You lead us home, Father, teach us to be a holy people who bring glory and honor and power to Your name alone. Amen.

## HE IS SOVEREIGN

DANIEL 2:20-22

The God who creates all things with a word, who splits the seas, who orchestrates the universe, who knows each star by name, sees you. The God who clothes the lilies, who feeds the birds, who knows the number of hairs on our head, knows your name. The God who commands the stormy seas to be still, who brings life from a barren womb, who fells fortress walls with sounds of trumpets, hears your cry and sees your pain.

This same God, our Father in heaven, invites His children into His presence, into His very throne room. Through Jesus, the Great "I AM" has restored this safe place of intimate fellowship, a two-way sacred conversation. The holy, almighty, all-powerful, strong, most high God beckons us, "Come, abide." Mindful of our unworthiness yet drawn by His grace-filled, never shattering, always and forever promise of love, we enter, always welcome. We dare draw near. We open our hearts to His listening ear. We listen in turn, in unhindered trust and surrender. He whispers, "Shalom." We fall into His embrace in thankfulness and worship.

### Abiding with Yahweh

"Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be Your name . . ."

El: Strong One

El Elyon: God Most High

Elohim: All-Powerful One, Creator

El Shaddai: All-Sufficient One, Almighty

Yahweh: "I AM," Self-Existent One

El Roi: God Who Sees Me

Immanuel: God with Us, "I AM"

Father, how magnificent is Your name!



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Father,

When we are confronted with hard news, the kind that rocks our world, the drop-to-our-knees-unable-to-breathe kind of news, we thank You that You invite us to come to You. We are grateful You are the One who "is all wisdom and power . . . controls world events . . . removes kings and sets up other kings" and who walks with us in the darkest of valleys. Father, the more time we spend with You, our mourning turns to praise. Our fear melts into faith. We thank You. We worship You.

## HE IS BEAUTY

PSALM 27:4

Change is hard. Transitions are hard. Life is hard. Whether you're faced with navigating a new city, in the process of mourning, or simply reinventing who you are in a new stage of life, these small shifts in our lives of eternity remind us of the very real fact that we are human, and we are limited—limited to fear, to anxiety, and we are vulnerable to faithlessness.

In one of King David's darkest moments, he pens this simple yet profound thought—at the end of our unraveling, there is only one thing worth asking in prayer, one thing that will allow us to throw away our laundry list of prayer requests, and that is to simply be in the presence of the Father.

In this verse, the beauty of the Lord is so much more than something to behold with our eyes, but it is the very power that will allow us to find our footing when the world falls out from underneath our feet. Within the beauty of the Lord lies the authority to destroy and to establish, and King David reminds us of this in these simple lines of text: There is nothing too out of control that cannot be brought into control with one glimpse of heaven.



## REFLECTON PRAYER

Father,

Forgive us for the times that we inadvertently choose the ugliness of the world over the beauty of Your throne room. Would we be reminded, with every new morning, to recite the words of David and know that You, and only You, King Jesus, are the answer to every need that we will ever have. Would Your grace find us here. In Jesus' name, amen.

## HE RULES IN HEAVEN

## COLOSSIANS 1:16-17

Anyone who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder to those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). These words are so profound that we must wonder if we truly understand the magnitude of the statement. Many people pray but are unaware of who they are praying to. Perhaps they are just hoping there is someone out there listening to them. Perhaps they are praying out of formality. However, when the Christian prays, they do so with the assurance that they are praying to the one true God. He is the very creator of all that exists in both the physical and spiritual worlds. He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist forever. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present, and sovereign over all the earth.

And within His infinite power lies His infinite love for us. This love is so great that He sent His only begotten Son to die for our salvation even though we have done nothing to deserve it. We pray to this loving God. We trust that because He loves us, He also hears us. He cares about every detail of our lives and desires an intimate relationship with us.

Oh, what a joy it is that we can come to such a holy God in prayer knowing that He may be reigning in heaven, but He is also reigning in our lives!



### REFLECTION PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,

I come to you in awe of Your glory. There is no other god like You. I thank You today for Your sovereignty and for Your love. Draw nearer to me, Lord, as I draw near to You. I desire to know and love You better each day. Please give Your Church a better appreciation of who You are. Continue to reign supreme in our lives, in our churches, and in our country. It is in Your holy name I pray, amen.

## HE GIVES US FATHERLY LOVE

1 JOHN 3:1

Lord, I call upon Your name and give You praise. I worship You now, Lord, and acknowledge Your rightful place upon the throne in my heart, for the great love You so lavishly pour out upon me daily. Lord, remind my heart this day that I am a child of God set apart from this world by Your grace, love, and acceptance. Breathe Your Holy Spirit upon me, Lord, so that I may feel Your loving embrace. Encompass me in Your fatherly love—love that is unconditional, unending, and forever present in our lives.

Lord, turn Your face towards me so that I may be reminded of Your great love for me. Reveal to me my value as a child of God, for You loved me long before I was ever formed. May Your presence go before me so that those I encounter may know the glory of Your great name by the reflection of Your presence in my life.



## REFLECTION PRAYER

Lord,

Thank You for the consistent love You freely give us daily. Lord, fill this space with Your holy presence. May Your presence go before me. Guide my steps, Lord, that I may glorify You more with each passing day. May this prayer ring out as an anthem of my heart's desire to draw closer to You. May my heart sing praises to Your name for Your love for me is true and unconditional. Amen.

# 40 DAYS OF *prayer*

## **BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS**

### **ELIAT APONTE**

Eliat Aponte was raised in a Christian home in Puerto Rico. He has been married to Debra for 32 years, and they have two daughters, Keila and Keizah, and a son-in-law, Kenny Tran. Eliat loves reading and construction and serves the Lord with gratitude in the Alliance Spanish Eastern District.

### **SYLVIA BENNETT**

Sylvia Bennett is a loving wife, daughter, sister, and friend. She is also a United States Army chaplain and a devoted child of the Most High God!

### **MEICA CAMPBELL**

A Pacific Northwest native, Meica Campbell has lived and served in Kentucky for her adult life. She currently serves the Ohio Valley District as the ordination/consecration and leadership development/Greenhouse coordinator. She is a consecrated minister with The Alliance and along with her husband, ministers to a small congregation in Georgetown, Kentucky.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## **CHARLES CHAPMAN**

Charles Chapman serves as the candidate development specialist for Alliance Missions where he connects with and helps prepare prospective international worker candidates for long-term service opportunities. Charles, along with his wife, Liz, and children, Julia (12) and Marcus (9), live on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

## **CAESAR (CHAVO) CHAVEZ**

Caesar (Chavo) Chavez was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry in Iraq. He holds a BA in philosophy from Kansas State University and an MA in intercultural studies from Asbury Theological Seminary. He currently serves as the associate pastor at Hope (C&MA) Church in Aurora, Colorado.

## **GRACE CHEON**

Grace Cheon grew up in New York as a second-generation Korean-American, graduated from Alliance Theological Seminary with an MDiv in missions, and now works as the church multiplication coordinator at the U.S. Alliance National Office. She is married to Jonathan.

## **KATERINA COOK**

Katerina Cook is an insurance agent who is deeply involved within her church. She directs Sunday school ministries and also leads the women's ministry and outreach programs within her church.

## **BEN DOUGLAS**

Ben Douglas is the lead pastor of Faith Community Church on the west side of Columbus, Ohio.

## **JUSTIN DUBOSE**

Justin Dubose is the lead pastor at Alliance Bible Church in Baytown, Texas. He is also a CH (MAJ) in the USAR serving as chaplain for the 7th Psychological Operations Group (POG). A husband to Alanna since 2005, they have five beautiful children. Justin has his PhD in organizational leadership and is passionate about equipping God's people to mobilize and train present and future Kingdom leaders.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## PAUL GARCIA

Paul Garcia is a Navy chaplain serving Marine Corps Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He has been with The Alliance for 13 years. He and his wife, Heather, have been married 20 years; they have four boys, Isaac, Rylan, Jude, and Liam.

## DARIA HASTIE

Darea Hastie is the director of family ministries at Long Hill Chapel in Chatham, New Jersey, where she has served for the last 10 years. She has a heart for connecting people, our next generation, and her community. Darea loves to spend time with her husband and their two teenage children.

## JERRY HENDERSON

Ch., Capt. Jerry Henderson currently serves as an Active Duty United States Air Force chaplain serving at Holloman Air Base, New Mexico. Jerry and his wife, Joanna, have been serving in Christian ministry for more than 15 years and together have been blessed with six children.

## EDEN KRAHN

Eden Krahn is a second-generation Hmong American Christian and Michigan native. She owns a small business, creating apparel that advocates the joy of prayer and the importance of inner work and spiritual development. Eden currently resides in Georgia with her husband and three daughters.

## KRISTA LAIN

Chaplain 1st Lieutenant Krista Lain recently joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve and will serve 30+ days each year at Moron ARB in Spain. Previously, she served alongside her family overseas in Spain and Mongolia for 10 years with Envision/CAMA. Currently, she ministers at Arise Christian Fellowship in Lafayette, Indiana.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## **GABE LAWSON**

Gabe Lawson is an Active Duty Air Force chaplain (Capt.) currently stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Prior to his active duty service, Gabe served as an Alliance pastor in Kentucky for eight years. He is joined in ministry with his wife, Mary, and their four children.

## **RUFUS MCDOWELL**

Rufus McDowell is a native of Griffin, Georgia. He served in the United States Army for twenty years and received his MDiv in pastoral ministries at Liberty University Baptist Theological Seminary (Lynchburg, Virginia) and his DMin at Luther Rice Seminary (Atlanta, Georgia).

## **LES MCMAHAN**

Les McMahan has been serving as cohort director for the LEAD program for the past six years after having graduated from the program. He was also co-director of Men's Ministries for the Central District and served as a bi-vocational pastor and youth pastor.

## **JEFF MILLER**

Jeff Miller and his wife, Pam, graduated from Alliance University in New York, New York, and have journeyed together in ministry for 37 years. He is currently the Ohio Valley District superintendent. Jeff and Pam reside in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters.

## **BETTY MOREJON**

Betty Morejon serves as the youth director at Iglesia Alianza Cristiana y Misionera de Kissimmee in the Spanish Eastern District.

## **ANITA MORRISON**

Anita Morrison is a Bible teacher and speaker who attends Hope Alliance Bible Church in Maple Heights, Ohio, where her husband, Ronald, is the founding and senior pastor. Anita leads worship, teaches a women's Bible study, and is the tutoring site coordinator for the church's after school program. She holds an EdM degree.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## CHINH NGUYEN

Chinh Nguyen is the senior pastor of Washington Metropolitan Church and the secretary of the Vietnamese District. He and his wife, Xuan-Lan, have three children, Caleb, Rebecca, and Priscilla.

## AARON PFAHLER

Aaron Pfahler has served as the Worship Arts pastor at First Alliance Church in Columbus, Ohio, since September 2020. He is passionate about leading people to authentically encounter Jesus and inspiring the Church to become more engaged in advancing the Kingdom.

## BRIAN SCOTT

Brian Scott has been married to Susan for 30 years. They live in Lexington, Kentucky, and have two daughters, Payton (24) and Jordan (22), and one son, Bryson (20). Brian works in the Ohio Valley District Office.

## JOEL SMITH

Joel Smith has been a church planter and lead pastor in The Alliance for 30 years. He now serves the National Office as the dean of EquippingU Max and the Metro District of The Alliance as coaching team lead in the Church Health Department. Joel is also the founder of [dalahcoaching.com](http://dalahcoaching.com).

## TODD SOVINE

Todd Sovine grew up in The Alliance as a pastor and professor's kid. He has served in the local church for 16 years and in the Central District Office as the director of church multiplication for 16 years.

## SPENCER SWEETING

Spencer Sweeting is the lead pastor of North Springs Alliance Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He's married to Beth and is a dad to Lucy, Josie, and Emma. Spencer is also a part-owner of the Green Bay Packers (the only publicly owned franchise in the NFL).

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## KORA TAUBE

Kora Taube is an Alliance international worker serving in Montevideo, Uruguay. She is married to Mark and is a mom to three kids. Kora loves that her work includes teaching English, working with kids, building relationships, and helping people consider Jesus. She longs to see people walking the way of Jesus together.

## JUSTIN THORNTON

Justin Thornton is a desperate son of Jesus, a husband to Anne, and a father to three children, Selah, Anabelle, and JD. Justin planted churches for 12 years before becoming the director of multiplication for the Great Lakes District. He is also the author of *The Preacher*.

## CHRIS VENA

Christopher Vena is a professor of theology and dean of the School of Christian Ministries at Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa Falls, Georgia. He is also ordained with The Christian and Missionary Alliance. A life-long sports and outdoor enthusiast, he enjoys sharing these activities with his wife and four daughters.

## LISA VOGA

As a consecrated disciple-making specialist for the Northeastern District of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, Lisa Voga spends her time coaching, consulting, equipping, speaking, and facilitating leadership growth across the district and the United States. Lisa's greatest passion is encouraging, equipping, and empowering ministry leaders for Kingdom impact.

## WANDA WALBORN

Wanda Walborn is an associate professor of spiritual formation at Alliance Theological Seminary in New York, New York, and the director of Empower, a certificate program for women of the Metropolitan District. Wanda is passionate about training leaders to advance the Kingdom of God.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE WRITERS

## HANG WONG

Hang Wong grew up in New York City and was saved by Jesus in high school. He serves in the Candidate Recruitment & Development Office of the C&MA working with Alliance Theological Seminary students who desire to join the ministry of The Alliance. He is married to Kathy, and they have three young adult children.

## GLORIA YANG

Gloria Yang is a wife, mother, and small business owner whose life is a testament to God's faithfulness and healing power. She is passionate about motherhood, writing, worship, and capturing moments in time. In all that she does, Gloria's desire is to tell the story of God's goodness.

## DANIEL ZEWDU

Daniel Zewdu serves as a pastor in an Ethiopian congregation in Columbus, Ohio. He and his wife, Cherie, are blessed with two sons, Theo (19) and Eyosi (15), and one daughter, Nanette (9). Daniel and his family came to the United States to serve this church in 2008.