

ESTABLISHED | IN GOD'S LOVE



Established in God's Love Series ***Daily Prayer Guide***

"Your steadfast love is better than life"
Psalm 63: 3

Daily Prayer Guide: Overview

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Established in God's Love Series - YES 2021

DAILY PRAYER GUIDE | How to Use this Resource...

We are delighted to share with you the Daily Prayer Guide for the Established in God's Love Series 2021.

Structure

The structure of this Daily Prayer guide will vary slightly from week to week. For the majority of the weeks you will be given a key scripture and guided reflection for Day 1. After this - please use the 'Scripture Meditation' and 'ACTS - Prayer Model' outlined below to guide your time of prayer.

Scripture Meditation

Start by asking God to speak to you through His word. Pray that he will give you wisdom and understanding as you read it and seek to apply it. Use the Scripture readings below, one each day, for your time of scripture meditation.

- Read the passage, maybe copy it out.
- Think & Apply: What strikes you about this passage? Write down your thoughts about it. Then think about what application this passage might have for your life; the way you think, see/understand the world and the way you behave. Write that down.
- Pray and ask God to give you the grace/power to make whatever change or action is necessary in your life.

ACTS - Prayer Model

Adoration: Spend a minute or two thinking about and praising God for an aspect of his character. You can praise him for his goodness, mercy, loving-kindness, justice, etc. Pick one that is important to remember in whatever situation you face today.

Confession: Spend the next minute or two recalling any sin over the last 24 hours and confess it to God knowing he forgives the repentant heart.

Thanksgiving: Thank God for all the blessings in your life, from big things like important relationships (family/friends) to small things like the warm tea in your hand or the weather outside today. Try to thank him for 2-3 different things each day, keep a list!.

Supplication: This is asking God for whatever you want or need and offering prayers of intercession for others. Try to pray for a mix of things, your own personal desires or concerns but also those of others and situations in the world at large.

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Daily Prayer Guide: Week 1 | Loved by God

"Your steadfast love is better than life"

Psalm 63: 3

These have been adapted for use from 'Cru' (<https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow/spiritual-growth/gods-love-scriptures.html>)

Day 1: God's love is perfect

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Can you imagine being loved like this? It would change your life. The truth is this is an accurate description of God's love for you.

Humans cannot love perfectly as God does because we are imperfect. But it makes sense that people strive to have their love for one another reflect these qualities.

Everyone needs this type of love, but if you expect it from another person, you will be let down. God is the only one who can love you perfectly. And when you have a relationship with God and experience His love, it empowers you to love others the way God loves you.

Day 2: God's love is personal

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. (1 John 3:1)

God calls you His child. You are a child of God. You may have heard this phrase many times before, but take some time to let it sink in. God, your Father, calls you His child.

God delights in you and wants the best for you. He wants to fill your life with joy and blessings.

Day 3: God's love is secure

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?... 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 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. (Romans 8:35, 37-39)

God is more powerful than anything in heaven or on earth. When you accept Jesus' invitation to begin a relationship with God, you are secure in His love forever. There is nothing powerful enough to separate you from God's love. Even when things are difficult or you feel far from God, it's not because God stops loving you. The truth is that God will never stop loving you, no matter what you do.

Day 4: God's love is unfathomable

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

God's love is so great that we, as mere humans, cannot fully understand it. Do you long to be known and loved for who you are? God is the only one who can truly do that.

Day 5: God's love is a protection

11 But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. 12 Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. (Psalm 5:11-12)

God's love is a shield surrounding you and keeping you safe. God's love is so much more than the warm fuzzy feeling we often associate with the word love. His love is a powerful force, protecting and comforting us. Being in God's love is a position of not just joy but also safety.

When you run to God for protection, He surrounds you with His shield of love. Think about that image for a while. Experience the security you have because God's love surrounds you. Let His love flood your mind with a sense of peace and comfort.

Day 6: God's love is faithful

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.

6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings. (Psalm 36:5-7)

You have probably been hurt or betrayed by someone you love at some point in your life. Maybe you have experienced this more than once. Loving and trusting other people is risky. Once one person hurts you, it becomes harder to open up to others.

In contrast, God's love is truly unconditional. He never fails you or betrays you. You do not need to hold back in your relationship with God, because He is totally trustworthy. When you feel let down by people, read these verses and remember this: Though people may let you down, God never will.

Day 7: God's love is merciful

But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. (Eph 2:4-5)
God's love is merciful. In his love he reaches out to us when we were far from him.



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Daily Prayer Guide: Week 2 | Loving God

"Your steadfast love is better than life"
Psalm 63: 3

Day 1: Loving God

Step 1: Scripture Meditation (5 mins)

Before you begin this meditation say a prayer and ask that God would speak to you through his word and help you to understand the scripture by the power of his Holy Spirit. Then Read the passage below:

This week we are going to work through 1 John 4: 7-21

1 John 4:

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Reflection Questions

1. What word or phrase stands out to you when you read over this passage. Write it down and ask God what has made it stand out to you? What does it make you think of? Why does it seem important?
2. Think about the phrase 'This is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us...' Think about the people in your life that you love because they loved you first. Think about the ways they showed you that love. Take a moment to thank God for them and for their example. What are some ways you can initiate with God? With your time through prayer, study or service? Write down any ideas that stand out to you.

Step 2: ACTS (5 mins)

Using the ACTs Prayer Model on the previous page, spend 5 mins working through each of the steps: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication. You could then finish your prayer time with an Our Father.

Day 2-7: Loving God

Step 1: Scripture Meditation

Start by asking God to speak to you through His word. Pray that he will give you wisdom and understanding as you read it and seek to apply it. Use the Scripture Readings below, one each day for your time of scripture meditation. You can use the Read, Think & Apply & Pray model that's outlined on Page 1 to help you.

Step 2: ACTS

Once you've completed your scripture meditation, use the ACTS Prayer Model for the second part of your prayer.

Day **Scripture Readings**

Day 1

1 John 4: 11-12

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

Day 2

1 John 4: 13-15

13 This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God.

Day 3

1 John 4: 16-17

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgement: In this world we are like Jesus.

Day 4

1 John 4: 18

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

Day 5

1 John 4: 19

19 We love because he first loved us.

Day 6

1 John 4: 20

20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

Day 7

1 John 4: 21

21 And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

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Daily Prayer Guide: Week 3 | Loving Truth

"Your steadfast love is better than life"
Psalm 63: 3

Day 1: Loving Yourself & Thinking Positive Thoughts

Step 1: Scripture Meditation (5 mins)

Before you begin this meditation say a prayer and ask that God would speak to you through his word and help you to understand the scripture by the power of his Holy Spirit. Then Read the passage below:

Philippians 4:4-9

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

Reflection Questions

1. Today we are bombarded by so many voices, so many people telling us they have the truth. To add to the noise we have strong desires in our flesh and experience the leading of the Holy Spirit. This can wreak havoc in our minds, causing confusion, anxiety, anger and fear. It is important for us to guard our hearts and minds so we don't make all our decisions out of these negative emotions, rather our lives will turn out better if we make logical decisions that are not constantly changing based on how we feel. What practical advice does this passage give us for guarding our heart and mind?
2. If we think about negative things we reinforce negative thoughts and behaviours, conversely if we think about positive things we find ourselves doing and desiring better things. As we seek to live a good life or indeed a holy life pleasing to God what can we learn from this passage about how we should think? Is there a change of attitude you need to make to celebrate the good and not focus on the negative?
3. What things do you find yourself frequently thinking about that are having a negative impact on your life? What positive things can you focus on to replace this?

Step 2: ACTS (5 mins)

Using the ACTs Prayer Model on the previous page, spend 5 mins working through each of the steps: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication. You could then finish your prayer time with an Our Father.

Day 2-7: Loving Yourself

Step 1: Scripture Meditation

Start by asking God to speak to you through His word. Pray that he will give you wisdom and understanding as you read it and seek to apply it. Use the Scripture Readings below, one each day for your time of scripture meditation. You can use the Read, Think & Apply & Prayer model that's outlined on Page 1 to help you.

Step 2: ACTS

Once you've completed your scripture meditation, use the ACTS Prayer Model for the second part of your prayer.

Day	Scripture Readings
Day 1	Philippians 4:4-9
Day 2	Galatians 5:16-25, Corinthians 10:4-5
Day 3	2 Corinthians 5:14-17, Ephesians 4:22-24
Day 4	Romans 8:5-15
Day 5	Colossians 3:1-17
Day 6	2 Corinthians 12:7b-10
Day 7	Hebrews 13:20-21, Philippians 2:12-13, Philippians 1:6

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Daily Prayer Guide: Week 4 | Loving Others

"Your steadfast love is better than life"

Psalm 63: 3

Day 1: Loving Others

Step 1: Scripture Meditation (5 mins)

Before you begin this meditation say a prayer and ask that God would speak to you through his word and help you to understand the scripture by the power of his Holy Spirit. Then Read the passage below:

Romans 13:9-10 (NIV)

9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself. 10 Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.

1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (NIV)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Reflection Questions

1. We often make following Jesus and giving our lives to God sound very complicated and difficult. What do you think about the verse from Romans? Can you see how the whole Old Testament Law was given by God to teach his people how to love?
2. The Corinthians passage takes 'loving others' from the conceptual to the practical. It really helps us see how love can be applied to our day to day and it is very exposing. How do you feel you measure up to how love is described here, are you a loving person according to this passage? Write down any areas where you feel challenged.
3. Where in your life now do you see areas you can improve and love others better? Take a moment to pray and ask God to help you by the power of his Spirit to love as Jesus does.

Step 2: ACTS (5 mins)

Using the ACTs Prayer Model on the previous page, spend 5 mins working through each of the steps: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving & Supplication. You could then finish your prayer time with an Our Father.

Day 2-7: Loving Others

Step 1: Scripture Meditation

Start by asking God to speak to you through His word. Pray that he will give you wisdom and understanding as you read it and seek to apply it. Use the Scripture Readings below, one each day for your time of scripture meditation. You can use the Read, Think & Apply & Pray model that's outlined on Page 1 to help you.

Step 2: ACTS

Once you've completed your scripture meditation, use the ACTS Prayer Model for the second part of your prayer.

Day	Scripture Readings
Day 1	Romans 13:9-10, 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
Day 2	1 John 4:7-21, Galatians 6:2
Day 3	1 Peter 4:7-11, Proverbs 3:3-4
Day 4	1 John 3:11-18, 1 Tim 5:1-2
Day 5	John 13:1-17, Proverbs 27:17
Day 6	Romans 12:9-21, Galatians 5:13-15, Matthew 22:37-39
Day 7	Philippians 2:1-11, Luke 6:27-36

