

Sunday 9th January

Introduction

Welcome to our Prayer Week. We are wanting, as a church, to set aside time this week to get closer to God and to listen to him. Our Service next week will be dedicated to hearing what God is saying to the church. We, collectively, are the Church and what God says to you may be just for you, or it may be for us: the Church. Please come and share next Sunday, either how God has moved you on in faith, or what you have heard that God is saying to his church.

You are free to spend your week how you wish but if you would like to follow some thoughts then we are offering daily thoughts and a short prayer to assist you.

We are going to use the prayer that the Lord taught us in Luke Ch. 11 as the basis for our thoughts this week. A bit each day, and we will use the lines as Luke Ch. 11.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

Herein is a wonderful statement. Like Thomas's statement in John Ch. 20 v 28 "My Lord and my God.

It is a statement of faith. It says "I believe in God". It is the difference between I believe and I don't believe. The NIV introduces the prayer with the Words: "When you pray". Prayer can take many forms and they are all worth exploring but this week we offer a simple process of reflection and prayer response.

To meditate and pray over:

- What or who helped you to make this statement of faith. Thank God for this.
- What are your doubts? Tell God and ask him to show you the way through. Follow your thoughts even if they wander. See where God takes you; but bring the end thoughts back to God and ask him to show you how to change weakness into strength.
- Pray for someone you know to move into a deeper belief in God.

Prayer

My Lord and my God. I acknowledge that you are the creator of all things both seen and unseen. I am happy to call you my Father. Please love me like a Father, teach me like a Father, encourage me like a Father and build me up in my faith that I can serve you and show what faith looks like to those around me.

Amen

Monday 10th January

Hallowed be your name;

Not only is God our Father but he is to be hallowed. However you interpret this word, and reading Luke Ch. 11 in different versions of the bible will help. It is a word which states that God is something special/holy. It is good to bring Worship of God early into our week of prayer.

Listen to some worship Songs. Let your heart loose before God. Thank him, praise Him.

To meditate and pray over:

- Thank God for Jesus and the cross
- Thank God for his Holy Spirit.
- Thank God for what he has done for you, your family, your friends, and others you know.
- Consider the answers to prayer that you have received. Thank God for these.
- It is not that he has the occasional day when he is good. He is; all day and every day. Thank God for who he is.
- Thank God for the Church, For GVC, for freedom to Worship, for fellow Christians.

Prayer

What an amazing God you are. I acknowledge your Holiness and Faithfulness, and I just need to tell you that regardless of what questions I may have, or how I may be feeling; you are, as always, a person who is all powerful, all holy. I have seen and felt this and am grateful Thank you Father God.

Amen

Tuesday 11th January

Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Whilst it is easy to ask for Gods Kingdom of Love, peace and light to come, the request to ask for God's will to be done can be more difficult. Often we want God to do our will, and we want it done in the way we expect, and when we expect it. It can be hard to accept God's will but he asks here that you lay down your will in favour of his.

Heaven is our destination, and that is God's will. We will have all eternity with God in heaven. That's a long time. Rejoice!!

To meditate and pray over:

- What would a Godly kingdom look like? Pray for it to come about.
- Think about what heaven will look like. Thank God for heaven.
- Are you angry with God for allowing something to happen which caused you pain. Can you spend time reflecting on this and ask him to show you how to find his peace in this circumstance, and find his will and purpose. "For when I am weak, then I am strong" 2 Corinthians Ch. 12 v 10
- How are the ways of the World different from God's ways? Pray about the wrong things in the World and ask for God's Kingdom to come into these situations
- Consider the Worldly ways in your own life and Pray for God's Spirit to change you.
- How has the conflict between God's will and your will been in regards to GVC? Do you need to seek forgiveness with God or others over anything?
- What do you hear God saying is his will for GVC over the next year?

Prayer

Father, help me to surrender my will to you and allow your will to work through me, and move me to reflect your Light into a dark world, that people can see your love in me and find faith in you. I offer my weakness and failings: use these for your purpose, and move me to a place of peace over these matters. May your kingdom come, your will be done.

Amen

Wednesday 12th January

Give us this day our daily bread.

Often we rush into telling God what we need. It has been good to reflect on God first.

What are our needs today? What are the needs of the World? Needs are different to luxuries, and different to "nice to haves". What God thinks we need may also be different to what we think we need. So there is much to think about today.

Our needs are linked to fulfilling God's will; does this change some of your thoughts?

To meditate and pray over:

- Consider how God has met your needs in the past. Thank God for these occasions.
- What are the needs of the World today pray for these
- What are the needs of the church today? Pray for these. Is there anything you hear God saying that GVC needs?
- What is God's will for you today and in the future?
- What then are your needs today? These may be spiritual, mental, medical or financial. Pray for God to provide these.

Prayer

Father, I thank you for that you have provided my needs. I have needs today. I lay my needs before you and ask that you meet my needs such that I can serve you in the Church and in the World. Build up your church to stand in faith: assured of your promise to meet our needs today.

Amen

Thursday 13th January

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Often we consider our sins early in our prayer times. This is because it clears away the matters that get in the way of a good relationship with God. Whilst Jesus died once and for all; we fall back into bad ways so easily, and this disrupts our relationship with God; so it is good to restore the relationship. Sorry is a good way to start. Trying to justify your actions to God is rarely helpful in restoring relationships with him.

To meditate and pray over:

- Be quiet for a time and ask god to tell you the things that he is not happy about. Write these down and bring each item in turn to God. Ask for forgiveness.
- Are there matters that you have between you and someone else? Ask God how these can be reconciled and put a plan in place to deal with these
- Ask God to fill you with his Holy Spirit
- Ask God if there is anything that GVC has done which is outside of God's will. Write this down and bring to the services or forward to a Core leader.

Prayer

Father, I am so grateful that Jesus died for my sins. Thank you for forgiving my sins and restoring me to a relationship with you. Thank you that my eternal life is not dependent on a fulfilment of the law but on faith. I thank you. I thank you, and I thank you again. And help me to extend this forgiveness that I have received to those around me; both inside and outside of the church.

Amen

Friday 14th January

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Let us think about good and evil today. We are caught up in a spiritual conflict, and this impacts on the things around us, and also within us. Some things are obvious, some are less visible to us. We see 3 dimensionally, but God is spirit, so we may struggle today to move beyond the 3 dimensions we see.

Jesus overcame evil on the Cross, and it is through Jesus that we are able to break spiritual barriers.

To meditate and pray over:

- Is the idea of Spirit a problem for you? Ask God to show you what this looks like.
- We hear about evil things in the world. Consider some of these. What do you think has caused these: in both the earthly and spiritual realm. Pray over these. Does God want you to take action on anything?
- What matters in our lives can we not control, this could be a bad habit or an addiction. Consider what these may be. Jesus died to set you free. Turn to Jesus and claim victory over these things, and ask God to find a way of changing what or how you live so that you do not fall back into these.
- Are there any matters that you think is a spiritual barrier to the church moving forward? Make a note of these and bring to the service on Sunday

Prayer

Father, thank you for heaven. Thank you for our freedom. Thank you for Victory. I stand in faith and accept the freedom. Now fill me with the strength of your Spirit that I do not fall back into wrong ways. Help me to recognise good and evil and help me to choose good.

Amen

Saturday 15th January

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

It's all about God. Jesus talked about us being one with the Father by likening the relationship to that of a vine (John Ch. 15). We are one; but it is not our Vine. It belongs to and is God the Son, and we are a loved part of that vine. The fruit we bear is not to bring glory to our abilities but to bring glory to our loving god. We need to humble ourselves, and by doing this we are more open to hear God right because we are not focussing on our will but on Gods.

To meditate and pray over:

- Find a quiet place. Away from distraction. And take a paper and pen. Just focus your thoughts on God. If any distracting thought comes to you eg about what you forgot to get at the shops: write it down and move back to quiet before God. Are there words from God for you? Are there words from God for the church?
- Ask God to be clear with you. Is what you are striving for with your work and ministry: really for God, or is it what you want for yourself. Is there anything that needs changing? And what might this look like?
- Now ask if what we at GVC are striving for with our work and ministry is really for God. Is there anything that needs changing? And what might this look like

Prayer

Holy and awesome God. Help us all to move from self-gratification to service of your Holy purpose. Talk clearly to us and move us to being a living part of your Holy vine; bearing fruit that will last, and bringing glory to your name.

Amen