

# Prayer Calendar

## January 2018

*The term, Spiritual gift, comes from the Greek phrase Chrismata or Charisma, and is defined as, “a gift of grace.” This means we, as Christians, are given a “favor” or a “special gift” to do the work of ministry on behalf of, and empowered by, our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Monday, January 1

*I Corinthians 12:1: Now concerning spiritual gifts brothers and sisters I do not want you to be uninformed. .*

~ Lord, I think most of us go through life not knowing or understanding how your great love for us is manifested in the world. Your love is so great that you have given each of us gifts through the Holy Spirit; and for that we give thanks and praise.

### Tuesday January 2

*I Corinthians 12:2: You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.*

~ Holy God, we are still enticed and led astray to idols that do not speak the language of love, but instead the language of greed, self-satisfaction, power, and fame. I confess that I have been led astray by these idols: . Help me remember that the call of these idols is empty and forsaken.

### Wednesday January 3

*I Corinthians 12:3: Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.*

~ Holy Spirit, you are the great giver of gifts, grace, teaching, and hope. You illuminate our lives and allow us to see, hear and do the will of God through Jesus the Christ. Come, Holy Spirit!

## **Thursday January 4**

*I Corinthians 12:4: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit:*

~ Gracious God, you created us in your image and you created us uniquely special; how often we forget! We are grateful that you give to us as a father gives to each of his children.

## **Friday January 5**

*I Corinthians 12:5-6: and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.*

~ God of all, we forget that you are the one Holy God of all humankind, of all races, nations, beliefs, and actions. Some of us don't know it and forget your love for all. Help us remember that in your love there are no outsiders.

## **Saturday January 6**

*I Corinthians 12:7: To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

~ Gracious God, thank you for the spiritual gifts you have given to us for the building up of your church. Help us discover and embrace these gifts and use them for the common good of your church.

## **Sunday January 7**

*I Corinthians 12:8: To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,*

~ Jesus, thank you for the many gifts and graces that each person brings to the table. Each offering is a gift for the good of all. Help us to listen and learn from one another.

## **Monday January 8**

*I Corinthians 12:9-10: ...to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one*

*Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

~ Glorious God, it is amazing to see how you give your good gifts of grace to each one of us to use to build up your body. We are grateful.

## **Tuesday January 9**

*I Corinthians 12:11: All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.*

~ Lord of life, your Holy Spirit gives each of us individually a gift of grace. Help me today to discover and use that gift to build up the body of Christ and to serve you with humility.

## **Wednesday January 10**

*I Corinthians 12:12: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

~ Creator God, I imagine the arms of our beloved Savior open wide and holding everyone in his loving embrace. I imagine that wherever we go and whomever we see, we can see with the eyes of Christ – gazing upon us with love.

## Thursday January 11

*I Corinthians 12:13: For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit*

~ Loving God, it is amazing that you do not see nations, races, genders or differences of any kind. For you see us all as your children. Your kingdom of many is one with you.

## Friday January 12

*I Corinthians 12:14: Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.*

~ God of grace, at times I forget that I am not alone, for I feel alone and separate. Help me remember to lift up my head and see that I am surrounded by your people.

## Saturday January 13

*I Corinthians 12:15 If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

~ Holy One, there are times, too, when I don't think I am good enough, brave enough, smart enough, or able to be a part of the community of faith. But, you say we all belong and have purpose. I am grateful to remember this.

## Sunday January 14

*I Corinthians 12:16: And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.*

~ God, when I feel alone and different, I wonder if I really belong. I wonder if I have a purpose and a reason to be here. Thank you for your assurance that I am valuable.

## **Monday January 15**

*I Corinthians 12:17: If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

~ Father, when I think that I am useless and have nothing to offer, help me remember that you created each one of us with unique gifts and abilities that are worthy just because you have given them.

## **Tuesday January 16**

*I Corinthians 12:18: But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.*

~ Lord God, it is humbling that you have placed me in this body of Christ to build, serve, offer and be a reflection of your love in the world.

## **Wednesday January 17**

*I Corinthians 12:19-20: If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.*

~ God, when we try to go it alone, when we try to be independent of one another, we fail and we wonder what went wrong. Help us today to depend on you and serve one another to strengthen the Body of Christ.

## **Thursday January 18**

*I Corinthians 12:21: The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."*

~ Lord, sometimes we judge others and do not consider them important or necessary because they can't give much to the church, or they can't participate like we think they should, or they are "not one of us." Forgive us for this arrogance.

## Friday January 19

*I Corinthians 12:22-24a: On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this.*

~ Gracious God, give us eyes to see and an open heart that enables us to open our arms to embrace those who are different, don't have much, or do not seem as engaged as we think they should be. Help us to reach out and embrace everyone and see them as beloved to the Body of Christ.

## Saturday January 20

*I Corinthians 12:24b-25: But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.*

~ Father, hear my prayers of thanksgiving for your servants who are overlooked and not named. Help me remember that most serve in the background, quietly and with humility. Help me be more like that.

## Sunday January 21

*I Corinthians 12:26: If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

~ Loving Jesus, it is true that when one of us suffers, we all suffer together; I think this is love. And when one member is honored we all rejoice together; I think this is love, also. In suffering and rejoicing we are one in Christ.

## Monday January 22

*I Corinthians 12:27: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

~ Christ Jesus, I am one with others and I am grateful. Forgive me when I forget that and try to depend on myself and not the Holy Spirit. Nudge me on those days and remind me that you are leading and I am following.

## Tuesday January 23

*I Corinthians 12:28: And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.*

~ Holy Spirit, I wonder why I was created as me and not someone else. I wonder if I really know who I am and what you want me to do and to be to serve in your kingdom. Please create in me an understanding of my call and purpose.

## Wednesday January 24

*I Corinthians 12:29: Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?*

~ Father, when I look around and I see others in leadership, with big responsibility, I wonder, once again, why not me? Am I less than others? Am I not good enough? You tell me that I am valuable, yet I still resist your affirmation. Help me.

## Thursday January 25

*I Corinthians 12:30: Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*

~ Jesus, why do I want to be like others? Why am I not grateful to be who you have created me to be? Help me find peace with who I am as your child.

## Friday January 26

*I Corinthians 12:31: But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.*

~ Loving God, there is always room for me to grow in your grace. Open my heart to your more excellent way of living and working in the Body of Christ.

## Saturday January 27

*I Corinthians 13:1: If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

~ Lord God, you give us gifts according to your purpose, yet we must bring love to our gifts to give them worth. These gifts are so much chaff in the wind if they are not used with love – always love, for all times and in all ways.

## Sunday January 28

*I Corinthians 13:4-5: Love is patient; love is kind;*

~ God of Love, we know these words by heart, we have heard them so many times. Yet, knowing about something is not the same as actually acting upon it. Today I will be love.

## Monday January 29

*I Corinthians 13:4b-5: ... love is not envious, or boastful, or arrogant, or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;*

~ God of Grace, I cringe when I think of all the times that I have insisted on my own way and have acted out in irritability, resentfulness, arrogance and was just plain rude to those I claim that I love. Help me turn my own will around and practice grace.



## Tuesday January 30

*I Corinthians 13:8: Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.*

~ Lord Jesus, it is true that love never ends and the grace and peace that extend from love given keeps moving and flowing throughout time. The love extended and given to us as children still is remembered today and flows out from us. Help us remember that. Help us to practice your faithful love everyday through every grace given.

## Wednesday January 31

*I Corinthians 13:13: And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."*

**Read Reflect and Rest in Scripture** *This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer.*

**Read the scripture** *for the day over and over, out loud if possible. As you read, listen with an "ear of the heart" to a word or phrase that strikes you.*

**Reflect on that word or phrase** *asking yourself the question: "What is God saying to me through this word or phrase at this time?" Spend time in silence with this scripture mulling it over in your mind and heart.*

**Allow God to speak to you in the silence.** *Offer a prayer out of your reflection.*