

Prayer Calendar

January 2019

Practice the Presence of God

Brother Lawrence was a man of humble beginnings who discovered the greatest secret of living in the kingdom of God here on earth. It is the art of “practicing the presence of God in one single act that does not end.” He often stated that it is God who paints Himself in the depths of our soul. When we practice the presence of God through Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit we are deeply connected, dependent and are in a continual relationship with the Holy.

Tuesday, January 1

Colossians 1:9 | *In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints...*

~ God of Life, we are grateful to those who have gone before us and have lived a life that becomes the Gospel. Hear our prayers of thanksgiving for the witness of these your saints all over the world. I am thankful for: _____.

Wednesday, January 2

Psalms 16:11 | *You teach me the way of life. In your presence is total celebration. Beautiful things are always in your right hand.*

~ Lord, a life in God's presence is filled with blessings and joy. Today I name my blessings: _____.

Thursday, January 3

Exodus 33:14 | *And he said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."*

~ Holy God, you are always with us, if we pay attention and look for you in the ordinary moments of our lives. Help us to stop today and know that you are with us.

Friday, January 4

Lamentations 3:24 | *"The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

~ Holy One, you walk with us through the dark places of our lives and we are not alone. You guide us and hold us in all circumstances. Thank you.

Saturday, January 5

Jeremiah 29:11 | *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm...*

~ Gracious God, in difficult times its hard to believe that you are with me, that someday life will be better. Today I put my trust in you for: _____.

Sunday, January 6

Jeremiah 29:13 | *You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.*

~ God of Love, we have a deep yearning to seek and find you, yet you are always ready to be found when we turn to you with open hearts. Today I rest in your goodness.

Monday, January 7

Lamentations 3:25 | *...to the soul that seeks him.*

~ God with Us, calm my anxious soul and give me rest in you. Give me rest from my fears. Replace those fears with assurance that you are with me and with us.

Tuesday, January 8

Isaiah 58:9 | *Then you will call, and the LORD will answer, you will cry for help, and God will say, "I'm here."*

~ Holy God, I know as I call out to you in sorrow, in need, and in the midst of my fears that you are with me – you are as close as my very breath. Keep me confident and secure that you are with me and I am not alone.

Wednesday, January 9

Colossians 2:6 | *So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him.*

~ Lord Jesus, we receive you as Lord of our lives, yet we are resistant to serve you fully and honor you as Lord of our life unless it is convenient. Forgive us:

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Thursday, January 10

Psalms 145:18 | *The LORD is close to everyone who calls out to him, to all who call out to him sincerely.*

~ Holy One, you gather us together and hold us near as your children. We are grafted into the body through your love, which gives us life.

Friday, January 11

John 8:31 | *Then Jesus said...“You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teaching.”*

~ Lord, sometimes it is hard to be faithful to your difficult teachings, but as I live in you and you live in me I can have strength to not pick and choose, but to really be faithful.

Saturday, January 12

John 15:1 | *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper.”*

~ Lord Jesus, you are our sustenance; all nourishment and life comes from you and we are kept in love by God’s grace and constant presence and action.

Sunday, January 13

John 15:2 | *He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.*

~ Lord God, we are created to produce sweet fruit and you help us by pruning away that which is dead, so that we may bloom and grow again. This is hard, yet keeps us healthy and growing.

Monday, January 14

John 15:3 | *You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you.*

~ Lord, help me spend time with you in the scriptures and in prayer to know you more, love you more and serve you with hope and gladness.

Tuesday, January 15,

John 15:4 | *“Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine.”*

~ Gracious God, we are comforted to know that when our hearts are placed firmly in you that you are within us and that through you and only you can we grow and serve God and neighbor.

Wednesday, January 16

John 15:4c | *Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me.*

~ Lord Jesus, here is our reminder that we cannot control or manipulate you for what we want or think we need. All goodness and graciousness is produced by abiding in you.

Thursday, January 17

John 15:5 | *I am the vine; you are the branches.*

~ Lord of Grace, help us today to remember that we are not the vine – we do not give life on our own – help us remember that our name is Branch of the Vine.

Friday, January 18

John 15:5b | *If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything,*

~ Loving Jesus, this is the truth, yet sometimes we think we do not need the vine to sustain our lives as branches – we forget that who we are is deeply connected to you. Help us and forgive us.

Saturday, January 19

John 15:9 | *As the Father loved me, I too have loved you. Remain in my love.*

~ Loving God, love sustains us all, love gives us life and your love is the greatest love of all. Help me remember that to love you and be loved by you is abiding in you.

Sunday, January 20

John 15:10 | *If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.*

~ Lord Jesus, we are in communion with one another through your love. We remember your commandment to love God and love neighbor. Today I will: _____.

Monday, January 21

I John 2:6 | *The one who claims to remain in him ought to live in the same way as he lived.*

~ Gracious God, you call us to live the same way Jesus lived – to live in love, in faithful companionship with you, to abide in your heart and to do your will. Help me today.

Tuesday, January 22

I John 2:24b-25 | *If what you heard from the beginning remains in you, you will also remain in relationship to the Son and in the Father. This is the promise that he himself gave us: eternal life.*

~ Lord Jesus, you promised that if we confess our sins and repent of them you are faithful and just to forgive us of our sins so that we may abide with you always. Today I confess: _____.

Wednesday, January 23

I John 4:13 | *This is how we know we remain in him and he remains in us, because he has given us a measure of his Spirit.*

~ Loving God, your Holy Spirit enables us to be faithful and encouraged, to respond to the call on our lives to serve you and one another. I am grateful for the leading and guiding of your Spirit.

Thursday, January 24

Zephaniah 3:17 | *The LORD your God is in your midst – a warrior bringing victory. He will create calm with his love; he will rejoice over you with singing.*

~ God of Love, so many times we panic and are afraid. Sometimes we don't even know what we are afraid of. Help us today to remember that you love us and can calm our hearts as you rejoice over us with singing!

Friday, January 25

John 14:1 | *"Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me."*

Holy One, it is hard for us to trust sometimes. We depend so much on what we can see and hear, taste and touch. It is fearsome to trust only in your grace and provision. Today help me to trust you in all circumstances.

Saturday, January 26

John 14:9 | *Jesus replied, "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been with you all this time? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."*

~ Jesus, we are not fast learners, nor do we trust what we cannot see. Why is that? Why is it so hard sometimes to let go of our fears, which we hate, and trust in you, whom we love?

Sunday, January 27

I John 2:2 | *And now, little children, remain in relationship to Jesus, so that when he appears we can have confidence and not be ashamed in front of him when he comes.*

~ Lord, this is true, when Christ comes again we can stand straight knowing that we have been faithful to him by abiding in him, loving God and loving neighbor.

Today help me forgive:_____.

Monday, January 28

I John 3:1 | *See what kind of love the Father has given to us in that we should be called God's children, and that is what we are!*

~ Loving Father, loving others is a way we can show the world that we are all sisters and brothers in Christ. Help us today to see those around us as children of God!

Tuesday, January 29

John 1:1 | *In the beginning was the Word and Word was with God and the Word was God.*

~ God of All, you are the giver of life and light to all. Today, I give my thanks and praise for your life giving love and grace to all.

Wednesday, January 30

Mark 1:1 | *The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ, God's Son, happened just as it was written about in the prophecy of Isaiah, Isaiah 40:3, Malachi 3:1, Exodus 23:20.*

~ Lord Jesus, when we know you, we know God. Help us as we seek to know you more deeply and love you more fully as we read together with joy, the Gospel stories.

Thursday, January 31

Reflect upon this quote from Brother Lawrence | *"That we ought not to be weary of doing little things for the love of God, who regards not the greatness of the work, but the love with which it is performed."*

~ Holy God, help us to understand that the practice the presence of God is everything we say and do. Practicing the presence of God with integrity of heart, is for the love of God.

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer. All scriptures are taken from the Common English Bible (CEB)

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.

Thank God for whatever you received in the silence of your prayer and take that with you through your day.