

Prayer Calendar

September 2017

Praying with Peter and the Apostles

Acts of the Apostles, I, II Peter

Friday, September 1

Acts 1:4: While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

~ Jesus, sometimes we know what should be done, but we are afraid or unsure of how to proceed. It is hard to wait for what comes next and we want to be in control. Help us to trust you in everything, especially for those things we are yet to know.

Saturday, September 2

Acts 1:6: So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"

~ Holy God, we always want to be in the know, to have certainty and assurances in all we do and all that is done on our behalf. We don't like to wait nor do we want uncertainty – it causes us fear. Help us trust you and not ask when, but be grateful to wait in trust.

Sunday, September 3

Acts 1:8: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

~ Lord, sometimes we forget that you have sent your Holy Spirit to us, that the Spirit has gifted us, and that our actions illustrate the Spirit's presence in our lives. We forget and we take the loving action of the Holy Spirit for granted in our lives. Today give us a new awareness of the Spirit's action within our lives and make us grateful.

Monday, September 4

Acts 1:13: ...they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot and Judas son of James.

~ Gracious God, there are times when we just quickly read over the names of these disciples and don't dwell on who they were, how they lived, prayed and grew in their faith in Christ Jesus. We, too, are just names until our stories come alive for others. Help us tell our stories so that Christ may come alive for others.

Tuesday, September 5

Acts 1:14: All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

~ Holy God, the first Christian community was united in prayer and continually prayed. Bring us together to pray in unity with and for one another. Keep us from laziness and keep our hearts open to you.

Wednesday, September 6

Acts 1:24a: Then they prayed, "You, Lord, know the hearts of all..."

~ Holy One, help us remember that you know our hearts and we are not to judge others by our own perceptions.

Thursday September 7

Acts 4:29: And now, Lord. . . . grant that your slaves may speak your message with complete boldness....

~ Lord, we find ourselves timid and uncertain when it comes to speaking and living the gospel of love and mercy. Embolden us and give us courage to stand up and speak love when so much hate is being proclaimed in your name.

Friday, September 8

Acts 4:30: . . . while you stretch out your hand for healing, signs, and wonders to be performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

~ Gracious God, your grace knows no boundaries or limits or walls, but instead we establish boundaries, create limits and build walls all around us for our protection from those we fear. Help us to break down these human creations and allow your healing love to create pathways of unity.

Saturday, September 9

Matthew 14:29: He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.

~ Holy One, you call us to come to you and like Peter we are filled with excitement, joy and faith we go forward answering your call. Give us trust today to hear your call and fully respond without fear and doubt.

Sunday, September 10

Matthew 14:30: But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord save me!”

~ Lord Jesus, at first, in our excitement we just jump in and then realize all the challenges, costs and peril associated with following you and we become afraid and unable to think or act. Keep our reliance on you, Lord, and let the circumstances be what they are.

Monday, September 11

Luke 5:8: But when Simon Peter saw it (the boat filled with fish), he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

~ Jesus, when we come face to face with your glory and power we are overwhelmed, like Peter. Sometimes we cannot bear your grace for we know that our sins are great. Yet, you come to us. We are grateful!

Tuesday, September 12

Luke 22:31: "Simon, Simon, listen!"

~ Loving Jesus, you told Simon Peter to listen. You tell us to listen! Listen! Pay attention! It is so easy to be distracted in the midst of the chaos of our lives – yet you tell us to listen to you. Today I will practice listening to your voice. Help me be still and quiet so that I might listen to you alone.

Wednesday, September 13

Luke 22:32: but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail...

~ Lord Jesus, you prayed for Simon Peter that he might be strong in his faith and you pray for us that we may be strong in our faith. Sometimes we wonder if we have enough faith. Encourage us that our faith in you comes from you and that is always enough.

Thursday, September 14

Luke 22:32b: ...and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

~ God of Love, we are not to live this life of discipleship alone. You want us to strengthen each other in love. Help us today to gently encourage others who may need strengthening and hope.

Friday, September 15

Mark 9:5: "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

~ Holy One, we are so like Peter trying to tell you what to do and when to do it. Our prayers are more demands that you take care of this or that, right now. Oh, help us, keep still and remember that you are God and we are not. Hold us back from telling you what to do, but instead just trust you.

Saturday, September 16

John 21:15-19: After this he said to him, "Follow me."

~ Everlasting God, faith makes love possible and our hope is in God. Your love for us is eternal and everlasting. Help us today to abide with faith, hope and love, to make loving the impossible, possible.

Sunday, September 17

John 21:25: But there are also many other things that Jesus did...

~ Jesus, it is enough to know that your life and ministry is more than we can tell or imagine. As your disciples help us remember that each moment of each day is filled with miracles from you.

Monday, September 18

Acts 12:5: While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him.

~ Loving God, at one time or another we all experience some type of prison, bondage or chains that hold us. Help us ask for and know that others are praying for our release and encourage us to pray for others who are held in prisons of illness, injury, addiction, grief, fear or loneliness.

Tuesday, September 19

Acts 12:12: As soon as he (Peter) realized this (rescued from prison), he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying.

~ Father, we are strengthened and encouraged when we pray in community with unity and singleness of heart and mind. When we pray together with one voice we witness our faith and dependence upon you.

Wednesday, September 20

Acts 13:2: While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

~ Holy God, over and over we see that fasting loosens our desire for control and self-centeredness, yet we are unwilling to undertake this self-emptying in prayer. We are afraid of discomfort, of failure or of ridicule. Please help us set aside these concerns and focus only on this ancient practice to be emptied so that you may fill us.

Thursday, September 21

Acts 13:3: Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

~ Loving God, keep us mindful of our teachers, leaders and pastors who serve in your name. Help us remember them in our prayers and bless them in your service.

Friday, September 22

James 1:2: My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy...

~ Lord, James lets us know that the followers of Christ Jesus will face trials and sometimes we think that we will be spared trials and challenges if we believe enough or act good enough. James helps us remember that trials come to all of us and in those trials we are to find joy. Help us do that!

Saturday, September 23

James 1:3: ... because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance...

~ God of Love, when we face trials we are tested and that produces our strength to hold on and rise above circumstances. Help us know that when it is happening. Help us stop and give thanks for the gift of endurance.

Sunday, September 24

I Peter 2:10a: Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people...

~ Loving God, it is important for us to always remember who we belong to- you. We are your people, not orphans, but we belong to you alone. Help us to never forget!

Monday, September 25

~ I Peter 4:8: Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

Gracious God, I picture a beautiful blanket of love covering us and our sins. Help us, when we begin to judge, and know that the blanket of love covers others, also. I forgive:

_____.

Tuesday, September 26

2 Peter 1:2: May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

~ Dear Lord, we receive this blessing today and everyday with joy for it gives us hope, encouragement and strength to carry on with joy.

Wednesday, September 27

2 Peter 2:19: ...they themselves are slaves to whatever masters them.

~ Dear Jesus, Peter tells us the truth – help us identify and understand what masters us without pretending or denial. Help us know what controls us and be willing to allow Christ Jesus to free us from these bonds.

Thursday, April 28

2 Peter 3:18: But grow in the grace and knowledge of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

~ Holy God, here is our mandate and our instructions for living – grow in grace and knowledge – not in our own knowledge, but the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Draw us closer, Lord, so that we may see, experience, and know.

Friday, September 29

Matthew 22:37: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

~ Gracious God, this is your first commandment, to love you with our whole being and doing. Keep us faithful today to this command.

Saturday, September 30

Matthew 22:39: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

~ Holy God, today, help us see our neighbors – that all are our neighbors and to see them with your eyes – the eyes and heart of love.

This prayer calendar is designed to aid you in your daily life of prayer and all scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. (NRSV)

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.*

