

Prayer Calendar

January 2021

Place Your Life Before God

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Rome he reminds them there is a new life in Christ that awaits them and that the marks of the Christian are evidenced in that new life. As a mark of our new life in Christ this month we focus on taking our ordinary everyday lives and give them wholly to God.

Friday, January 1

Romans 12:1 | So here's what I want you to do...

~ Holy God, your servant Paul calls me to offer my life to you and I want to do that, but in my way. Help me give my life to you as it is your desire, not mine. Today I let go of my need to control everything.

Saturday, January 2

Romans 12:1 | ... God helping you.

~ Gracious God, so this is how I give my life to you; with your help? I sit in silence before you knowing you are with me in every moment of my life.

Sunday, January 3

Romans 12:1 | Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking around life –

~ Lord, you are asking me to give you every moment of everyday. Create a desire in me to wholly give myself to you and dare to imagine what that may look like. I come before you in silence and expectation.

Monday, January 4

Romans 12:1 | ... and place it before God as an offering.

~ Loving God, do you really want me? I am weak and I am ordinary; can I be used for your glory? How will this be?

Tuesday, January 5

Romans 12:2 | Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

~ Lord Jesus, you gave your life for me, you set me an example of how to live, you guide and direct me every day through your Holy Spirit. In this moment I recall all you have done for me and I give you thanks and praise.

Wednesday, January 6

Romans 12:2 | Don't become so well adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.

~ Perfecting God, it is so easy to choose the temptations of our culture because they are so winsome. You have given me a mind to know you and I give you thanks. You have given me this community to support me and I give you thanks. Guard my mind and heart against temptation.

Thursday, January 7

Romans 12:2 | Instead, fix your attention on God.

~ Holy Spirit, help me today to pay attention to the holy, the just, the joy of God. Call my attention to the love and the goodness, the hope and forgiveness that surround me. I name these things in my heart _____.

Friday, January 8

Romans 12:2 | You will be changed from the inside out.

~ Transforming God, help me desire that change, that transformation to one who pays attention to you so that the pull of culture is not even desired. Today I confess _____ . I accept your forgiveness.

Saturday, January 9

Romans 12:2 | Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it.

~ Spirit of God, give me the understanding of what you want from me – I suppose I already know but have a hard time letting go of “my way of doing things.” Open the fist that holds onto “my way” so I can respond to “your way.”

Sunday, January 10

Romans 12:3 | Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity...

~ Holy Spirit, help me to receive the teachings and admonishments from you and from others – to really listen and hear your voice in their wisdom and not be so defensive. Give me an open and teachable spirit.

Monday, January 11

Romans 12:3 | ...God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

~ God of Grace, I am grateful that you love me so much that you desire the very best of who you created me to be and become. Today, I give you thanks for the gifts you have given and show me the areas of growth to which you are calling me.

Tuesday, January 12

Romans 12:9 | Love from the center of who you are; don't fake it.

~ Loving God, you love us from the center of your being – now teach me to love from my center with your grace. In this moment I name all of those people, places and things that I love from my center and give thanks to you.

Wednesday, January 13

Romans 12:9 | Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good.

~ Gracious God, I can recognize what is truly evil, but there are some things that I do not see as evil – give me eyes to see. Give me the strength to stand up for justice and fight oppression in whatever form that may take.

Thursday, January 14

Romans 12:10 | Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

~ Lord, in all my human relationships help me love with the spirit of humility and not control. Sometimes it is hard to put others first – just for this day I give up my need to control everything and everyone.

Friday, January 15

Romans 12:11 | Don't burn out: keep yourselves fueled and aflame.

~ Gracious Spirit, the busyness of life burns me up and burns me out. Staying close to you in prayer, service and worship keeps me fueled and aflame. Encourage my practice of prayer and worship.

Saturday, January 16

Romans 12:11 | Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant.

~ Lord Jesus, you cautioned your disciples to stay awake with him, to pray with him, to be with him in his last hours. Today, I will pay attention with cheerful expectation to meet you in the everyday and ordinary moments.

Sunday, January 17

Romans 12:12 | Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder.

~ Gracious God, Today in the midst of the challenges of life keep me alert and focused on your mercy and grace. Give me a prayer upon my breath as I inhale peace and exhale chaos.

Monday, January 18

Romans 12:13 | Help needy Christians...

~ Merciful God, give me eyes to see and ears to hear the cries of the needy and to respond to those cries with my prayers, my gifts and my service. Unbind my judgments and open my heart to respond fully with your grace and mercy.

Tuesday, January 19

Romans 12:13 | ...be inventive in hospitality.

~ Jesus, you showed us true hospitality when you reached out to those on the margins of life. Open my heart to show that kind of hospitality with grace and desire, not out of duty.

Wednesday, January 20

Romans 12:14 | Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath.

~ God of Grace, do you really and truly mean this? No snide comments under my breath? No sideways glances or rolling of my eyes? Bless them? Give me the desire to bless today – in word and in deed.

Thursday, January 21

Romans 12:15 | Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy . . .

~ Jesus, help me be joy-filled when good comes to others and not be jealous or spiteful. Today, I rejoice with others remembering the good things that have come to them -----.

Friday, January 22

Romans 12:15 | ...share tears when they're down .

~ Loving Jesus, you wept with Martha and Mary and you weep with us in our sorrow. So, shall I share tears with others who grieve, who sorrow, who mourn? Today bring to my mind those who are in sorrow and hear my prayers of comfort for them.

Saturday, January 23

Romans 12:16 | Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up.

~ God of Love, sometimes I just don't want to get along with certain people. To do so would mean having to say I am wrong or confess a short-coming or ask forgiveness. Forgive my hard-heartedness and willfulness. I confess these sins to you now.

Sunday, January 24

Romans 12: 16 | Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

~ Jesus, you made many friends with “nobodies” and you suffered for that. You call me to be friends with people to whom I am not naturally attracted. Give me that heart to follow your example of hospitality and grace and reach out to someone I consider a “nobody.”

Monday, January 25

Romans 12:17 | Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone.

~ God of Creation, there is beauty in everyone. Today give me the sight to see the beauty in everyone, even those that I have no beauty. Because they are created in your image, they do have beauty – show me how to find it.

Tuesday, January 26

Romans 12:18 | If you've got it in you, get along with everybody.

~ Jesus, I know there are people that I had rather avoid. But, there is grace in setting aside fears and judgments to extend grace to others as you extend it to me. Today I name those in which I will make every effort to get along with in true harmony.

Wednesday, January 27

Romans 12:19 | Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

~ Merciful God, over and over you remind us that we are not to judge others with malice, but that it is yours to judge. Help me today to let go of my judgments and to witness grace and kindness instead.

Thursday, January 28

Romans 12:20 | Our scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty; get him a drink.

~ Almighty God, give me the will and purpose today to do as you will and go beyond what is comfortable and settling for me, but to extend your grace and your love in the ordinary tasks of hospitality and kindness.

Friday, January 29

Romans 12:20 | Your generosity will surprise him with goodness.

~ Generous God, as I strive to follow your example and Paul's instruction for me as a Christian and disciple of Christ, allow me to see your goodness and grace in the world. Give me hope that my simple acts of kindness in your name will help another in their understanding of who you are.

Saturday, January 30

Romans 12:21 | Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

~ Loving Savior, darkness and evil do not have the last word – even though sometimes it feels like it. I know you walk with me and your Spirit guides me. Let doing justice and loving kindness in humility be the last word in my life.

Sunday, January 31

Romans 13:9b-10 | Love other people as well as you do yourself. You can't go wrong when you love others. When you add up everything in the law code, the sum total is love.

~ Holy God, it is good to remember that love is the foundation of all things. Loving self, loving neighbor, loving our enemies, loving those we do not agree with, loving nature and creation, most of all, loving you. Help us today to love more and judge less.

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All scriptures are taken from, *The Message*, by Eugene Peterson. *The Message* is a contemporary rendering of the Bible from the original languages crafted to present its tone, rhythm, events and ideas in everyday language.

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.