AWAKEN
PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

PRAYER JOURNEY OVERVIEW
Welcome to the AWAKEN 21-day prayer journey! There are numerous helpful approaches to utilize for extended periods of prayer like the one we are currently engaging in as a church family. For our prayer journey this month, there will be a unique Prayer Guide for each specific day. Each daily Prayer Guide will follow a concept suggested by Daniel Henderson that is a four-fold pattern of prayer.

This approach taught by Henderson, based on the Lord’s Prayer in the Gospel of Matthew, helps to identify what and how to pray. It has been used by both congregations and individuals while seeking God in prayer. Regardless of whether you are praying for a short or long period of time, this approach will be helpful for you. During this journey, every daily Prayer Guide will be divided up into these four sections. Below is a visual that summarizes this four-fold pattern.*

**SECTION 1 OF THE PRAYER GUIDE WILL FOCUS ON REVERENCE.** This is a time to say to the Lord, “I worship You.”

In the prayer pattern Jesus gave His disciples, He instructed them to begin with a focus of worship – “Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name . . .” This time of prayer is to focus on the character of God. As you take time to set your heart and mind on who God is, He becomes the focus of your life. Ultimately, as you acknowledge who God is, it leads to praising and thanking Him. Each day in this specific section, you will be given a passage from God’s Word to read. That passage will be the centerpiece of your worship of God.

*Portions of this content are adapted from numerous works by Daniel Henderson. For more teaching from Daniel Henderson, please visit StrategicRenewal.com.*
For example, if a passage refers to God as Creator, allow that characteristic to be reflected in your prayer. Here is how God being Creator can be turned into a prayer back to Him:

“God, You are Creator. Your creativity, power, bigness, and majesty are indescribable. I see the work of Your hands all around me. You created me. You know every aspect of my being. I praise You as my Maker. I praise You as the one who designed me physically, emotionally, psychologically, and spiritually. It is overwhelming to know how great You are and how great Your love is for me. You created all that exists and yet You desire a relationship with me. I worship and adore You as my Creator.”

SECTION 2 OF THE PRAYER GUIDE WILL FOCUS ON RESPONSE. This is a time to say to the Lord, “I surrender to You.”

A second way that Jesus taught His disciples to pray is seen when He said, “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven . . .” This part of the Lord’s Prayer shows your response to God. As you consider the greatness of God, the only right response is complete surrender. Responding correctly to the character of God gives you a right perspective as you consider His perfect plan. This is a time of yielding your mind, your will, and your agenda to God’s purposes.

SECTION 3 OF THE PRAYER GUIDE WILL FOCUS ON REQUESTS. This is a time to say to the Lord, “Here are my needs.”

After you have aligned your heart with the heart of God, this third section is a time for you to lay your requests before Him, knowing that you are asking for His will and for His glory.

In Matthew 6:11-12, Jesus prayed, “Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

This section of prayer is not just informing God of your needs because He knows your needs before you even ask (Matthew 6:8). This is a time for you to consciously trust God as the provider for your needs and ask Him to meet them. This could include prayer about personal requests, needs of others, or burdens on your heart. There may be a specific list of resource needs and relationship needs that God leads you to lay before Him.
SECTION 4 OF THE PRAYER GUIDE WILL FOCUS ON READINESS. This is a time to say to the Lord, “Live through me for Your glory.”

A final aspect of prayer that Jesus shared in the Lord’s Prayer is this: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

This time of prayer reminds us of the spiritual battle before us, as well as our new identity in Christ. After worshiping God, surrendering to Him, and laying requests before Him, this is a time to communicate with Him by claiming His promises, seeking His resources, and sharing in His mission through prayer.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

God has graciously chosen to move on behalf of the prayers of His people. If we truly desire to know God deeply and see Him work powerfully, we must pray!

Thank you for being a part of this journey! Please use this tool and the daily Prayer Guide to assist you as you seek God in prayer. As you pray, remember...

WE DON’T PRAY BEFORE WE WORK; PRAYER IS THE WORK, AND THEN GOD WORKS!

To view the daily Prayer Guides and stay connected with all that is taking place this month, please visit HopeChurchOnline.com/Awaken.