

Prayer Challenge

40 Days of Praying Through the COVID Pandemic

Thank you so much for praying circles around an end to this pandemic, and for the revitalization of the world both spiritually and economically. As you approach the throne room of grace each day at 7:14 AM and/or PM in prayer, we pray the following prayer prompts will help guide your conversation with God.

-  **SCRIPTURE:** There's nothing like praying God's Scripture back to Him! Praying the scriptures is a sign that we are fully trusting in God's infallible word. Circle this verse at 7:14 each day by praying it specifically back to God and living out exactly what it says:

>>> "*If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*" —2 Chronicles 7:14

>>> In addition to 2 Chronicles 7:14, find a couple more verses to pray each day. Scripture that praises God for who He is and reveals His goodness and faithfulness. Such as...

>>> "*I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of your marvelous works.*"
—Psalm 9:1

>>> "*Who among the gods is like you—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?*" —Exodus 15:1

>>> "*The Lord is near to those who call on Him.*" —Psalm 145:8

>>> "*Our hope is in the Lord; He is our help and our shield.*" —Psalm 33:20

When we get into the Word of God and incorporate the scriptures in our daily prayers God's Word will then get into us, changing how we think and how we live. Add to this list of scriptures that you can pray circles around! Take some time to thank God for giving us His perfect word!

-  **WORSHIP:** When we enter into spiritual warfare, worship is the front line of battle. Let us continually give praise and thanks. As one song says, "*let your weapon be a melody.*" Worship gets our eyes off of us and our eyes fixated on where they should be—the face of God!

>>> "*Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.*" —Psalm 150:6

>>> Think about some of your favorite Christian songs/hymns. Pray those choruses to the Lord!

 **DISCERN THE SEASON:** Now is the time to ask the Holy Spirit to pour out wisdom, in particular in addressing the COVID-19 crisis. We need discernment at corporate, government, local church, and personal levels.

>>> Pray right now for the Lord to raise up modern day “*sons from Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do,*” according to 1 Chronicles 12:32.

>>> God could very well be raising up “solutionaries” all over the world right now! Pray and ask God to give you wisdom, the discernment to know your role during this pandemic, and to allow you to be part of the solution for His glory.

 **SHIFT THE ATMOSPHERE:** Let’s become “atmosphere architects”—shift the atmospheres in your sphere of influence and fill them with HOPE instead of worry, fear, anxiety, or cynicism. God is the God of infinite possibility—we should see possibilities everywhere.

>>> Ask the Lord during your prayer time to use you as part of His Church to be a blessing all over your city and neighborhood—bless others with your thoughts, words, and deeds.

>>> From how you leverage your social media to distributing food to our essential frontline workers, YOU can shift the atmosphere in your town/city through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in you!

 **FIGHT FEAR WITH LOVE:** Lead with LOVE and do NOT partner with FEAR. Renounce any partnership w/fear because God’s Word clearly says in 1 Timothy that we’ve been given a spirit of love, power, and sound mind—NOT a spirit of fear.

>>> In your prayer times, ask God if you are believing any lies about the COVID-19 situation.

>>> Ask God to reveal any real fear you may have attached to this pandemic.

>>> Pray 1 John 4:18 aloud which says, “*perfect love drives out fear.*” The love of God which he manifested in His Son, Jesus, is the only perfect love that exists!

>>> Look up and pray aloud Philippians 4:6.

 **FAITH:** Assert your FAITH! Fear and faith can’t live on the same street. The Scriptures say “*we are to boldly approach the throne of grace that we might find mercy in our time of need.*” Hebrews 11 takes it a step further, saying “*without faith it is impossible to please God.*”

>>> When you pray, does God sense a voice of fear coming from you or a voice of faith?

>>> During your next prayer time, spend a couple of minutes telling your mountains how big your God is instead of telling God how big your mountains are!

 **DELIVERANCE:** Psalm 32:7 says that God “surrounds us with songs of deliverance.” We should believe in full confidence that God is singing one of those songs over our church and city!

>>> Pray Psalm 20, this whole song of deliverance and victory, aloud.

>>> Pray truths found in Psalm 91 over your town/city/church.

>>> Thank the Lord right now for His greatest deliverance over you—delivering you from the sinful depths and giving you new life in Jesus!

 **THE NAMES OF GOD:** “Who is God?” This is without a doubt a loaded question! God has given himself no name that He does not intend to live up to. Use the names of the Lord when praying over the current situation and climate we find ourselves in. Our God is:

>>> Jehovah Rapha—the God who heals.

>>> Jehovah Shalom—the God of peace.

>>> Jehovah Emmanuel—God with us.

>>> Yeshua—Our rescuer and deliverer

>>> Holy Spirit—Our advocate, comforter, and intercessor

>>> Add to this list your favorite names of God during your prayer times.

 **LEADERSHIP:** Pray for all of those who hold authority—for wisdom, for discovering solutions, for unity found in corporate humility, and for grace & truth to be poured out on:

>>> Leaders of all nations

>>> National/state/city leaders

>>> City mayors

>>> City pastors and elders

>>> President Trump, CDC, WHO, COVID-19 task force led by our VP

>>> Lead companies/scientists working on vaccines

>>> During your next prayer time read aloud Romans 13:1.

 **NEIGHBORS AND VULNERABLE ONES:** Let’s love our neighbors and those who are vulnerable well. They make think and believe differently than us; all the more reason to show them the loving arms of Christ.

>>> Check in with your neighbors across the street/down the road. Lift them up in prayer—that God would meet all their needs for their good and His glory.

>>> Pray for those who at-risk as well as those who have the virus and are on the road to recovery.

>>> Pray for the isolate, for the lonely, for the grieving, for those who lack healthcare and live in unsafe environments.

>>> Psalm 68:6 says “the Lord sets the lonely in families.” Be FAMILY to somebody today!

- ⊕ **FINANCES/RESOURCES:** Pray for resources. Prayerfully appropriate the resources of heaven to be applied to everyone who has suffered financial loss.

>>> For the unemployed to find dignity through work.
>>> For those who were let go, that they would be rehired for better paying jobs.
>>> For American businesses to be supernaturally revived so they can continue to serve others.
>>> For mercy and grace to those in debt or living paycheck to paycheck.

>>> The Lord God OWNS IT ALL—cattle on a thousand hills and then some. If our God can take the dwindling resources of a fish & bread lunch and turn it in to a meal for 5,000 plus, just imagine what He can do today!

- ⊕ **SPIRITUAL AWAKENING:** It all goes back to 2 Chronicles 7:14—that we would humble ourselves in prayer, seek His face, turn from our wicked ways...only then will we find true healing and peace. Pray for the Church to discern the times, to awaken to God, to return to our first love, and to choose personal revival that leads to city transformation in the name of Jesus.

>>> Follow the instruction of Matthew 6:6 as you pray. In prayer, circle 2 Chronicles 7:14 along with your family, church, community, and anything else on your heart.

>>> Pray for our world to realize and come to terms with a much more serious spiritual virus—the virus of sin—and that the world will know THROUGH YOU of the only medication for it—surrendering our lives to Jesus as Lord and Savior!

May these prayer prompts serve you well throughout this 40-Day 7:14 Prayer Challenge!

One last thought on what the Lord might be calling you to do during this time of crisis:

- ⊕ **REST**

Could it be that through all of this “social distancing,” less commuting time, and time spent at home, the Lord might be providing us with the opportunity of a worldwide sabbath? Isaiah 30:15 says “In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength, but you would have none of it. Spend time in quiet and trust, reading Isaiah 40:31 as you do.

- ⊕ **CREATE**

Get creative! Get creative with how you spend your daily prayer and devotional time with God. Create sacred space for your family to worship together in the evenings and on weekends. Create online environments for your small groups and ministry teams to experience unity. Crisis forces creativity!

- ⊕ **SERVE**

The early church would serve one another deeply and sincerely in times of crisis. We must follow their example. Look for ways to serve your church and community during these unprecedented times. Be the hands and feet of Jesus as you out and about dealing out hope, blessing, and love.

