

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book will guide you through the next four weeks of prayer. I want to encourage you to set aside five days each week to go through these devotions. After you complete the devotional reading, head on over to getvictory.net/pray and pray with the correlated audio recording for the day's prayer. I hope this season you find new purpose and power in your prayer life as you pray through Jesus' model.

Our Model

One thing that God does in preparation for revival is to begin to stir up spiritual hunger and to lead people to prayer. I believe it is helpful to have a model that can guide your prayer as you learn. I use the PRAY model which is derived from the Lord's Prayer.

The acronym PRAY stands for:

- P** Press into God
- R** Resist the Status Quo
- A** Ask for What You Need
- Y** Yield to God's Grace

Teach Us to Pray:

Revolutionize Your Prayer Life, Change Your World

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' priorities and patterns for your prayer life are Jesus' priorities and patterns for your life in general.

When I was about twelve years old, an acquaintance my age came riding through our neighborhood. No, he wasn't riding on a minibike, like several of us kids who lived nearby did. He was riding a horse! That was, in many ways, even cooler than a minibike. Because I lived in a housing development with a lot of space, we had a nearby field. So my friend invited me and a few other gawkers to go to the field where he offered to let us ride his horse. Wow!

Contrary to what some people here in Pennsylvania think, not everyone who grows up down South grows up in the country. I had never milked a cow, and I don't think I'd ever ridden a horse. I had no clue what to do.

When I got on, the horse just took off running! Not only that, but apparently the horse had expanded its lungs when my friend was tightening the saddle on. That means that as the horse was running, totally out of my control, the saddle was slipping sideways. So I did what came naturally—and before I fell off, I just jumped. Then it was my friend's problem to catch his out-of-control horse with a saddle hanging sideways from it.

I have a feeling I would have enjoyed that awesome experience a little more if I had known what I was doing. I also have a feeling that you will enjoy the awesome experience of prayer—of communicating with Almighty God—if you know what you’re doing.

I think for many Christians, prayer is something we’re a little familiar with, but it’s like an out-of-control experience for us. We don’t necessarily enjoy it. We don’t always know what we’re doing. We don’t usually feel competent. Even some of the most spiritual believers we meet feel very unsatisfied with their prayer lives.

What did the disciples see that made them want to learn to pray? What gave them the “want to,” the will that made them seek a way? They saw being lived out before them the greatest human life ever. And it was evident to them that prayer was a part of that. Luke’s description of Jesus’ prayer life shows he intends you to grasp the power of prayer.

When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, it was because the disciples recognized the value of prayer. It was valuable for Jesus, the Son of God. It is valuable for us. We don’t take it for granted that we can talk with the God of the universe.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Ed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Pastor" on the left and "Ed" on the right.

Ed Crenshaw

TEACH US TO PRAY



**PRESS
INTO
GOD**



DAY 1

PRESS INTO GOD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."

He said to them, "When you pray, say:

'Father,

*hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come.*

Give us each day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

*for we also forgive everyone who sins
 against us.*

And lead us not into temptation."

REFLECT

As we come before our King with honor, we come before him as his children. He's your Father, so you need confidence to come before God. We have respect, but also confidence that he loves us.

Jesus' teaching begins with the instructions simply to address God as "Father." The Jews in Jesus' day frequently referred to Abraham as father, but to address God as Father was radical. Today, we probably take it for granted. Why is

it truly radical to approach God as our Father? It suggests intimacy. It suggests something about who we are that may seem presumptuous.

What does it say about God's identity? Father communicates God is good, God is love. He's a loving, approachable God who is also in a position of authority in our lives. God is awesome in his holiness, but he is still approachable as Father.

What does it say about our identity? We can relate to God as sons and daughters. My relationship with God as my Father should trump everything else. I am valuable.

What does it say about how we relate with God? God loves us and is committed to our well-being. We can have confidence in approaching God. We can have an expectation of good gifts from our Father.

DAY 2

PRESS INTO GOD

SCRIPTURE: Luke 11:2

*He said to them, "When you pray, say:
'Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.'"*

REFLECT

The first petition, or request, of the Lord's Prayer is "Hallowed be your name." Why would this be the first petition? What does it mean for God's name to be hallowed? Hallowed means that God is great. It is a recognition that though God is Father, he is a holy God. It says something about the identity of God that must go along with his identity as a loving Father. It also means that our first priority in prayer is to acknowledge both God's Fatherhood and God's holiness. Our priority is not only to hallow God's name as individuals, but to see God's name hallowed throughout his creation. This petition immediately takes us from a very personal, potentially individualistic approach to God as Father, to a broad, universal acknowledgement of God's position in creation. As a Father, he is intimate with us individually; as a holy God, he is entirely "other," transcendent. "Holy" is God's primary identity beyond Father.

What does this petition imply with regard to the attitude of our heart in approaching God? We come before God with worship, awe, wonder, and respect. We have a strong desire to see God glorified, even above getting answers to our personal prayers. We have a strong desire for our lives to come into alignment with God's holiness. We desire for our lives to bring glory to God as the world we influence acknowledges God's holiness.

What does this petition mean with regard to our priorities in prayer? Our top priority is that God be honored, worshiped, and adored.

If we really want God's name to be hallowed, what does that say about our lifestyle and our life priorities?

DAY 3

PRESS INTO GOD

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 10:4-10, 19-22

It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

REFLECT

What is the basis for our boldly pressing into the presence of God? We can approach a holy God because “we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (v. 10). “We have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus” (v. 19). Faith and the assurance faith brings have a role in this, too (v. 22). Our guilty conscience doesn’t keep us back any longer. Baptism is a sign of this boldness before God.

In the Bible, many people were fearful of God’s presence. Why would they be fearful? Because God is so holy and their consciences weren’t cleansed, even though sacrifices had been made for them. If a sacrifice has to be repeated over and over, how do you know that the benefits still pertain?

What might be some false foundations for confidence before a holy God? How can we make sure our boldness remains on a firm foundation? The idea of the universal fatherhood of God is misguided. It sees us as able to approach God simply based on our value—which is undeniable—and ignores our need for cleansing. Both truths are important for a proper approach to God. God does not ignore our sin; he forgives our sin. Another false foundation is our own works of righteousness, or the idea that we’re better than someone else.

Why is the way Jesus has made for us to approach the Father called “a new and living way?” (v. 20) NEW: It is a new covenant (Hebrews is contrasting the old and the new covenants to say the new is better). It is continually new in that it is fresh for every one of us! LIVING: Animals died. Jesus died. But Jesus lives. Jesus’ resurrection means that his way is not just a way of death, but a living way. We also get to live because of it. We get abundant life.

DAY 4

PRESS INTO GOD

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 4:14-16

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

REFLECT

The writer of Hebrews encourages us to approach God's throne with confidence or boldness. He gives a different reason here than in chapter 10. What is the confidence based on? We have a high priest who is able to empathize with our weaknesses. God understands us, even though he himself did not succumb to temptation, he still understands and empathizes with us. It's wonderful that even though he didn't succumb, he still offers grace and mercy because he understands.

Why is Jesus able to empathize with our weaknesses?
What weaknesses is he talking about here? Jesus knows

the temptation to deviate from the Father's plan. We don't know to what degree Jesus was tempted by the things that tempt us, but he was certainly tempted in the 40 days in the wilderness and in the Garden of Gethsemane. He might have faced temptations to call on the angels to rescue him from the cross (just as the wilderness temptations were meant to be shortcuts to the Kingdom).

What can we expect to find in the presence of God? Can we expect these things in spite of our weaknesses? Why or why not? We will find grace and mercy to help us in our time of need. Grace and mercy cover over our weaknesses; they are offered in spite of our weaknesses because of the empathy of Jesus.

DAY 5

PRESS INTO GOD

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

REFLECT

What do these verses tell us about how we approach the presence of God? We approach God with joy. We want the whole earth to worship God. We have confidence because we are the sheep of his pasture (much like the confidence we have that he is our Father and we are his children). We enter with thanksgiving and praise. We recognize his goodness and love, his faithfulness that extends from past generations to our own, from our own generation to our children and beyond.

In what way might these verses, especially verses 4 and 5, relate to a desire to see God's name be hallowed? "Hallowed be your name" is an expression of praise. It's a part of praising his name.

Resource

PRAY Template:

P Press into God

R Resist the Status Quo

A Ask for What You Need

Y Yield to God's Grace

PRESS into God:

- Embrace him as our Father
- Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise
- Thank him for the blood of Jesus that gives us bold access
- Pray for God to be glorified in all the earth, his name be hallowed
- Express desire for him (Psalms 27 and 42)

RESIST the status quo:

- Declare the kingdom of God over these areas:
 - My own life
 - My family
 - My church
 - My world
 - The world: nation, leaders, etc.
- Enable your servants, laborers for harvest, salvation of souls
- Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders (Acts 4)
- Displacement of the kingdom of darkness
- Revival/Awakening

ASK for what I need:

- What I need for today:
 - materially
 - spiritually
 - relationally
 - friends, favor, finances
- Bless me and expand my territory
- Give God all my anxiety, stress, worries
- Trust God, don't lean on my own understanding

YIELD to God's grace:

- Confess and repent of my sins
- Release anyone who has offended me (release them)
- Let go of or overlook all offenses (release myself)
- Expect God not to lead me into temptation, but beside still waters
- Receive grace for any testing or temptation that comes my way
- Put on the armor of God, the nature of Christ
- Resist the devil and expect him to flee
- Praise God for the victory