

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

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21 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE LOST

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 2:1–4



LIBERTY HEIGHTS CHURCH

Day 1 | The Father's Divine Drawing

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” – John 6:44

In the early days of the British navy, a “press gang” was a group of sailors tasked with finding men to serve on warships. However, they didn’t just ask for volunteers; they used a drawing method. They would often drop a silver shilling into a man’s drink. If he drank it and kept the coin, he was considered drawn into the King’s service. While that was a draft of coercion, God’s drawing is the relentless, loving pursuit of a Father. The Greek word for draw used in this verse is *helkyō*, the same word used for a fisherman hauling in a heavy net or a magnet pulling steel. It is a purposeful, powerful tug on the heart that the world cannot replicate.

When we look at our friends who seem light-years away from God, it is easy to feel like the weight of their salvation rests on our ability to argue them into the kingdom. But John 6:44 offers us immense relief: salvation begins with the Father’s initiative. Before you ever spoke a word to your friends about Jesus, God was already tugging. He is the one who enters the dark places of their lives and draws them toward the light. Today, find peace in knowing you are not the one doing the heavy lifting. You are simply witnessing a Master at work.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for the Father to place a relentless, loving tug on the hearts of your unbelieving friends today.

Father, thank You for pursuing hearts even when we are unaware of it. Please draw [my friends/loved ones] toward You today, even in the ordinary moments of their lives. Gently lead them toward a saving relationship with Jesus. I ask this in Christ’s name, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Chris Anderson

Day 2 | Breaking through Hardness of Heart

And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh. – Ezekiel 11:19

When working with stone and clay, it is easy to notice that they are completely different. Stone is hard, cold, and unyielding. It does not soften under pressure. Clay, on the other hand, is soft and responsive in the hands of a skilled potter. It can be shaped, refined, and formed into something purposeful. When Ezekiel speaks of a heart of stone, he is describing more than simple rebellion. He is pointing to a heart that has grown unresponsive through pride, pain, or long seasons of indifference. It is not merely flawed. It is hardened. Only God can do the deep work required to make that heart alive and responsive again.

Most of us have friends who seem firm in their resistance to the gospel. Maybe past wounds have made them guarded, or years of spiritual indifference have made them numb. It's easy to assume they will never change. But Ezekiel reminds us that no heart is beyond the reach of God. He does not simply repair what is broken. He gives a new heart altogether, reshaping desires from the inside out. Today, as you pray, do not fixate on how hardened a heart may seem. Fix your attention on the power of the Spirit who, like a potter with clay, can soften hardened hearts and reshape them into something new.

Prayer Prompt: Pray today that God would replace your friends' hearts of stone with hearts of flesh.

Lord, thank You for removing my heart of stone when I was far off from You. I recognize that You alone are able to bring life even to the most hopeless situations. I ask that You would soften and reshape the hearts of [my friends/loved ones]. I pray this for Your glory, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Austin McCoy

Day 3 | Removing Spiritual Blindness

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. – 2 Corinthians 4:4

In 1945, a Japanese soldier named Hiroo Onoda was stationed on Lubang Island in the Philippines. Even after World War II ended, Onoda remained in the jungle for 29 years, convinced the war was still ongoing. He saw the leaflets dropped from planes announcing the peace treaty, but he believed they were enemy propaganda. He was not foolish; he was simply *blinded* by a false narrative. He lived as a fugitive in a war that had already been won because he couldn't see the truth of the peace that had been established. This is the condition of the unbeliever—they are hiding from a war with God that Christ has already settled, simply because they cannot see the light.

It is easy to get frustrated with friends who seem to ignore the obvious beauty of the gospel. We wonder, “How can they not see this?” Paul explains that it isn't a lack of intelligence, but a spiritual veil. The “god of this world” has a vested interest in keeping them in the dark. Our role as intercessors is to pray for the lifting of the veil. We aren't just sharing information; we are asking for a spiritual awakening. When the light of Christ finally breaks through, the false narratives of the world lose their power, and the peace treaty of the cross finally becomes clear.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would remove the enemy's blinding influence over your friends and grant them spiritual sight.

Lord, I plead for [my friends/loved ones] that You would remove their blindness, so the strongholds of this world lose their power. Shine the light of Your glory into their hearts so they will see You as the one true God who brings peace and salvation to their lives. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Michael Callahan

Day 4 | Grant Repentance and Truth

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

– 2 Timothy 2:25-26

In the wild, a snare is a particularly cruel trap because it is designed to be invisible. A thin wire loop sits across a trail, and the moment an animal steps into it, the wire tightens. The more the animal struggles to get free, the tighter the knot becomes. The animal isn't just lost. It is captured. Paul uses this vivid imagery to describe the state of those without Christ. They aren't just making bad choices. They are caught in a spiritual mechanism that they cannot untie on their own. They believe they are walking their own path, but they are unaware that a wire has tightened around their soul.

When we look at the self-destructive patterns of our unsaved friends, it can be heartbreaking. We often want to “talk some sense” into them. But Paul suggests that repentance is something God grants. It's like a light turning on in a dark room. Only when God intervenes can a person come to their senses and realize they were trapped. Our prayers are the leverage that helps break the snare. Today, don't just pray for your friends' behavior to change; pray for their eyes to open so they can see the trap for what it is and run toward the freedom of the gospel.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God grants your friends spiritual clarity to see where they are being trapped by the enemy.

Father, You alone can grant repentance and lead hearts to a knowledge of the truth. Please open the eyes of [my friends/loved ones] and help them come to their senses about how they have been caught in the enemy's snare. Shine Your light into the dark places and break what holds them captive. Draw them into the freedom of the gospel through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Scott Russell

Day 5 | Liberation from the Slavery of Sin

But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed. – **Romans 6:17**

When the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified in 1865, thousands of people in the United States were legally declared free. However, many former slaves continued to live in fear of their old masters for months, and even years. They were legally liberated, yet they remained mentally and socially bound because they did not know how to live in the freedom that had been declared. In a similar way, spiritual bondage often persists even though freedom has been made possible. Sin operates like a cruel master. Even when people want to do better, they feel an invisible chain pulling them back to old habits, addictions, and mindsets. They are not just making mistakes; they are living under a master they cannot seem to leave.

When we pray for our unsaved friends, we are praying for their spiritual freedom. We are asking God to break the hold that sin has over their lives. Paul's joy in Romans 6 is that the believers he is writing to *used to be* slaves. It is past tense. The gospel does not just offer self-help. It offers a change of ownership. It moves a person from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His marvelous light. Today, as you pray, visualize the chains of sin falling off your friends' shoulders. Pray that they would not only be free but would "become obedient from the heart" to a much better Master—Jesus.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for your unbelieving friends to be freed from the slavery of sin and liberated by the gospel today.

Lord, with all my heart, I cry out for [my friends/loved ones]. Break the chains of sin that have wrapped tightly around their hearts. Shatter the grip of old habits, addictions, and distorted mindsets that keep them in darkness. Bring them into Your light and lead them to follow Jesus as their loving Master. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Eber Flores

Day 6 | Opening the Heart to the Gospel

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

– Acts 16:14

In the natural world, the most beautiful flowers, like morning glories, only open their petals when they feel the warmth of the rising sun. In the dark of night, they remain tightly closed, but the gentle persistence of the light draws them open. Lydia was a successful businesswoman, likely very capable and self-sufficient. She was already religious, but she was missing the light of the gospel. It wasn't Paul's eloquence or a flashy miracle that changed her. The text says simply that the Lord *opened* her heart. Like the morning glory, she responded to the warmth of God's grace by unfolding her life to the truth.

It is a common mistake to think that if we just find the right book, the right video, or the perfect logical argument, we can pry open someone's heart. But hearts are not opened from the outside. They are opened from the inside by the Holy Spirit. Lydia was listening, but God was doing the internal work of making her pay attention. We can speak to the ears, but only God can speak to the heart. This should give you great confidence. You don't have to be a master orator. You simply have to be a faithful witness while praying for the light of Christ to reach your friends' hearts.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that the Lord would open the hearts of your friends to pay attention to and believe the gospel message.

Father, give me the boldness to share who You are and how You have worked in my life. Help me speak with a confidence that comes not from my own strength, but from Your Spirit. As I share, would You gently open the hearts of [my friends/loved ones] to pay attention to the gospel. Use me as You accomplish Your will in their lives. In Christ's name, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Ben Payne

Day 7 | Tearing Down Spiritual Strongholds

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. – 2 Corinthians 10:4

In the ancient world, a stronghold was a fortified refuge built to withstand attack. With thick walls and elevated ground, it was the place an enemy would retreat into when they were under pursuit. You could win the battle in the valley, but the victory was not complete until the stronghold fell. Paul uses this imagery to describe spiritual resistance. These strongholds are not made of stone, but of thoughts and beliefs that push back against the truth of God. Sometimes they grow out of pride, disappointment, or years of quiet resistance. Other times they are built around fears, habits, or areas of life someone is not ready to surrender. These inner walls can feel safe, even while they keep the heart closed to truth.

When we share the gospel, we can be tempted to rely on our own efforts. We try to be more persuasive or more convincing in our conversations. But spiritual strongholds are not torn down by clever words or better arguments. Paul reminds us that our weapons are divine. Prayer is not a last resort. It is one of the primary ways God works in a person's heart, doing what our words alone cannot do. Today, consider the walls you see in your friends' lives. Do not be intimidated by how firm they seem. You are not responsible for tearing them down. You are to faithfully call on the power of God, who alone can tear down strongholds and open hearts to the light of Christ.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would tear down every spiritual stronghold preventing your friends from knowing Him.

Heavenly Father, please clear away the fog of unbelief from the mind of [my friends/loved ones]. Penetrate the walls of doubt and denial they have raised against You. May the truth of the gospel, proclaimed in the power of Your Spirit, destroy the lies of the enemy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Connie Hancock

Day 8 | Demonstrating the Gospel through Deeds

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

– Matthew 5:16

There is a story often told about a preacher who noticed a young boy shivering on a street corner. Instead of handing him a gospel tract and walking away, the man took the boy into a nearby shop, bought him a new coat and a warm meal, and sat with him. As they finished, the boy looked up and asked, “Are you God?” The preacher smiled and said, “No, I’m just one of His children.” The boy replied, “I knew you must be related.” The coat did not save the boy’s soul, but it made the message of God’s love *visible*. It turned an abstract concept into something the boy could feel on his skin and taste in his mouth.

We often worry about having the perfect words ready when it comes time to talk about the gospel. But Jesus calls us to live in a way that lets His light be seen before it is explained. Good works are the glow of the gospel. When we serve others in simple, practical ways, we make the love of Christ visible in everyday life. Our kindness does not replace the message, but it does make the message believable. In many ways, our actions are the platform on which our words perform. People may question what we believe, but it is difficult to dismiss a life that consistently reflects quiet, faithful love.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for opportunities to show the gospel to your friends through deeds that have an evangelistic effect.

Lord, help me to live out what I say I believe. Help me not to turn my faith on and off, but to live every moment as one who is saved and grateful. When You give me the opportunity to speak to [my friends/loved ones], let it be an overflow of Your truth in my life, rather than a forced performance. May my actions today make the gospel believable to them. In Christ’s name, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Ben Payne

Day 9 | The Invitation to Christ's Rest

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” – Matthew 11:28-30

We often see a yoke as a symbol of burden, but in the first century, it was actually a tool for partnership. It was placed across two animals so they could carry a load together, often pairing a younger animal with one that was stronger and more experienced. The younger animal didn't have to figure out the path. It simply had to learn the pace and direction of the one leading. When Jesus invites the weary to take His yoke, He is not adding weight to their lives. He is offering to come alongside them under the burden. He sets the pace. He carries what they cannot. His invitation is not to strive harder, but to walk closely with Him and finally find rest for their souls.

Many of our unsaved friends are simply tired. They are worn down by the constant pressure to prove their worth, manage their image, or chase satisfaction in things that will not truly last. They do not need another lecture or another demand placed on their shoulders. They need rest. Too often, they assume Christianity is just another set of expectations that will add to their exhaustion. But the gospel does the opposite. In Christ, the burden becomes lighter, not heavier. Today, pray that your friends would sense the weight of their striving, feel the gentle invitation of Jesus to come to Him, and finally find true rest in His grace.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that your friends would hear and respond to Christ's invitation to find true rest for their souls.

Father, I ask that You would help [my friends/loved ones] see that a performance-based life only leads to exhaustion. Help them realize their pursuits will never satisfy their hearts, no matter what they achieve. Open their eyes to the beauty of Christ, so they might find rest in Him, knowing He has already accomplished everything You require. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Brad Cunningham

Day 10 | Finding Common Ground for the Gospel

To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

– 1 Corinthians 9:22-23

Pastor Eber, who leads LHC's Español campus, has used English as a Second Language classes to build bridges with people in the community. As a Venezuelan, he tells the story of sitting at a table with a Japanese woman and an Iranian couple. Though none of them shared a native tongue, they found common ground in learning English together. Eber used the Gospel of John as their practice text when reading aloud. He recounts one particular evening as they read from Scripture, they began to realize with wonder and excitement that the English sentences they were reading were actually describing the Creator of the universe. The language they were struggling to learn became the very vehicle that delivered the hope of Jesus to their hearts.

We often think we need to be theological experts to share the gospel, but Paul shows us that evangelism usually starts with a shared interest. Whether it is a class, a hobby, or a neighborhood project, common ground is the soil where the gospel is planted. Pastor Eber didn't start with a sermon. He started by helping neighbors solve the practical problem of learning to speak English. By meeting them where they were, he earned the right to be heard. Your shared interests are not accidents. They are divinely appointed opportunities to bring the light of Christ into your circle of friends.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for wisdom to find common ground with your unsaved friends so that you might win them to Christ.

Jesus, help me to love [my friends/loved ones] right where they are. Give me wisdom to find common interests that will bridge the gap between our lives and grant me the opportunity to share the hope that only You can offer. Allow them to see how You have blessed me and come to know that same grace for themselves. For Your glory, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Michael Callahan

Day 11 | Boldness in Proclaiming the Mystery

And also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel. – Ephesians 6:19

Penn Jillette, a famous magician and well-known atheist, once recounted a man approaching him after a show to give him a New Testament. The man was polite but insistent on sharing the gospel, even knowing Penn's views. Remarkably, Penn responded with respect rather than anger. He later explained that if you truly believe a truck is about to crash into someone, you don't stay silent just to avoid an awkward conversation. He noted that he has little respect for those who claim to believe the gospel but never share it. He admired the fact that this stranger cared enough to risk a harsh reaction to share what he believed was the key to avoiding an eternity apart from Christ.

Biblical boldness is not about being intellectually superior or having an answer for every hard question. In the book of Acts, Peter and John were seen as "unlearned" (Acts 4:13), yet their confidence made the authorities marvel. Their boldness came from one place—they had been with Jesus. Like the man who approached Penn, our job is not to win a debate but to act on the conviction that the gospel is a matter of life and death. When we realize that sharing Christ is the ultimate act of love, our fear of social awkwardness begins to fade. Real boldness flows from the inward reality that God lives within us.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for boldness as you look for opportunities to speak the gospel to your unbelieving friends.

Lord, I confess that I often lack boldness. I am much more comfortable demonstrating the gospel through my life than declaring it with my words. I ask that You grow my conviction that courage comes from communion with You—that true boldness is the overflow of abiding. Forgive me for excusing my silence as a personality trait and help me to find my strength in You as I look to proclaim the mystery of the gospel to [my friends/loved ones]. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Brad Cunningham

Day 12 | Praying for Other Believers to Cross Paths

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.

– 1 Corinthians 3:6

Ed Stetzer, a well-known missiologist and leader at Biola University, once shared a poignant shift in his prayer life for his father. For years, Stetzer had been the one planting gospel seeds in his father's life, but eventually his words began to fall on deaf ears. The familiarity of their relationship had created a barrier. Recognizing this, he stopped praying for more opportunities for *himself* to speak and started asking God to bring *other* godly voices into his father's life—people his dad might actually listen to. He realized that for the seed to grow, he had to trust the “Apollos” figures God might send to do the watering.

It takes a great deal of humility to accept that we might not be the person God uses to bring our friends to faith. Sometimes our history with someone makes it difficult for them to see us as a spiritual voice in their life. When you hit that wall, do not stop praying. Simply change the request. Ask for divine intersections where your friends encounter the truth from a new colleague or even a stranger. Sometimes hearing the same message from a fresh perspective is what causes a heart to soften. You are part of a larger team, and God has an entire body of believers ready to back you up.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that other believers would cross paths with your friends today to plant or water seeds of truth.

Father, with a humble and trusting heart, I lift up [my friends/loved ones] to You. If my voice has become too familiar, please bring other voices into their lives that they will truly listen to—men and women who will water those seeds with grace and love. Arrange divine intersections today and give the growth that only You can bring. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Eber Flores

Day 13 | Building Relationships to Declare the Gospel

How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? – Romans 10:14

In the late '90s, “servant evangelism” became a popular trend. Churches hosted big events to clean parks or hand out hot chocolate. Shortly after Liberty Heights Church moved to its Liberty Township property, church members handed out cold water bottles at a local supermarket on a hot summer day as part of an outreach event. Since the bottles had the church logo and directions to the new location, it would have been easy to treat that moment as “doing evangelism” and then move on. Several years ago, Pastor Titus Green (FBC Merritt Island, FL) visited LHC and challenged that mindset. He urged the church to remember that the purpose of *demonstrating* the gospel is to gain the opportunity to *declare* the gospel. Handing out water is a good thing, but if that demonstration is never followed by a declaration of the truth, it simply cools people off while they continue toward an eternity apart from Christ.

Acts of service are the preamble to the message of Jesus. They soften the soil and build the trust needed for someone to hear the message of the gospel. However, a relationship that consists only of good deeds is incomplete. Paul’s logic in Romans 10 is clear: people cannot believe in a Savior they have never heard of. The goal in building relationships is not just to be a good neighbor, but to become a bridge. Service opens the door to speak the truth. Today, look at the people you are serving and ask yourself if you are truly looking for an opportunity to declare the hope that lies within you.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for deeper relationships and specific opportunities to declare the truth of the gospel to your friends.

Jesus, I ask for humility to serve [my friends/loved ones] as You have served me. But I also ask for boldness to declare the truths about love, sin, and forgiveness. Give me opportunities to share the gospel and help me be sensitive to those moments. Thank you, Lord. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Austin McCoy

Day 14 | Petitioning the Lord of the Harvest

“Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” – Matthew 9:38

LHC’s Executive Director of Next Steps, Pastor Jeff, tells of growing up on a farm where harvest was always his favorite season. During that time, quiet fields suddenly became freeways of activity. But as thrilling as the harvest season was, the work did not start there. It began months earlier with planting, tending, and waiting. All through late spring and summer, anticipation built as people speculated about whether it would be a good year. In Matthew 9, Jesus used this harvest imagery to describe the spiritual condition of the people around Him. He looked out at the crowds and had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He saw that the harvest was plentiful, but He also saw a glaring problem: there were not enough laborers willing to do the work of gathering.

In response to what He saw, Jesus called His disciples to pray. He did not tell the disciples to work harder. Instead, He told them to pray for more workers to enter the field. We often assume that the people in our lives are still in a season of preparation or that the soil is not yet ready. However, Jesus suggests that the harvest is often more plentiful than we realize. The problem is not God’s work in the field. The problem is the lack of laborers to gather what is ready. Today, as you pray for your friends, ask the Lord of the harvest to send people into their lives. Pray that God would use you, or someone else, to reap what He has been growing in their hearts for years.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send the perfect laborers into the lives of your unsaved friends.

Dear Lord, bring godly believers into the life of [my friends/loved ones] who will model the love of Jesus to them. Lord, I cannot sincerely pray for their salvation without placing myself at Your disposal to be one of the people who witnesses to them. I am available. Send me to be a worker in the harvest. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Connie Hancock

Day 15 | Faithfulness and Persistence in Prayer

“Because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.” – Luke 18:5

A member of Liberty Heights Church shares that she first met Christ through a church bus ministry. As she grew into adulthood, she developed a heavy burden for her mother, Shirley, and began to pray for her salvation. This was not a short-term request. She prayed for over thirty-five years. About ten years ago, she invited the church to join her in prayer, and Shirley’s name remained on the church’s prayer list for years. Recently, Shirley’s health declined, and she was placed under hospice care. Not long after, her daughter approached one of the pastors before a service and asked him to pray for her mother following a series of strokes. Moments later, the pastor was so burdened that he also prayed for Shirley from the stage. Not long after, a hospice chaplain called to share incredible news. At nearly ninety years old, Shirley had finally accepted Christ.

It is easy to stay motivated in prayer for a week or even a month, but it is much harder when God seems silent for decades. Jesus told the story of the persistent widow specifically so that we would not lose heart in such situations. Prayers answered after decades of waiting teach us that a no today is not a no forever. Your persistence is not pestering God. Instead, persistence shows that you truly believe He is the only One who can change a heart. If you are tempted to take a name off your list because it has been too long, let Shirley’s story encourage you to keep praying. Even after decades of waiting, God is still in the business of bringing people home.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for the spiritual stamina to keep praying for your friends, especially if you have been tempted to give up.

Father, continue to draw me back to dependent prayer even when hope seems lost. Remind me of Your faithfulness when prayers feel unanswered, and give me stamina to continue praying for [my friends/loved ones]. You are the only hope I have for their salvation. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Austin McCoy

Day 16 | Resting in God's Patience and Mercy

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. – 2 Peter 3:9

“How long?” These two words echo throughout the prayers of lament in Scripture, yet the waiting they represent is deeply unwelcome in our world of instant gratification. They capture the universal cry of human longing. We ask how long until the Lord returns to set things right, or how long someone we love will continue to run from Him. It is easy to mistake the patience of God for slowness. We often forget that He desires the repentance of those we are praying for even more than we do. But when His timing feels like inaction, we can be tempted to run ahead of Him and force results in our own strength.

There is a unique beauty that emerges as we become familiar with the rhythms of a God who is never slow, but always patient. A deep peace begins to overwhelm us as we realize that God is working in ways we cannot see and in places we cannot access. He desires a restored relationship with the people on our prayer lists far more than we ever could. When we understand this central theme of Scripture, we can stop striving and start resting in the redemptive faithfulness of our patient God. His apparent delay is not a sign of His absence. It is proof of His mercy, giving those we love every opportunity to turn toward home.

Prayer Prompt: Thank God for His patience and mercy; pray that your friends reach repentance before it's too late.

Father, as my trust in You grows, teach me to step with You. Give me the faith to rest in Your activity on behalf of [my friends/loved ones]. May my words flow from the quiet slowness of time spent with You, rather than the anxiety of racing toward what seems unfinished. Set the rhythm of my life to the tune of Your patient and faithful love. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Jeff Haynes

Day 17 | Developing a Deep Burden for Souls

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. – Romans 10:1

LHC's Executive Director of Administration, Pastor Chris, had a roommate in college who was a first-generation Christian. He was studying criminal justice, but even then, there was a clear sense that God was stirring something deeper in his life. Much of that burden came from his desire to see his unsaved family members come to know Christ. Despite graduating with a degree in criminal justice, God led him into full-time ministry. He has served in evangelism roles in several large churches and now pastors in Atlanta, but what has always stood out is not his title. It is his heart. Recently, he shared a photo holding his newborn grandson. Instead of the expected words of how proud he was, his caption was simple: "Meet Baron. I can't wait to tell him about Jesus."

A true burden for souls is not something we manufacture. It is something God grows in us. For this former roommate, it does not matter whether he is with family, a congregation, or even holding a newborn. His heart naturally turns toward the gospel because his affections have been shaped by God's heart. This is what we see in Romans 10. Paul does not speak out of obligation but out of deep longing. When we view people through the lens of eternity, evangelism stops feeling like a task and begins flowing from love. We no longer simply hope people improve their lives. Like this new grandfather looking at his legacy, our greatest desire becomes wanting them to know Christ.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would give you a deep, heartfelt burden to plead for the souls of your unbelieving friends.

Dear Lord, would You please develop this deep burden for the souls of my unbelieving friends and family. Help me stop seeing evangelism as a duty but rather something that flows out of a divine longing to see [my friends/loved ones] be saved. Shape my heart and life in this direction. I pray this in the strong name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Chris Anderson

Day 18 | Letting Love Cast Out the Fear of Sharing

| *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.* – 1 John 4:18

Of all the words the writer John could have used to complete this verse, it is worth wondering why he chose “fear.” Why not use words like sin or evil? What is he telling us about the human heart? He is showing us that fear runs deeper than we realize. From Genesis onward, fear has been a persistent enemy of faith. Think about your own journey for a moment. What have you not accomplished because of fear? What have you not even attempted because of insecurity, anxiety, or worry? What good things in life has fear kept you from stepping into? In God’s economy, it is not actually human courage that casts out fear. What truly displaces fear is the deep, settled knowledge that we are perfectly loved as God’s children in spite of our imperfections. As we receive more of God’s love and, in turn, offer more of His love to others, fear begins to recede one moment at a time.

The challenge for all of us is to reframe our lives in light of the perfect love of the Father. When we are afraid to share the gospel, we are usually focused on ourselves. We worry about being rejected, looking foolish, or losing a friendship. But as we learn to live in our “belovedness,” self-focused fear begins to fade. Our capacity for sharing increases because we are no longer protecting our own reputation. Our lives overflow with the love we have received. Love is the only thing big enough to crowd out the fear of what people might think. When you look at your friends today, try to see them through the lens of God’s love rather than your own anxiety.

| **Prayer Prompt:** Pray that God grows your love for your friends until it crowds out any fear of sharing the gospel.

Heavenly Father, root me deeply in Your perfect love. Free me from the fear of rejection, failure, or looking foolish as I follow You. Let Your love flow through me and help me to love others more than my reputation. Embolden me to share this love with [my friends/loved ones] so they can experience salvation in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Michael Callahan

Day 19 | Praying for Open Doors for the Word

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison. – Colossians 4:3

A member of our church is a prolific card sender. Her husband often finds her searching her phone for the perfect Bible verses to include in her cards because she is never content to simply sign her name. For years, she sent these personalized notes to her brother-in-law, a good man who was never antagonistic toward God, but simply indifferent to the gospel. Despite the silence, she continued sending postcards and notes, often wondering if she was offending him or if her words were even landing. Recently, he passed away at age seventy-nine. While he was in hospice, she learned that a nurse had been reading her cards to him, and he often cried as he listened. Two weeks before his death, those years of faithful sowing culminated with his son-in-law finally leading him to faith in Christ.

When Paul asks for an “open door,” he is acknowledging that we cannot force our way into someone’s heart. We are dependent on God to create the opportunity. We often mistake our friends’ lack of interest for a dead end, but an open door may be a mailbox, a carefully researched verse, or the voice of a family member at a bedside. God is often working behind the scenes in hearts long before we see any outward response. Our job is to keep our pens moving and our prayers lifted so that when God finally opens a door, the truth is already there waiting to be received.

Prayer Prompt: Pray that God would open a door for the Word today, allowing you to clearly share the mystery of Christ.

Heavenly Father, thank You for the testimony of those who relentlessly look for open doors to declare the gospel. Lord, give me divinely appointed opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with [my friends/loved ones] and open their minds to understand the mystery of the gospel. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Chris Anderson

Day 20 | Filled with the Spirit for Boldness

And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. – Acts 4:31

Where does boldness come from, and what forms it within us? A working definition of boldness is the courage to act or speak fearlessly, despite real or imagined dangers. But Christian boldness adds a few key attributes. In the book of Acts, we see believers walk into environments with a message that is not popular, yet they deliver it with wisdom, discernment, and humility. When the disciples were detained and brought before the religious leaders, they were strictly charged to stop teaching in the name of Jesus. The leaders accused them of filling all of Jerusalem with their message. Peter and the apostles simply answered, “We must obey God rather than men.” Those words are the very foundation of boldness.

There are risks at the opposite end of boldness. Timidity, cowardice, and complicity are all risks because they often feel easier than speaking up. But there are also distortions of boldness that we have to watch out for, such as bullying, recklessness, or arrogance. True boldness is not about being the loudest person in the room. As we see in the early church, biblical boldness proceeds from a praying church that is unified and filled with the Spirit of God. It is a quiet confidence that comes from praying together combined with the empowering work of the Holy Spirit. When we are filled with His presence, we find the strength to choose obedience to God over the pressure to please people.

Prayer Prompt: Pray for a spirit of boldness that is marked by humility and a deep desire to obey God above all else.

Lord, empower me with the boldness that comes from communion with You and Your church. Fill me with the strength of Your Spirit as I pray for [my friends/loved ones]. May that boldness be shaped by Your strength and expressed through loving kindness. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Jeff Haynes

Day 21 | New Life through the Spirit

And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. – Ezekiel 36:27

Having just moved to the Cincinnati area, a pastor on our team admits to being navigationally challenged. With a new home in an unfamiliar community, he is completely reliant on GPS to get from point A to point B. He acknowledges that without a prompt to turn at the next light, he could easily end up in Dayton when his destination is Cincinnati. Recently, he missed a turn and ended up in a place with no room to turn around. He realizes that if he relies only on what he thinks he knows, he will get lost in this new city. Life is often the same way. Every day brings new challenges and changing terrain, and when we rely only on our own resources, we can quickly lose our way.

There is a beautiful promise in Scripture for anyone who has ever felt spiritually lost. God has placed His Spirit within His children to cause them to walk with Him in newness of life. One of the most powerful encounters after the resurrection takes place on the road to Emmaus, where the risen Jesus walked with two men whose eyes were opened and whose lives were transformed by His very presence. Jesus eventually ascended to heaven and sent His Spirit to live within His children, guiding them home through a world that is constantly shifting. As you pray for your friends today, ask God to open their eyes to the risen Christ and give them new life through faith so they too can be led by His Spirit.

Prayer Prompt: Plead with God today to draw your friends to faith in Christ and give them new life through His Spirit.

Father, on behalf of [my friends/loved ones], would You draw them to Yourself in such powerful and tangible ways that Your presence cannot be ignored. Lord, open their eyes to the reality that You have been relentlessly pursuing them since the very beginning, despite their sin. Soften their hearts to the reality of that kind of love pursuing them. Amen.

Prayer: Pastor Brad Cunningham

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RELENTLESS PURSUIT

21 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR THE LOST

Week 1

The Heart Transformation
Internal Work of the Spirit

Week 2

The Gospel Encounter
External Action

Week 3

The Persistent Intercessor
Faithful Endurance

This 21-day prayer guide is designed to align your heart with the Father's relentless pursuit of the lost through the power of persistent, intercessory prayer.



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