

DEVOTIONAL

# Hollywood Prayer Network

EXCELLENCE

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As Christians we want to be people of excellence. We should be doing everything as unto the Lord so that He is glorified through our work, our words and our actions. So, this week, let's strive to be excellent as Christians, brothers, sisters, parents, students, professionals, neighbors and friends. Ask the Lord to make you excellent in everything you do and say!

DAY 1

# DEVOTE YOURSELF TO EXCELLENCE

"THE SECRET OF LIVING A LIFE OF EXCELLENCE IS MERELY A MATTER OF THINKING THOUGHTS OF EXCELLENCE. REALLY, IT'S A MATTER OF PROGRAMING OUR MINDS WITH THE KIND OF INFORMATION THAT WILL SET US FREE."

-CHARLES SWINDOLL

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New International Version

Titus 3:5b-8

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

# DAY 1

**PRAY:** Heavenly Father, thank You that I am justified by Your grace and thank You for giving me Your Holy Spirit so that I can devote myself to doing what is good! I want to be excellent and profitable, for You, for myself and for everyone around me, and I know I can only do it through You, with the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Make me excellent! Amen.

**REFLECT:** What are the profitable things of God to which we should devote ourselves? Reflect on these things: The kindness and love of our God, His mercy and grace, our renewal by the Holy Spirit and the hope of eternal life. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone, so we must devote ourselves to learning this and then doing what is good. As you reflect on these eternally significant concepts know that your goal is EXCELLENCE!

**ACT:** Choose to act on the truths in Titus 3:5b-8 today because they are excellent and profitable for everyone: Share God's kindness and love to someone, show mercy to someone who has hurt you, share the hope of eternal life with someone, or ask the Holy Spirit to renew you. Whichever you choose, commit to that action, choose your words wisely, and know that it is making you a more excellent child of God!

DAY 2

# HIS DIVINE POWER MAKES US EXCELLENT

"ALL LABOR THAT UPLIFTS HUMANITY  
HAS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE AND  
SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH  
PAINSTAKING EXCELLENCE."  
-MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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New International Version

2 Peter 1:3-7

His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love.

# DAY 2

**PRAY:** Almighty God, Your divine power has given me everything I need to live a godly life. You allow me to participate in Your divine nature and to escape the corruption in the world. Add to my faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, and love between You and me, and between me and my brothers and sisters. I know that this will make me excellent in Your eyes. Amen!

**REFLECT:** These promises of God are both precious and overwhelming. Read through them again focusing on what He is offering us. Can you grasp the depth of His love for you, the miracles He offers you, and the transforming power He has given you? These qualities that Peter tells us to add to our faith is an almost impossible list of goals, but with God, NOTHING is impossible. How can you strive for excellence in all of these areas?

**ACT:** Pick one promise from this verse that will help you to become excellent. Don't try for them all at once. Just start with one. Do you want to be good? Do you want more knowledge? Self-control? Perseverance? Godliness? ... Whatever you choose, embrace it, pray about it, focus on it, and become excellent in it. You will be slowly transforming your mind and life. For His divine power has given you everything you need to become excellent!

DAY 3

# DON'T BE AFRAID; BE OF NOBLE CHARACTER

"WE SHOULD NOT JUDGE PEOPLE BY  
THEIR PEAK OF EXCELLENCE; BUT BY THE  
DISTANCE THEY HAVE TRAVELED FROM  
THE POINT WHERE THEY STARTED."  
-HENRY WARD BEECHER

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New International Version

Ruth 3:11

And now, my daughter, don't be afraid. I  
will do for you all you ask. All the people of  
my town know that you are a woman of  
noble character.

# DAY 3

**PRAY:** Dear Lord, please help me to not be afraid. Thank You that You want to do for me all that I ask, according to Your will. May You help me to do whatever You ask? I want to be known as a person of noble character and I want to be excellent in everything I do. So, please Lord, make me all that You've created me to be, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**REFLECT:** While reading the Bible, don't let pronouns or gender labels stop you from getting the message of what the Lord is offering us. These words by Boaz to Ruth are reflective of God's heart for us. He wants to give us the desires of our hearts and He wants us to be people of noble character. We just have to trust Him. Are there any changes you need to make in your life to become a person of noble character? Look deep into your heart and ask the Lord to reveal anything that would stop the people in your life from calling you a "woman or man of noble character." And know that having a noble character is excellent!

**ACT:** Do you know someone whom you would say is a woman or man of noble character? If so, why don't you call them today and tell them that based on your morning devotional you were reminded of them and their noble character and you want them to know that you have given them that label of excellence. You will make your friend or co-worker's day, and your selfless words to them will be eternally significant.

DAY 4

# PRAY FOR OTHERS TO BE WORTHY

“THE TEST OF THE ARTIST DOES NOT LIE IN  
THE WILL WITH WHICH HE GOES TO  
WORK, BUT IN THE EXCELLENCE OF THE  
WORK HE PRODUCES.”  
-THOMAS AQUINAS

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New International Version

2 Thessalonians 1:11

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.

# DAY 4

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, help me to pray for others the way Paul prays for his friends in Thessalonica. May You make me, my friends, and the creative professionals in Hollywood all worthy of Your calling, and that by Your power You may bring to fruition the desires of our heart for goodness. May our every deed be prompted by faith in You. Jesus, I so desire to be excellent in Your sight and I want the same for my friends, family members, and for Hollywood leaders who are impacting the world with their lives and work. Please make us all excellent and worthy of Your calling. Amen.

**REFLECT:** What does it mean to constantly pray for someone? Is there anyone you pray for constantly? That's a tremendous commitment. What do you think would change by praying constantly for the people in your life, or the people who influence your life? Probably their lives would change, and so would yours. Can you have a constant, ongoing conversation with your Savior be a life's goal? Since practice makes perfect, you will surely become excellent at praying and worthy of His calling.

# DAY 4

**ACT:** Who would be the one person whom you would like to be constantly praying for this week? Choose now and talk to God about that person as often as possible – as you start your day, during meetings and phone calls, lift up that person to Him. Is it a friend, a family member, your boss, or someone in Hollywood? Take time at lunch to pray and then again at dinner and before bed. And don't be afraid to choose someone you don't know. Maybe it's your favorite movie star, singer, or celebrity... They need your prayers too, and by praying, you are being a person of excellence and God is pleased.

DAY 5

# SERVE WITH EXCELLENCE

"IF YOU GIVE A GOOD IDEA TO A MEDIOCRE TEAM, THEY WILL SCREW IT UP. IF YOU GIVE A MEDIOCRE IDEA TO A BRILLIANT TEAM, THEY WILL EITHER FIX IT OR THROW IT AWAY AND COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER."

-ED CATMULL, CREATIVITY, INC.

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New International Version

1 Timothy 3:13

Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus.

# DAY 5

**PRAY:** Jesus, You are the ultimate servant. Would You please help me to serve well. I want to be in excellent standing with You and I want to have the great assurance in my faith in You, so I need You to help me to be a true servant in all I do. Help me to serve in my home, in the workplace, and with my friends. Would You make me an excellent servant leader, Jesus? Thank You. Amen and Amen.

**REFLECT:** Think about the concept that in serving others you can gain both an excellent standing in God's eyes, but also a great assurance of your faith in Jesus. Have you ever thought about how serving can be so profoundly connected to the heart of Jesus? Serving others is actually a fun way to grow in your faith. The power of a servant's heart can go far! Would people describe you as being a servant? Are you known as being selfless or selfish? How do you see yourself? Ask God to reveal your true self so that you can become more Christ-like.

**ACT:** Choose one person to serve today. Go out of your way to take the time to serve someone in a way you've never done before. Buy them lunch, help them at work, buy them coffee, fix their car, watch their kids.... Whatever it is, do it today, and then maybe go ahead and do it for someone else again tomorrow. Do you see any results? They will be blessed and you will be gaining an excellent standing and a great assurance of your faith in Jesus!

DAY 6

# YOU ARE THE MOST EXCELLENT

“PERFECTION IS NOT ATTAINABLE, BUT IF  
WE CHASE PERFECTION WE CAN CATCH  
EXCELLENCE.”

-VINCE LOMBARDI

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New International Version

Psalms 45:2

You are the most excellent of men and  
your lips have been anointed with grace,  
since God has blessed you forever.

# DAY 6

**PRAY:** Abba Father, I want You to think of me as “most excellent of men!” Would You anoint my lips with grace and bless me forever so that I will always be excellent in Your eyes. I need Your grace so that I can give grace to others, and I accept Your blessing so that I can be a blessing to others. I praise You for who You’ve made me, and who You’re helping me to become. Oh Father, the desire of my heart is to have You see me as excellent! Amen.

**REFLECT:** Again, don’t worry about this verse being just for men. In this Psalm it says, “You are the most excellent of men.” In the Ruth verse this week it says, “You are a woman of noble character.” In contemplating God’s word, know that He is speaking directly to you with everything he says. He wants all of us to be excellent and have a noble character. So, embrace God’s concepts, and do not get hung up on the unimportant things that can lead you off track. Today, think about being the “most excellent of people.”

**ACT:** Would you focus today on your words and ask the Lord to anoint your lips with grace. Ask God, who has blessed you forever, to make you aware of everything you say today and ask Him over and over to guide your thoughts and control your tongue so that you will bless Him and others all day long.

DAY 7

# FINALLY, THINK ABOUT THESE THINGS

“EXCELLENCE IS AN ART WON BY  
TRAINING. WE ARE WHAT WE  
REPEATEDLY DO.”

-ARISTOTLE

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New International Version

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true,  
whatever is noble, whatever is right,  
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,  
whatever is admirable--if anything is  
excellent or praiseworthy--think about  
such things.

# DAY 7

**PRAY:** Dear Lord, help me to think about only good things, excellent and pure thoughts, lovely ideas, admirable dreams and give me a heart full of praise. Lord, I want to please You and to be so full of You that everything I do, say and even think, is excellent. Thank You for transforming me into a vessel of excellence. I pray this in Jesus' name.

**REFLECT:** What percentage of your thought life is focused on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent or praiseworthy? What would it take to stop thinking negative thoughts, thoughts against people, comparing yourself to others, jealous thoughts, feelings of insecurity, fear, hurt and pain? And what do you need to do to replace those thoughts with joyful, life affirming thoughts? Remember that we can't always completely change the way we are, but we can always manage our thoughts, words, and actions. Think about that...

**ACT:** Write down a plan to change and/or manage your thought life, and then prayerfully give that list to the Lord. In order to live a life of excellence, what needs to change? List the habitual thoughts you're stuck on and plan a way to change those thoughts into something positive. And pray for help. Then put that plan in a place you see every day so that it will remind you to break the habit of negative thoughts and start a new habit of Christ-like thoughts of excellence. Changing your thoughts will change your whole life!