

DEVOTIONAL

# Hollywood Prayer Network

## FEAR

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Let's delve into a common, helpful, yet often horribly destructive, emotion – FEAR! It's never wise to make a decision out of fear, yet most of us waste hours, days, even years of our lives, immobilized by fear. So, now it's time to break the spirit of fear, and seek the Lord for deliverance, freedom and strength! You'll learn to push aside fear and be filled with the power of joy, peace, His unconditional love and freedom.

DAY 1

# GOD IS OUR LIGHT AND OUR STRONGHOLD

"WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, YOU'RE FORCED TO COME TO THE REALIZATION THAT DEATH IS OUT THERE. BUT I DON'T FEAR DEATH, I'M A FATALIST. I BELIEVE WHEN IT'S YOUR TIME, THAT'S IT. IT'S THE HAND YOU'RE DEALT."

-CLINT EASTWOOD

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Psalms 27:1

New International Version

The Lord is my light and my salvation  
whom shall I fear? The Lord is the  
stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be  
afraid?

# DAY 1

**PRAY:** Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You that You are my light and my salvation. Thank You that because You are in my life and I am Yours, I have nothing to fear! Thank You that You are my stronghold and I can depend on You whenever I struggle with fear. Would Your Holy Spirit fill me up new and fresh every day so that I am not afraid? In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**REFLECT:** What does it mean to say that God is our light and our salvation? Those are often "Christianese" terms that we say but don't really understand. What does it mean for Him to be a stronghold? Think of other strongholds in your life... they are all pretty powerful influences in our thoughts and choices. How do you allow the Lord to be your light, your salvation and your stronghold? If God were your only stronghold, then would you ever be afraid? What a goal to trust in the Lord so much that you are never afraid!

**ACT:** Make a list of everything that you are afraid of and that is controlling you or pulling your focus away from the Lord, or from a peaceful life. Are your fears good strongholds or hinderances? Are they healthy warnings to avoid danger or are they crippling bondages? Do the fears on your list draw you towards God and the light or away from Him? Our fears usually make us question God and His goodness and power. Do yours confirm and encourage your salvation? Pray over that list. Maybe it's time to make some changes...

DAY 2

# FEAR GOD AND BE WISE

"THERE'S TWO SORTS OF FEAR: ONE YOU  
EMBRACE AND ONE YOU SHOULD LISTEN TO  
AND TURN THE OTHER WAY."

-MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

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Proverbs 9:10

New International Version

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of  
wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One  
is understanding.

# DAY 2

**PRAY:** Lord, I want to have a healthy “fear” of You, an awe and respect that makes me wiser. I want to understand You, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so that I will be a wise Christian, not a fearful one. Please help me to understand how to have a wise, knowledgeable, and Christ-like fear of You that comes not from my own understanding, but from You, the Holy One. I need to clarify the difference between my human fear and fearing You so that I can be in awe of You and thus free from fearing man or anything on earth. Please help me to understand. Amen.

**REFLECT:** It’s confusing to think that we shouldn’t be afraid, but that we should fear the Lord. Fearing our gracious God is a difficult concept to grasp, yet it’s helpful to understand that the “fear of the Lord” is a healthy awe of God and His authority and power. He is our friend, and He is always with us, but He is also more powerful than we can ever understand, and therefore deserves our awe, honor and respect. He loves us so much that we never have to “be afraid” of Him, but we do need to “fear” and revere Him.

**ACT:** Stop right now and pray – ask the Lord to give you wisdom. God tells us that we get wisdom by asking Him for it. If we want to have a deeper fear of the Lord and more understanding of Him, then we must gain wisdom and knowledge – and that comes only by asking! Stop right now and pray – ask the Lord to give you wisdom and knowledge. God tells us that we get both by asking Him.

DAY 3

# GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH

"I WILL NOT FEAR, FOR YOU ARE EVER WITH  
ME, AND YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE ME TO FACE  
MY PERILS ALONE."

-THOMAS MERTON

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Psalms 46:1-3

New International Version

God is our refuge and strength, an  
ever-present help in trouble. Therefore  
we will not fear, though the earth give  
way and the mountains fall into the  
heart of the sea, though its waters roar  
and foam and the mountains quake  
with their surging. Selah.

# DAY 3

**PRAY:** Oh Lord, I know that You are my refuge and my strength, but I don't always feel that way. I know You are an ever-present help in times of trouble, but I forget that in the middle of adversity, and instead, depend on my own strength. Would You help me to keep my eyes on You so that I won't fear anything—from the earth giving way to any trouble that comes along? Let me stand firm when the mountains quake (especially during an earthquake), knowing that You are there for me and I do not need to fear. Amen. Selah!

**REFLECT:** What an awesome thought that we could actually go through life without experiencing any fear. That seems impossible and yet that's what God tells us. Do you consider God your refuge and your strength? Is He the first one you think of in times of trouble? How can you get to that place? Reading and memorizing scripture is usually the best way to have the Lord become the first thought on our minds. And then to talk about Him to others is also an important way to grow our faith. If we "confess with our mouths...."

# DAY 3

**ACT:** Think of the times you've been in a scary situation – whether it be a natural disaster like an earthquake, a tornado, or a terrible storm; or if it was because of a bad person like a robbery, a murder, or a fight. How did you handle it? Were you fearful? What was your first thought? Was it God? Who did you turn to first? Was His the first name you cried out? Commit to memorize Psalm 46:1-3 and you will find next time you're in trouble that God will be the first one on your mind. How great would that be?!

DAY 4

# FEAR NOTHING AND NO ONE

"REMEMBERING THAT I'LL BE DEAD SOON IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOL I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED TO HELP ME MAKE THE BIG CHOICES IN LIFE. BECAUSE ALMOST EVERYTHING — ALL EXTERNAL EXPECTATIONS, ALL PRIDE, ALL FEAR OF EMBARRASSMENT OR FAILURE — THESE THINGS JUST FALL AWAY IN THE FACE OF DEATH, LEAVING ONLY WHAT IS TRULY IMPORTANT."

-STEVE JOBS

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Mark 11:18

New International Version

The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

# DAY 4

**PRAY:** Dear God, remind me that people are afraid of You because You are SO powerful: You created the world, You teach radical ideas, You change people and You do miracles. Help me to remember that people killed You for being so life changing. Thank You for trusting me with the same truth that got You killed. Help me not to fear anything or anyone because I believe in You, the One who takes away all fear! Amen and Amen.

**REFLECT:** Are there people in your life who are afraid of God? Remember that Your God is scary to people because He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent. Have you thought that you might be afraid of things you don't understand? Could you be afraid of someone whom you think is evil because that person is very powerful or influential? Many Christians are afraid of Hollywood and they hate the people there, due to their fear of the influence and power of the media. Hollywood is the world's most influential marketplace, so we often fear it. Jesus shows us that fear is so powerful it can get us to the point of wanting to kill! Don't fear Hollywood. Be amazed at God, His teaching and all His children. Praise Him without fear!

# DAY 4

**ACT:** Choose one Christian you know who hates Hollywood. Ask them if it could be out of fear. Fear makes us believe lies, and because Hollywood is the world's most influential industry, there are Christians who are very afraid of it. Their fear has made them hate a place that they should be praying for. Will you tell that one Christian the truth about the negative power of fear, and that Mark 11:18 tells us that nothing, and no one, is too bad for the Lord to redeem. They might just be amazed at your teaching!

DAY 5

# GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU

"FEAR IS FAITH IN THE DEVIL."

-BILL JOHNSON

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Deuteronomy 31:8

New International Version

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

# DAY 5

**PRAY:** Lord, will You help me to understand how You go before me. And please help me to truly believe that You will never leave me or forsake me. I don't want to be afraid or discouraged, but often times I feel alone or confused, and I don't know how to feel Your presence. Oh Lord, help me to not be afraid of the unknown or discouraged by what seems impossible. I pray this in Jesus' Holy name. Amen.

**REFLECT:** How long has it been since you've been afraid of something or someone? When was the last time you were discouraged because a problem seemed insurmountable? When was the last time you actually felt God's presence in your life? Think about which emotions you feel more often: fear or peace, discouragement or comfort? Could fear be too much a part of your life? Remember the Lord promises to go before you, be with you and never leave you or forsake you. So, why are you afraid and discouraged?

**ACT:** Choose to face fear head on! Go to your best friend or spouse and ask them to hold you accountable so that every time you feel any level of fear you'll tell them and they'll pray for you or remind you that God is before you, behind you, with you and in you! There is nothing to be afraid of and no reason to be discouraged. Let them remind you that He will never leave you or forsake you—ever! This will help both of you to put God above every fear and His presence before any discouragement.

DAY 6

# DO NOT BE AFRAID

"MY TV SHOW HAD BEEN CANCELED;  
NOTHING ELSE HAD GONE ANYWHERE; SOME  
ALLIANCES I HAD MADE PETERED OUT AND  
NOTHING CAME OF THEM AND I WAS  
LOOKING AT A LONG, LONG YEAR AHEAD OF  
ME IN WHICH THERE WAS NO WORK ON THE  
HORIZON, THE PHONE WASN'T RINGING. I  
HAD TWO KIDS, ONE OF THEM A BRAND-NEW  
BABY, AND I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WOULD BE  
ABLE TO KEEP MY HOUSE." -TOM HANKS

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1 Peter 3:14-17

New International Version

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened." But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

# DAY 6

**PRAY:** Dear Jesus, What a freeing thought that we have nothing to fear as Believers. Help me be bold in sharing my faith without any fear of what others may think. Please help me remember that I should always be prepared to speak to pre-Christians with gentleness, respect and a clear conscience, I don't have to be ashamed, no matter what unkind words are said to me. Thank You for the promise that I need not fear what anyone thinks of me! Amen.

**REFLECT:** Often the people around us influence how we think and act. Living in Hollywood, we are around a lot of people who are full of fear, insecurity, and shame. So, we have to choose to spend time with God so that He is a greater influence on us than our co-workers and industry friends. Are your friends having a greater influence on you than the Lord? Do you fear what they fear? How can you be "in the world but not of it?" How can you choose to live in freedom from fear even though people around you are living in fear?

**ACT:** Pray for the Christians who live and work in influential businesses like Hollywood. The people in the entertainment industry, or any position of power, shape our culture, but many of them don't know the Lord and are full of fear, and worse yet, have no hope. Your prayers will make an eternal difference and open the door for the Lord to come in and take away their fear. It is vital to live differently than those around us and pray for the people who are living in fear – especially those who are impacting our culture and us!

DAY 7

# GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU

"TO WIN THE WAR AGAINST FEAR, WE MUST KNOW THE TRUE GOD AS HE IS REVEALED IN THE BIBLE. HE WORKS TO GIVE US LASTING PEACE. HE RECEIVES JOY, NOT FROM CONDEMNING US BUT IN RESCUING US FROM THE DEVIL. YES, THE LORD WILL BRING CONVICTION TO OUR HEARTS CONCERNING SIN, BUT IT IS SO HE CAN DELIVER US FROM SIN'S POWER AND CONSEQUENCES. IN ITS PLACE, THE LORD WORKS TO ESTABLISH HEALING, FORGIVENESS, AND PEACE.

-FRANCIS FRANGIPANE

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Isaiah 41:10

New International Version

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

# DAY 7

**PRAY:** Dear God, that is such a joyful passage from Isaiah. I thank You for strengthening me, helping me and holding me up. Thank You for the visual image of Your hand holding me up above my troubles, sin and pain. I ask that this image never leaves me so that I won't fear, but always think of You walking with me in good times, giving me strength, helping me, and holding me up with Your righteous right hand in hard times. Amen.

**REFLECT:** Wow, God is with you right now. He's ALWAYS with you and in you! There's nowhere you can go that He is not there also. And He is giving you strength, protecting you, and taking care of you with His own hand. There is nothing to fear! Ponder this: The God of the universe, who knows all and created all, is with you right now and is holding you up with His righteous right hand. Can you feel Him?

**ACT:** Write down Isaiah 41:10 on an index card, or a post-it note, and carry it with you today. Say it out loud a few times, then put it in a place where you will often look at it, so you are constantly reminded that God is with you every second of today, and there is nothing to be afraid of. Knowing that there is nowhere you can go without Him being with you should change how you act, what you say, and what you think about! Start writing!