

Day 6

Scripture: "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chronicles 16:29 KJV)

Key Thought: Holiness is intensely satisfying because it is the way of life for which we are designed. One thing! That really is what the life of holiness is all about. It is being utterly and completely reduced to one thing, and where holiness is concerned, that one thing is simply being completely given over to God for the purpose that He might manifest His character through us!

Prayer: Lord, open my spiritual eyes to see this central of all Your attributes! Help me to grow in the understanding that Your holiness is absolutely beautiful and that as I pursue You I will find myself more and more drinking at the fountain of eternal pleasures, which is the beauty of Your holiness. Help me to see holiness not first and foremost as a set of rules that You demand I live by; but rather, as the environment I was created to enjoy!

Day 7

Scripture: "I remember... how as a bride you loved Me... Israel was holy to the Lord." (Jeremiah 2:2-3)

Key Thought: God calls us holy from the very beginning – giving us from the start that sense of privilege that He has chosen us! In one sense, holiness is living out our chosen-ness; it is apprehending our status. Mature behavior comes not so much from our struggle to be good as it does from our exhilarating response to God's calling!

Prayer: All praise to You, Father God, who has summoned me to such a high calling! You have delivered me from the struggle to *be somebody* and have given me the ultimate place of significance – You have chosen me as one through whom You demonstrate Your greatness. Save me from my nearsightedness, for it is all too easy to view myself through the world's lenses as small and unimportant. Rescue me from the world's way of thinking which mercilessly prods me to assert my importance through what I accomplish. Instead, move me to constant rejoicing by reminding me that I've been set apart with the ultimate destiny – to let You be You in my world.

Day 8

Scripture: "This is the word of the Lord... 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.... Who despises the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:6, 10)

Key Thought: The magnitude of His might is most clearly demonstrated by what He does with little things; the little town of Bethlehem, an obscure manger, a small band of ordinary men. Going even further, if God's power is exhibited in what He can do with little, it is even more clearly revealed by what He can do with nothing. For out of nothing, He made the universe. If you've ever felt like nothing, rejoice! You are the perfect candidate through whom God can do a significant work in the world.

Prayer: I am filled with an ecstatic sense of praise for You, oh my great and wonderful God! As the prophet Isaiah declared: "*Your ways are higher than mine.*" Every day help me to see the little things of my life, even the little pestering irritants as opportunities to allow Your power to be fully demonstrated. By faith, I would not despise what seems to be of little use or importance either in my life or anyone else's. Teach me the wonder of Your ways, where weak is strong, small is great, losing is finding and dying is living!

Day 9

Scripture: "I am the Lord; that is My Name! I will not give My glory to another..." (Isaiah 42:8)

Key Thought: Every trace of life has its origin in God. He is the God of life, apart from whom there is nothing but nonexistence. If this is true, the only way life can flourish is by being connected to the source. God calls us to glorify Him not because He is egocentric, but because He knows that His life is the only life there is!

Prayer: Father God, may the central prayer of my life be that which Jesus prayed in John 12:18: "*Father, glorify Your Name.*" Save me from ever taking the credit, or usurping control, or touching the glory which only belongs to You. Let it be said of me that You received the maximum glory for everything in my life.

Day 10

Scripture: "... I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of His glory." (Isaiah 6:1-3)

Key Thought: We will have many losses, hurts and needs in this life. That is the nature of our life here beneath heaven. But the healing of our souls – the feeding, growth and maturity of our inner man will not come as we focus on our needs. Our greatest need is to abandon ourselves in worship... to cry out for a new glimpse of the one our souls long for. The God who heals the heart with His appearing, for in His marvelous, many-faceted Self lie the answers and comforts to all our needs.

Prayer: Dear Father – God of all Wonders! Heal my hurt, fill my need, and direct my steps with the visions of You! Teach me to know You, and make me ready to serve others for whom Your heart is aching. Yes, make me a vessel shaped by You containing only the truth about Your excellent virtues that fill the whole earth and heaven too. Heal my soul, Father, and make me ready to answer Your call. So when You need an obedient child to serve You here on earth, like Isaiah, I will hear Your call and say, "Here am I – send me!"

Day 11

Scripture: "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ..." (Philippians 3:8)

Key Thought: God directs me to consider my disappointments inconsequential compared to knowing Jesus. It's only natural that we will feel regret for those things that might have been. But what might have been doesn't matter any longer! That's freedom.

Prayer: How deserving of praise You are, Lord! Your children, of all people, have cause to rejoice – for our past never has to have power over us. I praise You for the greatness of Your redeeming love. And right now I bring to You all my failures and my successes. In view of Your greatness, I toss these things over my shoulder and come to You empty-handed. Fill me with the joy of knowing You, and with eager anticipation for my future, which You are even now designing. I want to press on to the prize. No

Key Thought: You and I cannot exhaust God's capacity and desire to give. We can impede it but not exhaust it. You may be weary from the struggle; or feel you've used up the currency of His forgiveness; or feel you have pounded on Heaven's door so long, desperately seeking understanding to an unsolvable problem, that you have become an unwelcome pest... and you feel you have come to the end of His storehouse of grace. Look again... and you will find a door that when you open it, will reveal a landscape of love and kindness you've never imagined.

Prayer: Lord, so many who do not know You think that You are a demanding, selfish God. So many think You are but a cosmic boss on a power trip. So many contest the idea that You are a God of love, feeling that You made us all just simply to be adored all the more. Help them and me to see that You are nothing of the kind! But that in fact, You are a God who always thinks of Himself last! In the light of such incredible selfless love, in the light of a God who gives beyond human comprehension – how can I not give You every fiber of myself in return?

Day 5

Scripture: "Will not the judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25)

Key Thought: God is perfect Father and Judge. He not only affirms us as His children, but tells us where we stand. What security! God as my Father summons my love; God as my Judge summons my trust.

Prayer: Lord, I embrace this revelation of You. So often I have run from it, thinking that Your role as Judge was intimidating and threatening. But now I see it as just one more expression of Your love which fosters within me a deep sense of security. Because You are my Judge, You are a compass to me as I navigate through life. Because You are my Judge, I never have to navigate in a fog not knowing exactly where I stand. Because You are my Judge, I can develop the kind of confidence that can face life's most trying assaults, and the Enemy's harshest attacks, with the jubilant bounce of faith!

Prayer: Lord, bring me to a place where I can truly enjoy You. Grant me a heart that longs to know You, the kind of heart that King David had when he pined for Your presence in the desert – “Your love is better than life” (Psalm 63:3). I know I may rush about looking for all kinds of things to satisfy my deepest yearnings... but I realize that at the end of the day, all I really need is You.

Day 3

Scripture: *“For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:17)*

Key Thought: By declaring us righteous, He removes all grounds for the Enemy to harass and accuse us, while at the same time bringing us into His presence for good. From that place of security, we can genuinely find victory over the sins that would destroy us.

Prayer: Guilt is such a paralyzing thing, Oh God. It keeps so many bound, imprisoned by the consequences of their own choices. I don’t minimize the consequences of my wrong choices nor shift the responsibility for my selfishness to others. Yet in all of this, You have declared me righteous precisely so that I would not be paralyzed by guilt! So many in the world have misunderstood You, thinking that You are a God who enjoys making them feel guilty. In fact, You are the God of grace who has forever resolved the guilt issue, if we but receive Your gift of life through Jesus! Far from ignoring my culpability, I realize only too well how guilty I am. But grace upon grace, You have declared me righteous! I won’t fully try to understand it, but I will take it by faith knowing that the walk of faith starts precisely here – to believe what You have said about me, that I am truly righteous in Jesus Christ!

Day 4

Scripture: *“Will He not... graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)*

matter what has gone on before, I am not disqualified in the race...therefore; I take hold of Your promises anew. Confidently, I look toward a future of walking hand in hand with You, doing whatever You ask me to do.

Day 12

Scripture: *“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13)*

Key Thought: As a true believer in the Lord Jesus, I must confess that God is greater than my fear, greater than my resentment. Therefore, I will praise Him and I will rejoice. If I cannot do that, then it is an admission that God isn’t as great as my anger, my fear or my regret. God is either greater or He is not – and, I must now make that decision.

Prayer: Lord, I confess my tendency to give in to my emotions. In this moment I accept Your challenge and I believe You, Lord Jesus, are more powerful than my anger, anxiety, envy, sadness or depression. While I cannot deny the reality of my emotions, I refuse to let them dominate me. It doesn’t matter whether the emotions remain or not – what matters is that You are Lord. I know that in time my emotions will come under Your control and I will know joy and peace. Not only that, but I will receive wisdom to address the issues that provoke negative emotions. And in this way I can truly overcome.

Day 13

Scripture: *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know not what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)*

Key Thought: It is one thing to forgive those who realize they have done wrong – or to forgive those who are so clearly in the wrong that we feel vindicated even if they don’t repent. But those who hurt us and feel they are right, or those who hurt us and never know they did – forgiving those people is hard! But if we want to travel on the walk of the Cross, we must forgive.

Prayer: Help me keep my eyes on the fact that You have forgiven me. For when I see how much I’ve been forgiven, it’s easier to forgive those who have hurt me. But sometimes, Lord, the wounds go deep. And no matter how hard I try, forgiving those who have

hurt me that deeply is not easy. In those times, help me remember that You are my Father and that You understand. Even when it's hard for me to forgive, You stick with me until I get it right. Thank You that You call me to seek You all the more – until my love for You and my desire to please You is greater than my need to hold on to any unforgiveness. For when I know I'm loved by You, there is no one, no matter how they have hurt me that I cannot forgive.

Day 14

Scripture: *"He shall give you another comforter...the Holy Spirit."*
(John 14:16, 26 KJV)

Key Thought: Testing and hardships are God's way of embracing us, not just molding us. It is God's method of unshackling our hearts from a world that leaves us isolated, insecure and broken.

Prayer: Lord, I am amazed by Your ways. As I reflect on the difficult seasons in my life, I remember the many times Your strength was there for me, Your grace held me and Your love was my only sure fire refuge. Looking back, I can see You are building in me an unconquerable faith, an undaunted spirit and an unquenchable desire to know You. Thank you, Father, that You've given me a place by You where I can stand!

Day 15

Scripture: *"Then Moses said to [the Lord], 'If Your presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here!'"* (Exodus 33:15)

Key Thought: Many of us are satisfied with only God's promises. Nothing is as potentially destructive as blessing apart from the presence of God. Only a hunger for His presence can sustain us beyond blessing. Apart from His presence, blessing can blind us to our deeper need and ultimately corrode our hearts.

Prayer: Thank you, Lord that You promised never to leave or forsake me. But sometimes I can't feel Your presence. Teach me to be sensitive to You. Show me the little things I can weed out of my daily schedule to make room for private moments with You. Teach me to patiently reflect on Scripture. Help me sing songs of praise to You, and turn daily irritations into opportunities of prayer.

A Prayer Journal For The Heart's Cleansing

Day 1

Scripture: *"Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come."* (Revelation 4:8)

Key Thought: These creatures have never ceased to praise Him. How can they possess that capacity? Every revelation of God makes them shout "Holy" all the more – which moves God to reveal even more of Himself... And this has been going on for millennia, this amazing interplay of worship and revelation.

Prayer: Lord, my heart not always sings out in praise, for it is often choked by disappointment. My heart is not always tender to Your overtures of love because it is often hardened by angers big and small. My heart is not always turned towards You – for I fear that to really embrace You is to see not Your glory but my destitution. Oh God, restore to me the joy of knowing You. I open my heart to You now. Create in me a hunger for You like I've never known – so that my heart can sing, can listen, can embrace You once again.

Day 2

Scripture: *"Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent"* (John 17:3)

Key Thought: Only when we can set aside our fears, our resentments, and even our fatigue, and strive to know Him – not to get answers, nor to meet our needs, nor to receive strength, but seek Him simply for the wonder of who He is – will we suddenly find our fears, our anger, and our weariness overcome by the deluge of joy that comes from discovering God.