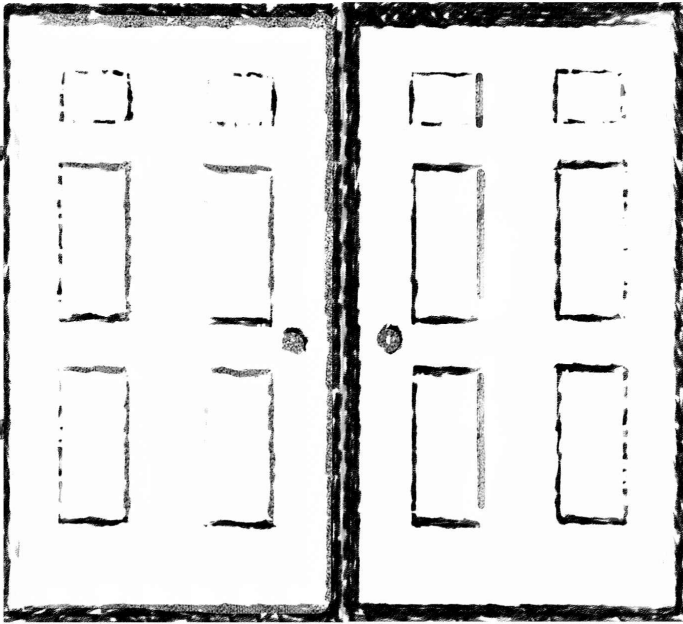




Opening doors to endless opportunities through Jesus Christ

PRAYER JOURNAL



“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in...”

Revelation 3:20 NIV

Open the door and invite Him in.

Let us join together in prayer through scripture and invite God to speak to us about our individual relationship with Him and the world around us. Read the scriptures below at your own pace and use the journal lines to reflect on how God is speaking to you through them. Let each of us hear how He is calling us to serve His people with our time, talents, and gifts.



Pray. Prepare your heart
to be open to His guidance.

Isaiah 48:17 NIV *“This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: ‘I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.’”*

James 1:1-5 NIV *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

Romans 10:17 ESV *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”*

Proverbs 3:5 NIV *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.”*



Let the scriptures speak
to you about what God is
calling all Christians to do.

Great Commission

Matthew 28: 18-20 NIV “¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

John 13:34 ESV “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

Reflect on what we have done so far individually and as a congregation to further His kingdom and accomplish His goals.

Matthew 25:35-40 NIV “³⁵ ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”



Recognize that we must
continue to move forward and
not rest on our past
accomplishments.

2 Corinthians 8:10-11 NIV ¹⁰ *And here is my judgment about what is best for you in this matter. Last year you were the first not only to give but also to have the desire to do so. ¹¹ Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.*

Luke 14:12-14 ESV ¹² *He said also to the man who had invited him, 'When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.'*

Phillipians 1:6 NIV *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

James 1:22 ESV *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*



Ask Him to reveal how He will open future doors of ministry for this congregation. The future direction must come from Him. Meditate and call on Him to direct your path into service and giving.

Proverbs 16:3 ESV *Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

Psalms 127:1 NIV *Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain.*



Embrace the Knowledge that all we have comes from God; from wealth to the resources of time, gifts and talent.

Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV *“Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”*

1 Corinthians 2:12 ESV *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*

I Chronicles 29:11-13 NIV *“¹¹ Yours, LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. ¹² Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. ¹³ Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.”*



Pray that your heart will be open
to accepting the responsibility
of acting as God's steward
(someone who invests and manages
property or resources for someone else)

In defining the Wesleyan Perspective on Stewardship, see quotes below* from Methodism founder, John Wesley's, sermon entitled "The Use of Money" (from the 1872 edition - Thomas Jackson, editor)

John Wesley exhorted his parishioners to "gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can" because "all that we have is given us by God, and since we have been entrusted with these possessions, we are responsible to use them in ways that bring Him glory."

Gain all you can *Gain all you can, by common sense, by using in your business all the understanding, which God has given you. You should be continually learning, from the experience of others, or from your own experience, reading, and reflection, to do everything you have to do better to-day than you did yesterday. And see that you practice whatever you learn, that you may make the best of all that is in your hands.

I Timothy 6:17-19 NIV ¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”

Save all you can *Having gained all you can, by honest wisdom and unwearied diligence, the second rule of Christian prudence is, “Save all you can.” Do not throw the precious talent into the sea: Leave that folly to heathen philosophers. Do not throw it away in idle expenses, which is just the same as throwing it into the sea. Expend no part of it merely to gratify the desire of the flesh, the desire of the eye, or the pride of life.

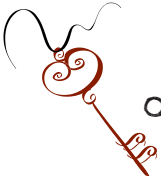
1 Timothy 6:6-11 NIV “⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷ For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹ Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. **Final Charge to Timothy** ¹¹ But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.”

Luke 16:10-13 NIV “¹⁰ Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. ¹¹ So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? ¹² And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? ¹³ No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

Give all you can *But let not any man imagine that he has done anything, barely by going thus far, by “gaining and saving all he can,” if he were to stop here. All this is nothing, if a man go not forward, if he does not point all this at a farther end. Having, First, gained all you can, and, Secondly saved all you can, Then “give all you can.” . . . when the Possessor of heaven and earth brought you into being, and placed you in this world, he placed you here not as a proprietor, but a steward:As such he entrusted you, for a season, with goods of various kinds; but the sole property of these still rests in him, nor can be alienated from him. If you desire to be a faithful and a wise steward, out of that portion of your Lord’s goods which he has for the present lodged in your hands, but with the right of resuming whenever it pleases him, First, provide things needful for yourself; food to eat, raiment to put on, whatever nature moderately requires for preserving the body in health and strength. Secondly, provide these for your wife, your children, your servants, or any others who pertain to your household. If when this is done there be an overplus left, then “do good to them that are of the household of faith.” If there be an overplus still, “as you have opportunity, do good unto all men.” In so doing, you give all you can; nay, in a sound sense, all you have: For all that is laid out in this manner is really given to God. You “render unto God the things that are God’s,” not only by what you give to the poor, but also by that which you expend in providing things needful for yourself and your household.

1 Peter 4:10 NIV “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

2 Samuel 24:24 NIV “I will not sacrifice to the Lord that which costs me nothing.”



Ask for guidance in living out
of your love of Jesus and your
gratitude for His sacrifices.

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

Galatians 2:20 NIV *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

Romans 12:2 NIV *“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

1 John 2:16 NIV *“For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world.”*

Matthew 6:21 NIV *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*



Pray to Him and hear how you are personally being called to apply your time, gifts and talents for His glory.

James 1:16-18 NIV 6 *“¹⁶ Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.”*

Proverbs 3:9-10 NIV *“⁹ Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; ¹⁰ then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 NIV *“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Deuteronomy 16:17 NIV *“Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”*



Commitment

Isaiah 6:8 NIV “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’”

Revelation 3:14-22 NIV Let us respond to His voice.

“¹⁴ Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation: ¹⁵ ‘I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! ¹⁷ You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. ²⁰ Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. ²¹ Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne. ²² Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”
