



DOVER DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotionals

On Sunday, we examined Jesus' warning against hypocritical and wordy prayers, which were spoken for show rather than from a sincere heart. We then studied the Lord's Prayer as a model, which taught us to honor God's name, submit to His will, trust in His provision, seek and extend forgiveness, and rely on His power to overcome temptation.

Monday: The Heart of True Prayer

Scripture Reading:

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” Matthew 6:5-6 (ESV)

Devotional:

Prayer is not about performance; it is about relationship. Jesus warns against the kind of prayer that is focused on impressing others rather than connecting with God. In His day, there were religious leaders who made a show of their prayers, positioning themselves where they would be noticed and admired. Their reward, Jesus says, was the approval of people not the presence of God.

But true prayer is a private surrender, not a public spectacle. Jesus invites us to go into our room and shut the door, not because public prayer is wrong, but because our motivation matters. When we pray in secret, we strip away the temptation to perform and instead focus on pouring out our hearts before our Father. Prayer is not about changing God; it is about being changed by Him.

When you pray, do you feel the need to use certain words or appear a certain way before others? Or do you pray with sincerity, knowing that God welcomes you just

as you are? Today, take time to pray privately. Go somewhere quiet, shut the door, and spend time with God. He sees you. He hears you. And He promises to meet you in that secret place.

Reflection Questions:

1. What is your motivation when you pray? Are you more concerned about how you sound or about connecting with God?
2. How does knowing that God sees and rewards private prayer encourage you?
3. What steps can you take to create a daily habit of personal, intimate prayer?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of prayer. Help me to come before You with sincerity, not seeking the approval of others but longing for Your presence. Teach me to pray with a heart that is honest, humble, and open to Your voice. Draw me into deeper communion with You, and may my prayers reflect my trust in You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Tuesday: Praying with Purpose, Not Empty Words

Scripture Reading:

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:7-8 (ESV)

Devotional:

Prayer is not about saying the right words or repeating a formula; it is about a heartfelt conversation with God. In Jesus' day, many people believed they had to use long, elaborate prayers to be heard. But Jesus reassures us that we don't have to persuade God to listen. He already knows what we need before we even speak.

This truth should bring us great comfort. We do not have to impress God with our vocabulary or convince Him to care. He is already attentive, loving, and ready to respond. This does not mean we should stop praying, but rather, we should pray with faith, knowing that God is listening. Prayer is not about informing God; it is about drawing near to Him.

If God already knows our needs, why do we pray? Because prayer changes us. It aligns our hearts with His will, strengthens our trust in Him, and reminds us of our dependence on His grace. Today, take time to pray honestly and simply. Speak to God as your loving Father, knowing that He hears you.

Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever felt pressure to pray in a certain way to be “heard” by God? How does today’s passage challenge that mindset?
2. How does knowing that God already knows your needs change the way you approach prayer?
3. What is one area of your life where you need to trust God’s provision today?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for knowing my needs before I even speak them. Help me to pray with confidence, not in my own words or effort, but in the assurance of Your love. Teach me to trust You more deeply and to seek You with a sincere heart. Align my desires with Your will and help me to rest in Your care. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Wednesday: Our Father in Heaven

Scripture Reading:

“Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” Matthew 6:9 (ESV)

Devotional:

Jesus begins His model prayer by addressing God as “Our Father.” This is an amazing truth. God is not just a distant ruler; He is a loving Father who invites us into a close, personal relationship with Him. At the same time, He is “in heaven,” reminding us of His majesty, power, and holiness.

To call God “Father” is an act of faith. It acknowledges our adoption into His family through Christ. But to hallow His name, to honor and revere Him, means that we come before Him with humility, recognizing His greatness. True prayer starts with worship, aligning our hearts with the truth of who God is.

As you pray today, begin by reflecting on God’s character. Thank Him for being both near and holy, both loving and sovereign. Let this understanding shape your prayers, leading you to trust in His perfect love and power.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does viewing God as both “Father” and “in heaven” impact your approach to prayer?
2. What are some ways you can “hallow” or honor God’s name in your daily life?
3. How does knowing you are God’s child change the way you see yourself and your relationship with Him?

Prayer:

Father, I praise You for who You are. You are loving and kind, yet holy and sovereign. Help me to come before You with both confidence and reverence. Teach me to trust You as my Father and to honor You in all that I do. May my life reflect Your glory. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thursday: Seeking God’s Kingdom First

Scripture Reading:

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10 (ESV)

Devotional:

Prayer is not just about bringing our requests to God; it is about surrendering to His will. Jesus teaches us to pray first for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done. This means desiring His rule and reign over every aspect of our lives, our communities, and our world.

Too often, we approach prayer with our own agendas, asking God to bless our plans. But Jesus calls us to pray differently, to align our desires with His greater purpose. This is a prayer of surrender, asking God to use us as instruments of His kingdom.

Today, take a moment to surrender your plans to God. Ask Him to shape your heart so that you long for His will above all else. Trust that His plans are far greater than anything you could imagine.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean for God’s kingdom to come in your life?
2. Are there any areas where you struggle to surrender to God’s will?

3. How can you live today in a way that reflects the values of God’s kingdom?

Prayer:

Father, I pray for Your kingdom to come and Your will to be done. Help me to seek Your plans above my own. Give me a heart that longs for Your glory and a life that reflects Your love. Use me to bring Your kingdom into my family, my workplace, and my community. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Friday: Trusting God for Daily Provision

Scripture Reading:

“Give us this day our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11 (ESV)

Devotional:

Jesus teaches us to pray for our daily needs, reminding us that God is our provider. This simple yet deeply meaningful request acknowledges our dependence on Him. In a world that values self-sufficiency, Jesus calls us to recognize that everything we have—our food, our finances, our health, and even our breath—ultimately comes from God.

When God provided manna for the Israelites in the wilderness, He gave them just enough for each day (Exodus 16:4). In the same way, Jesus teaches us to trust God daily, not storing up worry for tomorrow but relying on His faithfulness today. This prayer also reminds us to be content with what God provides, rather than always seeking more.

As you pray today, bring your needs before God with a heart of trust. Instead of worrying about the future, thank Him for His provision today. Remember that God is faithful to supply what you need—not always what you want, but exactly what is best for you.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to trust God for your “daily bread” in your life right now?
2. Are there any areas where you struggle to rely on God’s provision?
3. How can you cultivate gratitude for what God has already provided?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for being my provider. Help me to trust You for my daily needs and not be consumed by worry about the future. Teach me to rely on Your faithfulness and to be content with what You give. Strengthen my faith as I seek You first, knowing that You will provide all that I need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Saturday: The Power of Forgiveness

Scripture Reading:

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors... For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matthew 6:12, 14-15 (ESV)

Devotional:

Forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel. Jesus teaches us to pray for forgiveness, but He also makes it clear that we must extend that same forgiveness to others. This does not mean that forgiveness is easy, nor does it mean that we ignore the pain others have caused us. But it does mean choosing to let go of bitterness and trust God with justice.

When we remember how much we have been forgiven through Christ, we are empowered to forgive others. Jesus paid the ultimate price for our sins so that we could be reconciled to God. If we have received such grace, how can we withhold it from others? Unforgiveness only harms us, keeping us in bondage to anger and resentment.

Is there someone you need to forgive today? Take time to bring your heart before God. Ask Him to help you release any bitterness, and pray for the strength to extend grace, just as you have received it. Forgiveness is not always a one-time event—it is a daily surrender to God's mercy.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why do you think Jesus ties our forgiveness from God to our willingness to forgive others?
2. Is there someone in your life whom you need to forgive? What is holding you back?
3. How does remembering God's forgiveness toward you help you extend grace to others?

Prayer:

Father, thank You for the mercy You have shown me through Jesus Christ. Help me to walk in that same mercy and extend forgiveness to those who have hurt me. Give me the strength to release bitterness and trust You with justice. Let my heart be free from unforgiveness so that I can fully experience the joy of Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.