

# Day with the Lord

***A handbook  
for your  
personal retreat***

***Naya Jeevan*** a ministry of **cru<sup>+</sup>**

## Naya Jeevan Day with the Lord Handbook

### Purpose, Plans, and Resources

*"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you."* James 4:8

The Lord desires us to draw near to Him and enjoy His presence (Ps 73:25). Jesus set the example by taking time from His busy ministry to spend great lengths of time with His Heavenly Father (Lk 5:16, 17; 6:12; 9:28; 22:39-46; Jn 17). As the redeemed in Christ, we are to follow His example and spend time in devotion, praise, and honor to the Lord, as well as to petition on behalf of ourselves and others (Mt 6:9-13; 1 Ti 2; Ja 5:16).

Each year a new theme is chosen. You will find meditation material based on that theme on the next page.

Following that, you will find suggested plans for spending focused time with the Lord on your chosen *Day with the Lord*. There are plans for 2, 4, 6, and 8 hours. The plans are a guide. You may alter them as you see fit or use just the portions that appeal to you. Of course, you are not limited to 8 hours either. Regardless of which plan you use or even if you use your own, we strongly suggest that you use a journal or notebook during the time to jot down thoughts and to keep a record of your experience.

There are several internet references in the plans, so look at these prior to the Day and download what you may need for your time with the Lord.

While some prayer time can be done in a group, it is best to be alone for a good portion of your Day. Jesus spent much time in solitude to get closer to His Father. So should we. The goal is not just to pray to the Lord, read Scripture, and so forth, but to spend time listening to the Lord. That can only be done in a quiet place away from any distractions. Also, you may want to sing or to read or pray out loud and not be concerned about others hearing you. (Ps 9:1-2)

Following the Plans, you will find a list of additional ideas you may use in your own way in your Day. These are followed by Naya Jeevan prayer requests, and other valuable prayer resources.

## **2018 Day with the Lord Theme: God's Workmanship – Inviting God to Shape and Use Us**

Isaiah 64:8 "But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand."

The prophet Isaiah begins his intercessory prayer in chapter 46 by calling upon God to rend the heavens and intervene on behalf of His people. It's a cry for help! The motivation is clear – to make known God's name to the enemies of God and His people. Isaiah is asking for a demonstration of God's power for God's glory. He recalls God's glorious manifestations in the past that set Him apart as the only God who acts on behalf of the righteous. He then quickly transitions to a confession of national sin and rebellion as the cause of their ongoing misery and down-trodden state. He justifies God's righteous anger and acknowledges their utter helplessness and need for salvation. He admits the rampant apathy towards God and cedes that human righteousness cannot meet the demands of God's holy standards. It is with this backdrop, Isaiah makes an audacious plea. He asks to the Judge of all the earth to deal with His rebellious people on the grounds of His covenant relationship with them. He asks the Judge to now act like their Father. He then surrenders the nation as clay in the Potter's hand. He reminds God that they are His handiwork and petitions Him to relent from His anger and forgive His children's rebellion.

The dynamics in Jeremiah 18 are quite the opposite. It is God who initiates the conversation, sends the prophet for a visual demonstration to the potter's house and likens Himself to the Potter and His people to the clay in His hands. He sends a warning to the people of an impending disaster if the people reject His call to repentance.

Today through the Lord Jesus, we all are adopted into God's family. The blood of Christ has reconciled us to the Father and He continues to be our heavenly Intercessor. Now that our sins are forgiven and our punishment has been taken away, it is imperative that we recognize the call to display God's glory as His people, the worldwide body of Christ. With this call in mind, Paul writes to the church in Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

Since the beginning, God our Father has had one desire. To display His glory through His children - initially through national Israel (his chosen) and now through the church (his adopted). We are created for a purpose. We are created for His glory to be revealed through the works he has ordained for us to do. Let us consider through this Day with the Lord, how our good works can be seen and bring glory to our Father (Matthew 5:16). Have we allowed Him to shape us? Are we marred in His hands and need to be broken and reshaped? Is there a need to repent and rid ourselves of the sins that so easily weigh us down? Are we being used to do the works he created us for?

During this Day with the Lord, let us give time to the Holy Spirit to lead, teach, guide and prepare us. Let us invite God to shape and use us.

The Lord bless you!

## The 2 Hour Plan

NOTE: Times are approximate. If you find you are coming up short, spend more time meditating on any Scriptures cited and spend more time just being quiet and waiting on the Lord. Let the Spirit lead. If you feel you need longer time in an area or need to deviate, do so! Above all, enjoy your time with the Lord. It is meant to be a pleasant experience that you will desire to have more often, not a chore or just a duty.

Read and meditate on (spend time thinking about) each of the Scriptures cited in the steps below.

### Part I

45 mins

1. Start with a time of Adoration and Praise to the Lord. It is by the Lord's first step of grace that it is even possible for us to come before Him. (Ep 2:8, 9; Ro 5:8, 11) Remember, Jesus came into the world and freely laid down His life, to purify our hearts, thereby enabling us to come into the presence of Almighty God. (Jn 1:12,13; 3:16; Ro 5:8; 1 Ti 2:3,4; 1Jn 3:1,2; Mt 5:8; Ps 24) He IS an awesome God, Creator, Redeemer, Savior, Healer, with beauty beyond all imagination. There is no one like Him! (Is 46:5-13; Ps 103; 111; 145)

*Ps 100 <sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! <sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.*

2. Confess and Pray for forgiveness of sins, that you may have a clean heart and conscience before the Lord. (Ps 51; Is 59; 1 Pe 3:7b) Pray that the Lord opens your heart during this time. (Ps 139:23, 24)
3. Spend a time of Thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for you, your family, your church, etc.; especially for your salvation.
4. Spend time praying for South Asia, the world, your country, your church, Naya Jeevan, your family, your friends, your neighborhood, etc. See the Prayer Guides for South Asia and a list of Naya Jeevan prayer requests provided after the plan details.
5. Spend time (at least a few minutes – which might seem like a long time!) just being quiet listening to the Lord. Write down thoughts that come to mind.
6. Listen to some worship music or sing some songs from a hymnal. You could even have it playing softly in the background as you do some of your praying. (You might need to get some CDs or download mp3s ahead of time)

## Part II

7. Read: A Life Of Prayer By Andrew Murray: **10 mins**  
[http://img.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/article\\_pdf.php?aid=27941](http://img.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/article_pdf.php?aid=27941)
8. Pray through the following - look up the passage first and sit in silence for about a minute between each one: **20 mins**

The following are from:

<http://www.ncbaptist.org/fileadmin/ministries/prayer/resources/2013/pdfs/files/prayer-prompts-prayer-groups-booklet.pdf>

### JOHN 17:11-24

- Pray for believers to exemplify a Christ-like character before the world (vs. 11)
- Pray for divine protection from Satan (vs. 15)
- Pray that believers will live set apart and holy lives in Christ (vs. 17)
- Pray for Christians to be one in mission and purpose (vs. 20-21)
- Pray that believers will join Christ in His redemptive work and behold His glory (vs. 24)

### ACTS 4:23-33

- Unite together and praise God as Creator and sustainer of all things (vs. 23-26)
- Thank God for His providential and sovereign work of salvation in your life and in your world (vs. 27-28)
- Pray for Christian witnesses to have a holy boldness as they share their faith with the lost (vs. 29)
- Pray for Christ to validate His work of salvation with changed hearts and lives (vs. 30)
- Pray for Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit (vs. 31)
- Pray for a unified congregation where the focus is on powerful proclamation of the resurrected Christ (vs. 32-33)
- Pray for God to pour out His abundant grace upon your church today (vs. 33)

9. Pray for the Lord to reveal to you how He wants to use you for His kingdom? Ask Him and then think about what in your life may be preventing Him from using you in that way? Get serious with the Lord and spend time truly talking to Him and listening in your heart to what He has to say. **15 mins**
10. Sing another song to the Lord or pray a Psalm back **10 mins**

## Part III

11. Read Revelation 4 and 5. Think about what it will be like to be before the throne of the Almighty with people from every tribe, language, people, and nation there singing praises to the Lamb who was slain. **15 mins**
12. Close in a final prayer giving thanks for the experience. Pray for the Lord to continue to reveal to you things you pondered during the time. Pray again for the nations, and in particular S. Asia as well as your home nation. **5 mins**

**As soon as you have finished your Day with the Lord, fill in the feedback form and send it to [Nayajeevan@cru.org](mailto:Nayajeevan@cru.org).**

## The 4 Hour Plan

NOTE: Times are approximate. If you find you are coming up short, spend more time meditating on any Scriptures cited and spend more time just being quiet and waiting on the Lord. Let the Spirit lead. If you feel you need longer time in an area or need to deviate, do so! Above all, enjoy your time with the Lord. It is meant to be a pleasant experience that you will desire to have more often, not a chore or just a duty.

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### Part I

45 mins

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2. Confess and Pray for forgiveness of sins, that you may have a clean heart and conscience before the Lord. (Ps 51; Is 59; 1 Pe 3:7b) Pray that the Lord opens your heart during this time. (Ps 139:23, 24)
3. Spend a time of Thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for you, your family, your church, etc.; especially for your salvation.
4. Spend time praying for South Asia, the world, your country, your church, Naya Jeevan, your family, your friends, your neighborhood, etc. See the Prayer Guides for South Asia and a list of Naya Jeevan prayer requests provided after the plan details.
5. Spend time (at least a few minutes – which might seem like a long time!) just being quiet listening to the Lord. Write down thoughts that come to mind.
6. Listen to some worship music or sing some songs from a hymnal. You could even have it playing softly in the background as you do some of your praying. (You might need to get some CDs or download mp3s ahead of time)

### Part II

7. Read: A Life Of Prayer By Andrew Murray:  
[http://img.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/article\\_pdf.php?aid=27941](http://img.sermonindex.net/modules/articles/article_pdf.php?aid=27941)

10 mins

8. Pray through the following - look up the passage first and sit in silence for about a minute between each one: **20 mins**

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9. Pray for the Lord to reveal to you how He wants to use you for His kingdom? Ask Him and then think about what in your life may be preventing Him from using you in that way? Get serious with the Lord and spend time truly talking to Him and listening in your heart to what He has to say. **15 mins**
10. Sing another song to the Lord or pray a Psalm back **10 mins**

### Part III

11. Write a letter to the Lord. Start by expressing your gratitude for the relationship you have with God, your spouse and children (if married), for His many benefits, for His healing, for His plans concerning your ministry and professional life. Next own up to sin(s) in your life, ask forgiveness, admit that you need His grace to be an overcomer and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Then tell the Lord about areas of strength you know you still need to grow in, gifts that you need to develop, dreams/visions/prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled and realms of ministry that you have to enter into. Add anything else you have in your heart to communicate to the Father as His child. Finally, end by expressing your love to Him. **60 mins**
12. Go back to Item 4, and continue praying in more depth for any of the items you did not have time for earlier. Do this while walking around your house, back yard, or neighborhood, if desired. **25 mins**

13. Choose one of the ideas on the list of suggested activities in the Resources section and do it.

13. Read Revelation 4 and 5. Think about what it will be like to be before the throne of the Almighty with people from every tribe, language, people, and nation there singing praises to the Lamb who was slain. **15 mins**

14. Close in a final prayer giving thanks for the experience. Pray for the Lord to continue to reveal to you things you pondered during the time. Pray again for the nations, and in particular S. Asia as well as your home nation. **5 mins**

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## The 6 Hour Plan

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45 mins

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2. Confess and Pray for forgiveness of sins, that you may have a clean heart and conscience before the Lord. (Ps 51; Is 59; 1 Pe 3:7b) Pray that the Lord opens your heart during this time. (Ps 139:23, 24)
3. Spend a time of Thanksgiving for all that the Lord has done for you, your family, your church, etc.; especially for your salvation.
4. Spend time praying for South Asia, the world, your country, your church, Naya Jeevan, your family, your friends, your neighborhood, etc. See the Prayer Guides for South Asia and a list of Naya Jeevan prayer requests provided after the plan details.
5. Spend time (at least a few minutes – which might seem like a long time!) just being quiet listening to the Lord. Write down thoughts that come to mind.
6. Listen to some worship music or sing some songs from a hymnal. You could even have it playing softly in the background as you do some of your praying. (You might need to get some CDs or download mp3s ahead of time)

### Part II

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10 mins

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9. Pray for the Lord to reveal to you how He wants to use you for His kingdom? Ask Him and then think about what in your life may be preventing Him from using you in that way? Get serious with the Lord and spend time truly talking to Him and listening in your heart to what He has to say. **15 mins**

10. Sing another song to the Lord or pray a Psalm back **10 mins**

### Part III

11. Pray through the following - look up the passage first and sit in silence for about a minute between each one: **20 mins**

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#### 1 TIMOTHY 2:1-8

- Pray for specific needs in your community, state, nation and world (entreaties, vs. 1a)
- Pray for general prayer requests in your church and community field (prayers, vs. 1b)
- Pray for the salvation of specific lost people (petitions, vs. 1c)
- Praise and thank the Lord for specific answers to prayer (thanksgivings, vs. 1d)
- Pray for the salvation and spiritual growth of political leaders in your community, state, nation and world (vs. 2)

- Pray for the Great Commission to be fulfilled as God’s people answer His call to take the gospel to their world (vs. 3-7)
- Pray for God’s people to answer His call to unite in focused prayer for revival and spiritual awakening (vs. 8)

PSALM 2:8 PRAYING FOR MISSIONS

- Pray for a lost people group or a specific nation to hear the gospel
- Pray that God would raise up and send Christian witnesses to the nations
- Pray for specific missionaries around the world to be protected spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally as they share their faith in their ministry region
- Pray that God would open doors that man cannot shut for the missionaries to share their faith with lost people around them
- Pray for a liberty and boldness for specific missionaries as they bear witness to the resurrected Christ
- Pray that God would raise up prayer-laborers to intercede on behalf of the lost around the world

12. Choose a place close by where there are many who are lost to do a prayer walk, such as a busy shopping center, an immigrant district, a slum or ghetto, a temple or mosque, a school or university, etc. Matt. 9:35-38 and Acts 17:16-17 are models of walking around in the places where the needy are found, getting close enough to see their hurts, and developing compassion. If you are in a more isolated area and can’t get to a place, think of a place, learn about it and pray for it – in addition think of people you know who need to know the Lord and pray for them one by one. You can also go to the Operation World website (<http://operationworld.org>) and pray for several countries.

**1 hr 30 mins**

(Includes driving time if needed)

Tips on prayer walking:

<http://www.namb.net/prayerwalking-tips/>

<http://media1.imbresources.org/files/85/8522/8522-46575.pdf>

<http://crupressgreen.com/preparation-3-prayer-walking/>

When you meet someone, ask them if you can pray for them!

13. Read one or two chapters from a short but impactful book:

**40 mins**

Suggestions:

Living a Prayerful Life, Andrew Murray (longer than the previously mentioned sermon)

Crazy Love, Francis Chan

Radical, David Platt

Praying Like Paul, Jonathan Graf, Prayer Shop Publishing

14. Choose one of the ideas on the list of suggested activities in the Resources section and do it.

**30 mins**

**Part IV**

15. Write a letter to the Lord. Start by expressing your gratitude for the relationship you have with God, your spouse and children (if married), for His many benefits, for His healing, for His plans concerning your ministry and professional life. Next own up to sin(s) in your

life, ask forgiveness, admit that you need His grace to be an overcomer and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Then tell the Lord about areas of strength you know you still need to grow in, gifts that you need to develop, dreams/visions/prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled and realms of ministry that you have to enter into. Add anything else you have in your heart to communicate to the Father as His child. Finally, end by expressing your love to Him. **60 mins**

16. Read Revelation 4 and 5. Think about what it will be like to be before the throne of the Almighty with people from every tribe, language, people, and nation there singing praises to the Lamb who was slain. **15 mins**

17. Close in a final prayer giving thanks for the experience. Pray for the Lord to continue to reveal to you things you pondered during the time. Pray again for the nations, and in particular S. Asia as well as your home nation. **5 mins**

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## The 8 Hour Plan

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2. Confess and Pray for forgiveness of sins, that you may have a clean heart and conscience before the Lord. (Ps 51; Is 59; 1 Pe 3:7b) Pray that the Lord opens your heart during this time. (Ps 139:23, 24)
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5. Spend time (at least a few minutes – which might seem like a long time!) just being quiet listening to the Lord. Write down thoughts that come to mind.
6. Listen to some worship music or sing some songs from a hymnal. You could even have it playing softly in the background as you do some of your praying. (You might need to get some CDs or download mp3s ahead of time)

### Part II

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10. Sing another song to the Lord or pray a Psalm back **5 mins**

11. Read one of the Gospel accounts of someone who encountered Jesus, such as the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50; the centurion whose boy was healed, Zaccheus, etc. Think about what it teaches us about God and ourselves. Learn it well enough to tell it accurately and pray by name for a particular person you should share that story with during the week. **25 min**

12. Pray through the following - look up the passage first and sit in silence for about a minute between each one: **30 mins**

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<http://www.ncbaptist.org/fileadmin/ministries/prayer/resources/2013/pdfs/files/prayer-prompts-prayer-groups-booklet.pdf>

#### PSALM 51:1-19 PRAYER FOR PERSONAL CLEANSING & HOLINESS

- Pray for a spirit of humility and brokenness over the apathy shown toward God by believers

- Pray for God's gracious mercy and loving-kindness to be applied as God's people repent and confess their sin
- Pray for a spirit of honesty and integrity as believers confess sins and seek God's forgiveness
- Pray for God's Spirit to convict and convince believers of specific sins they have committed
- Pray that the Holy Spirit would deliver believers from the guilt of sin
- Pray for believers to be renewed and restored in the joy of the salvation they have in their relationship with Christ
- Pray that as believers experience cleansing and holiness they will be passionate about sharing their faith with a lost world

#### ROMANS 10:1-2 PASSIONATE PRAYER FOR THE LOST

- Pray for believers to have a passionate desire to pray for lost people
- Pray for Christians to have a heartfelt desire to share their faith with the lost
- Pray for the Lord to provide divine encounters between the lost and Christian witnesses
- Pray for specific lost people to understand their need for Jesus
- Pray for specific worship services and special evangelism efforts that God will open the hearts of lost people to the truth of Christ
- Pray that specific lost people will come under deep conviction of sin and seek forgiveness through Christ
- Pray for Christian witnesses to have boldness in their speech as they witness

### Part III

13. Choose a place close by where there are many who are lost to do a prayer walk, such as a busy shopping center, an immigrant district, a slum or ghetto, a temple or mosque, a school or university, etc. Matt. 9:35-38 and Acts 17:16-17 are models of walking around in the places where the needy are found, getting close enough to see their hurts, and developing compassion. If you are in a more isolated area and can't get to a place, think of a place, learn about it and pray for it – in addition think of people you know who need to know the Lord and pray for them one by one. You can also go to the Operation World website (<http://operationworld.org>) and pray for several countries.

**2 hrs**

(Includes driving time if needed)

Tips on prayer walking:

<http://www.namb.net/prayerwalking-tips/>

<http://media1.imbresources.org/files/85/8522/8522-46575.pdf>

<http://crupressgreen.com/preparation-3-prayer-walking/>

When you meet someone, ask them if you can pray for them!

14. Read one or two chapters from a short but impactful book:

**60 mins**

Suggestions:

Living a Prayerful Life, Andrew Murray (longer than the previously mentioned sermon)

Crazy Love, Francis Chan

Radical, David Platt

Praying Like Paul, Jonathan Graf, Prayer Shop Publishing

15. Choose one of the ideas on the list of suggested activities in the Resources section and do it. **30 min**
16. Write a letter to the Lord. Start by expressing your gratitude for the relationship you have with God, your spouse and children (if married), for His many benefits, for His healing, for His plans concerning your ministry and professional life. Next own up to sin(s) in your life, ask forgiveness, admit that you need His grace to be an overcomer and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit. Then tell the Lord about areas of strength you know you still need to grow in, gifts that you need to develop, dreams/visions/prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled and realms of ministry that you have to enter into. Add anything else you have in your heart to communicate to the Father as His child. Finally, end by expressing your love to Him. **60 mins**

#### **Part IV**

17. Read through 1 and 2 Peter. Write down any insights God gives you as you are reading it. Think of questions that you might need to study later. Ask what God wants us to know - His reason for inspiring the passage. Remember that the Bible is not a textbook meant to be read academically. Rather, it is God speaking to us through one of His prophets and by His Holy Spirit. What does He want you to know? **30 mins**
18. Read Revelation 4 and 5. Think about what it will be like to be before the throne of the Almighty with people from every tribe, language, people, and nation there singing praises to the Lamb who was slain. Sing a short chorus or pray a simple prayer or look up Rev. 5:9-10 in as many languages as you personally know; you might use a Bible website like Biblegateway.com, or Google Translate, Babelfish, etc. **20 mins**
19. Close in a final prayer giving thanks for the experience. Pray for the Lord to continue to reveal to you things you pondered during the time. Pray again for the nations, and in particular S. Asia as well as your home nation. **10 mins**

**As soon as you have finished your Day with the Lord, fill in the feedback form and send it to [Nayajeevan@cru.org](mailto:Nayajeevan@cru.org).**



## RESOURCES

### *Some suggestions of things to do during your time with the Lord*

- Sing hymns, praise, or worship songs
- Read a book of the Bible
- Read from a devotional book
- Listen to or watch a sermon
- Fast throughout the day or for several days leading up to the time
- Write a letter to the Lord
- Journal
- Compose a worship song
- Memorize a passage of Scripture
- Prayer-walk through a neighborhood or city
- Pray through the names and attributes of God:  
<https://www.navigators.org/Tools/Discipleship%20Resources/Tools/30%20Days%20of%20Praying%20the%20Names%20and%20Attributes%20of%20God>
- Pray through a passage of the Bible
- Read one of the Gospel accounts of someone who encountered Jesus, such as the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50; the centurion whose boy was healed, Zaccheus, etc. Think about what it teaches us about God and ourselves. Learn it well enough to tell it accurately and pray by name for a particular person you should share that story with during the week.
- Pray through a newspaper or news magazine

### **Prayer Requests for Naya Jeevan:**

1. Our 2018 prayer focus is for the unreached Bania Oswal people.
  - 4-5 million Bania Oswal people live in northwestern India where they are very influential in business, industry, and society
  - They are followers of Jain dharmic religion
  - No church, no evangelistic outreach among them, and no known believers in India
  - 12,000 Bania Oswals live in Kenya with less than 25 known believers. The Nairobi Breakthrough prayer cell and a few scattered individuals focus on reaching out to them
  - About 1,000 Bania Oswals live in the US, with no church, outreach, fellowship or prayer group among them
2. For Christians to share the Good News of Christ in a loving, sensitive way to their South Asian neighbors, overcoming the barriers in their minds against Christians and against listening to the gospel
3. That every South Asian person in the world will know someone who truly follows Jesus
4. For South Asian pastors and leaders to be marked by powerful unity, holiness, maturity, obedience to the Word, and concern for the lost
5. For all believers who want to introduce Jesus to their South Asian neighbors to follow Jesus' model of compassionate incarnational engagement with them

6. For the following key strategies and programs of Naya Jeevan to be effective in mobilizing and equipping Christians to reach South Asians around the world (pray specifically about those you know and understand):
  - a. Breakthrough Prayer Strategy, prayer cells, prayer laborers, annual Concert of Prayer
  - b. Praise God for completion of Strengthening Your Prayer Skills videos and pray for its impact on those who are now ordering it
  - c. Love Your Neighbor evangelism training – there has been significant increase in bookings this year; pray for the new goal to record the whole training on video, a complex project involving much traveling to record relevant testimonies and teaching footage
  - d. Bless Your Neighbor – adopting a zip code of South Asian addresses for prayer and outreach
  - e. We are in the process of switching internet ministry partnership; a new website is being built focusing on India that will offer courses based on Jesus Film products; pray for this future website and transition to a new partner
7. For relationships with churches in Dallas where we are based – thank God for the interest many have shown in our programs; pray for more fruitful partnerships to develop
8. For financial provision for Naya Jeevan to enable us to move ahead with new programs: \$5000 in special donations before end of 2018 plus new monthly donors
9. For God to raise up a key prayer ministry leader to assist in Breakthrough

## Prayer Guides for South Asia:

India: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/indi/owtext.html>

Bangladesh <http://www.operationworld.org/country/bang/owtext.html>

Nepal: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/nepa/owtext.html>

Sri Lanka: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/sril/owtext.html>

Pakistan: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/paki/owtext.html>

Bhutan: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/bhut/owtext.html>

Maldives: <http://www.operationworld.org/country/mald/owtext.html>

Prayer Guide for Every Village in South Asia: <http://pray4ev.org/>

<http://southasianpeoples.imb.org/pray>

People group information and prayer material <https://joshuaproject.net/>

## Guide to the Psalms

### Royal Psalms

Psalms 2, 20, 45, 72, 89, 110, 132, 144

- Subject → the king
- purpose → ask God to bless him

### Wisdom Psalms

Psalms 1, 37, 45, 49, 73

- Avoiding the wrong path
- Doubting → believing
- Relating to the Lord in suffering

### **Nature Psalms**

Psalms 8, 19, 29, 65, 104

- Paganism deifies/personifies nature, but Yahwism praises Yahweh as Lord over nature

### **Praise Psalms/Hymns**

Psalms 33, 47, 48, 66, 76, 81, 89, 90, 95, 96, 98, 100, 103, 111-113, 117, 134, 135, 145-150

“The core of the hymn of praise is the consciousness of the poet and congregation that they are standing face to face with the Lord Himself, meeting the almighty, holy and merciful God in His own place, and worshipping Him with praise and adoration” (Mowinkel).

### **Penitential Psalms**

Psalms 32 and 51

- Sorrow for sin
- Desire for forgiveness

### **Psalms of Confidence**

Psalms 11, 16, 23, 27, 37, 73, 91, 121

- Express confidence, or faith in the Lord, His deliverance, care, etc.

Psalms 23

1. When there are challenges that tax us, God gives us security (v. 1).
2. When there are tasks that exhaust us, God gives serenity (v. 2).
3. When there are failures that disappoint us, God gives stability (v. 3).
4. When there are dark days that distress us, God gives His sympathy (v. 4).
5. When there are conflicts that threaten us, God gives us prosperity (v. 5).
6. When there are questions about the future, God gives eternity (v. 6).

### **National Psalms**

Psalms 80, 85

- Express concern for issues that had to do with all Israel

### **Lamentation Psalms**

Psalms 6, 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 42-43, 69

- Mood = sorrow & distress
- Response = call out to God

Pattern/Form of the Laments

1. Invocation of Yahweh's name
2. Cry to God for help
3. Prayer for deliverance/complaint
4. Confession of sin or assertion of innocence
5. Expression of confidence in the Lord's help
6. Expression of praise

### **Thanksgiving Psalms**

Psalms 30, 34, 92, 105, 107, 118

- Exude happiness
- Focus on the deeds of the Lord

Form of Thanksgiving Psalms

1. Invocation of Yahweh's name
2. Description of former need
3. Quotation of former prayer
4. Profession of answered prayer
5. Expression of thanksgiving

### **Imprecatory Psalms**

Psalms 28, 58, 109, 137

- These Psalms call on God to send His judgment on the ungodly

Note:

"...these pleas for God's judgment are simply an outgrowth of beliefs about who God is and how He will act" (Hill & Walton, p. 352).

## Prayer in the Book of Acts, by Walt Tucker

### Introduction

The Book of Acts details the actions of the apostles after Jesus' ascension to heaven. It is filled with examples of strong dedication to prayer. The apostles themselves prayed persistently. They must have been sufficiently attuned to the level of prayer to which Jesus was committed. The early converts took quickly to the apostles' example and were just as devoted to the power of prayer. They seemed to fully understand how valuable, and critical, a good prayer life is for a child of God. Paul, in his own letters, tells of his prayers for the saints as well as always asking for their prayers.

The prayers in Acts reflect the wide range of justifications and motivations for a robust prayer life. After just coming off the exhilaration of seeing Jesus ascend into heaven, around 120 disciples, men and women, were praising God and praying. Not long afterwards, they met opposition. The disciples found the need to pray for boldness to proclaim the message of Jesus. God responded by filling them all with Holy Spirit.

In the apostles' work, they often found opportunities to heal or to witness as they were on their way to places to pray. They prayed and fasted when it came to ordaining missionaries and elders of new churches. They prayed for new believers. They prayed when they left their friends and new brothers and sisters in Christ behind. They prayed when they needed to make important decisions. They prayed when performing miracles. And above all, they prayed and would hear or receive visions from the Lord.

### General Devotion to Prayer

Acts 1:14	Upper room prayer while waiting for the Holy Spirit.
Acts 2:42	New converts devoted to apostle's teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and to prayers.
Acts 6:4	Commitment of devotion to prayer and preaching as reason for the apostles to select deacons.
Acts 9:11	Saul (Paul) is praying at the house of Judas after his conversion.
Acts 10:9	A casual mentioning of Peter praying.
Acts 16:25	Paul and Silas were praying while in prison. They might have been praying praises rather than deliverance?

The first prayer after Jesus' ascension was that of the approximately 120 disciples who crammed into the upper room in Jerusalem waiting for the Holy Spirit whom Jesus had promised. They were likely anxious, wondering what was going to happen. These were people who were "on fire" for Jesus! And with that fire, comes a desire to pray. The joy and excitement in their hearts would have caused them to praise God and think of nothing else. Their concern for how the future would transpire would have prompted them to ask for wisdom.

It is noteworthy that the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon these disciples. They believed and were excited because they had personally seen Jesus (Acts 1:9). They had learned from Him. But like many believers, they did not have the power to overcome their own anxieties and fears when it came to sharing the gospel with others. Once the Holy Spirit came upon them, they found they could speak in other languages that they did not know (2:4, 6). The Holy Spirit put the words in their mouths. There was no need to be afraid of what to say, and as it so happened, it was the day of Pentecost. As was the custom at Pentecost, there were Jews from

all around the known world there to commemorate Moses' receiving of the Ten Commandments. These visiting Jews heard the disciples speaking in each of their own languages (2:5-12)! The message was now being proclaimed, but instead of God descending on a mountain and giving the prophet and deliverer the law, the Holy Spirit was descending upon the people themselves with the law of Christ. Peter gave a sermon after which 3000 people accepted the message and were saved (2:41).

New converts understood the power of prayer as they listened to the teaching of the apostles. All those in the early church demonstrated a persistence to pray on all occasions. The apostles were so committed to their preaching and prayer, that when a dispute developed by the Hellenistic against the Hebraic Jews about neglect of their widows, rather than they be involved directly with seeing that the widows received their share, the apostles appointed deacons to be responsible for meeting the needs of the people. This freed them up to spend more time on their responsibilities, prayer being a vital part. There are several mentions of Peter, Paul, or others praying as part of their routine and significant things occurred as a result.

As demonstrated by the first great revival in Jerusalem, many of the most powerful revivals throughout Christian history began when a group of people gathered and prayed for days on end.<sup>1</sup>

### **Courage to do God's Will**

Acts 4:24-31	Prayer for boldness to proclaim the message in the face of opposition.
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Peter and John had been arrested after speaking at the Temple and healing a lame man. The rulers, elders, and scribes met with the high priests to confront the two apostles about the healing of the man and their teaching of Jesus. After a spark of boldness from the Holy Spirit, Peter proclaimed to the Sanhedrin that it was by the name of Jesus that the man was healed, and the two were ordered to never preach or teach in Jesus' name again. When they returned to the fellowship and reported what had happened, they all prayed to God to give them complete boldness to speak and act in Jesus' name. Upon completion of the prayer, all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.

It was by prayer and the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon them in the upper room that the words came to the visiting Jews at Pentecost so that the 3,000 could be saved. As Peter and John went to the Temple during prayer time (3:1), they had the opportunity to heal a man in the name of Jesus which opened the door for Peter to preach and have another 5,000 saved (4:4). The prayer of boldness encouraged them to continue to meet at the Temple and continue to heal and save more people (5:12-16). This increased boldness agitated the religious leaders even more. The apostles were arrested several more times, flogged, and ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus, but by the words of the Pharisee Gamaliel (Paul's teacher), they were not killed (5:17-42), and they continued to preach.

It is rare to see such conviction these days, particularly where Christianity has been strong in the past. But, the apostles were eyewitnesses of the risen Jesus. They had seen something that was life changing. Even so, they needed the power of the Holy Spirit, called

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<sup>1</sup> Harold J. Ockenga, "The Great Revival" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 104, no. 414 (April 1947), 232.

upon by prayer, to give them the strength to endure. Today, those who are the most dramatically changed by the message of the gospel are the most vocal and energized to speak boldly. Yet, prayer is vitally important in emboldening Christians with the power of the Holy Spirit so they can be effective witnesses at every opportunity.

### **Devotion to Prayer Leads to Witnessing Opportunities**

Acts 3:1	Peter and John go to the Temple for prayer end up healing a lame man.
Acts 16:13,16	Those with Paul were devoted to much prayer and usually met people to talk to as they sought a place of prayer.
Acts 10:2-4, 30-31	Cornelius' prayers and acts of charity are honored by God sending Peter to preach the gospel to him so that he and his entire household would be saved. His vision from God came as he was praying.

Some kind of devotion, whether prayer, preaching, or worshipping seems to be involved prior to a witnessing encounter throughout Acts. In 8:26, after much evangelizing, the Lord spoke to Philip to go and find the Ethiopian. Given the custom of the apostles to pray regularly, they were probably in a prayerful mode asking for evangelizing opportunities as well as thanking God for those that accepted their message. Many times, the prayer is the request of the person who needs to hear the message. The Ethiopian may have been praying or crying out to God for understanding of the Isaiah passage he was reading.

Cornelius was praying when he heard from an angel advising him that he should send for Peter to hear everything commanded by the Lord (Acts 10:30-31). It is often found, when visiting homes on church visits, that no matter what the situation (a new home owner, someone who visited the church once, or even a home visited by mistake or by a random selection), the people visited say they were just praying, were in desperate need, or just thinking about things of God. While such situations are not always the case, nevertheless, dedication to serving God will bring about opportunities which glorify Him.

Even if others are not praying for help, dedication to prayer to be used by the Lord and praying that others come to hear the message can open up the door for someone else, if not the one praying, to witness to that person.

### **Appointments**

Acts 1:24-25	Prayed for selection of an apostle to replace Judas.
Acts 6:6	Apostles prayed over the deacons by the laying on of hands.
Acts 13:3	Prayer and fasting by the church in Antioch before laying on of hands and sending Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.
Acts 14:23	Praying and fasting with the appointment of elders in each church they had established

Choosing and sending men to serve the Lord in an official capacity is a serious matter that cannot be taken lightly. Whenever wisdom was needed for making the right choices, prayer was employed. Sending men forth for missionary, elder, or deacon work necessitated backing up the man in prayer. It should be noted that the call for Paul and Barnabas to be sent out as missionaries came from God. The prayer over them was merely to confirm their appointment by God and to ask that God's blessings and the fullness of the Holy Spirit be with them.

Leaders in the church responsible for getting Christ's message out and ministering to the brotherhood, are susceptible to spiritual attack and must stand boldly in the Ephesians 6

spiritual armor position. If Satan can make a leader stumble, he has caused damage than can, and often does, spill over to others within the church. The potential is so strong, that fasting should often accompany the prayers. While it relates to demonic possession, rather than spiritual attack, Mt 17:20-21 shows prayer and fasting may be required sometimes when dealing with the demonic.<sup>2</sup> Doing so at ordination is a preemptive strike to ward off Satan.

### **Praying and Giving Thanks for Others**

Acts 7:59-60	Technically, not necessarily a prayer, but is Stephen's calling out to the Lord to receive his spirit. He prayed for the people stoning him.
Acts 8:24	Simon, the sorcerer, asked Peter to pray for him.
Acts 12:5,12	The church was earnestly, and continuously, praying for Peter while he was imprisoned by Herod, awaiting to be killed. Peter was released by angels.
Acts 20:36	Paul prayed with people in Ephesus as he is departed to go to Jerusalem.
Acts 21:5	Again, they prayed as they said their goodbyes, on the beach, when leaving some disciples in Tyre.
Acts 28:15	Paul thanked God for the brothers in Rome who came to greet them on their arrival.

Jesus practiced intercessory prayer and it is common in Paul's letters. James 5:14 says the elders of the church should pray over those who are ill. The people James refers to are exhausted, bed ridden, and have virtually no spiritual energy left and need the prayers of others for their uplifting. Even Simon, a new believer in Acts 8:24, asks Peter to pray for him when Peter declares that he should ask God for forgiveness for thinking who could buy spiritual gifts.

Often, a person wants God to hear them, but maybe because of sin, or just from being weak in the faith, or even physically weak, they do not think God will hear their prayers and they want someone else to pray for them. But, just as where two or more gather and Jesus is in their midst, when two or more pray for a common purpose, there is more strength in that prayer. It shows unity in purpose and desire for God to be involved.

Paul prayed for the people when he left them and thanked God for people when he came to an area where there were people to greet him. Such prayer demonstrates love and concern for the others. Prayer also results from the prompting of the Holy Spirit to pray.

One of the most difficult prayers, but one that demonstrated the power of the Holy Spirit, was Stephen's prayer for those who were stoning him. It is difficult for many today to forgive someone else who has hurt them in a deep way. Yet, Stephen exemplifies what we are to do and modeled Jesus as He had asked the Father to forgive those who stoned him just as Jesus asked His Father to forgive those who crucified Him (Lk 23:34).

It is curious why God even requires believers to pray when He already knows the need. However, the bond that occurs, the love that is demonstrated, and the power that is seen by many who are praying, are all involved in building up the believers to greater faith, maturity, and closeness in the Lord.

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<sup>2</sup> Not all ancient manuscripts include the fasting verse. For a good reference on fasting, see Elmer L. Towns, *Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough: A Guide to Nine Biblical Fasts* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1996), and Jerry Falwell, Elmer Towns, eds. *Fasting Can Change Your Life*. (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1998).



## Salvation

Acts 8:15-17	Peter and John pray for people in Samaria, who received the gospel and were baptized, that they would receive the Holy Spirit. They received the Spirit upon Peter and John laying hands on them.
Acts 10:2-4, 30-31	Cornelius' prayers and acts of charity are honored by God sending Peter to preach the gospel to him so that he and his entire household would be saved. His vision from God came as he was praying.

Prayers are involved in salvation. One can be praying for another's salvation or can be calling out to God for their own salvation. A prayer is needed to ask for forgiveness and to call on the Holy Spirit for a new believer. Often the new believer does not know what to pray and is nervous about praying for themselves. The prayer of an experienced person, most likely the very person that led the other to the knowledge of the gospel, will help the new believer to know that they need prayer for strength, growth, that others will come around them in fellowship and discipleship, and that the Holy Spirit will be strong in their lives. The person receiving salvation needs to accept the prayer in his own heart, but he is usually thankful that someone else cares enough to pray for him. Accepting the experience of the person praying for him helps a new believer accept the prayer itself.

## For Repentance / Forgiveness

Acts 8:22	Peter tells Simon, the sorcerer, who had believed the message in Samaria and was baptized, to pray to the Lord for forgiveness because of his desire to purchase the gift of giving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.
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Only God can forgive us and only God can help us repent with conviction. No sooner was Simon a believer, when he stumbled into his old way of thinking. Peter told him he needed to stop such thinking and that he needed forgiveness for it. Since only God can forgive, Simon had to go to Him for it. It requires humility to ask for forgiveness the humility demonstrates the honesty of the desire to repent.

## Miracles / Doing God's Will

Acts 9:40	Peter prayed before the raising of Tabitha (Dorcas) from death.
Acts 28:8	Paul prayed as he laid hands on Publius' father and healed him from fever and dysentery.

Only God can truly heal people by miraculous means. We do not find any reference to Peter and John praying before they healed the lame man at the Temple. Nevertheless, healings did require prayer to God and there is no doubt that they did pray prior to healing the man. Since healing is in the name of Jesus, the name must be called out, and it called out through prayer.

Today miraculous healings are rare and often are in third world countries where medicine is less readily available<sup>3</sup> But, people are healed today, albeit over periods of time, of all sorts of diseases and body ailments for which the doctors do not give much chance of success. Yet, not all illnesses are healed for everyone who asks to be healed. People are not

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<sup>3</sup> During the final editing of this paper, a recent testimony was heard from a missionary in India about a major church movement near Tibet. The church started with a missionary in Tibet praying over a demon possessed girl which had attracted a crowd. The account was told to the missionary personally by the other missionary who was head of the church. However, substantiating information was not available.

meant to live forever in this life. But, those that are healed, typically do not see that healing independent of there being witnesses to see that God was working in the situation.

In Charlotte, NC around 2002, a boy who had just declared to his overbearing Christian mother days before that he was an atheist was involved in a head on accident with a tractor trailer after he had been drinking. He had many broken bones and a serious head injury. The doctors did not expect him to make it, and if he did, they expected him to be disabled for most of his life. Nevertheless, his mother’s Sunday school class stood outside the hospital during the early days and conducted a pray vigil that he would survive. On each visit to see him in intensive care, a special request was made, such as him opening his eyes for the first time, or his squeezing a hand to show he could hear. And each time, the prayer was answered. After many months in the hospital the boy recovered. During his recovery the Bible was read to him and he was bathed in prayer. When he was in rehab learning how to walk again, he proclaimed that it was by God’s hand that he was alive. A year later he was at a wedding, walking on his own, slightly slurring his speech, but proclaiming Christ’s love.

These things do not always turn out this way. But if there were not dedicated prayer warriors looking out for that boy, taking time out of their schedule to be with him, he may have not pulled out of it and would not be proclaiming the name of Christ today.

### **Praying Leading to Hearing a Special Message from God**

Acts 10:9, 11:5	A casual mentioning of Peter praying. It is followed by his vision of sheet coming down from heaven with the animals that was considered unclean in Jewish law. This was in preparation for the meeting with Cornelius.
Acts 13:2	While worshiping and fasting, the Holy Spirit directed that Barnabas and Saul be set aside for missionary work.
Acts 10:2-4, 30-31	Cornelius’ prayers and acts of charity are honored by God sending Peter to preach the gospel to him so that he and his entire household would be saved. His vision from God came as he was praying.
Acts 22:17	Paul recalls in a testimony to the Jews that he received a vision while praying at the Temple.

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah goes to the Temple to pray. During the prayer, he has a vision and is called to the ministry. In Acts, the movement from the Jews out to the Gentiles was prompted by visions that occurred during or just after prayers. In none of these cases was the person praying looking for a sign. Yet, the prayer stance put the person in a state which enabled him to hear from the Lord.

Prayer should always allow time for reflection or for the Lord to speak through one’s heart, if not from a very rare vision. Sometimes when requesting understanding or wisdom from God on a matter, the answer begins to make sense after the prayer. Many times, though, it is through events and people that the person meets later that day or many days later. The point is that the person has been open to hearing from God and has sought God’s face in their prayers.

### **Fasting**

Acts 13:3	Prayer and fasting by the church in Antioch before laying on of hands and sending Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey.
Acts 14:23	Praying and fasting with the appointment of elders in each church they had established.

Fasting was a common practice in Judaism and early Christianity. However, fasting was only mentioned twice in Acts, and both times it was in reference to praying over those being ordained for ministry work. While praying and laying on of hands is common today when ordaining ministers or missionaries, it is not common to fast. It is evident that fasting is important enough, and that those who ordain ministers, might want to consider its significance.

### **Conclusion**

The book of Acts provides lessons on prayer that are invaluable to those who seek their full potential for Jesus Christ. Various purposes are given for the prayers that have been written in the book. In summary, prayer is vital to ministry and to the believer's relationship with the Lord. It should not be taken lightly and should be pursued with all diligence. The Lord delights sharing His glory through us as we submit to Him in prayer.

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# Day With The Lord

## Feedback Form

*Please return this form to [Nayajeevan@cru.org](mailto:Nayajeevan@cru.org)*

Your answers will help us to plan better for future events. Thank you!

1. How long was your time with the Lord? \_\_\_\_ hours
2. How meaningful was your time overall? (1-5 scale, 1 being best, 5 worst). Please add comments.
3. How well did the Day with the Lord achieve our goals of strengthening your relationship with God and developing you as a prayer laborer? (1-5 scale 1 being very well, 5 being very poorly). Please add comments.
4. Did you hear anything specific from the Lord as you prayed for Naya Jeevan? If so, please share.
5. Did you use one of the plans we provided, or your own? How well did the plan you used work for you? (1-5 scale 1 being very well, 5 being very poorly).
6. Please share any creative ideas you did that were not mentioned in the plans provided for you.
7. What was the best thing about your time with the Lord?
8. How can we improve the Day with the Lord event for next year?

\_\_\_ I would like to be on the Naya Jeevan mailing list, to receive the Breakthrough prayer bulletin for ministry reports, testimonies, upcoming events, and prayer needs.

\_\_\_ I am interested in starting or joining a Breakthrough prayer cell in my area (a Breakthrough prayer cell focuses on praying for South Asian peoples).

\_\_\_ I am interested in being a Breakthrough Prayer Laborer (an individual who participates in the Breakthrough program, focusing personal prayer on South Asian peoples).

Please visit [www.nayajeevan.org/resources](http://www.nayajeevan.org/resources) for more information about Naya Jeevan's strategies, resources, and trainings for South Asian ministry, or email [Nayajeevan@cru.org](mailto:Nayajeevan@cru.org)