

# November Prayers

## Week 1

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter are letters ascribed to Simon Peter who was a leader among the Twelve Apostles and to whom Jesus gave the **“keys of the kingdom”** (Matt. 16). These letters tell so much about how we are to live and grow that they become ***our*** keys of the kingdom, just as Jesus meant them to be:

**Monday. “Friends, when life gets really difficult, don’t jump to the conclusion that God isn’t on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner.”** (1 Pet. 4:12,13, *The Message*)

Lord, there are times when there are too many problems that have no sensible solutions. They come so thick and fast that I am completely befuddled, and I end up feeling alone and deserted and ready to give up. But when I read your word here, I see what I’m doing wrong is forgetting about you. Forgive me, I pray, and help me to keep you at the center of my life so I’ll always know you’re there to love me and help me work things out. Your word says that you took on the sins and temptations of all humankind, so you certainly know about mine. Help me to find you in all my difficulties as well as in all my joys. Help me to see your guiding hand in my downs and my ups so that I’ll grow ever closer to you. That, after all, is the only prize worth winning. I pray now for...

**Tuesday. “Keep a cool head. Stay alert... Keep your guard up. You’re not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It’s the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won’t last forever. It won’t be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ – eternal and glorious plans they are! – will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.”** (from 1 Pet. 5:8-11, *The Message*)

Dear Lord, I'll keep a cool head and stay alert only to the extent that you are in me and I am in you. So that is my prayer, my Lord. Keep my faith strong and lead me into whatever your plan is for this life and beyond it. I want you to have the last word on who I am, what I do, where I go. When I am tempted to stray, return me to where you want me to be. I pray also for...

**Wednesday. "Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us by getting to know, personally and intimately, the One who invited us to God. The best invitation we ever received! We were also given absolutely terrific promises to pass on to you – your tickets to participation in the life of God after you turned your back on a world corrupted by lust." (2 Pet. 1:3,4, *The Message*)**

Dear Lord Jesus, how I thank you for this glorious truth! You made it possible for all of us to learn about God's love and grace. Living in and through that love and grace absolutely is the ticket to real and lasting meaning. Help us to keep turning from sin. Support us as we resist temptation. Keep our eyes open and let us see the sin in anything which turns us away from you – no matter how fine and grand it might seem to us. Help us to *keep on* turning our backs to it! I pray also for...

**Thursday. "...don't lose a minute in building on what you've been given, complementing your basic faith with good character, spiritual understanding, alert discipline, passionate patience, reverent wonder, warm friendliness, and generous love, each dimension fitting into and developing the others." (from 2 Pet. 1:5-8, *The Message*)**

Lord and Savior, how could we ever say an adequate thanks for the gift of life in you? The only way seems to be that we accept the gift and build on it. Help us to use every dimension of your gift to grow and thrive and develop into the people you have created us to be. Help us find our places in your kingdom where you want us to be, where we can serve as you want us to serve. And I also pray for...

**Friday.** In further discussion about all the dimensions of discipleship – faith, character, understanding, discipline, patience, reverent wonder, friendliness and generous love – Peter said: **“...if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.”** (from 2 Pet. 1:8-9)

Dear Lord, as we try to think more fully about the scope, the hugeness, the many-sidedness of discipleship, our abilities to grasp it all just fail us! And that is how you planned it anyway, for surely you draw us into a quality of life which none of us by can, on our own, even begin to comprehend, let alone achieve. Thank you, Lord! Remove the blinders so we may see what beauty of life you hold out to us. Open our minds so we may aspire to all the dimensions of discipleship. Take away the fetters which keep us from staying in step with you. Then, as we learn and live in this ever-increasing knowledge of you, make us effective and productive citizens in your kingdom. Now, I add these other prayers, my Lord...

**Saturday.** Peter emphasized how important it is to develop *all* the qualities of Christian discipleship when he said: **“...be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fail, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”** (from 2 Pet. 1:10,11)

Dear Lord, today I again call on you to keep drawing me closer to you, to keep my longing for you at the peak of all that is important. You know – and I confess it – that there are countless diversions which I allow to creep or leap into my thinking. And when it happens, I go for days on end putting all those things ahead of you. I do it even knowing that such behavior can take me into places where I won't hear your call and won't choose you. That's when I fail, Lord. Forgive me and love me back into your presence, back into full consciousness of the joy of discipleship. It's your righteousness I seek, my Lord – immerse me in it. It's in your kingdom that I want to be – take me there to live, I pray. And I pray for...

## Week 2

**Monday.** In Peter's Second Letter, he warns about the dangers of false teaching and how easily we can be victimized by those who thwart the Gospel for their personal gain. Others, he said, belittle and scoff at God's commands. So he challenges us to hold onto the faith and to be patient as we wait for God's will to be unfolded. **"But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."**

(2 Pet. 3:8,9)

God, you know us better than we know ourselves: we confess our impatience. It must be that impatience that causes us to make plans without consulting you, that causes us to think we can make things happen the way we want them to, and gets us all hot and bothered when things don't work out and people don't behave the way we want. Teach us to keep coming to you in repentance, bringing all our cares to you, leaving them there until you show us the way we ought to go. Now, I pray for...

**Tuesday.** The writer of Jude (possibly Judas, brother of Jesus) echoes some of the concerns expressed in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter about perversion of the Gospel. **"I have to write insisting – begging! – that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish. What has happened is that some people have infiltrated our ranks (our Scriptures warned us this would happen), who beneath their pious skin are shameless scoundrels. Their design is to replace the sheer grace of our God with sheer license – which means doing away with Jesus Christ, our one and only Master."** (Jude 1:3, 4, *The Message*)

O loving Lord, we joyfully acknowledge you as Savior of all who will come to you. In the clamor around us, return us to the truth of the Gospel and keep us there. In the confusion which we cannot understand or explain, mark us as your own. We are

yours, bought with the price of your sacrifice. Make "Christian" the defining label in who and whose we are. And make us witnesses for those who have not yet learned of you. I pray also for...

**Wednesday.** Though small, the Book of Jude is full of stern warnings about evil people who use sly and artful methods to distort the story of God's love. Then it says, **"But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life. Be merciful to those who doubt; snatch others from the fire and save them..."** (from Jude 1:20-22)

O God, we pray for a continual building of ourselves in our relationship with you, for growth through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, for ever-increasing faith. Do not let us pause on our journeys but keep us moving forward with you. And as we go, give us wisdom in how we witness to others who have not affirmed their faith, who have not **"tasted of the heavenly gift"** (Heb. 6:4). We pray these things through the Holy Spirit. I pray now for...

**Thursday.** Paul wrote a letter to Titus (and us) about living a life based on the Gospel of peace. **"God's readiness to give and forgive is now public. Salvation's available for everyone! We're being shown how to turn our backs on a godless, indulgent life, and how to take on a God-filled, God-honoring life. This new life is starting right now, and is whetting our appetites for the glorious day when our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, appears. He offered himself as a sacrifice to free us from a dark, rebellious life into this good, pure life, making us a people he can be proud of, energetic in goodness."** (Titus 2:11-14, *The Message*)

Dear Lord, what marvelous assurances, what great promises you give us through the miracle of Scriptures! Keep us from indifference and cause us to be purposeful in the ways we read and profit from it. You forgive freely, you direct us toward you and away from sin, and you ensure that we understand it all

through your word – we thank you! Make all our days Thanksgiving Days in gratitude for the bounty of your love. Help us to respond through energetic pursuit of your will in our lives, we pray. I now also pray for...

**Friday. “Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand. No insults, no fights. God’s people should be bighearted and courteous.”** (Titus 2:1,2, *The Message*)

Great God, humankind’s affairs seem so grandly important and complex until we consider the work of your hands; then we know how pitifully small are the things we mistakenly honor above your name. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to put it all in perspective and keep it there. Help us to accord respect where we should, but always hold you in the preeminent place in our lives. Lead us into stronger bonds of love so we may be at peace with each other, and cause that love to prevail in all the ways we live and work together. I pray also for...

**Saturday. “At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.”** (from Titus 3:3-8)

Lord, thank you for the examples in your word, for we can see that we are not alone in how we have sinned, failing you and one another. But you show us how we are forgiven and how we are renewed. Thank you for these great messages. Show us how to take all of them as individual gifts of your love for each of us. Meant for us all, they are uniquely meant for each – marvelous truth! We pray that as we meet together in our church tomorrow, we will come with joy and thanksgiving, ready to share in true

worship to you, our God and Ruler, Redeemer and Friend. Now, I also pray for...

## Week 3

**Monday. "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! ...When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet..."** (from Ps. 8)

O God, throughout the history of humankind, you have honored your people, your creation, in ways that cannot be numbered. And you continue to honor us. Why cannot we learn that all of it is your way of saying how much you love us? Forgive our blasé acceptance of your rich gifts. We take them as if we merit them; we do not; we cannot. Our only real worth rests in the value you give us as your children. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! Thank you, God. Teach us humility, we pray. I also pray now for...

**Tuesday. "The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you. Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done."** (Ps. 9:9-11)

Great God Almighty, we do come in praise and thanksgiving to you today. We gratefully acknowledge that you have saved us in countless ways, on countless days, from trouble of countless kinds. Forgive us when we complain of the troubles we have, for you lead us through them, just as you remove so many other troubles from us. Teach us to trust in you more fully, to seek you more zealously. Remind us to praise you more openly in ways that will demonstrate your love so that others who don't know you will see that you are God. I pray now for...

**Wednesday. "The Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord is on his heavenly throne. He observes the sons of men, his**

**eyes examine them. The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates."**

(Ps. 11:4,5)

Lord, you have made us and formed who we are, so you know how our minds work – and sometimes don't work. Thus, you see that we need to envision you in ways that are special for each of us – in itself a testimony to your grand plan! Thank you for your word given through the words of others. That's how we know you are omniscient and omnipresent, but we love thinking of you in a heavenly place, on a heavenly throne: it helps us know that you are the God of us all. And so we can join together to worship you! But after it's all said and done, the bottom line is that you know each of us individually, seeing into our hearts and minds. And so each of us worships you in loving privacy where nothing and no one can invade. How glorious, how beautiful is your love for us! You are God! You are *my* God! And so I bring these prayers to you...

**Thursday. "But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to me."** (Ps. 13:5,6)

What a masterful understatement, great and loving Lord! You have been the sacrifice that defined limitless love. You have been the munificent giver of my very life. You have been the supplier of all my needs. And you have been the patient forgiver as I have forgotten you in my sinning. How can I tell you of my gratitude? How can I sing the song of my heart's rejoicing? How can I summon the words of eloquence to praise you? O Lord, there are no words to say it well enough. So I join the Psalmist to say simply: you have been good to me. Guide me so that my thanks and my praise will arise from how I live in obedience to your will. Lead me so I may follow. I pray now for...

**Friday. "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust... Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths... my hope is in you all day long. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord."** (from Ps. 25:1-7)

Dear Lord and Savior, I do truly open myself to you today. Lift me to you and let me know still more of your love. You are the

hope of my life. Without you, all we have left are the affairs of this world – all those things which dominate and sometimes menace. But, really, they are only temporary. With you, there is life indeed and the promise of life eternal. As I have confessed, you have forgiven my sins long past and even the sins of yesterday. Keep me from stumbling today as your love surrounds me and guides me. And now I pray for...

**Saturday. “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods... Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...”**  
(from Ps. 95:1-7)

O God, we come now in union with others in our church to acknowledge your presence among us and your guidance for us. How good you have been to us! You *are* the Rock of our salvation! We pray that you will keep our hearts open and ready to hear your voice and receive even more of your love. We want our church to be a place of proclamation about your Gospel of Good News. Let that be our theme as we meet to worship tomorrow, as we thank you and extol your name in prayer and music and word. Stay among us, we pray – this flock under your care. Now I pray for...

## Week 4

"The goal of the new life is that God's children exhibit melody and harmony in their conduct.

"What melody?  
The song of God's justice.

"What harmony?  
The harmony between God's righteousness  
and our obedience.

"Only if we walk in the beauty of God's law  
do we become sure of our adoption  
as children of the Father."

(from John Calvin's *Golden Booklet of the True Christian Life*)

**Monday. "All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless."** (from Isa 44:9)

**"You shall have no other gods before me."** (Exod. 20:3)

**"Dear children, keep yourselves from idols."** (1 John 5:21)

Lord, I confess that I have put many things before you far too often in my life – well, even once is too much! Sometimes I have lost you somewhere down the scale in my value system until you have all but vanished from my mind, my heart. I have wanted things so much as actually to idolize them. I have sought possessions and relationships and accomplishments in ways that raised them on pedestals of what was of greatest importance to me. Though in times past I may have sought and received your forgiveness for such things, am I still doing it? Do I let my relationship with you slip away as I pursue the stuff of life which, at best, is of small and temporary worth? Do I let such impediments deter me from putting you first in all things? I know the risk is always there, so I pray for your continual watch, your firm reminders, your ceaseless guidance. I will avoid every kind of evil if my journey is in your steps. So hasten to draw me to you: you are my God; I pray I shall have no other. I now pray for...

**Tuesday. "Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But my salvation will last forever, my righteousness will never fail." (Isa. 51:6)**

**"...God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" (from Heb. 13:5)**

Jesus said, **"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."** (from Matt. 28:20)

Father, thank you for these golden reassurances. They are the foundation for my faith and they restore me when I am weak, when I am tempted to stray from you. They put you and the things of this world into perspective – those things which occupy my mind too much, which would keep me from putting you first. Keep your word fresh in my life, I pray, so that it occupies me fully. And I pray for...

**Wednesday. "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord and he will have mercy on him . . . for he will freely pardon." (from Isa. 55:6,7)**

**"For God so loved the world that he sent his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)**

O Lord God, thank you for these Scriptures, so familiar to many, but – sadly – unknown to so very many more. But even we who have tasted of your heavenly gift of salvation sometimes skim the surface of the depths of the love which these words portray. Forgive our carelessness, our superficiality, and teach us to drink deeply of your cup of love. And lead us firmly into paths of witnessing to those who don't yet know you. With urgency I pray this, and also for...

**Thursday. "...and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday." (from Isa. 58:10)**

In the parable about the victim of a highway robbery, the man who befriended him and saw to his physical needs was identified

as a **"neighbor."** Jesus said, **"Go and do likewise."** (from Luke 10:30-37)

Lord, forgive us when we fail to share our material blessings with those who are in need. Teach us to live truly as "neighbors" as you define the word. As we seek to fulfill our spiritual lives in the way your word tells us to do, lead us also to those to whom we can be the neighbors – the loving brothers and sisters – you want us to be, not one-sided, but well balanced within the complete framework of your love. I pray also today for...

**Friday. "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."** (from Joshua 24:15)

Jesus said, **"...you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."** (from Luke 10:41, 42)

Thank you, God, for the freedom to choose – it is both wonderful and fearsome. I elect to serve you and, while I know the opportunity to keep doing so will never be taken away, still I know I can lapse into sin which would lead me from you. I pray that, like Mary, I will always make the choice to follow you. Convert my freedom of choice into a power to choose only you. I pray for all in my family, near and far – these for whom I hold special love, these who have not chosen you. I would elect for them but I cannot. Open their hearts to your love, their eyes to your majesty, I pray. Make what I do be a help and never, never a hindrance. I pray for them and for...

**Saturday. "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord... is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation."** (from Isa. 12:2)

**"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** (Acts 2:21)

Jesus said, **"Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..."** (from Mark 16:15,16).

He also said He wants everyone **"to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."** (from I Tim. 2:4).

And He said we are to do what we can to bring people in **“so that my house will be full.”** (from Luke 14:23).

Lord Jesus, just as you are the strength, the song and the salvation for all your disciples, so you are to us in the congregation of our church. We have called on your name, and you have heard us. We thank and praise you! In response, we see we are to tell the world around us about your great love so they may increase their knowledge of you and find salvation. O Lord, help us to do just that in ways you know are best. Teach us to stay open and ready to act out your love, to witness about it. We want to be tools for bringing people to you, making your house full with disciples. Give us ways and wisdom to make it happen, starting right here in our church and reaching out beyond and beyond and beyond... Now I also pray...