



## Daily Prayer Focus and Prayer Assignments

*(Note: this is a copy of what will be sent in daily text and emails.)*

### Day 1

Sunday, August 25

## Praying for a heart with an outward focus

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:16-20

### Notes:

Day 1 is a day of prayer. Day 1 is a day of commitment. Day 1 is the beginning of your great adventure. On fourteen of the next thirty days, you will be asked to do nothing other than pray. That's because prayer is essential to your becoming a Great Commission Christian. If you try to accomplish this goal in your own power, you will not succeed. If you seek God's direction and power you will see victories in your life, in the lives of others, and in your church. So it's time to pray. You will have other days to pray about other important matters, but this day is a time for you to pray for yourself. On this first day of the thirty-day challenge, please pray for yourself. Pray specifically that God will use you in supernatural ways over the next month. Here are some suggestions on areas for prayer:

- For a heart that prioritizes reaching others with the gospel.
- For open opportunities to share the gospel and invite people to church.
- For good time management - to not be so busy that you can't do the work God has called you to do.
- To be an encourager for others in your church to become Great Commission Christians as well.
- To have the right words to say, or not to say, when you have the opportunity to share the gospel or invite someone to church.
- To be the type of servant to others that causes them to be drawn to the Savior who works through you.

You can use the guide above, and of course you can pray any way you feel led. Would you pray now for a Great Commission heart with an outward focus?

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 13, 14)

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### Day 2

Monday, August 26

## You WILL be my witnesses

**Scripture:** Acts 1:8

### Notes:

Your assignment today is simple. Read Acts 1:8. Think about Jesus' words. Think about how those words to his disciples apply to you today. Pray about the passage. Ask God to make it come alive in your life. Then read it again. And perhaps a third time. Ask God to show you how to be a Jerusalem witness. He may give you opportunities to witness beyond Jerusalem, but that's where you begin right where you are. You are about to have an exciting new world open up to you because you have chosen to be obedient where you are. This verse is foundational for your thirty days. Though we will deal with other verses as we go along, you might decide to come back to this second day to get your marching orders. Moreover, you might need to be reminded that the power to move forward on your journey is not your own: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you."

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 21, 22)

**Day 3**

Tuesday, August 27

## **Getting the body moving - praying for our church**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

**Notes:**

Your church is not perfect. No church is. Churches include forgiven sinners just like you and me. Now is not the time to give up on the body of Christ. Now is the time to pray for the body of Christ. Set your book aside for just a moment and take time to pray for your church. Pray that the members of your church will become devoted Great Commission Christians. You might take five minutes to pray for your church, or you might take thirty minutes. Regardless, pray that your church will move from an inward focus to an outward focus. Like the first church in Jerusalem, may the power of God become a reality in your church: After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pg. 28)

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**Day 4**

Wednesday, August 28

## **Praying for our Pastor**

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 4)

**Notes:**

Pray that your pastor will have a close walk with God. Pray that the Holy Spirit will both guide and comfort them. Pray that your pastor will regularly hear from God through prayer and Scripture reading. Pray for your pastor's family. Pray for your pastor as a leader. For sure, pastors are first servants, but they must also serve as servant leaders on a regular basis. Your church is an organization they must lead. They are often expected to lead meetings. In your church you might have part-time or full-time staff the pastor is expected to lead. And you certainly want your pastor to lead your church to become a Great Commission church. ... serving as a pastor is difficult. Indeed, outside of God's call and strength, it is impossible. ... praying for my pastor's preaching is good, but there are many others areas where I can and should pray for him. Tonight, I will take a bit of extra time to pray for my pastor. I thank God for my pastor.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 35, 36)

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**Day 5**

Thursday, August 29

## **Praying for great commission church members**

**Scripture:** John 17:21

James 5:16

**Notes:**

Pray for church unity, love for our community, love for our pastor and staff, and a focus on others. A church will never become a Great Commission church in its own strength. It takes the power of God. And prayer is not simply a prelude; it is the essential catalyst of a Great Commission church. Take a few minutes now to pray for the members of your church. As the apostle James noted, "The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results" (James 5:16).

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 44, 45)

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## Day 6

### Praying for the power of the Holy Spirit

Friday, August 30

**Scripture:** Luke 24:49

John 14:26

Acts 1:8

Acts 4:31

#### Notes:

When you pray for the power of the Holy Spirit, you are welcoming him to control your life. You are asking him to give you the thoughts, words, and actions to be a Great Commission Christian. And though all the prayers you will be praying during these thirty days are important, this one might be the most important. You are praying to yield your life to the Holy Spirit so that you can become a Great Commission Christian. Take a few minutes and pray for the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. Pray that the Spirit will mold you into a powerful witness for Christ. He will indeed shape you to become a Great Commission Christian.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pg. 52)

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## Day 7

### That thing called courage

Saturday, August 31

**Scripture:** Acts 4:1-31

#### Notes:

So, our primary task today is to read and understand this portion of Acts 4. The passage is a powerful and poignant reminder of the work of God through our obedience. It is also a reminder that courage does not come to us naturally, it is given to us supernaturally. Take time to read Acts 4 again closely. Use it to guide your prayer life as you pray for yourself and others in your church to be men and women of courage. By the way, congratulations for completing the first week of the thirty-day challenge. We will have a few more days of prayer; then we will be ready to move forward in gospel obedience. God is already at work in your life and in your church.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 60-61)

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## Day 8

### To love my community

Sunday, September 1

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

#### Notes:

Every community has a deep need, and every deep need has faces and people connected to it. As you pray for your community, take time to discover those needs. Something as simple as reading a local publication will probably suffice. Pray for the needs you see, and for the people affected by those needs. On Day 8 we are seeking to love our communities more deeply and more personally. As we love our communities, we are compelled to pray for them more. And as we pray for them more, we learn to love them more. Pause for a few moments and show love for your community by praying for it.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 68-69)

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## Day 9

### To obey is better than sacrifice

Monday, September 2

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 15:22

#### Notes:

The action step for Day 9 of the thirty-day challenge is another prayer: "Lord, help me to be obedient to your Great Commission. Give me your power, strength, and discernment in my life as I share with others what Jesus has done for me." Don't allow the simplicity of the prayer to diminish its importance. You're praying that God will give you everything you need to obey the Great Commission. Note that you are not praying for a certain methodology; you are simply praying for obedience. That obedience may come in the form of inviting someone to church where they can hear the gospel and become positively influenced by other believers. The obedience may come by simply praying to God each day for an opportunity to share the love of Christ in word or in deed. Like the other days we have dedicated to prayer, Day 9 is an important day. When we ask God to help us become more obedient, he is pleased to respond positively. On this particular day, we are praying for obedience to the Great Commission. We are praying not only for opportunities, but also that we will do exactly what God wants us to do when those opportunities arise. Take a moment now and pray for obedience, particularly obedience to the Great Commission.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 75-76)

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## Day 10

### Praying for your "one"

Tuesday, September 3

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 10)

#### Notes:

"Your one" refers to someone you know, perhaps someone with whom you have frequent contact. Your one should be someone who is not a Christian or perhaps someone who is not connected with a local church fellowship. The idea behind praying for your one is to ask God for the Holy Spirit to draw this person to salvation or to connect him or her with a church. On Day 10 of this thirty-day challenge, you will pray for one person specifically. Okay, have you decided who your one will be? Is it someone with whom you work? Is it a merchant you see regularly? Is it someone in your school, perhaps in your own class? Is it someone from your past, and you simply feel led to pray for that person? Pause here until you have a name firmly in mind. Sometimes it takes more than a year of praying for your one before you see results. Sometimes it takes only a few weeks. Your challenge today is to select and begin praying for your one. His or her life will be changed. And so will yours.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 77, 80, 81, 82)

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## Day 11

### Writing outwardly

Wednesday, September 4

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7

#### Notes:

Today's action step might require expanding the boundaries of your comfort zone. For the first ten days of this challenge, you have primarily been praying for people or looking at Scripture. Today, I will ask you to write a note to someone. The ideal person to write to is your "one" from Day 10. If your "one" is someone you hardly know, it might be premature to write to them. For this particular exercise, it is important to write to someone who is not a Christian - or, at the very least,

is not active in a church. Let God handle the response. The recipient may not know how to respond appropriately. He or she may have mixed-up priorities. He or she might be going through personal pain and not have the emotional stamina to respond. That's okay. You are writing a letter of grace and encouragement. Above all, our letter is a letter of love. Take a moment and read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Love is others-focused instead of self-focused. It's all about how we can help and serve the other person. Are you ready to write your letter, send your text, or type your email? Remember, it doesn't have to be long, I encourage you to write it as soon as possible so you won't put it off. Right before you put the letter in the mailbox or hit send for the text or email, say a prayer. Pray that God will use your words to make a big difference in the life of the recipient. Pray that God will be glorified in this letter, text, or email.  
(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 83, 85, 86, 88)

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## **Day 12**

### **To be unashamed**

Thursday, September 5

**Scripture:** Luke 9:26  
Romans 1:15-17

#### **Notes:**

Your assignment on Day 12 is basic but profound. Focus on Romans 1:16-17. Read it several times. Perhaps ask God in prayer to give you clarity about the verses for your life. And then ask yourself, "Am I ashamed of Christ?" You can best answer the question by looking in the mirror. Do you talk about Christ with unbridled enthusiasm? Are you willing to defend him when his name is mocked or held in scorn? Are you living the life he has asked you to live without reservation? And, finally, are you willing, even eager, to share the Good News of Christ with those who are not believers in him? If not, are you willing to begin praying for God to give you the courage, the words, and the love to share his Good News with others?  
(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pg. 96)

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## **Day 13**

### **The Power of the invitation**

Friday, September 6

**Scripture:** Matthew 4:18-21  
Matthew 9:37-38

#### **Notes:**

Start thinking about the most natural and comfortable way for you to invite someone to church. Make a commitment to invite your first person before the week is over. You will have two more people to invite before the thirty-day challenge is over, so don't put it off more than a few days. As always, pray for a name to come to your mind if you have not already done so. Once you have a name, pray for the person, couple, or family to be receptive to your invitation. After you have prayed, give yourself a deadline to make the invitation. Make certain the deadline is just a few days away. By the way, the challenge for today is simply inviting someone to church. It does not necessarily mean the person will say yes. I pray they will, but your role is obedience. Your role is inviting someone. Leave the results up to God.  
(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pg. 102)

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## Day 14

### Praying for our Pastor again

Saturday, September 7

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 14)

#### Notes:

Of course, you can feel free to pray for your pastor in any direction you are led. Let me suggest a few areas the pastors mention the most.

Pray for wisdom for your pastor. The decisions pastors must make are numerous. Some are minor. Some are of major consequence.

Pray for your pastor to have the right priorities. Because of the constant requests and demands that pastors receive, they often respond to the most vocal demand rather than the ones of greatest importance.

Pray for your pastor's family. Spouses and children often feel the burden of being a part of a pastor's family. They often sense the eyes of those looking in the glass house. Any many of them are hurt and lonely.

Pray for your pastor's sermons. This includes sermon preparation time as well as the actual delivery of the sermon. More people see and hear the pastor in this relatively short period than at any other time of the week.

Pray for your pastor's emotional, physical, and spiritual stamina. The work of a pastor's ministry is demanding, and it can be exhausting. Pastors who are tired are pastors who may get into trouble.

Pray for your pastor's Great Commission leadership. For sure, we are taking these thirty days to challenge you personally to be a Great Commission Christian. But God intended for Christians to do most of their ministry in the local church.

You will be a stronger Great Commission Christian if your church is committed to evangelism too. Such is the primary reason we are asking you to pray for your pastor today. By the way, there is nothing wrong with praying for your pastor every day!

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 107, 108)

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## Day 15

### It's time to GO

Sunday, September 8

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:19

Acts 1:8

#### Notes:

For Day 15, go into your neighborhood and pray for ten different families (you can walk or drive neighborhoods,)

1) Pray for those in each home to be aware of God's presence in their lives.

2) Pray for those in each home to become followers of Christ.

3) Pray for those in each home to get involved in a church.

This is the first of four challenges that will get you out into your community. We have heard remarkable and inspiring testimonies from church members who have made the commitment to go and pray. Here's a vital piece that I want to emphasize: Pray before you go. We call our resource Pray & Go because we encourage those walking into their communities to pray for their efforts before they leave. Pray first, then go. Pray for open hearts in the home. Pray for safety. Pray for your own witness. Pray for God go give you the right words if you do engage someone in a conversation. Prayer walking is such a simple exercise, but don't let the simplicity lead you to believe that God can't use your efforts in profound ways. We have been helping Christians and churches get out into their communities for years, and we never cease to be amazed at the way God honors these efforts.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 113, 114, 115-116)

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## Day 16

Monday, September 9

### VIP: Very Important Prayers

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 16)

**Notes:**

We will take Day 16 to pray again for several important people and issues.

- Pray for an outwardly focused heart
- Pray for an outwardly focused church
- Pray for your pastor
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for your community
- Pray for obedience
- Pray for your "one"

Our Prayer again today is that God would give us a desire to reach beyond ourselves. Pray again today that God will help you turn your focus outward. Pray again for your church to become outwardly focused. Go back to Days 4 and 14. Look at the descriptions of a typical pastor's life. Remind yourself again of the challenges pastors face in the midst of the victories they celebrate. Pray with boldness and with confidence that you will indeed be a witness in your community. Watch God open doors in miraculous ways. Pray that you will be obedient to share that Good News faithfully and regularly. On Day 10, you began praying for your one, a person who is not in church and is likely not a believer in Christ. As you pray for him or her, take careful note of how God opens doors for you to connect with your one. (Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 117, 118,119,121)

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## Day 17

Tuesday, September 10

### Write to someone again

**Scripture:** Matthew 9:36-38

**Notes:**

On Day 11, you wrote your first outwardly focused letter. You likely tried to be an encourager in the biblical model of Barnabas. It's time to write another letter. Let's take a moment to remember why you are writing these letters. First, it has become clear that you are to be an encourager. Everyone needs encouragement. Everyone needs a positive word from time to time. It is exciting that you are able to be that conduit of encouragement and joy to someone. Second, you are to be a source of comfort. Everyone hurts at times. Many people hurt a lot of the time. It is likely the person to whom you are writing is in the midst of some struggle or some pain. Your note to them may come at God's perfect time. As you likely have noticed by now, this thirty-day challenge doesn't have firmly fixed prescriptions for each day. There is flexibility in how you meet each day's challenge. There is flexibility so the Holy Spirit can lead us without a script getting in the way. The same rules apply today. Prayerfully decide the best way forward. (Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 125, 126, 127)

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## Day 18

### Praying for Unity

Wednesday, September 11

**Scripture:** John 17:15, 20-21, 23

#### Notes:

The evil one will try to stop Great Commission obedience and activity. As you pray for unity in the church, pray for protection from the enemy. Jesus specifically prayed that his followers would be kept safe from Satan. That should be our prayer as well. When Christians and churches are unified, unbelievers in the world will see the gospel in that unity. The world will know that God sent Jesus. The world will know that Jesus came to die for our sins. The world will know that God loves them so much that he sent his one and only Son to be a sacrifice for us. You cannot be a Great Commission Christian and be at odds with other believers. You cannot be a Great Commission church and have infighting in the church. Unity is imperative for the Great Commission. Today, you are asked to pray for unity for your church. I encourage you to begin by praying for your own attitude. Are you at odds with anyone else? Are you seeking to get your own way in the church rather than yielding to the preferences of others? Your involvement in this challenge is a form of spiritual warfare, taking the fight to the enemy. And one of the enemy's greatest counter tactics is to try to distract or disunity your church.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 133, 134, 135, 136)

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## Day 19

### The Great Commission passage

Thursday, September 12

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-20

Mark 16:15

#### Notes:

Though Jesus gave the Great Commission to his immediate eleven disciples in Matthew 28:18-20, he meant the words to carry to all Christians throughout the ages. Such is the reason he said he is with us "even to the end of the age." Your study of this Great Commission passage for Day 19 should be a great encouragement to you. As we seek to become the Great Commission Christians that Jesus intends for us to be, his words remind us that we are not doing this mission on our own. We go in his authority. We go with his presence. And we go with confidence because he promised us he would be with us to the end of the age. Make certain you have read Matthew 28:18-20 closely. Make sure you understand it fully. And pray that you will be obedient to the words that Jesus left us.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 143-144)

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## Day 20

### Pray and go for the families

Friday, September 13

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 20)

#### Notes:

It is time for your to begin your second mission of going. You were introduced to the concept of praying and going on Day 15. This mission is the same as it was on Day 15, but today I will guide you more specifically on how to pray for the people in the homes you pass. Once again, the mission is simple. Go to ten homes in your neighborhood or community (different from the ten you prayed for before). As you pass each home, pause or walk slowly and pray for the residents. In this second pray-and-go mission, we will focus on the needs of the families in the homes. Obviously, we cannot know



what their needs are. We can, however, pray for categories of needs that are common to most people. Feel free to make adjustments to both the process and your prayers as you feel led.

- Pray for couples
- Pray for the children
- Pray for their health
- Pray for their financial needs
- Pray for their salvation

The greatest need in every home is salvation through Jesus Christ. Most likely, there will be Christians in some of the homes, but your prayers will still not be in vain. It is incredibly rewarding to see how God answers these prayers almost every time a church encourages its members to pray and go.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 145, 146, 150)

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## Day 21

### Invite your three

Saturday, September 14

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 21)

#### Notes:

On Day 13, you invited someone to church. This time, you will invite three people. Again, the method of invitation is up to you. But don't forget how powerful the simple act of inviting someone is. It shows you care. You are attempting to enhance a relationship. You will at least cause someone to think about connecting with a body of believers. Think about it for a moment. Your invitation is an act of eternal significance. It is so simple, yet so profound. Please don't take today's assignment lightly. Indeed, never take the act of inviting people to church lightly. Again, I encourage you to pray before you send the invitations. Pray that God will use your words to prepare the person for your invitation. You might already have three names in mind. But if you're struggling about whom to invite, here are some suggestions:

- Check your email
- Check our phone address book
- Check your coworkers and fellow students
- Check your merchants
- Check your neighbors

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 153, 154)

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## Day 22

### Invite someone you don't know

Sunday, September 15

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 22)

#### Notes:

[Today's assignment] to write to someone you don't know. I wonder how this assignment makes you feel. Frankly, being an introvert, it's easier for me to write a letter than to engage with someone in person. Perhaps you're wondering who you should write to, especially when it's somebody you don't know. Let's look at some possibilities.

- Guests who have visited your church in the past
- The gold mine of member connections
- Leaders in the community

The purpose of today's challenge is simply to get you thinking about someone who needs Christ, or at the very least needs a church home. So, if you still can't come up with a name, pray that God will bring someone to mind. Though this challenge is to write to someone you don't know, don't worry if you can only think of someone who is an acquaintance or

a friend. Though I should never be surprised at how God works, I am still amazed at how he can use a simple email to change the path of someone's eternity. Now that you have a name and contact information, write a note to that person. Email him or her right now. Don't let the moment pass. God could indeed be using you to impact someone eternally. (Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 160, 164)

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## Day 23

Monday, September 16

### The Great Commission and your Family

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 23)

**Notes:**

We will take a slightly different path today. Throughout this thirty-day challenge, you have been praying for a number of people, many of whom are not Christians or do not have a church home. For Day 23 we will focus on your family. But we will not just focus on the lost and unchurched in your family; we will focus on all your family members. In other words, our Great Commission ministry will not be as effective if we are neglecting our own families. With that in mind, take time to pray for several people in your family. I will provide you a guide, but you may find yourself led in other ways to pray for your family.

- Pray for family members who are Christians
  - Pray for your family members who are not Christians
  - Pray for your family members who are going through difficulties
  - Pray for your family members who are difficult
  - Pray for yourself as a family member
- (Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 165, 166)
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## Day 24

Tuesday, September 17

### Praying away the obstacles

**Scripture:** John 14:6

**Notes:**

Let's take Day 24 as a day to pray away these obstacles. And let's also pray that God will remind us to pray away these obstacles on a regular basis.

- Busyness - Pray that you will learn God's priorities for time in your life. There is probably a lot of room for sharing the gospel.
  - Tyranny of the urgent - Pray for wisdom when urgent matters arise. Look for gospel opportunities in them.
  - Fear - Pray that God will either remove the fear or use it as you seek to become a more obedient Great Commission Christian.
  - Discouragement - Pray that God will protect you from letting discouragement distract you from Great Commission obedience.
  - Excuses - Ask God to work in the midst of your excuses. You will be amazed to see how he answers that prayer.
- (Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177)
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## Day 25

### Go with prayers of evangelism

Wednesday, September 18

**Scripture:** Matthew 19:22-24

#### Notes:

It's time to go to another ten homes. It's time to pray for the people in those homes. Can you believe that after today's exercise you will have prayed for thirty families in your community? Do you wonder what changes are happening in those homes? Do you wonder how God has used your prayers in those homes? You don't need any further instructions on how this exercise works. You are a pro by now. But I'm asking that you focus your prayers on evangelism this time. Though you probably don't know who is or isn't a Christian in the home you pray for, pray for each home as if there is at least one person there who is not a believer. Unfortunately, the likelihood of at least one member of the family not being a Christian is high. If possible, focus your prayer into three brief areas.

1) Pray for their salvation. Start your prayer for each home by praying for the salvation of each person inside who is not a Christian. As you pray for the salvation of those in each of the ten homes, ask God to send them a message or a messenger.

2) Pray to remove obstacles. You took time yesterday, on Day 24, to pray that God would remove obstacles in your life that are hindering you from becoming a Great Commission Christian. Take a few seconds at each home to pray that obstacles to the gospel will be removed for those who have not yet become Christians. Pray for obstacles to the gospel to be removed - especially the obstacles of comfort and possessions.

3) Pray for them to find a church. While church attendance alone won't turn an unbeliever into a Christian, church gatherings are a place where they will hear the gospel and see the gospel lived out. Perhaps God will use your prayer that people will find a church as an instrument toward their salvation

Now it's time to go. It's time to pray for ten more families.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 181, 182, 183, 184)

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## Day 26

### Telling your story

Thursday, September 19

**Scripture:** 1 Peter 3:15

#### Notes:

If you are a believer in Christ, you have a story. Here on Day 26, the action step is for you to put together the elements of your story. Don't be intimidated by the process. Most of the time when someone asks us to tell them something about ourselves, we talk about our family or our vocation. We should also be ready to tell our spiritual story. We must be ready to explain how we came to faith in Jesus. If you have not already done so, start putting your salvation story together.

Write it in outline form or write it verbatim if that helps. Just be ready to share your story. God will give you the opportunity to tell it. Yes, we are to make disciples. Yes, we are to go into the harvest fields. And yes, we must always be ready to explain where and how we gained our hope as believers. If we walk with Christ, and if we make ourselves available to share the Good News with others, God will put people in our paths. As you grow as a Great Commission Christian, you will be amazed at how many times you have an opportunity to share the gospel and tell your story. Most people love to hear a good story. You have the greatest story. You once were blind, but now you see. You once were lost, but now you are found. Get Ready to tell your story. Countless people are waiting.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 189, 190, 191)

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**Day 27**

Friday, September 20

## **Reconciliation and the Great Commission**

**Scripture:** Matthew 28:18-19

Matthew 5:23-24

### **Notes:**

A commission is an order or directive from a higher authority. It can be an assignment given to a group or an individual. Because the commission is given by someone, or some group, in authority, the person carrying out the commission has the same authority. Throughout the history of the church, we have attached the superlative great to this commission from our Lord and Savior. In other words, we see this particular command from Jesus as one of utmost importance. Our obedient response to the Great Commission is an act of worship. We have said yes to the Kings of kings. We are ready to go. Unless . . . We are unreconciled to someone. For those of us desiring to become Great Commission Christians, we are reminded that we cannot serve God well if we have other relationships that need mending. You have done well. You are nearing the end of your thirty-day challenge to become a Great Commission Christian. That is your "sacrifice at the altar." It is your act of obedience to a holy God. Now, before the thirty days conclude, take time to pray about anyone with whom you are not reconciled. If any faces or names come to mind, ask God to give you a heart or willingness to reach out to that person. You might be able to make a phone call right now. Or perhaps you can start the process with an email or note encouraging this person or noting something good they have done. It's time to leave your sacrifice at the altar. It's time to go and be reconciled.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 193, 194, 195, 198)

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**Day 28**

Saturday, September 21

## **Invite three people again**

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 28)

### **Notes:**

The Day 28 challenge is to invite three people from your community to church. Inviting three people personally in one day might be difficult, so it's okay to email them if you can't invite them in person. But you need a plan. What I'm suggesting is that you invite a government leader, a business leader, and a local merchant to your church. Now it's time for you to send your emails to three people. Encourage them. Express your appreciation for them. And invite them to church. When you finish your Day 28 challenge, you will have invited eight people to church during this thirty-day challenge. If only nineteen other church members joined you in this challenge, that would be 160 people invited to church. As we get ready to finish the thirty-day challenge, look back at how far you've come. Think about how your attitude has changed. Anticipate that God will do a great work through your acts of obedience as a Great Commission Christian.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 201, 202, 206, 207)

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**Day 29**

Sunday, September 22

## **Time to go to thirty**

**Scripture:** (There will be no designated scripture for Day 29)

**Notes:**

If I had suggested early in this thirty-day challenge that you should go into your neighborhood and pray for thirty homes, you might have felt overwhelmed. You might have quit the challenge right then, deeming it too difficult. But you're a challenge veteran now. You've seen how God will prepare a path for you. And you've learned that praying for ten homes is not only possible, it's also pretty easy. So now your challenge is to go to thirty more homes. It doesn't seem as intimidating now, does it? In fact, you can probably complete this challenge in under an hour. But what an incredible difference it will make. I get excited just thinking about how God will use you. This time, you'll focus on a different pray for three groups of ten homes. For the first ten, pray for receptivity to the gospel. For the second group, pray that God will give them a desire to connect to a church. For the final ten homes, ask God to give the residents an unmistakable encounter with him. All of these prayers are connected, so God may answer your prayers in all three ways for some of the residents.

-Receptivity to the gospel - You are praying for the residents of the first ten homes to have receptive hearts.

-A desire for Christian community - You are praying specifically for these residents to have a desire to connect to a local church.

-Encountering God - Pray for a God moment for the residents of your third group of ten homes.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 209, 210, 211, 212, 213)

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**Day 30**

Monday, September 23

## **The end is but the beginning**

**Scripture:** Philippians 1:9-11

**Notes:**

You've done it! You've made it to the final day of your thirty-day challenge. Let's review some of your accomplishments.

-You prayed for fifteen days specifically for areas to make you a more effective Great Commission Christian.

-You delved into five Bible passages that encouraged you toward the Great Commission.

-You obeyed the command to go to sixty homes and pray for the residents.

-You wrote five letters or emails of encouragement.

-You asked God to heal any broken relationship in your life.

-You invited eight people to your church.

Ask God to continue his work in your life to make you a Great Commission Christian.

-Pray for those who received your letters or emails.

-Pray for the residents of the homes. Over the past month, you have walked to or driven by sixty homes and prayed for the residents. If we assume an average of four people in each home, you prayed for 240 people as you walked by their homes. That is incredible! Take time to pray for the people in those homes.

-Pray for your own heart and actions. Pray that you will give priority to those things that are God's priorities. Pray that your heart will break from the things that break the heart of God.

-Pray for your church. Take time today to pray for your church. Pray for your pastor. Pray for the volunteers and staff. Pray that your church would be a Great Commission force in your community. And pray that the community would be open as members from your church engage them with the gospel.

-The end that becomes the beginning.

Yes, it is the end of the thirty-day challenge. But I hope you will come back to it again and again. I hope you will sign and date every day of the challenge multiple times. The Great Commission is not just another program in the church or another activity for you to check off. It is a command from Jesus, and it should be a way of life for all believers.

(Pray & Go, by Thom S. Rainer, pgs. 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220)