

### MOBILIZED FOR BRINGING PEOPLE TO JESUS

# PRAYER JOURNAL

PRAYING THE SPIRIT'S SAVING GRACE TO PENTECOST

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# P R A Y E R J O U R N A L

PRAYING THE SPIRIT'S SAVING GRACE TO PENTECOST



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## PREFACE

I have heard it said that the most compassionate act and greatest blessing that followers of Christ can do for other people is to connect them with Jesus Christ. There is no question that the act of providing food and shelter to the unhoused is a blessing to them. There is no question that emotional support for grieving people is a blessing to them. There is no question that providing a bed for a child sleeping on the floor is a blessing both to the child and the parents. Acts of compassion for hurting people improve circumstances and open doors to the greatest blessing of all: to know Jesus Christ. A relationship with Jesus becomes the love, the light, and the life of God breathed into their very being through his Son. There is no greater blessing than that!

As followers of Christ, it should be our life's purpose to share the hope and love and salvation of Jesus Christ with those around us. The year 2024 was a year to focus on blessing our communities. The apostle Paul wrote that our work is produced by faith and that our labor is prompted by love (1 Thessalonians 1:3). Paul also wrote, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

The year 2025 is a year to focus on bringing people to Jesus. This is God working in the lives of others through our faith, love, and good works. We are humbled when we remember Jesus's words, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). This is God's work in which we have the privilege of participating. We also remember that everyone is invited to come to the Father. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This is God's defining work in the lives of broken people. Again, we are privileged to participate in what God is already doing.

Starting on Easter and running through—and beyond—Pentecost, the focus of prayer will be bringing people to Jesus. Will you pray with your brothers and sisters in Christ for God to move powerfully in the lives of those who are disconnected from God?

—Jeff Alexander Director of Strategy, USA/Canada Region Church of the Nazarene

### DAY 1: EASTER

Sunday, April 20, 2025

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#### Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."

#### **Scripture Insights**

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus meets people where they are. He knows the needs, hopes, hurts, and dreams of those he encounters. And in all of this, Jesus provides exactly what they need.

Walking along the shore, Jesus sees fishermen. They are doing what they know when he invites them to fish for people: "Come, follow me!" Following him is to know Jesus and to be known by him. Following Jesus, they will receive the love of God and draw others to that love. Following him, they will experience new life and learn to share new life.

On this resurrection Sunday, we know Jesus has met all of us just where we are with exactly what we need. At the empty tomb, we experience the fullness of God's love and the gift of resurrection power at work within us and through us.

Right now, right where we are, the invitation is for us just like it was for those first disciples. Will we follow Jesus? And will we invite others to join us on this journey?

#### **Today's Prayer**

God, we give you thanks today for the empty tomb! May we be people who follow Jesus to meet people where they are, willing to sacrifice our all for your kingdom. Empower us by your Spirit to love, and embolden us to share the good news.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Olivia Metcalf CotN District Superintendent, Upstate New York

### **DAY 2** Monday, April 21, 2025

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#### John 17:22-23

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Nothing Jesus did was casual. He was never rushed, but he was full of purpose. In the Gospel of Luke, we see Jesus demonstrating his determined will to fulfill the purpose for which his Father had sent him: the redemption of humanity. "As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). That's purpose.

In today's scripture we catch a glimpse of our part in Jesus's purpose. Jesus is now in Jerusalem and is about to go to the cross to make the way for salvation to be accomplished. Before his arrest, Jesus spends time praying for you and me, that we would be one just as he and the Father are one. This was not a meaningless prayer for us to experience fuzzy sentimental emotions. In this deep and profound prayer, our Savior is praying that we will join him in fulfilling the purpose for which he was about to sacrifice his life on the cross—that the church of 2025, you and me, may be one as he and the Father are one, for the sake of unity. Then Jesus's purpose will be fulfilled in context of the 2025 communities we live in.

In a diverse USA/Canada context where, these days, our differences tend to divide us, even in the church, Jesus's prayer continues to resound loudly. Only supernatural power can accomplish what Jesus prayed for. That's why his promise of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was so crucial to the success of his plan to use you and me. Praise God that we now live in the time when that power is available to us. Come, Holy Spirit, make us one as the Father and Son are one!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, as we journey from Easter to Pentecost and beyond, pour out your Holy Spirit on the Church of the Nazarene in the USA and Canada. Empower each of us to reach out with the love of Jesus in our hearts, and make us one so that the world will know Jesus in all his grace and mercy.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Steve Ottley CotN District Superintendent, Canada Central

### **DAY 3** Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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#### Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

#### **Scripture Insights**

Scripture gives us a consistent and compelling storyline that links the nature of God to movement and mission. God, in Jesus, moves out from heaven and toward humanity. In Mathew 28, Jesus tells us to go to make disciples, to baptize, and to teach. In Luke, Jesus sends out the seventy-two disciples and says, "Go! I am sending you like lambs among wolves."

Embedded within this language of going is the language of invitation. God is inviting us to be part of what the Holy Spirit is doing in our world. We can accept that invitation from God to go.

Perhaps more challenging is the fact that going is wrapped up in the invitation to be a guest. To go means we leave our place of comfort—the space we control, the reality we know—to accept someone's invitation to be a guest. Being a guest means a loss of control. This is a step of faith as we accept God's invitation to be sent for the sake of the good news.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Dear Jesus, we are thankful that you came to roll back the ravages of sin. You invite us into the hope of redemption and reconciliation. Help us to continue our yes to you to go and carry the good news of resurrection.

—Teanna Sunberg Co-Director, Mission New York (New York)

### DAY 4 Wednesday, April 23, 2025

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#### Psalm 96:3

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

#### **Scripture Insights**

This missionary psalm inspired generations to send men and women to distant countries, carrying the message of God's greatness to the nations. Today, the nations have come to our own doorsteps. In our own neighborhoods, we encounter the very people for whom we once crossed oceans. Recently, as my wife and I reflected on this reality with my parents, we identified that our next-door neighbor is from Egypt, two houses down we have neighbors from Brazil, and across the street live a wonderful couple from Romania and a newly relocated family from Algeria.

God has brought the mission field to us, placing within our reach the opportunity to share Christ's love with the nations right here in our own communities. Evangelism isn't just about going out; it's also about welcoming in. Let's be intentional in building relationships with our neighbors, embodying the love of Christ, and declaring the goodness of God with the same passion as those who once journeyed to far-off lands. The mission hasn't changed, but our mission field certainly has.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Jesus, open our eyes to the mission field around us. Give us the courage to open our hearts to our neighbors and the boldness to open our mouths to declare your praise.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

Dale S	Schaeffer

—Date Schaeffer CotN District Superintendent, Florida

### DAY 5 Thursday, April 24, 2025

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#### **Galatians 3:8-9**

Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Do you ever wonder who was first? First to drive a car, first to fly a plane, first to make and eat ice cream (true genius!)?

We don't need to wonder who was the first to hear the gospel and who was first to proclaim it. Paul tells us here that person was Abraham. He wasn't given a theological education either. Abraham heard and believed, and that's when his faith began. Then he shared the gospel simply by living. He didn't become a famous prophet or preacher; he was just a patriarch—the father of a big family—who allowed his faithful obedience to God do the work. Sure, Abraham wasn't perfect, but God is, and God worked in and through Abraham despite his imperfections. It wasn't Abraham's perfection that saved him but his faith.

Today, we enjoy the benefits of the gospel thanks to Abraham and the covenant God made with him. We would do well to learn from the first, and to start our fishing by simply being faithfully obedient to God.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, we thank you for the faith of Abraham and the example he has set. We confess our belief in you and commit to living in faithful obedience. May others see that and be drawn into a relationship with you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Matt Huff Lead Pastor, Portland Central Church of the Nazarene (Oregon)

### **DAY 6** Friday, April 25, 2025

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#### Mark 1:14-15

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

#### **Scripture Insights**

These are the first words spoken by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. They highlight the essence of Jesus's preaching ministry: God's promised salvation is here; repent and believe!

As we focus on bringing people to Jesus, today's scripture gives us this simple message we need to share with non-believers. It isn't about being good enough already, or a list of rules and requirements. It's simply about asking for forgiveness of sins, turning from the old, believing in Jesus, and striving to grow in faith to become more like him.

As we share the good news, we aren't called to have all the answers, point out weaknesses, share all our personal ideas, rules, or beliefs on minor issues, or make sure they join our church. We simply need to share what it means to repent and believe, and express the joy we have through our faith in Christ and his leading in our lives.

Let's take Jesus's example. Make it simple and be clear: being a Christian means to repent and believe. After that, God will go to work in the new believer's life, and hopefully use us to disciple!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, we pray right now for you to open our eyes to opportunities to share the simple message of salvation. Deliver us from any hesitation. Empower us with your words, and may your power and presence in us enable us to share freely. Remind us that you go before us and are already working in each soul.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Barbara Tarantino Lay Leader (Ohio)

### **DAY 7** Saturday, April 26, 2025

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#### **Revelation 14:6**

Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people.

#### **Scripture Insights**

"It's happening now, Pastor!" a church member said to me during a Bible study on Revelation. The book of Revelation engulfed us in a labyrinth of scary imageries, visions, and various phases of a great battle that has lashed out on earth.

Unfortunately, most people have witnessed the constant struggle between good and evil, the forces of darkness and light, right versus wrong, and a world where hopelessness and chaos are daily realities that only a righteous King could deliver them from.

Though Revelation is not known to be an evangelistic book, today's scripture can offer us evangelistic hope in a world where evildoers, false prophets, and despotic leaders rule, leeching hope from people everywhere. The gospel of Jesus Christ is for every nation, tribe, language, and people.

Can God count on us to proclaim the eternal gospel of salvation to various people whose skin colors, languages, and ways of life differ from ours?

#### **Today's Prayer**

As believers of Christ in this troubled world, our prayer is that we, as beneficiaries of the gospel, become the proclaimers of this eternal gospel as salvific hope for the judgment to come.



### **DAY 8** Sunday, April 27, 2025

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#### John 4:13-14

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

#### **Scripture Insights**

I was recently looking for a new car, and the saleswoman showing me the car asked what I do for a living. When I told her I am a minister, she became emotional. She told me she had not been to church in years but had just attended the prior weekend for the first time in a long time. I asked her if she had committed her life back to God, and she replied she had not. Before I left, I had the opportunity to pray with her to return to Christ.

In John 4, we see that Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. He tells her of the living water that he gives, quenching thirst forever. This well of invitation, along with the rest of her lengthy conversation with Jesus, led her to tell many others about the Messiah.

Every day God can open wells of invitation that allow us to tell others about Jesus. We have this invitation from Jesus to share with those around us every day!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Jesus, help us to see the world around us the way you see it. Help us to see the harvest field of souls for whom you died and rose again! Help us to share with others about your love and your invitation to drink of your eternal living water.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

\_\_\_\_\_Shawn Siegfried

CotN District Superintendent, Southern California

### **DAY 9** Monday, April 28, 2025

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**Romans 10:14** 

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

#### **Scripture Insights**

Romans 10 is as hard a pill to swallow for the Israelites more than two thousand years ago as I believe Paul's words are a challenge to the church today. Paul is redirecting the Israelites who have skewed the message of salvation and righteousness through faith in Christ Jesus. Paul reminds us that God has a plan and that we have been healed and freed in order to execute the plan. No longer is our faith rooted in Mosaic Law but in the love of God for all in Christ Jesus.

Well-meaning believers beware! It's easy to believe we are living for the Lord while being distracted by polarizing issues and missing the Father's heart for his children and those who have yet to be invited to receive the gifts of God through Christ Jesus. Like the Israelites, Paul reminds us that if we aren't careful, we can defuse the powerful impact of the perfect work of Christ in our lives and forget that our purpose is to share the good news.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Help us, oh God! Revive in us a fresh revelation of the healing and freedom wrapped up in the gospel. May the fire of the Holy Spirit release that same healing and freedom of the gospel to fulfill our purpose of sharing the gospel.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Irene Lewis-Wimbley Director, Southside Community Center (Illinois)

### **DAY 10** Tuesday, April 29, 2025

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#### 1 John 4:9-10

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

#### **Scripture Insights**

In these verses, we see God's ultimate love for us. He gave up his only Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we can live. God did this just for us. We didn't even love God, but he allowed his Son to die for us. His unconditional love was shown to us first.

This is the defining example of love. God's love allows us to love those people who don't love us, or who are different from us or who may not accept us. God gave Jesus the strength to die on the cross. God gives us strength and power to love and meet the needs of those around us. God's power can work through us to reach others for Christ.

Reaching people for Christ starts with caring about people where they are. Show them God's love, and he will take care of the rest. God displayed his love by the action of giving his only Son to die for our sins. Let us put God's love into action.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank you for your love that you have shown through sacrificing your Son so we can have eternal life. Help us to love those around us and to put your love into action so others may come to know you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Deborah Straub

Attending Physician, Emergency Department (Nova Scotia)

### DAY 11 Wednesday, April 30, 2025

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#### Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### **Scripture Insights**

"Demonstrate" is a powerful word that means "to clearly show the existence of something by giving proof." The fact that Christ died for us and chooses to forgive us when we are filled with sin is indisputable proof of God's love.

Two verses earlier in this chapter, Paul says that Christ died for the ungodly when we were powerless. Why is that demonstration important? Because we live in a cynical world that celebrates us when we succeed and rejects us when we fail; a world that questions God's existence; a world that wonders how a loving God could let atrocity happen.

Into that suspicious world, God offers a demonstration of his love that supersedes all arguments. God chooses to love us when we are at our worst, when we are unlovable. In other words, when you are at your lowest, his love is on full display. That demonstrated love lives in our hearts once we accept Christ. That demonstration transforms us from death to life. We are literally living proof of God's love, and we are called to demonstrate the love of God to the world. Who in your life needs a demonstration of God's love?

#### **Today's Prayer**

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God, thank you for the demonstration of your love. Teach us how to demonstrate your love to others so they might find the same grace we have found, and help us always remember how your love changed our lives.

—Wendell Brown
CotN District Superintendent, North Central Ohio

### **DAY 12** Thursday, May 1, 2025

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#### John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Today's scripture is one of the most recited verses in the world. Whether it was in Sunday school, at Vacation Bible School, or in our homes, many of us learned this verse early in life and committed it to our hearts.

But is it truly in our hearts? Do we love those in the world in the same way God loves his creation? Is giving back to God the most important thing we can do with what he has given us? Are we confident that if we remain in him nothing will perish but we shall truly find life?

Even if our faith may fail at times, God's promises always prevail. And he tells us rather plainly that he wants the best for us. Do we trust that? Just look at what he gave us—his very own Son. He held nothing back. And he will not withhold anything good from us even now because of how much he loves us.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, thank you for your great love that you would give your Son to us. Help us steward the riches found in Jesus so we may give glory to your name with every breath we take and every day we have on earth.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Simone Twibell Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies, Olivet Nazarene University (Illinois)

### **DAY 13** Friday, May 2, 2025

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#### Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

#### **Scripture Insights**

We long for leaders who will exercise authority with wisdom and sound judgment. We want them to use their positions to make the world a better place. As it was in ancient Israel, so it is for nations around the world today: some leaders are better than others, but rarely do any of them live up to their promises or our expectations.

Into a time of trials, wars, and ongoing threats from other world powers, the prophet Isaiah gave an oracle of hope. Today's scripture says there is a leader who lives up to the hype and even more because he will take on the mantle of government as Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God never makes empty promises. He is an Everlasting Father who always keeps his word.

Because his kingdom has already broken in, we can experience the *shalom* of God in our hearts and relationships as we cooperate with the Prince of Peace in his redemptive work over all creation. In the promised Son, we have received the gift of hope in every situation.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace! Calling your names reorients us toward the hope-filled reality that you have come already and will come again. May we reflect your hope back into the world in every situation today.

—Julie O'Hara Project Director, The Preaching Collaborative (Oregon)
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### **DAY 14** Saturday, May 3, 2025

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#### Ephesians 6:14-15

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Have you ever watched children become distracted by critters or blades of grass while playing in the outfield during Little League? They are oblivious when the ball lands a few feet from where they are standing (or sitting). Only the children who keep their eye on the ball and are ready at any moment even have the opportunity to make a great catch. Imagine the opportunities we might find before us if we simply keep our eye on the ball and stand in the ready position.

In Ephesians 6, Paul tells us to prepare to share the good news of Christ. God invites us to reflect the truth of Jesus in all of our actions and words and to live with integrity and moral uprightness so we might attract others to the goodness of Christ and bring glory to God.

Let's get prepared and stand alert so we will be ready to share God's love with all those the Lord puts along our path today.

#### **Today's Prayer**

God, help us to embody truth, righteousness, and the readiness to share the gospel to effectively bring people to you. May our lives draw others to inquire about the source of our hope and peace, resulting in their life transformation.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Jana Burnham

USA/Canada NYI Ministry Coordinator, Church of the Nazarene

### **DAY 15** Sunday, May 4, 2025

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#### Luke 19:5-7

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

#### Matthew 9:10-12

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

#### **Scripture Insights**

I love a good party. Some of the best parties I've ever attended were unplanned, spontaneous ones, where things just came together and a party broke out because of the unexpected confluence of love, fellowship, and good food.

In the Gospels, impromptu parties seemed to follow Jesus around as the kingdom broke into everyday situations around him and brought people close to the Father and into new life. This kind of heaven-touching-earth occasion annoyed religious leaders who couldn't get their heads around how Jesus did things. But I think he was teaching us something profound about the kingdom. Can we be such spontaneous kingdom party people?

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, thank you for each opportunity you give us to show your love and heart to the people around us. May we be such authentic, holy people that your kingdom breaks into all our gatherings, whether planned or spontaneous.

	 	ons Director, Church	
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### **DAY 16** Monday, May 5, 2025

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#### Luke 4:43

But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent."

#### **Scripture Insights**

After several hundred years of silence, the world was in a dark place upon the arrival of Jesus the Messiah. He came with the following primary mission: "to seek and save the lost" (Luke 19:10). He authenticated his deity with the healing of many, including Simon Peter's mother-in-law in the same chapter that today's scripture comes from. He also healed the centurion's servant and cast demons out of multiple people, including the man whose possession was so fraught and violent that he'd been banished to the graveyard.

However, what made Jesus tick was his incessant calling to "proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God." This same good news caused Peter and his brother, Andrew, along with James and his brother, John, to leave their fishing boats and families behind to come and follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18–22). Over the course of the next three years, these men would be transformed into powerful disciples, then apostles, who would carry out the mission of Jesus.

As I look at the news and hear yet another report of a school shooting, my heart is flooded with hurt and grief. Why did this happen? What motivates someone to go to such extremes? Do we need more metal detectors at our schools, or more restrictive gun laws? Is there any hope for our society? Yes, there certainly is! Jesus Christ makes all the difference. Lost and hurting souls need Jesus. Only Jesus can soothe the troubled heart and cause a restless soul to find peace in him.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, we pray for peace in the lives of our children, young adults, and indeed anyone who needs your peace today, no matter their age. We pray that all who are troubled can develop an intimate, life-changing relationship with you, the transformer. May hurting and lost souls find peace in thee!

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Charles A. Tillman USA/Canada Black Ministries Facilitator, Church of the Nazarene

### **DAY 17** Tuesday, May 6, 2025

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John 3:17

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Condemnation is always easier. As a personal survival technique, judgment is unparalleled. We deem others to be unredeemable. Putting others away from us and from our hearts by spiritually and emotionally removing them from the relational equation is far easier. It may even make us feel better about ourselves comparatively.

The act of saving is always more difficult. And it costs something. If you doubt this, ask our heavenly Father. How easy would it have been for God to send another flood? Just start over. Wipe out the human race and all traces of it. But God chose vulnerability.

It takes little effort for a parent to imagine what it would feel like to release their child into harm's way. Maybe ask a parent in an airport as they bravely hug their son or daughter into the arms of military service. God saved us as his Son died.

No professing Christian should have a judgmental bone in their body. We never condemn, not even ourselves. We live and breathe into the hope that God still saves. We have all been condemned by sin. We are all death-row inmates. Thank God that Jesus now has the key to freedom!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, please forgive us when we choose not to look too deep and when we choose the protective fortress of judgment and condemnation. Change us, Lord. Make us a fit place for you to live. Glorify yourself through our repentance. Strengthen us to be vulnerable to others, especially the lost.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—David Skidmore CotN District Superintendent, Canada Atlantic

### **DAY 18** Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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#### Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.

#### **Scripture Insights**

I recently had the honor of sitting with a beloved elderly couple. The husband, on hospice care, struggled with every breath. As I stood beside them, searching for words of hope to share, his wife boldly declared: "God is good at every season of life, but especially in the last one." Her unwavering faith in the face of personal suffering amazed me.

In Acts 20:24, the apostle Paul displays a similar mindset. Despite facing some imminent dangers, Paul remains focused on the faithfulness of God. Paul didn't know the specifics of what lay ahead for him, but the Holy Spirit had already warned him that it would include chains and tribulation. Such forewarning from God might have caused anyone else to abandon the mission—yet Paul was undeterred! For him, proclaiming the good news of the risen Jesus was worth any cost, even his life.

Paul understood that, come what may, God would be especially good to him in the final season, and with that assurance, he continued running his race with joy.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Almighty God, you know what we are facing today and the things that are around the corner that we have yet to face. Empower us through your Holy Spirit to joyfully stay on mission, trusting that you will be especially good to us even through this season.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Lead Pastor, Trinity Church of the Nazarene (Oklahoma)

### **DAY 19** Thursday, May 8, 2025

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#### 1 Peter 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

#### **Scripture Insights**

"Hope" is a fascinating word. For many, it's little more than a wish. We have wishes about all sorts of things, past, present, and future. We may hope that past mistakes don't follow us into current situations. We may desire that new opportunities will come our way. But although hope is future-oriented, it is more than ambition for tomorrow.

Hope pulls us into tomorrow with an undergirding belief that, regardless of yesterday or today, something good is waiting for us to meet it. Yet it is easy to waver in our assurance that faith-filled hope is reliable, and then slip into discouragement or disbelief.

Confidence in hope is rooted in our history with Christ. As we learn by experience that God's hope is a reliable foundation, we have a growing certainty that enables us to move boldly into the future he has in mind. Jesus Christ is the source and embodiment of hope. Hope in and through him anchors our faith and secures quiet, unquenchable confidence in us as his disciples.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Gracious God, may the hope we hold be seeds of holy confidence that navigates us into the path you have laid before us. May we hold steady in uncertain times, relying on your hope of abundance in our lives.

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	—Julie Cheney Lead Pastor, Tulare Church of the Nazarene (California)

### **DAY 20** Friday, May 9, 2025

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#### John 13:35

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

#### **Scripture Insights**

How will outsiders distinguish authentic faith in Christ? Will it be by our acts of compassion for the poor, by our beautiful buildings, by our amazing worship services, by our well-manicured landscaping, or by our sharp branding and marketing strategies? These may all be important, but any group can accomplish these with enough money, strategy, and hard work. What will distinguish the church of Christ from counterfeits?

Jesus's answer is: by how we love each other. No human activity can accomplish this. It is only possible as the Spirit has his way in the hearts of God's people. Beware of allowing the important to crowd out the essential: love one another as Jesus loved.

As we navigate 2025 and our vision to bring people to Jesus, we must remember that the one evidence we are his disciples is that we love one another like Jesus loved. The best first step in bringing people to Jesus is to show the world we have Jesus among us. If we really want *everyone* to recognize that we are uniquely authentic, we must love one another as he loved.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, guide us toward the humility that is necessary for us to acknowledge our need to be broken and willing to love our brothers and sisters in Christ, even when it is difficult. Remind us that the best way to attract the world is to offer a community that cannot be found anywhere else except in his authentic church.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Director, Evangelism and New Church Development, USA/Canada Region

### **DAY 21** Saturday, May 10, 2025

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#### **Matthew 9:35**

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Matthew wanted to show that Jesus was the Messiah, Emmanuel, God with us, ushering in the kingdom of heaven on earth. In chapters 8 and 9, we see Jesus bringing the kingdom into people's lives—engaging with them by teaching, preaching, and healing.

When I moved to Bethany, Oklahoma, I began to learn the history of the community. The city was established in 1909, by cofounder C. B. Jernigan, who facilitated the purchase of a piece of land located west of Oklahoma City on the El Reno Interurban Railway. Bethany became the new home for the Oklahoma Holiness College (now Southern Nazarene University), Bethany First Church of the Nazarene, and The Nazarene Rescue Home for Unwed Mothers and the Oklahoma Orphanage (now Bethany Children's Health Center). The commitment was to teach, preach, and heal. Today, the church, university, and children's health center continue the pattern established by Jesus of teaching, preaching, and healing.

How do we bridge the gap between our friends and Jesus today? We invest in our community at the point of people's intellectual, spiritual, and physical needs.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, give us the grace to invest in those you have brought into our lives. May we follow the life and teachings of your Son, Jesus, who became a servant, meeting the needs of others.



### **DAY 22**

Sunday, May 11, 2025

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#### John 1:38-41

Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).

#### Scripture Insights

In John 1, Andrew and Simon Peter are introduced to Jesus, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. Though both follow, they have not officially left their nets as seen in the other Gospels. After spending time with Jesus, Andrew hurries to find his brother, Simon Peter.

The first recorded question of Jesus to his disciples is found here in John 1:38 when he asks, "What are you seeking?" (NASB). Jesus's question is a great one for us today as well. People are driven by a wide variety of things—guilt, resentment, fear, stuff, and the need for approval, to name a few.

Jesus also makes this big statement as they share together: "Come and see." When we spend time with Jesus, we will find purpose and meaning in our lives—so much so that we will want to share it, just like Andrew did with Simon. We literally can't keep it to ourselves because it is not only *good* news but the *greatest news ever*.

#### **Today's Prayer**

God, help us to seek the right things, and help us to spend time with you on a daily basis so that we stay amazed by your love and are driven to share it with those around us.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Brian Wiesinger Lead Pastor, The Crossing Church (Colorado)

### **DAY 23** Monday, May 12, 2025

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#### 1 Corinthians 9:16

For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!

#### **Scripture Insights**

I will never forget the gloom of watching *Avengers: Infinity War.* Spoiler alert: it ends with your favorite superheroes dissolving into dust. There is no resolution. There is no good-news ending. We were held in the tension of bad news for a whole year until *Avengers: End Game* was finally released. The good guys came back, and audiences in theaters across the globe broke movie theater protocol by erupting in joyous applause. The buzz of that good news was unbridled and contagious.

I had a seminary professor who always translated the New Testament phrase "preaching the gospel" as "good news-ing." A good movie resolution does not hold a candle to the significance of the good news of Jesus. This good news rearranges hearts and transforms people.

No matter how gifted Paul's preaching was, he could not boast because the heart of his message was the sheer, audacious grace of a loving God who could make one into a whole new person. May this good news lodge itself so deep in us that we become compelled to join Paul in unbridled, contagious, and humble proclamation.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, who are we that you would care so deeply for our wayward souls? Thank you for your unrelenting grace. May the overflow of our grateful hearts lead us to proclaim your goodness to a hurting world.

—David Goodwin Youth Pastor, Central Church of the Nazarene (Kansas	1 )

### **DAY 24** Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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#### John 16:33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

#### Scripture Insights

A relationship with Jesus is often associated with inner peace. After all, he promised us peace, and he is the Prince of Peace. However, Jesus was also honest about troubles we will have in the world, indicating that we may experience external trouble while having internal peace. While some external trouble may be thrust upon us through no choice of our own, such as the storm that descended upon the disciples in Mark 4, other trouble may result from our own decisions.

Therefore, peace is a gift from Christ, but it can also be a choice. Choosing peace comes in many forms, such as never backbiting, avoiding gossip, keeping confidence, and treating everyone the way we want to be treated (see Matthew 7:12). When we choose Jesus, we choose the Prince of Peace. The closer we follow him, the more he will guide us in pathways of peace. In other words, more Jesus means less drama and a greater witness to a troubled world.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, fill my heart with the fountain of your peace. Help me make choices that foster peace in all my relationships so I may bring others to you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Debra White Smith
Pastor Jacksonville First Church of the Nazarene (Texas)

### **DAY 25** Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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#### **Romans 10:17**

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

#### **Scripture Insights**

My mother died two years ago, and I still catch myself thinking, *I should call Mom*. She taught me a lot about God through her prayer life. Mother was a person who prayed!

My momma didn't play fair when it came to spiritual things. I remember when I was a teenager, she could rob me of all my fun on a Saturday night just by staying home praying for me. I always knew when Momma was praying!

The message I heard from my mother was the message spoken through her life. There was no doubt God was real; I could see him in her. Family relationships can be bridges to Jesus because the family is going to know the real you. My mother knew this simple truth, so she prayed. She let God do the preaching while she fought off the enemies of our souls. The message of Christ spoken over me in prayer still clings to me as a gentle reminder that faith comes from hearing the message of the life of those who go before us.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Heavenly Father, may your will be accomplished in our lives, sharing your word of what you've done in us. In all humility, we ask you to guard the words of our mouths as we speak about you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Mark Collins National Director of the Church of the Nazarene in Canada (Ontario)

### **DAY 26** Thursday, May 15, 2025

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Luke 2:10-11

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

#### **Scripture Insights**

The good news of Jesus Christ is for all the people. One of Luke's primary objectives was to announce the good news for all, including the gentiles.

However, in this meeting with the shepherds, the angel tells them that the good news is for the Jewish people. "All the people" is singular in Greek; when Luke uses it this way, he usually means the Jews. Here, in this encounter with lowly Jewish shepherds, God becomes specific and personal. This was good news for *their* people.

So they went and told all they encountered of the wonders they saw and heard from the angel. All who heard them were amazed and filled with joy.

Although it may seem easier to share the good news of Jesus with strangers, our loved ones should be the starting place for our ministry. Their salvation is most precious to us, making it our responsibility to share the gospel with them. How are you sharing the good news with your immediate circle? Have your dearest people experienced the great joy of the gospel?

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, thank you for the people you've brought into our lives. We are committed to intentionally sharing the good news with them so that all our loved ones can experience the joy of living in a relationship with you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Samantha Chambo

Regional Education Coordinator, USA/Canada, Church of the Nazarene

### **DAY 27** Friday, May 16, 2025

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#### Acts 8:12

But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

#### **Scripture Insights**

I have had dreams of living in a part of the world that experiences the same weather all year long. I have envisioned playing golf for twelve months of the year. It could be an occupational hazard. In theory, I love the idea of southern California, but I also know I would miss my sweatshirts in the fall, my snow in the winter, and the emerging green grass as we move into spring. I like change!

One of my favorite parts of the gospel is the change that the good news of Jesus ushers into people's lives. I love witnessing the baptisms of those who proclaim that they now believe! An excellent prayer might be that our church would resemble something more like the changing seasons of the U.S. Midwest rather than the relative seasonal stability of southern California.

Lord, help us anticipate and look forward to the change in your people that comes from believing in the name of Jesus.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, may our churches continue to celebrate when people believe in the good news of Jesus. May our baptistries overflow with men and women proclaiming their belief in you. We love you!



### **DAY 28** Saturday, May 17, 2025

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#### Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

#### **Scripture Insights**

The speaker in today's scripture is not only the messenger of good news but also the agent through whom a broken world can be healed and transformed by the power of the Spirit.

My mother was such an agent. Our dinner table gatherings often included families who did not receive many invitations, international students who were away from home, differently abled adults, and marginalized church members. Mom always got to invite one child of her choosing to our birthday parties, and it was often someone we and our other classmates would not have chosen. Her message of love and acceptance extended far beyond any church door.

Corrine Carvalho stated, "Isaiah 61 is not just about the ability and desire of God to heal human wounds. It is a call to be the bodies through whom divine justice becomes a reality, not just within our own small communities, but to the whole world."

Thanks, Mom, for being like Jesus and showing me how to live the good news. May the same be said of each of us.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Loving Father, you have shown us how to truly love. Use us to bring healing, freedom, and light in the dark places of our communities. Renew a right spirit within us.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Rose Brower-Young CotN District Superintendent, Canada West

## DAY 29

Sunday, May 18, 2025

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#### Matthew 22:11-14

But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He asked, "How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?" The man was speechless. Then the king told the attendants, "Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are invited, but few are chosen.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Are you a servant of the King? The King will send you to whom the King sends you, and they just might kill you. It is okay. The King has more servants. The bottom line for servants of the King is that we have been commanded to get the word out to everyone, everywhere.

What differentiates those who are invited but not chosen from those who are invited *and* chosen? Wedding clothes. Really?! What is this about?

To accept the invitation of the King is to accept it on the King's terms. The change of clothes symbolizes the change of life both offered to us and required of us by God's gracious invitation.

As I have heard my good friend Rev. Laura Tanner preach many times, we invite everyone everywhere to a King "who loves us enough to accept us just as we are, and way too much to leave us that way."

#### **Today's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, may you be glorified, and may your kingdom come through our obedience in inviting everyone, everywhere into your kingdom. Thank you for not leaving us unchanged. Thank you for your provision, your forgiveness, and your deliverance.

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	—Scott Sherwood President, Nazarene Bible College

### **DAY 30** Monday, May 19, 2025

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#### Proverbs 15:30

Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.

#### **Scripture Insights**

We all have a "fake-o-meter," filtering out insincerity in others, and preventing ourselves from getting scammed. This detector reads people through their eyes, which speak of the sincerity of who we are.

Today's proverb calls us to reflect the reality of our experiences with Jesus if we are going to be salvation ambassadors. Conversion is not the result of a sales gimmick. A quickening occurs when we see the joy, truth, and life change in the one sharing. The gospel changes us down to the bones!

If folks are going to experience the life-changing Christ, he begins in us. They will recognize they are not a salesperson's tally but the recipient of the Bread of Life verified in our lives, seeing him in our eyes. Jesus changes even the countenance of our eyes.

Everyone needs Jesus. He is the Light of our world before he can genuinely be shared, enlivening others. Look yourself in the eye. Hopefully you see Jesus. If you don't, you know where to find him. You may be your first convert.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Light of the world, shine in us, brightening every corner of our lives so that Jesus may radiate through our very being. May our lives and our words be affirmed by the reality of your presence, vitally real and alive in us.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Virgil Askren

CotN District Superintendent, Colorado

### **DAY 31** Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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#### Luke 8:1

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him.

#### **Scripture Insights**

In one short verse we learn three important things about Jesus's ministry.

First, Jesus is on the move. He has an itinerant ministry. The work of God is always a movement. Jesus is on the move, seeking the lost and the broken; the Spirit is on the move, drawing people to Jesus; the Father is on the move, extending his arms and his heart to all creation, especially prodigals. It is exciting to be part of the movement of God.

Second, Jesus is sharing good news. His message is hope-filled. The kingdom has come. Enter in. You belong. Everyone is invited to follow Jesus!

Third, Jesus is not alone. His disciples are with him. He has partners in the mission. Ministry, at its best, is a partnership with Jesus and with other followers of Jesus. Thank God for the partners who join us in the mission.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, thank you for inviting us to be on mission with you. May our message be marked by the good news of hope. May our partnerships in your mission be blessed. We pray in the name of the one who calls us.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Eddie Estep CotN District Superintendent, South Central Ohio
### **DAY 32** Wednesday, May 21, 2025

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#### **Revelation 3:20**

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

#### **Scripture Insights**

In today's scripture, Jesus extends a personal invitation to intimacy and fellowship. His knock is a call to relationship—not forceful but persistent, waiting for a willing heart to open the door.

As followers of Christ, we are called to share this invitation with others. When we introduce people to Jesus, we're helping them recognize his gentle knock. Our role is to plant seeds of truth, trusting that God will work in their hearts. Whether through a kind word, an act of love, or sharing the gospel, we have the privilege of guiding people toward Christ. As we pray for opportunities to reach those around us, let's remember that it's not through our efforts alone but by the Holy Spirit that hearts are softened.

Let's pray for boldness in sharing the gospel, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading, and love for those who need to hear. May we always point people to Christ, knowing that his desire is to come in and transform lives.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, help us to reach out with your love and truth. Guide us to those who are ready to hear your voice. May our words and actions reflect your heart, drawing others to open the door to you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Tim Kellerman

CotN District Superintendent, Northeastern Indiana

## **DAY 33** Thursday, May 22, 2025

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#### **Ephesians 1:13**

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

#### **Scripture Insights**

As we consider the context surrounding this verse, we find the phrase "in Christ" more than five times and "in him" six times, which teaches us that when we hear the message of truth or the good news of salvation, it is Christ Jesus alone who made salvation possible.

Therefore, it is possible for all who believe in him and receive him as their personal Savior to be forgiven from all sin and to be sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

The good news—or gospel of salvation—is for both Jews and gentiles. God's loving plan of salvation has always been and still is inclusive for everyone (see John 3:16). The Holy Spirit gives us the power to bear witness that Jesus came to look for and save a lost and dying world.

I have been witnessing to one of my neighbors, who told me he is about to get divorced. I pray that the God of hope will save his soul and restore his marriage and family.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Thank you, heavenly Father, for including all sinners in your plan of salvation through faith in the mighty name of Christ Jesus, our Savior. Empower us to witness to others of your transforming, saving, sanctifying grace.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Humberto Mena CotN District Superintendent, Western Latin American (California)

### **DAY 34** Friday, May 23, 2025

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#### Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

#### **Scripture Insights**

"Come to me" are beautiful words of belonging, care, and comfort. Jesus Christ, the one who took on our sins on the cross, the one who calls us to follow him, is the same one who sees you, welcomes you, offers care and comfort to you.

"Come to me," he says. When you're lonely, come to me. When you're worn down by the cares and burdens of life, come to me. When people are cruel, and life is hard, come to me. When the weight of this responsibility is more than you can bear, come to me. When you're discouraged, frustrated, and at the end of yourself, come to me. When you are weary and burdened: "Come to me," he calls, "and I will give you rest."

The one who provided the path to freedom from our burdens wants to continue to offer you rest. Hear his voice today. He's calling you to come. He wants to give you rest.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Gracious heavenly Father, we thank you that you continue to call us to come. Lord, give us the grace to let go of the weight we are carrying. We long to find our rest in you. Help us to come.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

	—Colleen Derr

President, Eastern Nazarene College (Massachusetts)

## **DAY 35** Saturday, May 24, 2025

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#### Isaiah 9:2

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

#### **Scripture Insights**

We have a toddler at home, and one of his favorite videos says, "Green means go. Yellow means slow. Red means stop!" This playful video teaches that each color light sends a different message even though all three have in common that they are lights. As we pray through this season, be reminded that the light is not only for those who are in the darkness but also for the ongoing direction of those already living in the light.

Green light: Where are the places and who are the people that offer unhindered opportunities for you to share your faith?

Yellow light: Have you been rushing and speeding through moments when the Spirit is inviting you to slow down and build relationships?

Red light: Is it time to stop, to hear further instructions, or to change direction and strategy altogether?

As we prayerfully and faithfully heed the call to bring people to Jesus, make sure to keep your eyes on the light. Green means go. Yellow means slow. Red means stop!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, whether we need to speed up, slow down, or stop completely, we choose today to keep our eyes on your light and receive your direction for the journey ahead.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Shane Lima Lead Pastor, Ambassadors Church of the Nazarene (Rhode Island)

### **DAY 36** Sunday, May 25, 2025

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#### Luke 5:17-19

One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

#### **Scripture Insights**

The story of the paralyzed man's friends in today's scripture is an excellent example of determined faith and its impact on overcoming physical and spiritual obstacles. Picture the scene: a wall-to-wall crowd in the house where Jesus is teaching. There are Pharisees, teachers of the law, and others from all over the region checking out the new teacher.

Entering from the center of the roof are the stars of our story: the paralyzed man and his friends. These are not fair-weather friends; they are real friends who help you get to Jesus. Because of their deep love and unwavering faith, they will not be deterred from bringing their friend to Jesus. No obstacle will stand in their way, so they don't *give* up when they discover the crowd. Instead, they get creative and *look* up. Climbing onto the roof with their friend in hand, they lower him, front and center, to Jesus.

They would not be stopped, and they went to the extreme. Jesus sees that kind of faith and rewards it. Not only did Jesus forgive their friend's sins (v. 20), but he also healed him of his paralysis (vv. 24–25), showcasing his divine authority and compassionate love.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, thank you for the example of the paralyzed man's friends who demonstrated such unwavering faith and determination. Open our eyes to see the obstacles hindering the faith of those around us. May our actions draw them to you and demonstrate your love and power in their lives.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—James Heyward Lead Pastor, Salem Fields Church (Virginia)

## **DAY 37** Monday, May 26, 2025

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#### 2 Thessalonians 3:1

As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

#### **Scripture Insights**

How often do we pray for the gospel to be spread? I confess that hearing Jesus talking about things like leaving the ninety-nine to search for the one has always *seemed* like a great idea every time I've heard or read it. Yet my prayers did not shift and become fervent until "the one" was one of *my own*. Then, I wanted my one to know the hope that continues to transform me.

"Just as it was with you" in today's scripture compels me to pray for the one—anybody's and everybody's one. My heart is moved to pray for those around me so that one day they too will be able to testify "just as it was with me."

Just as Paul asked the Thessalonians to pray for the message of the Lord to spread, we too have been invited to pray for the Lord's kingdom to be made new in the families, towns, and communities around us. This simple act of prayer aligns our hearts with the very things that matter to God.

#### **Today's Prayer**

God of all truth, spread your message rapidly in my city. Move my own heart to see you work in those around me. May your word be lifted up and honored. Advance your kingdom today.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Jill Waltz Lead Pastor, Daleville Community Church of the Nazarene (Indiana)

### **DAY 38** Tuesday, May 27, 2025

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#### **Ephesians 2:10**

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

#### **Scripture Insights**

I am currently enrolled in the Church and Community master's program at Trevecca Nazarene University. I often joke with people that I'm learning to be an *extra*-good Christian neighbor. We took a class on Wesleyan theology where we learned how John Wesley viewed salvation as the restoration of God's image in us. I love our Nazarene belief that we do not have to wait until eternity to experience the healing grace of God! We can have it here, "on earth as it is in heaven."

Today's scripture reminds me of this theology that we hold so dear. God has created you, dear friend, to do good works—right here, right now—and not because we need to earn a spot in heaven but because when the Holy Spirit fills our hearts, souls, and minds, we can't help but love others into a community full of people who are hungry for the Way of Jesus.

How can you extend to your neighbor a hospitality that demonstrates the good work of Jesus in and through you today?

#### **Today's Prayer**

Holy Spirit, show us where we need your healing grace to do the good works God has prepared for us. Help us create a community that invites the lonely, the lost, and our neighbors to find hope in Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Chelsea Fry Co-Pastor, Syracuse Shalom (New York)

## **DAY 39** Wednesday, May 28, 2025

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John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

#### **Scripture Insights**

When we look at today's scripture, many of us probably think about physical things because of the strong words "steal and kill and destroy." We imagine the "thief" coming into our home through a broken window and gathering up our new television, our computer equipment, our media devices, and our jewelry, dumping it all into a waiting car, and roaring away.

Some of us may realize this scripture isn't really about our physical stuff but our spiritual stuff. Still, that's a bit vague. Our relationships are what the enemy works most consistently to ruin or snatch away in our lives. Our relationship to the Christ. Our relationship to the church body. Relationships between spouses, between parents and children, and even between the church and the community.

We're pretty focused on protecting the physical stuff we own. Do we put the same effort toward protecting the relationships of our lives?

#### **Today's Prayer**

Jesus, please give us the wisdom to understand and prioritize all of our relationships, beginning with the one we share with you. Show us where we have missed important conversations. Teach us to apply grace where there has been misunderstanding. Grant us the strength of humility with those we love and those we ought to love.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

CotN District Superintendent, Washington Pacific
—Everett Tustin

### **DAY 40** Thursday, May 29, 2025

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#### Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

#### **Scripture Insights**

In today's scripture, Jesus urges us to let our light shine before others so that they may see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. This verse reminds us that our lives are a reflection of God's love and grace. As followers of Christ, we are called to live in a way that brings glory to God—not through our words alone but also through our actions.

Every kind act, every moment of compassion, and every decision to do what is right, even when it is difficult, serves as a beacon of God's presence in the world. Our lives should illuminate the darkness around us, guiding others toward the hope and peace found in Christ.

Let this verse inspire you to live intentionally, knowing that your actions have the power to impact others. In every interaction, seek to reflect God's love so that, through your example, others may come to know and glorify him.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, help us to shine your light in all we do. May our actions reflect your love and lead others to you. Empower us to be beacons of hope, grace, and truth, bringing glory to your name.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

CotN District Surgeinsten deut	—Ernest L. Trevino

CotN District Superintendent, Texas-Oklahoma Latin

## **DAY 41** Friday, May 30, 2025

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#### 2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

#### **Scripture Insights**

Who doesn't like brand-new things? When I was a child, our family could rarely afford to purchase new items. We drove used cars, wore secondhand clothes, and frequented garage sales to find well-loved household items. While it was all new to me and even appeared clean, everything seemed to give off an aroma that indicated it hadn't just come off the assembly line.

Every once in a while, my parents splurged for something new, and I developed a joy for the scent of new things—new carpet, new tires, fresh lumber, and yes, even a love for that new-car scent. I know, it's weird. But since I only ran across new things every now and then, I learned that you can tell if something is truly new by the aroma it gives off, since looks can be deceiving.

As I reflect on the redemptive work of Christ in the lives of those of us who surrender everything to him, I am reminded that we are not simply changed; new creation has burst forth. "The old is gone!" It is not as if we are cleaned up and passed off as new, where the stench of our old ways gives off an aroma of detachment from the work of Jesus. We are made new, and a fresh aroma that pleases the Lord and blesses others is released into the world in a way that just might bring more people to Jesus so they can experience themselves being made new as well.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Oh Lord, may our lives in you give off an aroma that is consistent with your character as those who have been made new by your grace and redemptive work so that others will be compelled to give their lives to you and also become a new creation.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

——Darren Reed Lead Pastor, One Hope Church of the Nazarene (Colorado)

### **DAY 42** Saturday, May 31, 2025

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#### Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

#### Scripture Insights

In April 1995, I was working in Oklahoma City on the day the Alfred P. Murrah building was bombed. In an instant, a large office building was cratered on one side, and 168 souls lost their lives. The blast radius spread out for blocks, and the smoke rose quickly.

I was in my car, so I headed down to see how I might be able to help. I got there ten minutes after the bomb went off, and I wasn't allowed to get close. Looking through the fragments, I found what turned out to be the motor cylinder head and the transmission of the vehicle that was used to detonate the building, which had been flung far from the blast.

What struck me most was the fact that there may still be survivors under that rubble, under the weight of tons of debris. *We must do something*! I thought.

The whole city responded within hours, in hopes of finding signs of life. I saw that day a picture of what the church can and should be to a weary world caught under the weight of life.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, you have placed us here as heirs of a kingdom of light. May we never forget to do the work of digging out those trapped by life's darkness. Give us the grace to see those who just need a little more help.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Brett Rickey CotN District Superintendent, Oregon Pacific

Sunday, June 1, 2025

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#### John 6:41-44

At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."

They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day."

#### **Scripture Insights**

God is the Great Initiator, the First Actor in all of creation. Gaze at a mountain, consider the vast oceans, or peer into the face of a newborn. In all these, God has moved first, and we are stunned by his creative genius. God is also the Great Initiator in our redemption. God sent his Son, Jesus, long before we had any awareness of our deep need for him.

In today's scripture, the Jewish leaders are grumbling. Though they can be recipients of God's grace in the person of Jesus, they have refused to accept him. Their hearts have grown cold and unreceptive to the overtures of the Initiator.

We must guard against a similar mindset. God's grace always invites our response. The Creator God whose creation so humbles us made us with a soul vacancy only he can fill. Like the Jewish leaders who knew Jesus's parents and where he grew up, we must be careful not to let our proximity to and familiarity with Jesus become so commonplace that we fail to respond to his proposals.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you have searched us and know us. Overwhelm us today with a fresh awareness of your astonishing love, and move us by your Holy Spirit to respond to you with a consistent, "Yes, Lord! I'm yours! Use me as you see fit."

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

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	—Sam Barber Global Director, Nazarene Discipleship International

### **DAY 44** Monday, June 2, 2025

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Matthew 11:5

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

#### **Scripture Insights**

I'm sitting in the front room watching my nieces play with their new toys. On the other side, their mother is struggling through her final breaths in life as she fights the last days of her cancer. You might be familiar with this story. You've lost people to this tragic disease. She passes at the age of thirty-eight, leaving my brother and her two little girls behind. For months we prayed for healing, and now she's gone.

The question of why will linger for months, years, maybe even a lifetime. But God is teaching me. Sometimes we pray for God to heal a perceived need, but it's not the deepest need. I was praying for her cancer, but God was pursuing her heart.

The good news is only good if it changes the heart. You can be cancer free, but without Jesus you're still dying. You can see again, but without Jesus you're just blind. It's why Jesus in Matthew 9 forgives the paralytic before he asks him to walk. The real poverty of this world is people living without hope. The true work of faith is helping the poor receive the good news of Jesus—that's grace!

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, bring someone across our path who needs to know you. Give us the eyes to see them, the ears to listen to them, the arms to embrace them, and the heart to love them well.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



—Brad Thompson Lead Pastor, Be Hope Church (Ohio)

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

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#### 2 Corinthians 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

#### **Scripture Insights**

A path to reconciliation with God has been created through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ's followers have been tasked with bringing the message of God's love and redemption to the world as his ambassadors. What a gift! What an opportunity! God could have chosen any way he would like to deliver this message of hope, yet he chooses us. God desires his followers to be the physical presence and representation of Christ in our world.

When people encounter us, whom do they see? Do they see us, or do they see Christ through us? If we are to represent Christ in our world and faithfully deliver this message of hope and reconciliation, he must increase, and we must decrease. Serving as an ambassador for Christ requires daily surrender and a commitment to conforming our lives to his. As we humbly and sacrificially place ourselves before God, his Holy Spirit transforms us, sanctifies us, and empowers us to serve as the visible presence of Christ in our world.

#### **Today's Prayer**

God, we submit our lives to you. Transform us into your image so that, as we serve as your ambassadors in this world, those around us will see more and more of you and less of us.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Wednesday, June 4, 2025

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#### Ephesians 4:11-12

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

#### **Scripture Insights**

During the summer, our family often visited and enjoyed a famous seasonal burger place on the outskirts of a city. There was always a long wait time because the owner made all the burgers himself and managed all four grills. His family was there to help, but because he was afraid they would make a mistake, their ability to assist was limited.

God has given the church specially gifted leaders, evangelists, pastors, prophets, apostles, and teachers. Many times, leaders are afraid to give opportunities to God's people to do his work because they fear failure and mistakes. God's people follow the same path and avoid doing God's work because of their own fear of failure and making mistakes.

Know this: we learn through our mistakes and failures. Don't be afraid. Equip God's people and take bold steps to do God's work. Take heart because, as the Bible says, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9, NLT).

#### **Today's Prayer**

God, today we ask you for forgiveness for not trusting you. We have not taken bold steps to do your work, and we have failed to equip your people. Release us from our fear of failure because we know your power works best in our weakness.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Lead Pastor, Wasilla Lake Church of the Nazarene (Alaska)

Thursday, June 5, 2025

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#### Matthew 9:37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

#### **Scripture Insights**

A sun-kissed sea of golden wheat, ready to harvest, is breathtaking to behold. One can only imagine the endless possibilities a field can produce in bread, pasta, and confectionary delights—that is, if the field is harvested. If the wheat is left unharvested, it will simply wither and die, and all possibilities will be lost.

Jesus uses the harvest metaphor to call his followers to pray for workers who will join the mission of reaching the lost. The potential is vast, and the stakes are high—eternal life, or death for the multitudes. We must heed this call to prayer.

Next, Jesus commissions them and sends them into the fields to gather in the harvest. Isn't our God amazing? He calls us to pray, then invites us to become the answer to the prayer. Spectacular! Imagine the endless possibilities he can accomplish through you if you are willing to both pray for workers and be one to go to work in his fields! Nothing will be impossible for you (see Matthew 17:20).

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord of the harvest, we pray that you will send out workers, and we are willing for you to send us. Help us to be prayerful, fearless, and faithful as we go.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Friday, June 6, 2025

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#### Psalm 105:1

Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done.

#### **Scripture Insights**

How does gratitude come to us? Sometimes in a rush, like a wave knocking us off our feet.

And sometimes it comes softly, not with a fanfare of surging emotions but quietly, like a steady current. But we aren't fooled by the quiet, for below the surface, the current runs deep.

So run the gratitude and praise of this thanksgiving psalm. It is not an unleashed flood of gratitude, that deluge of joy-laden adrenaline, as of David delivered from the hand of his enemies. Rather, this is a gratitude steeped in a story that spans centuries, the salvation story of a community that has been birthed by the love of God and delivered by God's hand.

This is our story too. In Christ, we have been caught up alongside the cloud of witnesses and swept into the pulsing current of God's deliverance. We share in this declaration of praise and cannot help but raise our voices for the world to hear, "Our God saves! Let me tell the story of what God has done. Come! Be swept into the waters of redemption."

#### **Today's Prayer**

Almighty God, our hearts cannot contain our gratitude for all you have done, both throughout history and in our lives. May we trust you fully, love you deeply, and join in your redemptive work in the world through our embodied witness.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?



Campus Pastor, Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Ohio)

Saturday, June 7, 2025

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#### Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"

And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

#### **Scripture Insights**

In the verses leading up to this moment in today's scripture, Isaiah is full of holy fear. In a vision, Isaiah hears the seraphim worshiping and is wrecked by his smallness and sinfulness compared to the greatness and holiness of God.

Then—no doubt a reminder of a work God had already done in Isaiah—he sees a vision of a seraph coming to him with a burning coal. After touching it to Isaiah's lips, the seraph shares this beautiful imagery: "See, this has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven" (v. 7, NLT).

After this profound vision, a reminder of God's extension of grace, Isaiah responds to God's question, "Who can I send?" with reckless gratitude and joyful abandon: *SEND ME*!

I wonder how God would ask us to respond to the radical grace we've been extended today. Worship? Obedience? Surrender? Boldness? Whatever God might be asking of us, Isaiah reminds us: how else can we respond to God's grace but with reckless gratitude and joyful abandon?

#### **Today's Prayer**

Almighty God, giver of good, extravagant grace, you have our reckless gratitude and joyful abandon today and every day. Show us your way!

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

Lead Pastor, Bentonville Community Church of the Nazarene (Arkansas)

## **DAY 50: PENTECOST**

Sunday, June 8, 2025

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#### John 20:21-22

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

#### Acts 2:3-4

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Jesus utters the words in John 20 on the evening of that first Easter, to foreshadow what will be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

Here, Jesus gives us our mission. Just as the Father sent Jesus to seek and save the lost, Jesus now says, "I am sending you."

The magnitude of the mission may cause us to clasp our hands in despair and cry out to the Lord, "Who is sufficient for the task?!" That is the disposition into which his power will come. The rivers run in the valleys. Our sense of unfitness for the mission prepares us to receive the breath of the Holy Spirit.

Just as God breathed into a lifeless Adam (Genesis 2:7), and just as Ezekiel called upon the Lord's breath to raise up dead bones into a vast army (Ezekiel 37:9–10), so the Holy Spirit will breathe into our lives this Pentecost to send us victoriously, powerfully on his mission to seek and save those who are lost!

#### Today's Prayer

Thank you for entrusting us with your mission. If you can raise dead bones into a vast army, we know you are able to raise the church to fulfill your mission to seek and save the lost.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you today?

—Stan Reeder Director, USA/Canada Region, Church of the Nazarene

## DAY 51: NOW WHAT?

Monday, June 9, 2025

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#### Ephesians 6:19–20

Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

#### Scripture Insights

Now what? The mission has been given to seek and save the lost. Pentecost has happened. The Spirit has been given to you. The breath of new life has been imparted into you! You have been raised up for greatness and boldness!

I am praying for you as I write this devotional that, during this day ahead, you will fearlessly make known the gospel.

Will you join me in this prayer? If you will just begin to speak, the words will be given to you to reveal the mystery of the gospel.

I am praying that you will sense the Holy Spirit's constraining you to speak so that you come to the same place of the apostle Paul when he said: "I must speak."

I am praying that in the next twenty-four hours, you will take the risk to fearlessly, boldly speak the good news of Jesus into a life that needs his Word.

I am praying that, as you look to the day ahead, you will join me in this bold commitment!

#### **Today's Prayer**

O Lord, together we ask that your Holy Spirit would give birth to a bold commitment for the day ahead: to fearlessly speak your words into the one you will bring our way who desperately needs your good news.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you?

—Stan Reeder
Director, USA/Canada Region, Church of the Nazarene

### DAY 52: NOW WHAT?

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

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#### 1 Thessalonians 2:8

So we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

#### **Scripture Insights**

Paul and those who partnered with him lived their lives in such a way that they reflected the nature of Jesus Christ. They were servant leaders, pouring themselves out for those to whom they ministered. This leadership did not come from any books they read or speakers who inspired but from their deep love for the people of Thessalonica.

The significance of this ministry reached far beyond teaching or preaching, to the ways in which they gave of themselves to help those within the community. The preceding verse says they treated the people like a nurse who tenderly cares for her own child.

As we think about sharing the gospel with those around us, we must remember that actions may just speak louder than our words. The world is watching to see whether we live our lives in such a way that the gospel has permeated every part of our being. This is only possible through a deep and abiding relationship of love with God and with our neighbor.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, we pray that our love for you will reach to depths previously unknown and overflow to those whom you place within our sphere of influence.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you?

—Carla D. Sunberg

General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene

### DAY 53: NOW WHAT?

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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#### **Ephesians 3:20**

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us . . .

#### **Scripture Insights**

When you hear the word "prayer," what do you think about?

Some may feel guilty for not praying enough or for not exercising enough faith when they do pray. Others may feel bad about their lack of desire to pray. Still others may have stopped really praying about something because it feels like nothing is going to change.

Every deep person of prayer is marked by a profound conviction expressed in a single phrase found in the doxology of one of the greatest prayers in the New Testament: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Six powerful words can change our lives: Now to him who is able.

Able to do what? Whatever is needed. Our God is able to do whatever needs to be done in the world and in your life according to his plans and purposes. No problem can stop him. No obstacle can thwart him. No circumstance can worry him. No outcome can confuse him.

Our God is able.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Father, help us to remember that you are not a cosmic bystander observing the world from a distance. Give us the faith to believe that you are active, interested, and involved in the world and in our lives. We thank you that you are able to handle any situation and that you are always doing more than we can ask or imagine.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you?

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—David A. Busic		
General Superintendent, Church of the Nazarene		
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## DAY 54: NOW WHAT?

Thursday, June 12, 2025

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#### Acts 16:10

After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

#### **Scripture Insights**

After Paul saw the vision, they left! So that's all I need, right? As soon as I grasp a grand, bold vision, I'll be ready to go, right? Because that's what a vision is— something so big that you can't do it unless God intervenes! Right?

No, but also yes.

Paul received a vision of . . . one. A single man from Macedonia, crying out for help. Paul didn't see masses saved or cities come to repentance. Just one man—all it took was one.

The truth is that Paul couldn't have made a difference in the life of the one if it weren't for the power of God in his life. We know we don't have the power to move the masses, but we need to be equally aware that we alone do not have the ability to transform even *one* person. We need God for *all* of it. To make a difference in the life of one is a pretty big deal.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Lord, show us the person you are calling each of us to on your behalf. Do not allow us to overlook the one. As we are sent, make us increasingly aware of our dependence upon you.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you?

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	—Kevin Jack	,
	-Revin Juck	*

Lead Pastor, Highland Park Church (Florida)

## DAY 55: NOW WHAT?

Friday, June 13, 2025

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#### Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

#### **Scripture Insights**

I love visiting Rome. Besides eating my weight in pasta and gelato, I love to see the many sites, like the Colosseum and the Pantheon, that still serve as reminders of the splendor of ancient Rome. Everything in Rome served as a reminder that Caesar was the lord and ruler of the world's most powerful empire.

In the ancient world, the word "gospel" meant an announcement that a ruler had conquered an enemy, reestablishing peace. This proclamation of peace was indeed always good news.

Paul too has good news to proclaim: the crucified and risen Jesus Christ is the ruler of the world! He is not just a messianic figure for the Jewish people but is now Lord of all creation. To stand in the most powerful city in the world and declare a carpenter from Nazareth to be the world's king seems utterly foolish. Yet Paul can proclaim that he is not ashamed to proclaim this good news.

Jesus is our peace. He alone, and not any of the other rulers throughout history, is the world's one Lord.

#### **Today's Prayer**

Almighty God, it still seems foolish in a world that is obsessed with power and wealth to declare that you alone are Lord of all. Give us the courage to proclaim in every city and to every person the good news that Jesus is Lord.

#### What is the Spirit saying to you?

# NOTES AND PRAYERS

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# NOTES AND PRAYERS

## He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." —Mark 16:15

This prayer journal is an invitation to join a movement. As part of the fourth annual *Half-Million Mobilization* call to prayer, you are invited to unite with Nazarenes across Canada and the United States in a powerful season of prayer. From Easter Sunday (April 20, 2025) through the week after Pentecost (June 8, 2025), we will seek the Lord together, praying for a cycle of resurgence and that all Nazarenes around the world may be *Mobilized for Bringing People to Jesus* in 2025.

Inside, you'll find fifty-five daily scriptures, devotional reflections, and prayers designed to guide you in this mission. As you meditate on God's Word and pray, may you be filled with the Spirit, empowered to share the gospel, and equipped to bring the hope of Christ to your community.

Let us journey together in prayer as we seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus, sharing his love and truth with the world. May the Lord bless your efforts as you join in his mission to bring people to Jesus!

