

PRAYER WEEK

January 5-12, 2025

Daily Prayer Points

and

Devotions on

The Spirit of Prayer

by

Charles G. Finney

PRINTED ON FRONT & BACK

Devotions taken from
Principles of Prayer by Charles G. Finney
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Published by Bethany House Publishers
11400 Hampshire Avenue South
Bloomington, Minnesota 55438

Bethany House Publishers is a division of
Baker Publishing Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Spirit of Prayer

Day 1 – Sunday, January 5

We Need the Holy Spirit

No Christian ever prays rightly unless led by the Spirit. He has natural power to pray, and so far as the will of God is revealed, is *able* to do it; but he never does unless the Spirit of God influences him; just as sinners are able to repent, but never do, unless influenced by the Spirit.

Charles G. Finney

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ...

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 8:14-15, 26-27 (NKJV)

O God, send the power of the Holy Spirit into my life. Stir me now about what I am to pray for. Lead me to dwell on those things that will overpower my feelings and bring love and compassion for people who need to know of your salvation. May I feel a deeper love for the church, and seek to pray for the accomplishment of her mission. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 61-63). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 1 Prayer Points:

- Pray to be filled, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit in 2025.
- Pray about how the Word for the Year applies to you personally.
- Invite the Lord to check your foundations, and to help you shore them up, so that you can Advance *upward* and *forward* for Him.

Day 2 – Monday, January 6

The Holy Spirit and Scripture

It is the Holy Spirit who leads Christians to understand and apply the promises of Scripture. It is amazing that in no age have Christians been able fully to apply the promises of Scripture to the events of life. This is not because the promises themselves are obscure, but because there has always been an amazing disposition to overlook the Scriptures as a source of light respecting the passing events of life.

How astonished the apostles were at Christ's application of so many prophecies to himself! They seemed to be ready to exclaim continually: "Can it be so? We never understood it before!" Who that has witnessed the manner in which the apostles, influenced and inspired by the Holy Spirit, applied passages of the Old Testament to Gospel times has not been amazed at the richness of meaning they found in the Scriptures? So it has been with many a Christian: while deeply engaged in prayer he has seen passages of Scriptures he never thought of before as having such appropriate application.

It often happens when [Christian parents] are praying for their children. Sometimes they pray and are in darkness and doubt, feeling as if there were no foundation for faith and no special promises for the children of believers. But while they have been pleading, God has shown them the full meaning of some promise and their soul has rested on it as on His mighty arm.

I once heard of a widow who was greatly concerned about her children until this passage was brought powerfully to her attention: "Leave your orphans; I will protect their lives. Your widows too can trust in me" (Jeremiah 49:11). She saw it had an extended meaning and she was enabled to lay hold of it as though with her hands. She prevailed in prayer and her children were converted. The Holy Spirit was sent into the world by the Savior to guide His people, to instruct them, and to bring things to their remembrance, as well as to convict the world of sin.

Come, Holy Spirit, come as the light of the mind and the fire of the heart. As I immerse myself in the holy Word of God, as I endeavor to apply the promises of God to my life, enlighten me regarding those truths that are hidden from my sight because of my lack of concentration and failing memory. When I bring my troubles and my joys before my Father, share with me the words of life that were written so long ago. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 64-65). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 2 Prayer Points: Families, Marriages, Children

Day 3 – Tuesday, January 7

The Holy Spirit and Salvation

The Spirit leads Christians to desire and pray for things of which nothing is specifically said in the Word of God. Take the case of a particular individual. That God is willing to save is a general truth. So it is also a general truth that He is willing to answer prayer. But how shall I know the will of God respecting an individual—whether or not I can pray in faith according to the will of God for his conversion and salvation? Here the agency of the Spirit comes in to lead the minds of God's people to pray for specific souls, and at those times when God is prepared to bless them. When we know not what to pray for, the Holy Spirit leads the mind to dwell on some person, to consider her situation, to realize her value, and to feel for her and pray and "travail in birth," until she is converted.

I was acquainted with an individual who used to keep a list of persons for whom he was especially concerned, and I have had the opportunity to know a number of persons for whom he became thus interested who were immediately converted. I have seen him pray for people on his list when he was literally in agony for them, and have sometimes known him to call on someone else to help him pray for such a one. I have known his mind to focus thus on an individual of hardened, wanton character, and who could not be reached in any ordinary way. In this manner the Spirit of God leads individual Christians to pray for things that they would not pray for unless they were led by the Spirit, and thus they pray for things "according to the will of God."

The plain truth of the matter is that the Spirit leads a man to pray; and if God leads a man to pray for an individual, the inference from the Bible is that God designs to save that individual. If we find by comparing our state of mind with the Bible that we are led by the Spirit to pray for an individual, we have good evidence to believe that God is prepared to bless him.

Dear heavenly Father, giver of life and salvation, I pray this day that you would reveal to me by the power of your Holy Spirit a person who is in need of salvation or the healing touch of your loving hand. I do not completely understand the mystery whereby you seek to save others by my prayers and the truth I proclaim (or that others proclaim), but I do know that you desire to be a co-worker with your children. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 66-67). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 3 Prayer Points:

- Salvation and Healing
- Local Missions (see last page)

Day 4 – Wednesday, January 8

The Holy Spirit and Providence

The Holy Spirit gives to Christians a spiritual discernment respecting the movements and developments of Providence. Devoted, praying Christians often see these things so clearly, and look so far ahead, as to stumble others. They sometimes almost seem to prophesy. No doubt persons may be deluded, and sometimes are, by leaning to their own understanding when they think they are being led by the Spirit. But there is no doubt that a Christian may be made to discern clearly the signs of the times so as to understand by Providence what to expect and thus to pray for it in faith. Thus they are often led to expect a revival, and to pray for it in faith, when nobody else can see the least signs of it.

I'm reminded of a woman in New Jersey, who lived in a place where there had been a revival. She was very positive there was going to be another revival. She wanted to have "conference meetings" scheduled, but the minister and elders saw nothing to encourage it and would do nothing. Convinced they were blind to the prospect, she went ahead and recruited a carpenter to make seats for her, for she said she would have meetings in her own home; there was certainly going to be a revival. She had scarcely opened her doors for meetings before the Spirit of God came down with great power and the sleepy church members found themselves surrounded all at once with convicted sinners. They could only say, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and we knew it not" (Genesis 28:16).

The reason why people like this praying woman understand the indication of God's will is not because of the superior wisdom that is in them, but because the Spirit of God leads them to see the signs of the times. [This] produces in them a confident expectation of a certain result.

Dear Father, lead me by the power of your Holy Spirit to see your guiding hand in the daily occurrences of my life and in the daily events of my community and world. Bring revival to my heart, my home, my church, and my community. Help me to see signs of that revival. May I be willing to do what is necessary, despite opposition, that I might lead others to commitment to, and knowledge of, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 68-69). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 4 Prayer Points:

- Unity and Revival within the Body of Christ (locally and globally)

Day 5 – Thursday, January 9

Distinguishing the Holy Spirit

Individuals often grieve the Spirit away because they do not draw Him in and cherish His influence. Sinners often do this ignorantly. They suppose that if they were under conviction by the Spirit they would have certain mysterious feelings or they would be jolted in such a way that they could not mistake it as anything but the Spirit of God.

Many Christians are so ignorant of the Spirit's influences and have thought so little about having His assistance in prayer that when they do have such influences they do not know it and so do not yield to them. They sense nothing unusual in these cases—only the stirring of their minds or the knowledge that their thoughts are intensely employed on a certain subject.

Christians are often unnecessarily misled and distressed on this point for fear that they do not have the Spirit of God. They feel intensely, but they do not know what makes them feel as they do. They are distressed about sinners, but think they should be, considering the sinner's condition. The truth is that the very fact that they are thinking about them is evidence that the Spirit of God is leading them.

The greater part of the time these thoughts do not affect them. They know their salvation is equally important, but they are quite at leisure, and their mind is entirely dark and vacant of any feeling for sinners. But when the Spirit is working, although they may be busy about other things, they think and pray and feel intensely for them, even while they are about business that at other times would occupy all their thoughts. Now almost every thought is "God, have mercy upon them!"

One may ask what it is that leads a mind to exercise benevolent feelings for sinners and to agonize in prayer for them. What can it be but the Spirit of God? No evil spirit would lead one to do so. If your feelings are truly benevolent, consider that it is the Holy Spirit leading you to pray for things according to the will of God.

Dear heavenly Father, quite often I have expected you to do more than is necessary to convince me that I am in possession of your Holy Spirit, or rather; that your Holy Spirit is in possession of me. Help me to direct my thoughts and my feelings along constructive paths, making me ever concerned about building up your kingdom and ministering to the lost. By loving thoughts and actions, enable me to recognize the Spirit in my life. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 70-72). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 5 Prayer Points: World Missions (see last page)

Day 6 – Friday, January 10

The Holy Spirit Enlightens Our Mind

Test the spirits by the Bible. People are sometimes led away by strange fantasies and sudden impulses. If you compare them faithfully with the Bible, you never need to be led astray. You can always know whether your feelings are produced by the Spirit's influences by comparing your desires with the spirit and tone of [pure] religion, as described in the Bible. The Bible commands you to test the spirits. "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God" (1 Jn 4:1).

There is a type of mind that in seasons of great enthusiasm—especially when there is a good deal of preaching on the necessity and reality of divine influences, the spirit of prayer, being led by the Spirit, and being filled with the Spirit—is very apt to give itself over to impulse. This type mistakes the true manner in which the Spirit of God influences the mind... They look for the Spirit to make direct impressions on their emotions rather than their minds. Hence they are full of impressions.

Satan often succeeds by transforming himself into an angel of light, persuading them to give themselves over to impulses and impressions; and from that moment he leads them captive at his will. ...

A mere impression that you must do something, go and converse with a certain person, or go to this place or that place—this should not be regarded. When the Spirit of God leads an individual to take a particular interest, feel particular compassion in prayer, and strive with particular individuals, this influence may be safely trusted. If you find yourself drawn into powerful prayer for certain individuals, consumed with great compassion, agonized with strong crying and tears for a certain family or neighborhood or people, yield to such an influence.

Lord Jesus, sometimes I am selfish, wanting to experience things for their own sake, wanting to feel the Spirit in order to feel good, reassure myself of my salvation, or guide me to some exotic place or person. Help me to be directed toward the needs of the other people in my life and world. Help me to feel love and compassion for the physically and spiritually needy. Help me find intelligent and loving ways to meet these needs, and then I will know I am led by the Spirit. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 73-74). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 6 Prayer Points: The people within your sphere of influence (family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, classmates, etc.)

Day 7 – Saturday, January 11

To Receive the Spirit's Influence

The Holy Spirit must be sought by fervent, believing prayer. Christ says, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13).

Does anyone say, "I have prayed for it and it does not come"? It is because you do not pray properly or you do not pray from right motives. "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures" (James 4:3).

A supposed believer, and a principal member in a church, once asked a minister what he thought of his situation. He had been praying week after week for the Spirit and had not found any benefit. The minister asked what his motive was in praying. He replied that he "wanted to be happy." He knew those who had the Spirit were happy, and he wanted to enjoy life as they did. The devil himself might pray so! It is pure selfishness.

If you have found a means to stir up your mind on the subject, focus on that. If you pray for the Spirit and then turn your mind to other things, you tempt God. It would be a miracle to receive what you pray for in that state. God is not going to pour out a blessing in answer to prayer on someone who is disinterested. You must watch in prayer. Expect an answer and wait for it. People sometimes pray but never pay attention to see if the prayer is granted.

Be careful also not to grieve the Spirit of God. Confess and forsake your sins. God will never lead you as one of His own and share with you His secrets unless you confess and forsake sin. And do not always be confessing only, but confess and forsake. And make amends wherever you have committed an injury.

Aim to obey perfectly the written law. In other words, have no fellowship with sin. Aim at being entirely above the world: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). If you sin at all, let it be your daily grief. The man who does not aim at this intends to live in sin. Such a man need not expect God's blessing, for he is not sincere in desiring to keep all His commandments.

Come, Holy Spirit, abide in my life and influence me with your quiet stirrings of the mind and heart. I confess that I have desired to know you for self-centered reasons, and I forsake now all selfish desire for you. I ask only that I may know you to glorify Jesus Christ in my life, and that I may lead others to come to know and accept the way of salvation. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 75-77). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 7 Prayer Points: America, Israel

Day 8 – Sunday, January 12

Prayer and the Church

Will you give yourselves over to prayer and live so as to have the spirit of prayer and the Spirit with you at all times? O for a praying church! I once knew a minister who had a revival fourteen winters in succession. I did not know how to account for it until I saw one of his members get up in a prayer meeting and make a confession. "Brethren," he said. "I have been long in the habit of praying every Saturday night until after midnight for the descent of the Holy Spirit among us. And now, brethren," – and he began to weep – "I confess that I have neglected it for two or three weeks." The secret was out. That minister had a praying church.

In my present state of health, I find it impossible to pray as much as I have been in the habit of doing and yet continue to preach. It drains all my strength. Now, shall I give myself up to prayer and stop preaching? That will not do. So I ask that you who are in health throw yourselves into this work, bear this burden, and give yourselves to prayer until God pours out His blessing upon us.

Dear God, holy, loving, and merciful, I desire to pray rightly with all my heart. There is much that I must learn and digest if my prayers are going to be as effective as they can be. I know you hear even the feeble prayer of the sinner, but still great power for revival and the spread of the Gospel must come from the intelligent, Spirit-influenced prayers of the saints. May I pray the prayer of the saint, and not the feeble sinner, that your kingdom may come on this earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

Finney, Charles G. Principles of Prayer (pp. 78-79). Baker Publishing Group.

Day 8 Prayer Points:

- 2025: A Year to Advance
- God's will for Harvest Church, and your role within that
- Wisdom and direction for our leadership

“That the leaders took the lead in Israel,
that the people offered themselves willingly,
bless the LORD!”

Judges 5:2 ESV

Harvest Missions 2025

Local

Coastal Pregnancy Center

The ARC of Beaufort County

Sandhills Adult & Teen Challenge

Prison Ministry — Hyde County and Craven County

Victorious Living Prison Ministry (Kristi Overton Johnson)

Isaiah 58 Food Ministry

Celebrate Recovery

World

House of Hope — Nicaragua, Honduras, Bolivia

Mike and April Havlin

EME — Europe & Middle East (Gail Stathis, Brian Van Deventer)

EME — Tunisia

Ministry to Eastern Europe (John Daigle)

Romania — The Romania Project; Christian Mission to Youth

Jamaica — Brother Jarrett

Nigeria — Saint Okorafor

India — Sam Francis, Sonam Bhutia, Prahalad Peter, Rajan Chinnadurai

Servant Leadership Ministries (Frank Deena)

Peru — David Beraun Martel

Taiwan — Clifton Chen

Covenant Life Ministries (Frank Harvey)

Evangel Fellowship International (Phillip Miles)

Israel — David Parsons (ICEJ)

East Gate Extension — Nathan Fortner

Dominican Republic — Rob Perkins

SURGE Church Plants