

“What a delightful little collection of prayers for the various situations pastors like me face from week to week. Before I had even finished reading *A Pastor Prays for His People* I found myself using it to pray for my people. Not only did I find the prayers helpful in articulating what to pray but I also found them edifying for my own soul personally. Reminiscent of the classic Puritan collection of prayers, *The Valley of Vision*, this is a more modern take. Full of Scripture, pastorally insightful and sensitive. What a wonderful spur to the ministry of prayer that all pastors are to give themselves to, and yet can find a struggle to persevere in. I will be using this great book regularly from now on to both to bless my own soul and my people’s.”

RAY BROWN, minister, East London Tabernacle Baptist Church

“Wendell Hawley’s book is a classic of its kind. Born in pastoral ministry, rooted in sound theology, and with a cadence and rhythm that delights both the mind and the heart. Read and enjoy.”

JOSH MOODY, senior pastor, College Church in Wheaton;
president, God Centered Life Ministries

“This treasury of prayers is a written version of the author’s inspiring prayers uttered in church services when he was in pastoral ministry. The prayers are in the tradition of uplifting sentiments and verbal beauty known in the English-speaking world through the Anglican Prayer Book. The uses of the prayers in this book are multiple, but preeminently as a morning devotional uplift.”

LELAND RYKEN, professor emeritus, Wheaton College; author



A
PASTOR
PRAYS
for
HIS
PEOPLE

*A collection of
biblically inspired
prayers for personal &
corporate worship*

WENDELL C.
HAWLEY





Part One

PRAYERS FOR
EACH MONTH



JANUARY

*Talking to men for God is a great thing,
but talking to God for men is greater still!*

E.M. Bounds

Prayer No. 1

Glorious and covenant-keeping God,

By your grace we have reached another year and another marker
on our pilgrim journey.

Our times are in your hands, and we have come to this hour
and this place by your mercies and by your grace.

We echo Jacob's words:

*God has been my shepherd all my life,
his angel has kept me from all harm.*

And those of Joshua:

*Every promise of the Lord has come true.
Not a single one has failed!*

Isaiah wrote:

*I am overwhelmed with joy in the Lord my God!
For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation
and draped me in a robe of righteousness.*

Jeremiah testifies:

*Your words are what sustained me.
They brought me great joy and are my heart's delight.*

Nahum tells us:

*The Lord is good.
When trouble comes, he is a strong refuge.*

Habakkuk recalls:

The sovereign Lord is my strength!

Strength, shield, refuge, sustenance—sufficient promises for
life's journey!

Your Word, O Lord, assures us this is so.

We enjoy the privileges of grace because we have been
reconciled to you.

*There is therefore now no condemnation
to them which are in Christ Jesus.*

May your grace, wonderful Savior, enable us to forget
those things that are *forgiven and held against us no more*.
Help us to let go of what you have forgiven and forgotten.

(SILENT PRAYER)

Not only does your Word assure us of forgiveness, but we need
not fear the future.

You have told your people:

*I know the thoughts that I think toward you,
thoughts of peace and not disaster,
to give you a future and a hope.*

So we commit ourselves anew to your gracious care and keeping
in the days ahead.

Whatever comes to us in the year ahead,
we believe you alone do all things well.

Since you are my Shepherd ... *I shall not want.*

Father God, as I examine my wants, help me not to want
anything you won't give.

And Father God, give me grace to receive all that you give me
this year.

We lift up our hearts in hope and trust toward you.

We believe your Word and rejoice in your promises.

Blessed be the glorious name of the Lord!

Amen.

Genesis 48:15-16, NLT; Joshua 23:14, NLT; Isaiah 61:10, NLT; Jeremiah 15:16, NLT;
Nahum 1:7, NLT; Habakkuk 3:19, NLT; Romans 8:1, KJV; Hebrews 10:17; Jeremiah
29:11; Mark 7:37; Psalm 23:1; Nehemiah 9:5

Prayer No. 2

Gracious God, eternal Father,
Maker and master of all things,
We praise you that with endless bounty you have made provision
for every need experienced by your children.

We rejoice as we contemplate the truth
that not one solitary need among us today
finds you indifferent or helpless or catches you by surprise.

No one but our God could say:

“Before you call, I will answer.”

We are staggered by such divine munificence.

Help us to really believe that

you know,
you care,
you will answer.

Now in this moment, all who come to the house of worship with
a heavy burden
are going to leave it with you.

(SILENT PRAYER)

O Lord, we praise you for a faith that teaches us

to sing,
to pray,
to hope,
and to sing.

Others from yesteryear’s household of faith honored God while
facing overwhelming circumstances.

They sang of the *wonderful goodness* of the Lord.

Moses, Deborah, David, and Mary teach us

to sing—when being tested;
to sing—when sorrow has us in its grip;
to sing—when we don't feel like it;
to sing—a *new song*
 when we've passed through a crisis;
 when we've had a fresh experience of God's provision;
 when we've been given *songs in the night*.

Someday we shall join Moses and the hosts of heaven in singing:

 “*Great and marvelous are your works, Lord God Almighty!
 Just and true are your ways.*”

We praise you for a faith that teaches us to pray.
Not with endless repetitions,
 with mindless mantras, or magical incantations,
but rather, as a redeemed soul in fellowship with the Redeemer.
So, like the disciples, we say, *Lord, teach us to pray.*

We praise you for a faith that teaches us to hope.
Hope is our anchor in the storms and stresses of life.

 We hope in God.
 We have a *blessed hope*.
 We have the *confident hope of heaven*.

Your promises, Father God, are sure and reliable—
 that gives us hope.

Amen.

Isaiah 65:24; Psalm 145:7, NLT; Psalm 149:1; Job 35:10; Revelation 15:3; Luke 11:1;
Titus 2:13; Colossians 1:5, NLT

Prayer No. 3

God of all grace, God of my salvation,

I praise you because you are *the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

You never grow old; you are not impoverished, enfeebled, forgetful;
your *faithfulness continues to each generation—*
more enduring than the earth itself.

And yet, wonder of wonders, you have entered into our existence,
for the eternal *Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

And because of that, Jesus knows all about life's struggles.

We thank you, Father God, that Jesus had to earn a living.

He did a day's work like any working person;
he had to face the wearying routine of everyday work,
work that sometimes became a chore ... a struggle.

He knew the frustration and irritation of serving the public ...
some people are never pleased.

Jesus knew the problems of living together in a family.

He knew what it was like to have unbelieving relatives.

And he knew the reality of temptation and the attacks of Satan.

We thank you, Father God, that Jesus shared in happy social occasions;

that he was at ease at weddings, and at dinner parties,
and at festivals in the homes of the rich and the poor;
with people just like us.

Grant, Father, that we may ever remember that in his unseen,
risen presence,

he is a guest in our homes
and a listener to every conversation.

We thank you that Jesus knew the meaning of friendship,

that he had his own circle of friends with whom he wanted to be;
that he knew how to catch fish and how to prepare a meal;
and that he was there, standing alongside loved ones,
when they needed him most.

He also knew what it was like to be disappointed by a friend,
to suffer disloyalty,
to have love repaid by rejection.

He experienced unfair criticism,
prejudiced opposition,
deliberate misunderstanding.

He was lied about and abandoned—he knew what it was like to be alone.
We thank you, Father, that whatever circumstances we face, Jesus has
been there before.

Because *he faced all of the same testings we do*,
he is able to help those who are going through them.

Touched with the feeling of our infirmities, *he knows our frame*;
he remembers that we are dust.

Therefore, we come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in every time of need.

Lord, we are a needy people ... in need of your assurances.
As we hide your Word away in our hearts,
make every promise real to us this year.

Great peace have those who love your law, and nothing causes them to stumble.

And so, sovereign Lord, as we face the days ahead,
we do so in the confidence that you are with us in the midst of
every situation:

sickness or health;
empty purses or stretched finances;
business losses or economic gains;
family disruption or family delights.

Whatever, Lord, we are yours!

Amen.

Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 100:5, NLT; John 1:14; Hebrews 4:15, NLT; Hebrews 4:15, KJV; Psalm 103:14; Hebrews 4:16; Psalm 119:165

Prayer No. 4

Our Father and our God,

You are eternal; as for us, *our days are numbered*.

Seasons and years come and go, but they do not diminish you one iota;

meanwhile we are very much aware
of what the march of time does to us.

You, O Lord, are *the same yesterday, today, and forever*.

We begin life's journey thinking that we are invincible,
only to find out we are very fragile.

You are the source of all life; every breath we take is a gift from you.

We learn from your eternal Word of our destitute condition,
and we praise you for permission
to approach your *throne of grace*.


We give thanks for your matchless condescension,
that we fallen creatures, desperately in need of reconciliation,
may experience the imputed righteousness of Christ, our Savior.

Your gracious announcement to us is:

"The one who comes to me I will by no means cast out."

With that assurance ringing in our hearts, we come boldly to the
mercy seat and spread our desires and needs before you.

Cleanse our hearts,
remove our iniquities,
soothe our hurts,
establish our steps,
take away our fears,
lift our burdens,
and may we see your work of saving grace among our
loved ones.



Tune our hearts to anticipate with great joy the awesome cry,
“Behold, the bridegroom is coming!”

Give shelter to the homeless,
food to the hungry,
work to the unemployed,
care and assistance to the needy,
comfort to those who mourn.

Give us receptive hearts to the message from your Word today.

Amen.