
DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Direct Message / Week 1

WEEK 1

PRAYER IS ABOUT CONNECTING, NOT JUST GETTING.

**Come near to God
and he will come
near to you.**

JAMES 4:8 NIV

DAY 1

HEAR // God wants to be near to you. In fact, this verse tells us that the more we press in to spending time with Him, learning about Him, and strengthening our relationship with Him, the more we realize how close He is to us. Knowing that God is close to us is good for us because His presence can bring us comfort and peace. Today, even if God seems distant, continue to follow Him. Trust that He is close to you as you stay close to Him by praying and following His lead in life.



**"I tell you, you can
pray for anything,
and if you believe that
you've received it, it
will be yours."**

MARK 11:24 NLT

DAY 2

PRAY // Would you talk to God about . . . *anything*? Not just the, "Please let my crush like me," types of prayers, but the, "I've never talked to anyone about this," kind of stuff. The truth is, God wants to listen to you and help you in ways that only He can. You can bring *anything* to Him. Any question, concern, or secret is safe with God. He doesn't get annoyed or surprised by you or your prayers. Today, talk to God about something you never have before. Ask for His help, peace, or joy in a new way. You may just discover that you're safe to share *anything* with Him.



The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles.

PSALM 34:17 NLT

DAY 3

PRAY // If you were fully confident that God hears all of your prayers, how would you pray? Would you finally bring up that hurtful circumstance from years ago? Would you share your doubts and questions with Him? Even though it doesn't always *feel* like God is listening, the truth is, He really does *hear* you. Today, take a few minutes and pray the way you would if you were completely confident that God's listening to you. Ask Him your questions, share your doubts, and even thank Him for something you never have. You can trust that He hears you and wants to help you.



Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

COLOSSIANS 4:2 NLT

DAY 4

LIVE // Is prayer a part of your life? Some of us are like, "Of course, every time I'm about to get my grade back from a math test." But what about daily? Do you have a *habit* of thanking God and thoughtfully talking with Him? If not, here's your challenge: Pray for 5 minutes every day for the next 7 days. The hope is that the next week sparks a habit of prayer in your life. Why? Because as we devote ourselves to prayer, we'll begin to discover something awesome: God is active, alert, and interested in our daily lives.



Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying.

ROMANS 12:12 NLT

DAY 5

TALK // Patience and prayer go hand in hand. It's hard when we don't immediately get the answer we're looking for, but God's silence doesn't equal His absence. Choosing to pray *through* every circumstance in life will help you develop patience. When you have patience, it shows you have trust that God is up to something—even if you can't see it yet. This week, talk to someone you trust (close friend, parent, small group leader) about any tension you feel when it comes to prayer. Ask them if they've ever patiently prayed *through* a circumstance and what impact it had on their life in the long run.

