



# 21 DAYS OF PRAYER

## PRAY FIRST!

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

JANUARY 1-21, 2025

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**SHILOH.CHURCH**  
H.B. CHARLES JR. | PASTOR-TEACHER

## ***Pray First!***

*May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. – 2 Peter 1:2*

### ***It happens after prayer!***

Prayer should be your first response, not your last resort. Which category do you fall in? Do you seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33)? Do you acknowledge the Lord in all your ways (Proverbs 3:6)? Do you rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)?

Or, as is the case for many, do you treat prayer like a spiritual 9-1-1 service? We don't really believe in the emergency services. Sure, we call them when we need them. However, until that crisis moment arrives, we are hoping we never need them. This is not how believing prayer works. It does not reflect trust in the Lord. Try Jesus after you have tried everything else. God is honored by childlike faith, not desperate emergency prayers.

Do you want the Lord to be obviously present, actively in charge, and dynamically at work in your life in 2025? Here is the godly means to that worthy end: Pray first! Paul says, "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

As we start the new year with 21 Days of Prayer, I appeal to you to make a new commitment to believing prayer. Whatever "resolutions" you establish for the new year, none is more important than getting closer to God. "Draw near to God," says James, "and he will draw near to you" (James 4:8).

This guide has been prepared to aid you in the private chambers of your own praying ground. Set a daily prayer time. Pray over the daily prayer targets. Join us for our times of corporate prayer. Believe that it happens after prayer!

Soli Deo Gloria,

H.B. Charles Jr.  
Pastor-Teacher

A Strategy for Family Prayer  
H.B. Charles Jr.

“A family that prays together, stays together.” Have you ever heard this statement? Have you ever made it? This axiom is often repeated but seldom practiced. Think about how many marriages and families you know could not stay together. Multiple reasons are given for the breakdown of the family. How often do we hear about (or experience) disrupting family troubles and think the family failed to pray together?

The devil hates the family. He hates your family. Satan attacked the first couple in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-7). His goal was to separate Adam and Even from the Lord God and one another. The serpent’s strategy has not changed. The enemy of our souls is also the enemy of our families. He wants to destroy your marriage. He wants to deceive your children. He wants to devour your family.

How can you stop your family from becoming a casualty of war? It happens after prayer! Be like Cornelius: “a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people and prayed continually to God” (Acts 10:2).

Paul instructs the Christian soldier to be “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication” (Ephesians 6:18). Warfare prayer is how the believer and the church stand firm against the schemes of the devil. It is also how godly families stand firm, stand strong, and stand together. The evil one is not moved by your family’s cash, credit, cars, clothes, or comforts. But the devil flees a family that submits to God and resists him in believing prayer (James 4:7).

## ***Pray First!***

Despite the priority and power of prayer, so many families do not pray for and with one another. Some have mates or family members who refuse to pray. Yet how many more are there who can pray but don't? We think we do not have time to pray. We use tensions as an excuse, not acknowledging that nothing eases relational tensions like earnest prayer. Some of us feel we do not know what to say in prayer. We don't feel comfortable praying aloud in front of others. On and on goes the list of excuses why we families fail to pray together. None of these reasons, however, override or overrule the importance of praying together. It may be cliché, but it's still true: A family that prays together, stays together.

No, praying together will not immediately or automatically fix all of your family problems. God is able to work miracles. Most often, the Lord works through providential means to accomplish his divine agenda – that includes your trust and obedience. We must love, forgive, and do all the things necessary to serve our family well. But without Christ, we can do nothing (John 15:5).

Prayer is not a magic trick. It is a statement of faith. Prayer advertises our dependence upon God. Think about it this way. The things we pray about reflect the things we truly trust God with. The things we do not pray about reflect the things we foolishly think we can somehow handle on our own. Friend, you cannot manage your family on your own! You need the Lord to be obviously present, actively in charge, and dynamically at work for you and your family. Prayer affirms our trust in God, expresses our need for him, and invites him into the situation.

**Will you accept the 7-5-2 Family Prayer Challenge today?**

**Pray for your family seven days a week.** Commit to praying for your spouse, children, parents, siblings, cousins, grandchildren – every family member – once every day. Of course, this commitment to daily prayer can include friends, neighbors, or classmates. Or how about praying daily for a fellow member of the church? Each day, during your quiet time, don't just pray for yourself. Bring your loved ones to the throne of grace with you (Hebrews 4:16).

**Pray with your family five days a week.** Monday through Friday, pray with the family members you live with. It can be during mealtimes or bedtimes. Don't try to start with an hour-long prayer meeting. Just take a few minutes to thank God together for his goodness, favor, and blessings. Then, pray for divine help where it is needed – personally and corporately.

**Pray with your spouse two times a week.** If you are married, pray with your husband or wife twice a week. Just the two of you. Again, this doesn't have to be a long period. True intimacy is developed as you hear your spouse thanking God for you. The Lord will intervene on your behalf as you pray together about your marriage, children, needs, decisions, and challenges.

## ***Pray First!***

### **THEME | Pray First!**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

– Philippians 4:6-7

**OVERVIEW** | 21 Days of Prayer is a churchwide season of prayer at the Shiloh Church. We begin our year renewing our personal and corporate commitment to continue steadfastly in prayer.

**PRAYER TARGETS** | Join us as we focus on one specific prayer target each day of our 21 Days of Prayer. Each day will focus on categories of people to cover in believing prayer.

1/1 – **The Brokenhearted** | Pray for spiritual healing and restoration for those who are broken, discouraged, or suffering.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*

– Psalm 34:18

1/2 – **Leaders at Work** | Pray that those who lead others in workplaces will honor the Lord by their leadership.

*Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.*

– Colossians 4:1

1/3 – **Enemies** | Pray sincerely and earnestly for those who have hurt, wronged, or offended you without cause.

*But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.*

– Matthew 5:44-45

1/4 – **Educators** | Pray for administrators and teachers who oversee and instruct our children in school.

*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.*

– James 3:17

1/5 – **Lost People** | Pray that lost people will turn from their sins and trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

*Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.*

– Romans 10:1

1/6 – **Missionaries** | Pray for missionaries who spread the gospel cross-culturally, especially in closed countries.

*And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"*

– Romans 10:15

**Pray First!**

1/7 – **The Grieving** | Pray for peace, hope, and comfort for those among us who mourn the death of a loved one.

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

– Psalm 23:4

1/8 – **Parents** | Pray that parents will bring up their children in the way that they should go while they are still young.

*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

– Ephesians 6:4

1/9 – **Children & Youth** | Pray that our children and youth will be converted to Christ and grow as Jesus grew.

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.*

– Luke 2:52

1/10 – **Unreached People Groups** | Pray for the unreached people groups around the world who have no gospel witness in their region.

*Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

– John 12:31-32



1/11 – **Those Fighting Addictions** | Pray for spiritual deliverance and freedom for those who are fighting various addictions.

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

– Matthew 11:28-30

1/12 – **New Believers** | Pray for persistent faith and spiritual growth of the new believers in Shiloh Church.

*Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

– 2 Peter 1:10-11

1/13 – **Married Couples** | Pray that husbands and wives will relate to one another with love and respect.

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

– Ephesians 5:33

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1/14 – **Non-Married Christians** | Pray for wisdom, holiness, and contentment for all non-married Christians in our congregation.

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passions of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God.*

– 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5

1/15 – **The Local Church** | Pray for the gospel mission of Shiloh Church and local churches throughout Jacksonville and Orange Park.

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

– Matthew 28:18-20

1/16 – **Senior Saints** | Pray that the senior saints among us will finish strong for the sake of Christ and the next generation.

*Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, and for as many years as we have seen evil.*

– Psalm 90:14-15

1/17 – **Unemployed & Underemployed** | Pray that the Lord would open a door of provision and opportunity for the unemployed and underemployed.

*And my God will supply every. Need of your according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*  
– Philippians 4:19

1/18 – **Those Who Have Fallen Away** | Pray for spiritual restoration for those who have fallen away from the faith.

*My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*  
– James 5:19-20

1/19 – **Physically Sick** | Pray for mercy, strength, and healing for our members who are physically sick.

*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*  
– James 5:14-15

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1/20 – **Civil Authorities** | Pray for all who are in authority over us locally, statewide, and nationally.

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercession, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.*

– 1 Timothy 2:1-2

1/21 – **Spiritual Leaders** | Pray that our pastors and deacons will guard their lives and doctrine as they give spiritual leadership.

*Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

– 1 Timothy 4:16

**Prayer Guide** | The Bible commands us to pray for those in authority over us. The following is a list of names and offices of civic and spiritual leaders to cover in believing prayer:

### **National Civic Leaders**

- President Joe Biden & Vice-President Kamala Harris
- President-Elect Donald J. Trump & Vice-President-Elect J.D. Vance
- Supreme Court Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Clarence Thomas, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Samuel Alito, Jr., Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett
- U.S. Senators (Florida): Marco Rubio, Rick Scott
- U.S. Representatives (Florida): Matt Gaetz, Neal Dunn, Kat Cammack, John Rutherford, Al Lawson, Michael Waltz, Stephani Murphy, Bill Posey, Darren Soto, Val Demings, Daniel Webster, Gus Bilirakis, Kathy Castor, Scott Franklin, Vern Buchanan, Greg Steube, Brian Mast, Byron Donalds, Shelia Cherfilus-McCormick, Lois Frankel, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Frederica Wilson, Mario Diaz-Balart, Carlos A. Gimenez, Maria Elvira Salazar,

### **State Civic Leaders**

- Governor Ronald DeSantis
- Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nunez
- Jacksonville Mayor Donna Deegan
- Orange Park Mayor Randy Anderson

### **SHILOH Church Campus**

- Shiloh Church | Jacksonville, Florida
- Shiloh Church | Orange Park, Florida

### **SHILOH Church Leaders**

- Pastor H.B. Charles Jr.
- Shiloh Ministry Leaders
- Shiloh Elders & Deacons
- Shiloh Church Staff

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**Sunday Prayer Series** | The following is the preaching plan for the 21 Days of Prayer:

- 1/1 – The God You Can Trust | Psalm 23
- 1/5 – Blessed To Love One Another |  
1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
- 1/12 – Comfort To Do God’s Will |  
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
- 1/19 – Living in Christian Harmony | Romans 15:5-6

**Resources** | We recommend the following brief devotional books to aid your daily quiet time during the 21 Days of Prayer:

- *21 Days of Deeper Prayer* by Jim Maxim  
(with Daniel Henderson)
- *21 Days of Breakthrough Prayer* by Jim Maxim  
(with Cathy Maxim & Daniel Henderson)
- *21 Days of Transforming Prayer* by  
Daniel Henderson (with Jim Maxim & Alice Moss)
- *21 Days of Prayer for Couples* by Dennis and  
Billie Henderson
- *21 Days to a Deeper Life* by Daniel Henderson  
(with Brenda Brown)
- *21 Days to Overcome Strongholds* by Jim Maxim  
(with Daniel Henderson)



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## SHILOH CHURCH VISION

- **Connect** | We connect lost people to Christ and the church through corporate worship (Galatians 3:27-28).
- **Grow** | We grow our members to spiritual maturity through Bible Study Fellowship groups (2 Peter 3:18).
- **Serve** | We serve one another, our community, and the nations through ministry teams to the glory of God (Mark 10:45).

## PRAYER MEETING

Prayer Meetings will take place on Tuesdays in Orange Park and Wednesdays Downtown, starting January 7-8.

## PRAYER CALLS

There will be a 15-minute prayer call Sunday through Saturday at 6 AM. The prayer call will focus on the day's prayer target with a devotional on the corresponding scripture.

**JOIN US EVERY DAY AT 6AM**

**CALL: 1-800-220-9875**

**ACCESS CODE: 11182939#**

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