

A person is shown from the chest up, holding a lit sparkler. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The person's hands are clasped together, holding the sparkler. The overall mood is hopeful and serene.

INCREASE YOUR

# HOPE

IN 2021

A 15-DAY PRAYER GUIDE

iBelieve

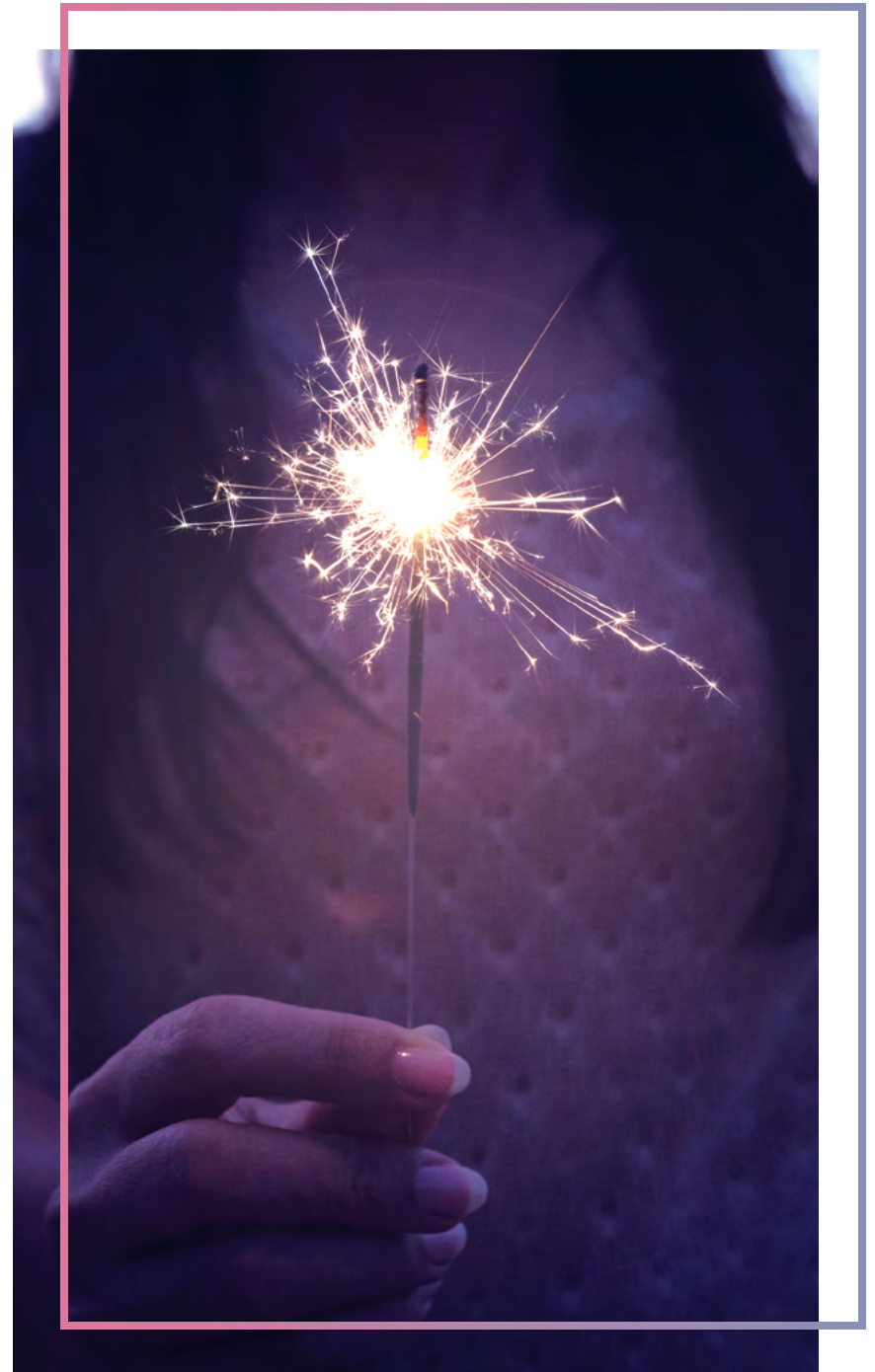
# Here's to a hope-filled New Year!

As I look back on the previous year, in my little sphere of the world, it was a tough year. Death, rejection, sickness, relational discord, and violence ravaged the lives of many people I know, including myself. It was painful to watch. Painful to experience and endure. But love, joy, hope, faith, and the promise of a new year remain.

I've been praying a lot for the New Year—for God to make beauty out of the ashes—and in those prayers I feel nothing but hope for the year ahead. Regardless of what happens this year, I'm expecting God to do some pretty amazing things. And I'm hopeful that with this fresh start, my faith will only continue to strengthen and grow. I'm hoping this for you, too.

Today, I want to invite you to feed your faith this year by joining me in this 15-day Prayer and Scripture Guide that will help you hit the reset button on your walk with Jesus. Each day's prayer challenge revolves around one area of focus, but you can feel free to add to it as you feel led by the Spirit. Ready to have an incredible year? Let's get started!

*Lauren Gaskill*



# Day 1

Pray that God would awaken the passion inside of you to live for him and him alone.

Ask God to set a fire within you—a hunger for more of him and his Word. Pray that your desire to be close to God would only continue to increase. Spend a few minutes remembering and journaling about how you felt when you first came to know Jesus. Ask God to make you feel that way again.



God, I choose to find my joy and strength in you today. I choose to walk in love. I choose to set my eyes on you and off all the struggles and chaos of this world. I choose your peace over worry. I choose kindness over hurry. I choose forgiveness over disunity and resentments. I choose your Spirit-filled power over relying on my own strength and ability. I know that my life is far from perfect, and the enemy would want nothing more than to take me straight down before I even get out the door. But I believe in your truth, and I have Jesus in my life, and because of that, I have all that I need to live free and abundantly for this very day.

Lord, open my eyes to see the power in your Word. Open my ears to know what you are saying. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and draw me close into your Presence. Speak to me and show me your ways, oh Lord. Help me to know your voice above all else. Amen.

*Debbie McDaniel*

## Additional Reading

- [Ephesians 3:14–21](#)
- [Romans 15:5–6](#)

# Day 2

## Pray for steadfastness.

The world is full of many distractions, and each new year brings the opportunity for more disorder. Pray for steadfastness. Ask God to steady your heart, direct your steps and help you keep your eyes fixed on him. Thank him for giving you the strength you need to stand firm on his promises when the rest of the world is wavering.



Dear God, at the start of each day, help us to recognize you above all else. Enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see you, and notice how you're at work through our lives. Give us wisdom to make the best choices, fill us with a desire to seek after you more than anything else in this world. Let your Spirit and power breathe in us, through us, again, fresh and new. Thank you that you are greater than anything we may face in our day. Thank you that your presence goes with us, and that your joy is never dependent on our circumstances, but it is our true and lasting strength, no matter what we're up against. We ask that your peace lead us, that it would guard our hearts and minds in you. We ask for your grace to cover our lives this day. We love you Lord...we need you. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Debbie McDaniel*

### Additional Reading

- [1 Peter 5:7–10](#)
- [How to Stand Strong in Steadfast Authority in Prayer](#) by Debbie Przybylski

# Day 3

## Pray for spiritual growth.

Ask God to give you the grace to know him more, in spirit and in truth. Thank him for his commitment to complete the good work he began in you, as Philippians 1:6 promises. During your quiet time, make a list of areas where you'd like to grow specifically this year. For example, maybe you'd like to serve in the community more, get involved at your church, tell more people about Jesus, keep a God gratitude journal or just spend more time in God's presence.



Lord, thank you that you are always faithful and true, and that your steadfast love never ceases. Thank you that prayer is powerful and effective, and that even when we doubt, you still hear our prayers and act on our behalf. Lord, I confess that sometimes I doubt. Sometimes I'm not sure if my prayers are really effective or if you hear me. So Lord, I ask you would embolden my faith. Help me have confidence that you will always be there for me and will never leave or forsake me. Thank you for your tender love for me. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Matthew Pryor*

### Additional Reading

- [Philippians 1:6](#)

# Day 4

## Thank God for his never-ending love.

Ask that he would cultivate within you a deeper understanding of his love. Ask him to fill you with his love until you are overflowing. Pray that your life could be a reflection of his love to everyone you meet. Think about tangible ways that you can show God's love to others.



Dear God, we thank you that you indeed are powerful and loving, that out of your glorious riches you strengthen us through your Spirit in our inner being. We ask you for the fresh filling of your Holy Spirit, we ask for your power and love to fill us. We thank you that as believers we know that Christ dwells richly within our hearts through faith. We pray that you would strengthen our roots and establish our lives firmly in your love.

When the world shouts hate, help us to love. When the past won't let go, help us to love. When the enemy taunts with lies and surrounds with darkness, help us to love. When a relationship feels broken or we're betrayed or rejected, help us to love.

Help us to love, and to keep on loving. By the power of your Spirit. Even when it seems impossible. Even when it doesn't make sense. May our lives be filled with your goodness and power, today and every day, as we walk in your Spirit of love. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Debbie McDaniel*

### Additional Reading

- [Romans 5:8](#)
- [1 John 4:9–11](#)

# Day 5

Today, pray for God to fill you with his great joy.

In these days following Christmas, joy is still fresh on all of our minds. Emmanuel has come. God is with us. Joy has entered the world, and that joy is the very presence of God. Today, pray for God to fill you with his great joy. Ask God to help you learn to receive and live out of this great gift. Thank him for sending his son to be born in a manger and bring joy to the world.



Father, you command us to be joyful always, but you do not expect us to be able to figure out how to attain or retain that joy ourselves.

You gave your Son Jesus to light the way a joy-filled life. Through his earthly footsteps, we study the example he left for us to follow. Thank you for Scripture. As 2 Timothy 3:16 states, “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”

All of creation reminds us of you. The beauty of nature and marvel of the changing seasons. The uniqueness in all of us and the diversity in the daily horizon. Surround us with reminders of you often, through nature, the people you place in our lives, and the Bible. May the Holy Spirit help us to understand your Word, and will for our lives. Bless our hearts with sustaining joy, and the strength to hold onto it no matter what. In Jesus’ name, amen.

*Meg Bucher*

## Additional Reading

- [Isaiah 35:10](#)
- [1 Peter 1:8–9](#)
- [Don’t Let the Enemy Steal Your Joy](#)

by Debbie McDaniel

# Day 6

## Pray for peace.

Pray for peace—on Earth, and in your workplace, home and heart. Pray that the Prince of Peace would come and unite his people. Pray for harmony among the nations. Lastly, pray for peace within your very own soul. Lay your stress, anxiety and fear at God's feet and ask him to speak peace and calm over your situations. Spend a few moments breathing in God's peace and breathing out your stress.



Lord, I thank you for placing your wonderful, powerful, protective peace in my life. I am grateful that you have positioned it to stand at the entrance of my heart and mind and that it dominates my mind and controls my life. Because what is inside me is what rules me, I choose to let this peace rise up and conquer me. With this peace standing at the gate of my heart and mind, I know it will disable the devil's ability to attack my emotions and will not permit his lies and accusations to slip into my mind! Thank you for loving me enough to put this powerful peace in my life! I pray this in Jesus' name!

I confess that I am guarded and protected by the powerful peace of God that works in my life. It rises up to dominate my mind; it controls my thinking; and it determines the condition of my life and the environment where I live and work. I am unaffected by the circumstances that surround me, for this supernatural peace stands at the gate of my mind and emotions to monitor everything that tries to access me. Because no fretting, anxiety, panic, or worry is allowed to enter me, I remain free, calm, and peaceful—even in difficult situations that in the past would have upset me! I declare this by faith in Jesus' name! *Rick Renner*

### Additional Reading

- [Colossians 3:15](#)
- [Psalm 29:11](#)



# Day 7

## Pray for patience.

We live in a culture that wants everything, and wants it yesterday. Pray for patience. Pray for strength to be counterculture and break free from the world of instant gratification. Ask God to replace your restlessness with patience, contentment and peace. Release whatever you're feeling impatient about into his hands and trust that his timing is perfect.



Dear Lord, thank you that you sent your Son to this earth as our greatest example of what it means to persevere. Thank you that we can look at his life and see that although his present sufferings were hard and one may have easily given up, he persevered. He did not give up, and his reward was the hope he had in you.

Thank you that you are with us every step of the way, and even though we feel like giving up because what we see with our eyes is different than what we expect, we know that you are working on our behalf.

We ask that you give us the strength to persevere. We ask that you uplift us in times of discouragement. For when I am weak, you are strong. We pray that you would make our way purposeful and our steps firm in you when we are tired and weary. May we honor you by staying obedient and faithful on this journey. For we know that you have promised us that we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Thank you for this truth. Give us a heart to keep persevering. In Jesus name, amen.

*Alisha Headley*

### Additional Reading

- [Romans 8:24–30](#)
- [How to Cultivate Patience in a World of Instant Gratification](#) by Kate Motaung

# Day 8

## Pray for a heart of kindness.

Pray for a heart that is tender, meek and mild like Jesus. Ask God to show you how to be kind and compassionate in everything that you do. Ask him to help you be tenderhearted and forgive others, just as in Christ God forgave you.



Father, kindness, compassion, and forgiveness describe your character. How can I be more like you, Father? How can I be an outlet of your kindness, compassion, and forgiveness to the people you have purposefully placed in my life? Show me, Father. Open my heart to remember the words of my Savior and feel the all-encompassing love of you, my heavenly Father. I am loved, chosen, purposed, and forgiven. Therefore, embolden me to pray, live, and love in reflection of these great truths about who and whose I am. Guide my prayers, and my life. Let all I do, honor you. In Jesus name, amen.

*Meg Bucher*

### Additional Reading

- [Isaiah 54:8](#)
- [Colossians 3:12](#)

# Day 9

Today, spend a few minutes reflecting on God's goodness.

Today, spend a few minutes reflecting on God's goodness. Thank him for his goodness, sovereignty, compassion and mercy. Thank him for every good and perfect gift he has blessed you with. Thank him for being so gracious, loving and patient with mankind. Ask him to help you remember to give thanks for all he has done and will continue to do.



Dear God, thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are Able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' name, amen.

*Rachel Dawson*

## Additional Reading

- [Psalm 107](#)
- [Psalm 145](#)

# Day 10

## Pray for faithfulness.

Pray that God would keep you faithful in serving him all the days of your life. Pray that when you wake up your first desire would be to feast on God's Word and drink in his presence, so that you can serve him in faith and love. Ask God to help you put all selfishness aside so that you can do his will.



Dear Lord, not matter what trials await us tomorrow, may we never forget the blessings you have shown us. Help me cling to you as my anchor. Help me remember your steadfast love and faithfulness for me in all things. In Jesus' name, amen.

### Additional Reading

- [Deuteronomy 10:12–13](#)
- [Hebrews 10:23](#)

# Day 11

Choose what kind of attitude you want to have.

Our attitude influences every part of our lives. And here's the wonderful thing: We have the power to choose what kind of attitude we want to have. That means we get to choose what kind of life we lead. Pray for a Christ-like attitude. Pray that even when things go horribly, you will have the courage to stay positive and pure. Ask God to renew your mind to see trials as an opportunity for great good.



Lord, how I long to break free from negative thinking and embrace peace and joy and optimism. I invite you to begin transforming my thought patterns and help me recognize, reject and replace thoughts that are not pleasing to you. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Additional Reading

- [Philippians 4:8–9](#)

# Day 12

## Pray for courage.

Ask God to help you trust in him completely, even when fear threatens to weaken your faith. Pray that when the time comes for you to be brave, you will remember that God is with you. Pray for a courageous heart—a heart that does the right thing even if it's afraid. A heart that walks boldly into whatever God calls you to do.



Heavenly Father, I praise you today for your great power and love. Thank you for your mercy. Through the death of Jesus, you have rescued me from sin, and I praise your name.

Lord, you know the situation I am facing. I truly do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you. I trust you will show me the best way to handle my challenges. In your perfect timing, show me what to do. Give me grace to keep my eyes on you.

Lord, I praise you for the victory you won at the cross. You defeated sin and death forever. You are Alpha and Omega, the eternal God who has rescued your children. Help me remember you go before me and will never leave me. I am not alone; you fight my battles. I praise and thank you in advance for the way you will work. I cannot see it now, but give me grace to walk by faith, not by sight. I do not know what to do, but my eyes are on you, and I will praise your great name. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Betsy de Cruz*

### Additional Reading

- Joshua's courageous story in [Deuteronomy 31](#)

# Day 13

## Have confidence in God.

If there was one thing we all could use a healthy dose of, it would be holy confidence—confidence that comes from knowing we are deeply loved, rescued and set free. Today, pray that God would remind you of the simple truth that confidence can only be found in chasing after him. Ask God to help you become comfortable with sharing your story, and ask him to provide opportunities to be a witness to the world.



Lord, teach me the power of declarative prayer. I thank you that heaven responds to my prayers. You act on my behalf and change things in the spirit realm. I choose to confess your truth with my mouth (Romans 10:10). I thank you that positive confession in my prayers, words, and actions brings breakthrough. Teach me to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant as Jeremiah did (Jeremiah 1:9–10). Touch my lips and put your words in my mouth. I want to say and pray positive words that confess your truth. Help me to stand in the gap and bring healing to the earth through my prayers. I want to be a repairer of broken walls and a restorer of streets with dwellings (Isaiah 58:12). I want to be your voice for hope and life. Your voice is powerful and accomplishes great things. In Jesus name, amen.

*Debbie Przybylski*

### Additional Reading

- [1 John 5:14](#)
- [Hebrews 4:16](#)
- [A Prayer for Confidence](#) by Lauren Gaskill

# Day 14

## Pray for wisdom.

We know that the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere (James 3:17). Pray that God would fill you with heavenly wisdom, so that you can increase in knowledge and understanding of him. Spend a few minutes reflecting on the wise people in your life. What makes them wise? What do you admire about them?



Father, you are truth, love, and hope. Faithful to provide for and sustain me, uphold me and defend me, yet so often I look to other people for direction and protection. Father, forgive me for my dependence on anyone or anything more than you, alone. You are all I need, and all wisdom flows from you. Remind me, when I stray and seek the opinion of others, to seek you with all of my heart, in full confidence I will find you. To ask for wisdom, knowing you are faithful to answer, illuminate, and connect it to my life. Reveal to me who has good intentions and those who seek to pull me away from you. Give me the clarity and good judgment to surround myself with others who are seeking you, and patience to allow you to work through me to others who are not. You place me perfectly, Father, this I know. Help me to follow your guidance and synchronize my heart's timing to yours. Bless my life with mentors to pour into my heart, and those whom I may pour into. Connect the people in my life, and bloom relationships, the way only the blessing of your hand can. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Meg Bucher*

### Additional Reading

- [Proverbs 1:7](#)
- [James 3:17](#)



# Day 15

## Pray for balance.

For many of us, life feels like it's always busy, always teetering on the edge of spinning out of control. Pray that God would help you establish more balance in your daily life. Ask him to help you remember that there is a time for every event under heaven (Ecclesiastes 3:1–8), and that the life he has called you to is not one of chaos but of holiness. Make a list of everything that is on your plate right now and ask God to show you how to best manage your time.



Father, today as I pray, I commit my soul to praise you, alone. All of my life, everyday, I pray that my souls sings praise to you. Author of my heart, Creator of my life, the days of my life are numbered by you. There is no one who knows my heart as you do. Let it fully honor and glorify you, Father. Fix any part of my heart and soul that drifts out of alignment in praise. Before I write a to-do list or take my first sip of coffee for the day, set the eyes of my heart on you, and your majesty. Remind me who you are when I attempt to rush into the day. The more my thoughts are fixed on you, the more the countenance of my heart reflects everything good that comes from you. In Jesus' name, amen.

*Meg Bucher*

### Additional Reading

- [Ecclesiastes 3:1–8](#)
- [3 Sure Signs You're Living Outside Your Limits](#) by Kelly Givens