

# RETURNING DEVOTIONAL

VINEYARD ANAHEIM



# RETURNING TO A POSTURE OF PRAYER

by Katie Riddle

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” Ephesians 6:18, CSB

“Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. “There was a judge in a certain town who didn’t fear God or respect people. And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

“For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect people, yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.’”

Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will not God grant justice to His elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” Luke 18:1-8, CSB

It’s natural to become a praying people when disaster strikes and we’re slammed with the awareness of our dependency on the LORD. We instinctively turn to God and cry out for help, protection, justice, provision, and all the things we have little to no control over. As we currently find ourselves in a globally volatile hour, let’s allow the forward momentum this is providing to push us towards prayer. Let’s seize the opportunity to devote ourselves to prayer and to the pure word of God, just as the early church did. Let’s learn to be faithful, “praying in the spirit on all occasions, with all kinds of prayers and requests.”

A prayerful posture is one that is alert, one whose mind is fixed on the things above, one whose thoughts are consumed with the LORD and what He is doing and saying. Yes, there is a conditioning, like pulling the string to a lawnmower until the engine fires up. This current season is like gasoline— it can either be used to fuel the engine of fear and anxiety or it can be used to fuel the reality of who God is and who we are in Him. If we choose to ignite ourselves with our God-given identity and purpose, we will naturally devote ourselves to prayer and to God-glorifying works that flow from a prayerful posture.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

# RETURNING TO A POSTURE OF PRAYER

by Katie Riddle

Today is a wonderful time to take a good and honest look at our prayer lives and ask ourselves, do we have one? Are we praying without ceasing? Are we praying for His people? Leave shame at the door, it's useless. Remember that our Father loves us, and desires to meet us where we are in our prayer journey. He wants to lead us into the intimacy with Him found in a lifestyle of prayer. Don't waste time worrying about days when you hear or feel nothing during prayer. Remember He is so worthy of our time regardless of what we get from it. Indeed, isn't our time a beautiful offering, the most precious and finite resource to give the One who has given us everything?

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your prayer times and to lead you into a lifestyle of prayer. Jesus tells us to "pray always and never give up." This is a sacred invitation that He helps us acquire, not an unreachable demand that sends us into a shame spiral of overwhelming inadequacy. Each and every day Jesus Himself intercedes for us (Romans 8:34). Let us here and now, determine in our hearts that we are a praying people and that Jesus will find faith on earth when He returns. Let's invite our children and those around us to join us in this wonderful lifestyle. As we pray, let us always ask the Father who loves us dearly, who is drawing us close to His heart, to lead the way as we give Him our faithful "yes."

Recommended books for a deeper dive:

- Revival Praying, by Leonard Ravenhill
- Prayer: Why Your Words to God Matter, by Corey Russel
- Draw a Circle: The 40-Day Prayer Challenge by Mark Batterson