

Men Always Ought to Pray and Not Lose Heart

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A 5-DAY DEVOTIONAL SERIES BY PASTOR MIREK HUFTON

DAY:

Monday

TITLE:

The Rut Has Your Name On It

KEY VERSE:

Luke 18:1 -- "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."

REFLECTION:

I'll be honest with you -- I know what it feels like to wear a rut in the carpet. You pray the same prayers, you believe for the same breakthroughs, and sometimes it feels like nothing is shifting. But here's what I've learned: that rut isn't a sign of failure. It's a sign of faithfulness. Every time you return to that place of prayer, you're saying to God, "I trust You more than I trust my circumstances." Jesus didn't say sometimes pray. He said always pray. Not when you feel like it. Not when the answers are coming. Always. The rut in my carpet isn't a monument to unanswered prayer -- it's a monument to a God who keeps showing up. Don't stop. Don't quit. Get back to that place and pray.

PRAYER:

Lord, on the days when prayer feels empty and I feel like giving up, remind me that You are still listening. Help me to return to that place of prayer with fresh faith today. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Find one specific spot in your home -- a chair, a corner, a patch of floor -- and dedicate it as your personal prayer space this week. Spend at least ten minutes there today.

DAY:

Tuesday

TITLE:

Stadiums Full of Broken People

KEY VERSE:

2 Chronicles 7:14 -- "If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

REFLECTION:

My father was in South Africa during the Apartheid years. He handed me books, told me stories, and painted

a picture I've never been able to shake. A hundred thousand people filling stadiums -- praying from eight in the morning to eight at night -- week after week, month after month. Politicians said South Africa would be a bloodbath. Every expert agreed. But those praying people didn't consult experts; they consulted God. And God moved. I look at America today and I feel it in my spirit -- we haven't hit the tipping point yet. We're praying, but we need to go to another level. What would happen if we filled auditoriums? What would happen if we gave God an entire day? The experts will always predict the worst. But God specializes in what experts say is impossible.

PRAYER:

Father, forgive me for putting more faith in what experts say than in what You can do. Stir something in me today that refuses to settle for less than a genuine move of Your Spirit. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Pray specifically for America today -- not a quick mention, but a focused, intentional five minutes asking God for a national awakening. Write down one thing you're believing Him for.

DAY:

Wednesday

TITLE:

The Plane That Wouldn't Fly

KEY VERSE:

Proverbs 21:1 -- "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

REFLECTION:

I love this story because it's so wonderfully, unmistakably God. Buthelezi boards his jet. He's done. The peace process is finished. South Africa is heading toward catastrophe. And then -- the plane won't start. A mechanical failure. A technician has to be called. And in that unexpected window of time, a door opens, a conversation happens, and a Kenyan professor flies in to broker peace between the Xhosa and the Zulu. A miracle wrapped inside a mechanical failure. That's what prayer does. Prayer doesn't just change our hearts -- it moves pieces on a board we can't even see. When Michael Cassidy and those hundred thousand praying people cried out to God, God grounded a jet. Don't ever underestimate what happens in the unseen realm when you get serious about prayer. God is working logistics you know nothing about.

PRAYER:

Lord, I confess I can only see what's in front of me, but You see everything. Today I'm trusting You to move in ways I can't engineer or orchestrate. Have Your way. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Think of one impossible situation in your life or nation that needs a "grounded plane" moment. Write it down and pray over it specifically today, trusting God to work in ways you cannot see.

DAY:

Thursday

TITLE:

Prayer Cracks the Shell

KEY VERSE:

James 4:10 -- "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up."

REFLECTION:

Here's something I've noticed over years of prayer -- and I mean real, extended, get-on-your-face prayer. The more you pray, the more God works on your pride. There's something about genuine prayer that cracks that hard shell we build around ourselves. You walk into prayer thinking you have the answers, and somewhere in that place of seeking God's face, you realize you don't -- and somehow that's the most freeing thing in the world. Prayer and humility are inseparably connected. When you lift your hands and say, "God, I don't know what I need to know, but You do," something breaks open inside you. That brokenness isn't weakness -- it's the beginning of real strength. Eagles soar because they know how to ride the wind they didn't create. In prayer, you learn to ride what God provides, not what you manufacture.

PRAYER:

God, break down my pride today. I come to You not with answers but with open hands. Teach me what it means to truly humble myself before You. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

During your prayer time today, intentionally spend the first few minutes simply being quiet before God -- no requests, no agenda. Just acknowledge that He is God and you are not.

DAY:

Friday

TITLE:

Fall in Love With Prayer

KEY VERSE:

Psalms 27:8 -- "When You said, 'Seek My face,' my heart said to You, 'Your face, Lord, I will seek.'"

REFLECTION:

I want to close this week by saying something from the bottom of my heart: we must become a people of prayer. Not people who pray occasionally. Not people who add prayer onto everything else. People of prayer -- where it's woven into who we are. I believe with everything in me that if high schools get blasted by the Holy Ghost, if colleges turn around, if professors who are atheists start finding Christ, it won't be because of a clever program. It will be because somebody, somewhere, fell in love with prayer and refused to stop. I want that for you. I want that for me. I want that for this church. Here's my challenge: pick one day in the coming weeks. Fast. Pray all day. Come to service that night. See what God does. You say, "God, I'm seeking Your face." I promise you -- He will be found.

PRAYER:

Lord, I want to fall in love with prayer -- not as a discipline I force, but as a relationship I cherish. Pull me deeper into Your presence this week and don't let me settle for anything less. Amen.

DAILY ACTION:

Choose a specific day in the next two weeks to set aside as a personal prayer day. Block it in your calendar

right now, and tell one trusted person about your commitment so they can hold you accountable.