

Daily Prayers on 1 Peter from Pastor Don Patterson (email subscription)

- 1) **Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. – 1 Peter 1:3-5**

Dear Jesus,

I inherited some wonderful things from my parents, so much so, that I am proud to call myself by their last name. But you have given me an even greater inheritance when you brought me to spiritual life by revealing your love and truth to me. I am born again into your family and I have an inheritance waiting for me in heaven. I can't wait to experience the lasting blessings of freedom from the problems and struggles I face every day. I can't wait to have perfect peace, love beyond all boundaries, good health, perfect attitudes and perfect friends and family. I can't wait to hear and see angels and to listen to the souls of saint whom I have only read about. What great mercy you have that you would give a sinner like me the promise of eternal treasures. Thank you for graciously including me in your family inheritance.

- 2) **Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls. – 1 Peter 1:8-9**

Dear Jesus,

There really is a joy in my heart that comes from the simple truth shared in words about your love that made you die for me in the past and still makes you guide my life now. I cannot see you but I have joy as if you are here. I feel loved, saved and understood. I feel destined for great relief and peace to come when you bring me to heaven. I love you for sending your Holy Spirit to inspire men to write your story on paper so it could be written in my heart. Thank you for creating a message that works in every era on this planet to change lives from doom to salvation.

- 3) **Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. ¹² It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. – 1 Peter 1:10-12**

Dear Jesus,

I often think of how great it would have been to be one of the prophets to whom you gave your very words to share with humanity. But then Peter reminds me that blessed as they were, none of the prophets got to see your entire story in their lifetime. Instead, they painted their part of the story and

then passed into glory without seeing it unfold on earth. You chose me to live in the times when the gospel is easy to understand and to teach to others. You chose me and my generation to know the finished story and to experience the life changing power of grace proclaimed. Thank you for making me live now and not then. I know how fortunate I am to be the beneficiary of your choice.

- 4) Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart.** 1 Peter 1:22

Dear Jesus,

I do love people more than ever since I have met you and your love. But I do not always act on that love. Sometimes I act out of the old sinful nature that crouches like a squatter in my soul. Help me to think through what it really means to love others deeply from the heart. Give me ideas on how to show them love so that through me they will learn how deeply you love them. Help me to search my heart and find ways to eliminate the hate and selfishness that reside there. Give me the purity that grace brings when it reaches a soul once puny in selfishness.

- 5) Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.** – 1 Peter 2:1-3

Dear Jesus,

Your promise to continue blessing my life by grace until no end in eternity, gives me the freedom to forgive the ways that others have hurt me and to cast out fear that others will hurt me in the future. I can live in the moment with love and freedom. Like a baby who has no history with anyone to process, I can just enjoy being alive. I love being free from resolving my problems all by myself. I have tasted that you are the good God who makes my life happy and free.

- 6) As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, **“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”** and, **“A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”** They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. – 1 Peter 2:4-8

Dear Jesus,

I recognize that I have been called out of the world to become part of your church and to join the saints who live in thanksgiving and praise of you. To be an active part of your flock means that I am in a counter culture to the world. I don't love the evil they love and I have different passions and purposes. I sense that it makes us both uncomfortable. I'm okay with that. I want them to know you and the peace of your grace and the meaning of life that you have given all of us. I want them to realize that the confrontation they feel when they hear your word, is the confrontation love and truth brings to every heart. Oh Lord, use me to encourage your royal flock and to be an ambassador of grace and peace to a confused and lost world.

7) But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. – 1 Peter 2:9-10

Dear Jesus,

I have belonged to lots of groups in my life but none is so important to me as the family of believers among whom you have placed me. It's there that I have received mercy and forgiveness has restored my life to hope. It's there that I have understood the meaning of my disappointments and successes. It's there that I found you and the meaning of life. I am so thankful for being included in your church. Help me to warmly reflect to the world around me how loving and faithful you are to all creation. Help me to teach them who you are and what you want to be for them. Help me reach those who otherwise live dejected and rejected lives, in order to give them the rescue of redeeming grace and a place in your family.

8) Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. 12 Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. – 1 Peter 2:11-12

Dear Jesus,

I know you want my life to sing the music of your grace to match the words. Give me strong discernment to see the evil desires that rage against my soul and help me fight them so I don't succumb to the selfish life like the rest of the world. I am not at home here on this planet. But I am where you want me to be, sojourning as a pilgrim of grace and truth. I see criticism in the news of your people and you and I want to do what I can to tell them how wrong they are. Help me to live a morally pure life with selfless love that is void of judgment. I want to clearly display what it means to live a God pleasing that also blesses humanity instead of cursing them. I want pagans to be challenged by what

they see in my life when they are prone to judge you, me and your people. I want them to see you when they see me. Oh Jesus, come and live your life through your church.

- 9) **Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, 14 or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. 15 For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. 17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. – 1 Peter 2:13-17**

Dear Jesus,

I love this list of godly ways I can live out my faith in you. My culture believes it has the right and obligation to castigate rulers and point out their foibles. In my sinful nature I love to join their choir. Teach me the rudiments of respect that make me hold my tongue and honor the people who hold offices of high trust. Help me to deeply love every member of your flock and make me a champion of humanitarian missions. I want to be the kind of Christian that loves all people so much that I will stay ready to meet their spiritual and physical needs at every moment. Give me friends and associates that have the same godly insight that you are giving me so we can multiply our efforts to bless people with your saving works.

- 10) **Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. – 1 Peter 2:18-21**

Dear Jesus,

I am not a slave but I have a job. I have not been beaten but I have suffered injustices in my life. I love how your words from Peter push me back to you and make me think about how you lived your perfect life as you suffered at the hands of selfish men. You loved those who hurt you just like you loved those who helped you. You showed no distinction. I need you to fill me with yourself so I can serve people indiscriminately too. Help me to understand my role when I suffer so I redeem the moments to make them a testimony of grace and love. Make me a person who overcomes evil with good by loving those who hurt me as much as I do anyone else.

11) He (Jesus) himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed. – 1 Peter 2:24

Dear Jesus,

I was born with the disease called sin and selfishness. It has been my downfall in every failure and the root cause of all my mistakes. It threatened to kill me forever, but you have created the cure for my illness. In your own body you took the death it promised me. You took the punishment I had earned with it. You took the sting out of my guilt because you healed me by wounding yourself. Now, I want to hate sin, not because I am afraid but because I love you for what you have done. I want to do right in your eyes and what’s best for others. I want to be righteous, not by force but by love. Oh Jesus, help me to live in the healing power of your great sacrifice so what you did on the cross creates a new living servant in me.

12) For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. – 1 Peter 2:25

Dear Jesus,

Many times I have wandered away from you like a sheep wandering from home. Sometimes I wandered without anyone but you noticing. But you keep bringing me back with your grace and truth. You send people to fetch me and friends to corral me. You have given me tenacious shepherds who spoke for you to turn my heart around. I know you oversee my soul. My rescue and return have happened too many times to deny it. In your care I feel safe, full of understanding and able to cope with the bullies of life. Thank you for making me a sheep in your pasture. Help me have discernment so I don't wander away from you anymore. Give me a heart that loves being near the shepherd and leans into his word instead of away from it. Make me an example of how you can bless a soul that sojourns through this earthly wasteland if they will just stay close to you.

13) Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes.⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God’s sight.⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. – 1 Peter 3:1-6

Dear Jesus,

Give my wife the faith to follow me when I am leading in a way that pleases you and the wisdom to gently challenge me when I am not. Make her believe that beauty in your eyes and mine is a gentle and quiet spirit, rather than a body that defies aging or skin that looks 18. Help her to believe that you can adorn her with inner beauty that makes her strong against self-doubt and self-criticism. Thank you for the many virtues you have created in her and give me the wisdom to know how to encourage her in these fruits of faith. Give me the love to build her up instead of tear her down. When I do seem to be losing my way, give her the strength to honestly confront me without giving into fear that would make want to control the situation and take all matters into her own hands. Oh Jesus, help us live the way you want through the power of your grace.

12) Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.¹⁰ For,

“Whoever would love life

and see good days

must keep their tongue from evil

and their lips from deceitful speech.

11 They must turn from evil and do good;

they must seek peace and pursue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous

and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.” – 1 Peter 3:9-12

Dear Jesus,

Our natural inclination is to treat others how they have treated us. It’s almost an instantaneous response. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to help us seek peace with all people. As I begin my day, give me the clarity of mind to seek peace with everyone no matter what level of dealings I have with them. And if I am treated poorly, give me the quick mind and willing heart to respond with kindness and gentleness. That way I will make you and your gospel as attractive as it really is.

13) Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? 14 But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.”¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. – 1 Peter 4:13-17

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for showing me through Peter that when I suffer criticism or trouble because I did the right thing, I am blessed and not cursed. You reframe the way I look at unfairness and discrimination. It's an opportunity for me to show your supernatural love in the face of injustice. It gives me the power to demonstrate to another sinner your love in a very personal way. Help me to set aside a holy place for you in my heart so I am ready to give those who treat me unfairly a taste of your goodness. I want to tell them gently how my hope resides in your promises and not the dealings they have with me. Give me the wisdom and love to suffer for doing good without a self-righteous martyr complex too. You are my Savior. Now be my strength to become like you in the world.

14) The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. 8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 9 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. – 1 Peter 4:7-9

Dear Jesus,

If Peter taught us that the end was near in his life 2000 years ago, how much closer is the end today? Please help me stay focused that my time is short on earth. Help me make the most out of each day so the spiritual footprint I leave behind will work for you long after I am gone. Give me the wisdom and desire to live in love for others so that I cover over a multitude of sins and share grace with everyone. Make me hospitable and free from judgmental grumbling. Give me the supernatural ability to be positive and encouraging toward everyone I meet. If you left me to myself I would be a grouchy hermit. Oh, Jesus, squeeze out of my life blessings and truth until my very last breath.

15) Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 15 If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. 16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 17 For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And,

**"If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?"**

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. 1 Peter 4:12-19

Dear Jesus,

By nature I think all suffering is bad. But when I suffer because I am a Christian or am doing the right thing in honor of you, it actually has merit. It glorifies your name, shows that you are worth suffering for and it gives the truth of your gospel clothes to wear. Help me make doing the right thing my highest goal today instead of getting my own way. And when I suffer any kind of insult give me the spiritual wisdom and ability to meet it with love, respect and an example of patience.

16) In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. – 1 Peter 5:5-6

Dear Jesus,

The only posture for a sinner is a humble one. I know that when you see us priding ourselves in our own talent, intelligence and strength that it's unattractive and embarrassingly inappropriate. I see how you have humbled me at times to purge pride from my heart. Thank you for rescuing me from thinking I was better than others especially my elders. Help those saints whose minds are young and whose bodies have not begun to fail them to recognize their great need to live humbly before their elders. Help them to realize that they will not avoid the same slow slide and to respect the patience and wisdom their elders have to keep going and keep smiling as they live with half the physical and mental acumen they once had but with twice the wisdom. And help the older saints to be kind and understanding as they guide younger men and women to serve humbly with them.

17) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. – 1 Peter 5:7

Dear Jesus,

I'm often surprised and overcome with feelings of anxiety and worry. Sometimes I don't know what to do with all my concerns about what's going on in my life and the lives of the people I love. But you tell me to give my worries to you because you care for me. So here they are - every one of them. You get to be God today. I will just be a little person who knows so little but trusts a whole lot. You have fixed my biggest problem. I'm a sinner who needs forgiveness or I would most certainly be lost forever. You forgive me of everything. I will live forever even though I die. You will work everything out for my good, even the problems I create. I cannot lose since you are the God who cares for me. So, worrying is worthless. Help me to keep this holy thought all day today.

18) Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 5:8-11

Dear Jesus,

I am no match for the enemy of my soul. He knows my biggest weaknesses and exploits them. I know he and his demons are attacking all your children. You see us battle and lose. You know what we are going through. Please protect us with your Holy Spirit and his thoughts. Protect us with your angels. Protect us because you love us. Don't let the lion devour any of your children. We look forward to the restoration you will bring when the entire war is over and we are safely on the other side of the veil that hides you. Make me strong in the hope that you are coming to rescue me in life or by death.