

A Prayer of Preparation | Fall 2025

This prayer, inspired by Gather participants, combines praise, confession, and a commitment to faithful obedience, reflecting a journey of seeking God's will and power in ministry and life.

Praise

Lord, you are unchanging! you have the power to completely transform lives. You defeated death, and there is nothing you cannot overcome. You are always at work in our community, sometimes through us, and sometimes even when we get in the way. You are truly and ultimately faithful; you have always been faithful to our church, You have never let us down, and supplied all our needs according to your riches in glory. Your love is not attached to our performance, strategic objectives, or accomplishments. You are the Savior, and it's not all up to us. It is the work of the Holy Spirit not our church programs and activities that will build God's kingdom. Your power can overcome the culture and ways of this world. Your will is 100% better than ours, and your ways are better than everything we can imagine. You are in control, moving and acting even when it's not instant or shiny. Your leading is often a slow walk. You love all people and you love your church. You will draw people into saving faith in you. Your vision for our church is more beautiful and more powerful than our vision. You are faithful to equip those you have called. Miracles still happen. You continue to heal and restore people. Your grace, your presence, your provision, and your leading are sufficient for our needs.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- We praise you that you are unchanging and have the power to transform lives because...
- Thank you for always being at work in our community, even when...
- We praise you for Your unfailing faithfulness and provision because...

Confession

Forgive us, Lord, for our foolishness and slowness to believe. We confess that we often think our ideas of how you should form and grow your church are better than yours, acting as if we need to help Jesus along to finish your work. We have been slow to trust that humility is not weakness, but allowing you to lead. We wrongly assume that numerical success is always the evidence of your blessing or our good work. We can be surprisingly critical of your work, forgetting your sovereignty. We confess our pride, thinking our power depends on us. We forget to pray and discern your leading before we do things, trying to achieve things in our own effort as performers who only step back when at our wits' end. Our misunderstanding that it is your work, not our ability, that transforms lives. We acknowledge our tendency to think we can do things by ourselves, ignoring the leading and power of the Holy Spirit. It's foolish to forget that your church doesn't have to please us, and that our will so often tries to supersede yours.

Commitment to Faithful Obedience

Therefore, we commit to trust and follow you, embracing humility and sacrifice as your chosen path.

We will strive to ask daily, "Lord, what do You have for us today?" – not our will, but your will which should be done with your grace.

We commit to responding to your lead, not to follow our own plans.

We will remember that our motivation for participation is rooted in your sovereignty, even when we don't fully understand.

We will do things from our convictions of your Spirit, not for the applause of people.

We will continue building, brick by brick, even if tearing down and rebuilding is needed, understanding that our role is to make disciples and allow the Holy Spirit to bring true faith.

We will pursue an open posture, believing in you more deeply, and restraining our criticism, trusting that you are sovereign and working through the church.

We will be more prayerful before acting, trusting in your Spirit's work and leading.

We will learn patience, wait on God's time and plan, accepting that suffering is part of the ministry journey and embracing the fellowship of your suffering.

We will acknowledge you in all things and be in constant dialogue with you.

Finally, we need to be more humble, putting our wants and needs aside, and focusing on what you want in our lives and in your church, knowing that your plans for us are far beyond ours – they are truly good.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Lord, we confess our frustration and doubt when...
- Forgive us, Lord, for our foolishness and pride when...
- Help us to commit to trust and follow You by...
- Strengthen us to be more prayerful and patient in our ministry when...

Closing

Father, continue to do the work of transforming our hearts to be like yours, longing for the world to see you and come to believe in you. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, who is at work within us, Amen.

