

January 2018 *God gives us a new start every day*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ Prayers for St. John's as we seek God's guidance for directions for this year.	² Prayers for God to bless and guide our staff members as they start a new year.	³ Prayers for God to bless the members of UMW as they study and support missions.	⁴ Prayers for God to bless and guide members of SPRC as they start a new year of taking care of our staff.	⁵ Prayers for God to bless Christians in oppressed parts of the world. May they be strong and share their faith.	⁶ Prayers for God to guide our state leaders this year.
⁷ Shout for joy to God, all the earth! 2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious. (Psalms 66:1-2)	⁸ Praise God that the preschool teachers share the love of Jesus with their students.	⁹ Prayers for God to bless our music ministry as they praise God with their voices and music.	¹⁰ Prayers for God to bless the members of Jolly Elders as they are available to mentor others.	¹¹ Prayers for to bless our children's ministry as they seek His guidance for our children.	¹² Prayers for God to bless our craft and quilting groups as they fellowship and make things for others	¹³ Prayers that the God guides the right person to be hired for our pre- school program.
¹⁴ I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. (Psalms 104:33)	¹⁵ Prayers for God to lead the women's ministry as they seek a closer relationship with God.	¹⁶ Prayers for God to bless our men's ministry as they seek a closer relationship with God.	¹⁷ Prayers for God to bless the ministry of Rev. Greg Henneman our missionary with HEAL.	¹⁸ Prayers for God to bless and guide Rukang Chicomb our missionary in the Congo.	¹⁹ Prayers for God to bless and guide our youth ministry. May our youth grow in spirit and numbers.	²⁰ Prayers for God to bless Jazz Vespers to reach many lives.
²¹ Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. (Psalms 127:1)	²² Prayers for God to bless the M&M trip to Puerto Rico next summer.	²³ Prayers for God to bless and guide Nadona Chicomb our missionary in the Congo.	²⁴ Prayers for God to bless our immediate community by helping us to be a witness to them.	²⁵ Prayers for members of Finance as they start a new year of taking care of our church finances.	²⁶ Prayers for members of kitchen ministry to continue to joyfully give to others.	²⁷ Prayers for God to bless the members of Memory Cafe with needed strength and knowledge.
²⁸ For you created my inmost being you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made...(Psalms 139:13-14)	²⁹ Prayers for members of Ladies' Book Club as they study.	³⁰ Prayers for those taking care of our little ones every Sunday morning. That our children can experience God's love.	³¹ Prayers for God to bless and lead our custodial staff as they minister to us.	<i>"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).</i>		

Prayers of the Bible (quoted from Dr. Ralph F. Wilson)

There's a popular American idiom: "He doesn't *get* it!" It shows frustration at a person's inability to grasp an idea. Another is, "He doesn't have a *clue*!" The person is completely blind to the obvious. Paul has a prayer for people like that. And as I study his prayer, I realize that he is praying for me. That *I* might grasp it. That *I* might have a clue to the immensity of God's presence, power, and provision. Take a few moments to study Paul's pray with me.

"I pray also that the **eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order **that you may know** the **hope** to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious **inheritance** in the saints, and his incomparably great **power** for us who believe...." (Ephesians 1:18-19)

The picture is of a heart with eyes. Closed eyes. The structure of the prayer is simple: that Paul's readers may...

1. Know the hope.
2. Know the inheritance.
3. Know the power.

1. Know the hope to which he has called you. Paul prays that we will begin to understand our destiny. Generally, we use the word "hope" in the sense of, "I hope so, but the chances aren't too good." However, the Bible uses the word "hope" in the sense of expectation of a sure thing. I expect this to come to pass. The hope we believers have is for God's kingdom and God's way to one day entirely overwhelm the present world order.

2. Know the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints. Inheritance has to do with what you'll receive when your parents or relatives die and pass on their wealth (if they have any) to you. Of course, God doesn't die. But at Christ's coming, we get what's coming to us -- in full. In fact, it's ours now, reserved in our name, to be received fully at a future date. You are heir to a fabulous fortune. You are an heir of God and co-heir with Christ. Wow! John's words point to a reality so great and glorious that it can only be hinted at by grand figures and symbols. How rich is your inheritance in the saints? Beyond description! Are you poor? Your God is not, and you are his heir. Nothing is impossible to heirs of such a fabulous fortune. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

3. Know his incomparably great power towards us who believe. Paul compares this power to the energy that it took to raise Christ from the dead. Think of the power we see in the pages of the Bible. Sick are healed. Troubled people are delivered from the demonic chains that have bound them. The Red Sea opens. The Jordan River stops. Walls fall down. Time is turns back. Violent storms become suddenly quiet. I love the line in Kristene DiMarco's song, "Wind and waves still know his name." This is the "incomparably great power" that God extends towards you! In Ephesians 1:19, the phrase "incomparably great power for us who believe".

"Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see You, I want to see You."

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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