



A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION

FOR PREPARATION

[Come to Me](#)

- Josh Bales

[Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me](#)

- Toplady / Hastings

[All Must Be Well](#)

- Peters / Smith

OPENING PRAYER

"Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen."

- Thomas Cranmer (1662)

AS OUR FOUNDATION

Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the Lord and shun evil.
8 This will bring health to your body
and nourishment to your bones.

TO KEEP IN MIND

We can't just muster-up the emotions and "trust him." We must have a deep knowledge of and trust in Him. And our trust grows deeper and deeper with each year that passes.

- Sarah Stonestreet

Proverbs talks about pursuing knowledge and wisdom, but our trust shouldn't be IN that knowledge and wisdom. Rather, our trust should be in the SOURCE of that knowledge and wisdom – the Lord.

- Erin Kunkle

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Chaotic and challenging times like these cause us (or at least should cause us) to question where our faith truly lies.
- It's in times of chaos and suffering that these things come to the surface in our lives.
- Use these moments as a "time of correction" – evaluate where we may have misplaced our faith and take it to the Lord in prayer. It's a time to take inventory of our lives – and repent.
- From Juli Slattery, she'd referenced Hebrew word yada – which means to "know." As Juli had emphasized, what does it mean to truly "know" God? For example, a husband and wife know and trust one another because of their years and years of knowing each other, their character, and their faithfulness. It's rooted in that deep knowledge of trust – and that trust grows and grows as the years go on.
- From Brother Andrew, he'd often remarked about trusting God "in ALL his ways" (emphasis added) – even in the smaller and seemingly mundane parts of life.

KEY QUESTIONS

- Is there someone or something that's disappointing us? Have we placed undue expectations on that person, on ourselves, on that outcome, or on that opinion / decision?
- Have we placed too much expectation on a certain person or thing? Sometimes, these are things only God can fulfill.

-From Joni Eareckson Tada, she'd referenced her experience shortly after her diving accident which left her a quadriplegic. In the process of knowing God more deeply, her trust grew. It became "a deep, deep trust in the Lord – and who He is." Those trials were also marked by an increasing love of Scripture (i.e., simply picking up the Bible or a book on systematic theology and just "diving in").

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK

- *Lord, allow us to evaluate where our faith truly lies. Reveal to us the blind spots we may have. Give us wisdom and clarity to discern how to reorient our faith back to You.*
- *Draw our affections toward you.*
- *Allow us to delight in You – and walk in the ways you've prepared for us.*
- *Help us to be people who trust and know you well.*
- *Keep us steadfast when trials come.*
- *Bring healing to our bodies and strength to our bones.*
- *Be with us as a church – that together, we'd come to a deeper trust in you.*

BENEDICTION

- *Closing Prayer*

"Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

- Thomas Cranmer (1662)

- Doxology – [Praise God, from whom all blessings flow](#) – Thomas Ken (1674)

CLOSING

- *Here are several related resources you may find valuable:*
 - [Strong Women Podcast](#)
 - [Colson Center's National Time of Guided Prayer](#)
 - [The Colson Center for Christian Worldview](#)
 - [BreakPoint](#)
 - [Wilberforce Weekend '21](#)
 - [Josh Bales](#)

True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that. It is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

- Charles Spurgeon

