

# A TIME OF GUIDED PRAYER

PROVERBS AS WISDOM FOR CHURCH AND NATION



## FOR PREPARATION

[\*Oh Come and Mourn with Me  
Awhile\*](#)  
Faber (1849)

## 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 18:12 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> *He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD.*

## TO KEEP IN MIND

We may not be the wisest theologians, the most studied historians, or the most studied philosophers, but we can be good spouses – and let that be our message to a world that wants to know where that comes from.

- J. Warner Wallace

## KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Of all the things we could spend our time on – even studying Christian apologetics and worldview – the most important would be focusing on our marriage and family.
- The nuclear family is crucially important to society's well-being: **two biological parents** in a **low conflict setting**.
- "Trajectory decisions" are crucial in life – especially early on. And the two most important of those trajectory decisions are our **worldview** and our **choice of a spouse**.
- Finding a spouse is worth our time. But finding means we need to do some seeking.
- Marriage is foundational. And we must love marriage (the institution) more than we love our spouse. Thus, that higher goal – marriage – pulls us upon on those lower days.
- Many will not get married. We should seek gifts like marriage, but God may have another gift in mind for us. However, we should seek the gift of marriage until we know it is not God's will. It's something worth seeking nonetheless.
- We should spend as much time making the case for marriage as we do in making the case for the Christian worldview.
- The word "quarrelsome" (in Hebrew) is only found in Proverbs – and not anywhere else in the Old Testament (see Proverbs 21:9, Proverbs 21:19, and Proverbs 27:15)
- How we are to treat our spouse is always a choice. And how we respond to how we're being treated is also a matter of choice. That is, however, what makes marriage rich.
- Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. There are different ways men and women express each other – men typically need respect, and women typically need love.

- *Whether one is a Christian or not, these principles always apply – because the Bible describes the world (including us) the way we truly are.*
- *Marriage is super important. Thus, the time we spend helping young people preserve this nucleus called marriage – that produces everything good in family – will be time well-spent.*
- *We should seek marriage. Even if it's not the gift God has for us, but that's OK – he'll give us other gifts. He who finds a good spouse finds a good thing – and favor from the Lord.*

### **HERE'S HOW YOU CAN PRAY AND LIVE THIS WEEK**

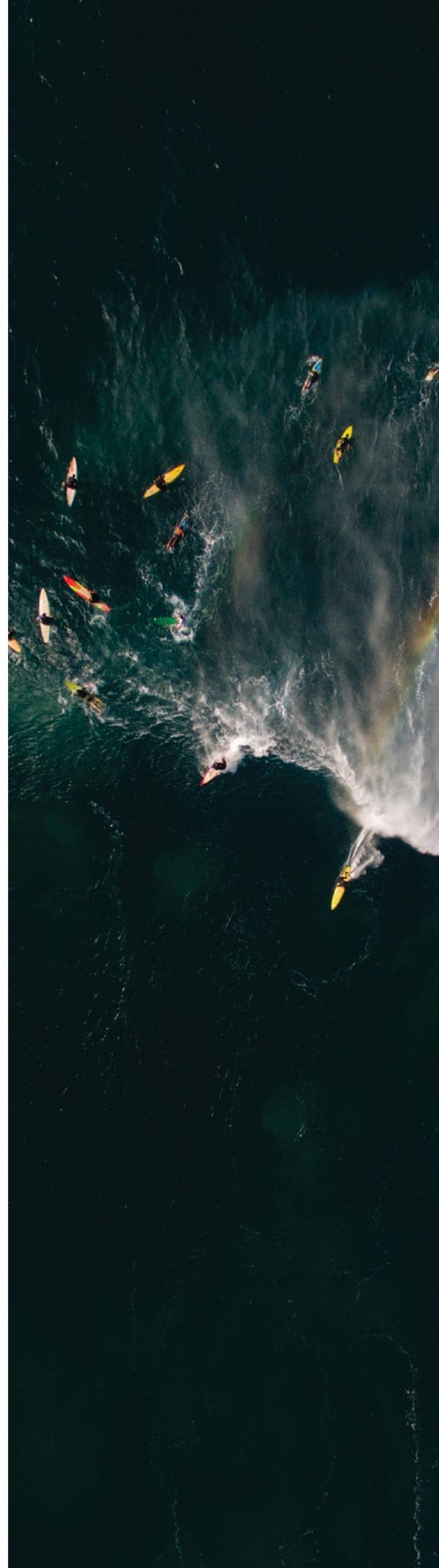
- *Forgive us for all those times where we've fallen in love with our jobs, our ministries, our goals, and our ambitions. And we took for granted the thing we're standing on – our marriage. Help us not to treat it as we treat other foundations. Help us elevate and understand it – seeking a great marriage.*
- *Help us with the young people in our lives – who need to hear a good word from us. Help us to set an example for the young people in our lives who are watching us.*
- *Forgive us for not spending this time earlier on – but let it be a cautionary tale for those in the earlier years of marriage and parenting. They still have the opportunity to model something amazing for their kids.*
- *Help us to be changed, transformed, and teachable in our marriages. To not let the bumps along the way be the things that harden us toward each other, but let those things be the stories we tell each other as we're conformed to Your image.*
- *Help all of us make our marriages more important than they have ever been before.*
- *Help us to show the Gospel to others through our marriages.*

### **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)



- *Closing Worship*

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

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [Cold-Case Christianity – J. Warner Wallace](#)
- [LOVE & RESPECT: The Love She Most Desires and The Respect He Desperately Needs - Dr. Eggerich](#)
- [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*