

New Beginnings



“The Gate of the Year”

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

*So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.
God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.
Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.
By Minnie Louise Haskins*

Prayer Points Based on “The Gate of the Year”

May these prayer points help you deepen your trust and reliance on God
as you step forward in faith this coming year.

Trust in God’s Guidance

- Pray for the grace to place complete trust in God, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.
- Ask God to help you surrender your need for control and rely on His perfect wisdom.

Faith Over Fear

- Pray for courage to step into the unknown with faith, knowing God’s hand is always there to lead.
- Ask God to calm your fears and replace them with His peace that surpasses all understanding.

Rest in God’s Timing

- Pray for patience to wait on God’s timing and to rest in His perfect provision.
- Ask for trust in His plan, even when the outcome is unclear or delayed.

Divine Revelation

- Pray for clarity and discernment to see glimpses of God’s intention and guidance in daily life.
- Ask for the ability to recognize God’s will in the midst of life’s chaos and challenges.

Gratitude for God’s Sovereignty

- Thank God for His omniscience and the assurance that He sees and knows all things.
- Praise Him for the beauty of His plan, even when it’s hidden from human eyes.

Surrender and Peace

- Pray for a heart that finds peace in God’s will, trusting that His plans are always good.
- Ask God to help you release all worries and anxieties into His capable hands.

EPIPHANY

January 6th

It is almost a week into the New Year; 2025 is well on its way. Most have put away their decorations and the holidays are behind them. Some are already looking forward to Valentine's Day (the day to celebrate love). Many have no idea that today is the holiday Epiphany (a greater day of love).

The Magi or Wise Men are said to have come face to face with the King of the World around this time roughly two years after the star appeared in the sky on the night of our dear Savior's birth. These Wise Men traveled many hundreds of miles to seek out the King, and when they found Him they responded with joy, worship, and gifts. They did not seek anything from Him – just to bask in the glory of Who He is. The Light of this world, the promise fulfilled.

Imagine chasing after a star for nearly two years to embrace the greatest love on earth. Is your passion for love this deep? Do you eat, sleep, and take every step to come closer to the inexhaustible, most reliable, infinite love on earth?

These Wise Men clung to a hope and passionately sought after The Promise. They knew God's Word, believed God's Word, and recognized His movement. A child was born, King to this universe, and He shall reign forever and bring peace, love, and guidance to all who seek after Him.

My question to mankind is, "Are you a wise man (woman)?" Where do your priorities sit for 2025? Did you make a New Year's resolution? Or recommit yourself to a healthy habit or activity? How is that going? Are you working hard to achieve, or have you already thrown in the towel?

In your own strength, how are these goals working out for you? Did that sting a bit; are your feelings hurt? I don't mean to offend but to enlighten (epiphany). Can I challenge you not to resolve or recommit but surrender your full life to Christ our King. Surrender to these three daily disciplines: Prayer, Silence and Solitude, and Time in His Word. Be as the Wise Men who sought His presence and encountered His inexhaustible, most reliable, infinite love.

I share with you an epiphany - Light in the Darkness. A Life surrendered to the King shall see the Light and be the light in this world. A life surrendered to Christ can accomplish more than imagined and overcome every challenge. Follow The Light (Jesus) as the Wise Men did and be all that God has created you to be.

It starts with three simple disciplines five minutes per day. And as the Wise Men went the distance, your hunger and persistence shall increase and no move you make will be void of the passionate love of Christ. Wise Men Follow the Light (Love God, Love Others).

Matthew 2:1-12; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 61

Prayers:

Holy Father, I come before you in awe of Your great and infinite love. Please strengthen and discipline me to remain focused on Your light in the year to come. Let me not be so distracted by my To – Do - List and seek Your wisdom, guidance, and love; just as the Wise Men did. In Jesus' name. I pray. Amen.

Father, God in my own strength I fall short and become weary but in You, I receive all that I need to function each day. Let me not stay stuck in my past or worry about the future but embrace each day one at a time. Help me increase the spiritual habits of being in Your Word, being in prayer and practicing silence and solitude; for in this do I receive the power, strength, and revelation to navigate the day. Amen.

Jesus, my Savior, thank You for being the Light and calling me into Your glorious Light. I'm grateful that in You I have the power to overcome the darkness of life and live out of the blessings I have in You. I surrender to You my mind, my will and my emotions and trust that You will lead and guide me in the 2025 goals you have placed in my heart. Thank You, Jesus for always being my strength and the rock in which I stand. I am victorious in You, Jesus. Amen.

Promise of Isaiah 61:1-2

In Christ Jesus This is Your Inheritance Claim It & Proclaim It

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,
for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

² He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come,
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

Prayer Points:

1. PRAY FOR AN OUTPOURING OF GOD'S SPIRIT TO LEAD, GUIDE, AND CONTROL YOUR LIFE (61:1a The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,)
2. PRAY FOR GOD TO SEND HIS ABUNDANT GOOD NEWS IN EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE (61:1b for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.)
3. ASK GOD FOR HEALING, RECOVERY & RESTORATION spiritually, emotionally, financially, physically, vocationally, relationally (61:1c He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted)
4. ASK GOD FOR DELIVERANCE & VICTORY (61:1d and to proclaim that captives will be released, and prisoners will be freed.)
5. ASK GOD TO AMAZE YOU WITH HIS GRACE TO COVER YOU COMPLETELY (61:2a He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord's favor has come)
6. PRAY FOR PROTECTION FROM ALL HARM & DANGER (61:2b and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.)

New Beginnings

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’” **Jeremiah 29:11**

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” **Ephesians 4:22-24**

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. **Psalms 119:105**

Prayer:

Father, I thank you that You have a plan and a purpose for my life. In Christ Jesus I am a new creation my old way of operating no longer lives it has been washed away and covered by the love, grace and mercy of Christ Jesus, alive in me. I have a new heart and a new mindset. I have been remade in the image of Christ Jesus who is righteous and holy. Because of Your great love for me - every morning I have a fresh opportunity to be the Light of Jesus in the world. I walk confidently in my identity in Christ and address every task by seeking Your wisdom and guidance. Thank You Father, that You set a light upon my path through Your Holy Word and give me hope and joy in my journey here on earth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” **Philippians 4:6**

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” **1 Peter 5:7**

You (God) will keep the mind that is dependent on You in perfect peace, for it is trusting in You.
Isaiah 26:3

For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to His good purpose.
Philippians 2:13

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” **Isaiah 40:31**

Prayer:

Holy Father, I thank You for this reminder to cast all my cares on You. I need not face this world with fear or anxiety because You are with me always and as I come to You in prayer and petition, I can rest in the peace of Jesus Christ knowing You are moving and working on my behalf. I praise and thank You that You hear my requests and have my best interest set before You. No matter what I face I will rest in the hope of You my Lord, Jesus who renews my strength and makes me soar on wings like eagle's. I will not become weary or faint because the king of Kings and lord of Lord's is on my side and helping me navigate and overcome every situation. In Jesus' Hoy name. Amen.

“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” **Isaiah 43:18-19**

²⁸ Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, ²⁹ “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” ³⁰ They came out of the town and made their way toward Him. **John 4:28-30**

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” **John 7:38**

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. **1 Chronicles 16:34**

Prayer:

Father, I confess that I have been bogged down in chaos, past hurts and bad decisions. Forgive me for allowing my old self to dwell on these things that You have forgiven me for. I thank You that it is never too late to turn around and reroute my thinking towards the gifts and blessings I have in Christ Jesus, Thank you for the new life in Christ. May I be like the woman at the well who left her water jar behind, she released the chain of her past and went forward declaring the everlasting life-giving water she received from the Messiah, the Savior of the world. May I run joyfully forward declaring His power and glory as the Samaritan woman at the well did. Solidify a new beginning in me to commit to scripture reading and prayer. Father, help me map out goals and live out the abundant life You have created me for and to boldly go forth declaring Your goodness, faithfulness, and mercy. Father, increase my witness of Your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen

Leap Prayers for Increase & Dramatic Advance

Leap Prayers are about believing in something based on faith rather than evidence.

“... walk by FAITH not by sight...” (2 Corinthians 5:7)

“... calls into being things that were not.” (Romans 4:17b) focusing on His abundance and speaking His life over situations.

Leap is defined as making a large or sudden movement from one place to another (moving forward.)

Walking by faith and praying that God will continue to lead & bless you as you abide in Him. (John 4:4)

Requires surrendering your will and ASKING God to fill you with the hopes and dreams He has for you according to His Word and Will.

Prayer Declaration:

I believe this is my appointed time to leap forward, in the name of Jesus.

I leap past all distractions and walk in my God appointed destiny for this season.

I leap over every wall erected by the enemy.

I receive strength to leap out of all sickness & disease to leap into my destiny and purpose in Jesus.

I leap from lack to abundance, from failure to success.

Let my finances grow by leaps and bounds to a level I have not seen before.

Let my wisdom, understanding, visions, and revelations of Jesus increase by leaps and bounds.

Let His favor increase on my life by leaps and bounds. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer Declaration:

I will not be afraid to take a leap of faith at the word of the Lord.

I will leap and rejoice at the goodness of the Lord.

Let extra favor and blessings be added to my life in the name of Jesus.

I will leap into new places naturally and spiritually.

I will leap over all the traps and snares of the wicked one.

I lay aside every weight, burden, doubt, or unbelief that would keep me from leaping from my past to my future in Christ.

I will leap forward with boldness and confidence for my Father, in heaven is with me.

I choose to look forward in Christ and let go of the old.

I set my mind on the increase I have in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Declaration:

Let me join myself with other believers who are leaping forward.

Let the church in our region leap forward.

Let our praise & worship leap to a new level.

Let our prayer life, preaching, teaching, witness, and giving leap to another level.

Let our creativity leap to another level.

Let our faith and love increase to new levels.

Let our families leap forward into their destiny.

Let our natural & spiritual gifts and prophetic levels increase for God's glory.

Let deliverance and healing increase in our church and city. In Jesus' name. Amen.