


TONY EVANS



PRAYING
like a
**KINGDOM
HERO**

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A KINGDOM HERO'S JOURNEY THROUGH PRAYER

God created you on purpose for a purpose. You have a calling to fulfill. As you live out your purpose, you will find yourself making choices and exhibiting character qualities reflective of those named as kingdom heroes in Scripture. This is because the general makeup of a kingdom hero reflects and resembles God's character and heart. Living as a kingdom hero means living under and according to God's rule over every aspect of your life.

In this book, *Praying Like a Kingdom Hero*, I've given you a multitude of guided prayers to help you explore these heroic kingdom qualities and character traits so you can develop and increase their existence in your own life. These prayers have been crafted to walk you through many characteristics of kingdom living simultaneously, so you will come to know them and learn to develop them more in your daily living. As you go through this book, I hope your understanding of God's purpose for your life will become clearer, thus enabling you to live out your calling of advancing His kingdom agenda on earth.

Numerous kingdom hero character qualities and traits are found in Scripture, and each one relates to an expression of God's heart through humanity. As you pray prayers based on kingdom virtues, you come to know these qualities and traits more and apply them in your own

life. As a result, you will also come to experience God's love and power infused in you on a higher level than ever before.

To help facilitate your prayers for kingdom hero qualities and traits to be made manifest more fully in your life, I've provided four prayers related to each of the main ones found in kingdom heroes in the Word of God. Prayer is heavenly permission for earthly interference. Prayer is communication with God. He longs to be involved with you on a personal level, and prayer opens the door for this to happen. I encourage you to pray regularly, because abiding with God through prayer is one of the most important things you can do in life.

As in many of my guided-prayer books, each prayer has four sections based on the prayer acronym ACTS. This prayer acronym is not a magic formula; rather, it provides structure so our prayers can cover important aspects of communication with God: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

You can pray these guided prayers word for word, or you can use them as a springboard to your own prayers directed toward the attributes or personal qualities of God you're praying about. Or you can pray a combination of the two. It doesn't matter. What matters is that you pray.

I also encourage you to use this book to help you focus more intently on getting to know God Himself more fully. As you do, you can follow this helpful outline to nurture your time with Him:

Identify a time each day when you can spend concentrated and focused energy on pursuing a greater relationship with God.

Consider several ways to nurture your relationship with God during this time. It could be freely writing thoughts you have toward Him or thanking Him for any of His attributes in a journal. Or it could be looking up Scripture on a given attribute of God and meditating on it for a few minutes.

Evaluate how your relationship deepens as you spend consistent time with God in His Word and with Him in prayer. Also assess whether praying these prayers makes it easier for you to proclaim Jesus to others through your words and actions. That should be a natural outgrowth of knowing God's heart more deeply.

Repeat this practice. After you've put it into play for at least a week, continue to incorporate the various prayers into your daily intimate time with God.

Knowing God's heart and the kingdom qualities He wants you to live out will bring you stability in times of crisis and change. We've gone through a significant number of difficulties and challenges in our culture over the last few years, and everyone could use more calm in their hearts. This guided-prayer book has been designed with the hope that it will bring you just that—calm. As you get to know God through relational communication with Him, may He reveal Himself more fully to you and give you greater grace and peace each day. May He empower you to live as the true kingdom hero He has designed you to be.



PRAYING FOR INCREASED HELPFULNESS

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

ROMANS 15:1-2

Adoration

Heavenly Father, You are the model for what it means to be a kingdom hero. You exist above and beyond all the virtues and character qualities that embody our definition and understanding of heroes. Reliance as a friend is one of these qualities. The ability to be found faithful and helpful in times of need defines a hero, and it defines You entirely.

You are always present and able to help in times of trouble. I praise You and lift up Your name to glorify You for Your dependability and helpfulness to me when I need You the most. Just knowing You are there enables me to find the courage I need to get through each day with strength and resilience.

Confession

God, I confess that I don't reflect Your image as frequently as I wish I did. I can see how You are. I can see the level of helpfulness You provide to those under Your care, and I worship You for that.

I want to be a greater representation of You in all that I do, but I don't always or even frequently rise to that level. Forgive me for falling short of living my life as the kingdom hero You have designed and created me to be, particularly in this area of being helpful to those who need me and can benefit from what I have to offer them.

Thanksgiving

Thank You, God, that I can grow and develop the various qualities that will place me more into living as a kingdom hero. Thank You that I'm not stuck at the level of maturity or discipleship where I find myself today. I can become more helpful to those around me. I can learn to look outward more than inward for what needs I seek to meet.

Thank You that I can grow with Your love and care in my life, and that I can experience the fullness of the destiny You have planned for me. I'm not stuck. Through Your gracious help in my own life, I can become more helpful to others in need.

Supplication

God, I want to live my life as a kingdom hero who reflects Your interest in others through a display of consistent helpfulness to those in need. Give me more opportunities to develop this relational skill. Open my heart to be more attuned to the needs of those around me so I can be aware of how I can help others more regularly. Show me what it means to live with this quality, and enable me to live up to my own hopes and desires in how I want to help others. When people who know me think of someone who is helpful, I want that person to be me.

I ask that You give me this opportunity. I ask for Your guidance on how to be more effective as a kingdom hero who is advancing Your kingdom agenda on earth.

In Christ's name I pray, amen.



PRAYING FOR GREATER CONSISTENCY

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing
that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

Adoration

God, consistency is the definition of Your character. Without consistency for even a moment, the world would unravel. The earth would spin off its axis. The oxygen would cease to be exactly as we need it to be.

You are the epitome of consistency. You are the sum total of consistency. I honor this quality of Yours as I realize how much I depend on You and Your consistency. This heroic trait supplies life to all of us. I worship You for Your ability to remain so consistent in all You are and in all You do on behalf of all of us who live within the design of Your world.

Confession

Heavenly Father, if I had a fraction of Your consistency, I would live my life as a kingdom hero on such a greater level. I confess that I'm not always reliable. I aim to be consistent, but sometimes I'm distracted or my emotions get the best of me. Then I give in to how I'm feeling rather than act on what I know I need in the moment.

Forgive me for my failure at times to model consistency in my character, emotions, and even goals. I know this can negatively impact my relationships, and I don't want that to happen. I want to improve in this quality, Lord, so that my life will resemble that of a kingdom hero on a more consistent basis.

Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father, thank You for the grace You show toward me as I seek to live my life as a kingdom hero. Thank You for demonstrating the critical nature of consistency in a believer's life. Thank You for always showing up when You are needed and for providing all I need in order to live my life to the fullest.

Please receive my thanksgiving, attached to it the hope that I will increase my level of spiritual consistency and demonstration of kingdom values. I want to be more helpful to those around me. I want to be more influential on the culture at large as well as in my local community of Christ-followers.

Supplication

God, I ask for opportunities to learn the art of living consistently as a kingdom hero in the various areas of my life. Will You give me time to grow in my consistency as a leader? Will You reveal to me how I can develop greater consistency in my study of Your Word and in time spent with You? Will You enable me to identify those areas in my life that would be improved by applying a greater consistency of effort, focus, and diligence?

I ask for Your hand to guide me and for Your heart to inspire me as I grow more consistent in my walk as a kingdom follower. I want to impact the world with Your kingdom agenda in all that I do.

In Jesus' name I pray, amen.



PRAYING TO BECOME A BETTER FRIEND

*Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a
man's counsel is sweet to his friend.*

PROVERBS 27:9

Adoration

Lord God, the greatest model of true friendship is the life of Christ when He walked among us on earth and then gave His life so that we may live for eternity. To those who place their faith in Him for the forgiveness of sins, He gives eternal life.

I praise You for this reflection of Your heart modeled for us in Jesus Christ. I honor Your ability to love without expecting anything in return. I worship You for the depth of Your love revealed time and time again, showing each of us what it means to truly live as a kingdom hero. You are my greatest friend, and I want to reflect You in all of my relationships so that others can come to know You more fully as they interact with me.

Confession

God, I have not always been a great friend, especially when I haven't seen the relationship as beneficial to me in some way. I want to be a better friend because I know that is one definition of a kingdom

hero. Kingdom heroes seek to reflect Your values and attributes in all they do. Being a better friend to those around me is part of identifying with Christ, and it's part of His life being made manifest through my own.

Forgive me for letting others down in the past—whether they've been family members, coworkers, neighbors, or friends. Forgive me for focusing on myself and what I wanted or what I felt I needed more than looking out for the needs of others.

Thanksgiving

God, thank You for bringing this area of personal growth and development to the forefront of my mind through these guided prayers. I do want to be a better friend, and I want to be someone to whom others look for sound biblical counsel.

Thank You for giving me the awareness to pray for needs. I know that, through prayer, I will grow in this area. Thank You for Your Word. It gives me the foundation I need to grow in wisdom so I can guide others on the path they should take according to Your Word. Thank You for the freedom I have to interact with Your Word and to gain insight into all I need in order to become a better friend to all those You place in my path.

Supplication

God, make me a better friend. Make me the kind of friend people want to go to in order to gain insight and wisdom. Develop my spiritual maturity and my understanding of Your Word so I can be a reliable sounding board for those seeking Your will as they make choices in life.

I want to be known as a good friend to others. I want the reputation of being the kind of friend who consistently shares Your kingdom perspective in everything I say and do. Help me be all this much more

in every relationship I have, whether at work, in the community, in my neighborhood, in the church, or in my family. Develop my skills so that I grow into what it means to be a friend reflective of those who are true kingdom heroes in Your view.

In Christ's name I pray, amen.