

CREATOR OF THE MIDNIGHT DAD DEVOTIONAL



**365 PRAYERS  
FOR THE DAD**

**AT THE END OF HIS DAY**

**DR. MARK PITTS**

FOR:

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FROM:

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Dr. Mark Pitts, *365 Prayers for the Dad at the End of His Day*,  
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*For my wife, Susan, who has been my best friend for forty-five years. Thank you for showing me what it means to be dedicated to an ideal. You have encouraged me throughout the creation of this prayer book, always reminding me that it's a labor of love.*

# FOREWORD

“Do you know of anything like this for dads?”

This was the most common question my mom and I received for three years after we began praying online nightly for moms. In November of 2015, when I was awake so many hours of the night with little kids, I knew how lonely those moments felt. I also knew that other moms were awake scrolling on their phones as well, and I wanted a place where we could all find hope even there in the dark.

The Midnight Mom Devotional online community was born out of that need, and from it, a movement of over two million moms across the world praying nightly for each other. It has been a gift from the Lord to pray with so many women through all the moments of motherhood alongside my own momma. But one thing we heard over and over those first few years as our community grew was how much women knew their husbands, fathers, sons, family, and friends needed a similar community for men.

“What about the dads?!”

My mom and I had many conversations about the need for this community. We knew exactly how to pray for moms, but many of the needs a dad experiences, the struggles he faces, and the burdens that weigh heaviest on his heart are often so different from what we know personally as mommas. We saw the need for the group to exist. We considered whether we could lead it ourselves, but the Lord made it clear that there was one specific man He had already prepared and called to lead this group of fathers—my dad, Dr. Mark R. Pitts.

My dad is a man after God’s own heart, a man of integrity, wisdom, and a deep love for the Lord, who has called on God to help him in his own fatherhood. He’s always been my father, but in addition to being called Dad, he has been an attorney and a successful businessman and has led in pastoral ministry for decades.

He knows the challenges of being a dad, but he also knows the strength of the heavenly Father in all the struggles a father faces. He has raised his family and continues to love his grown children and be a daily part of the lives of his grandchildren. And he always says, “Being a dad is forever.”

The need was there. The man stepped into place. And when the Midnight Dad Devotional online community was created in February of 2019, it should have been no surprise that the Lord would grow the community to over 75,000 in just the first three months and triple that number six years later. The Lord called the dad who saw the gold in the grit of fatherhood and was prepared to continually point men back to their heavenly Father’s wisdom, provision, and protection through prayer.

Dads, as you hold this book of prayers in your hands or read digitally on your device, know that you're holding over seventy years of wisdom, counsel, and a deep, abiding relationship with the Lord. You're holding a wealth of not only biblical knowledge but the practical daily devotion of one father's pursuit of God and all He promises.

*365 Prayers for the Dad at the End of His Day* will uplift and strengthen you to pray about all things always. It will remind you that there is always hope, there is always strength, and there is always more of God's goodness to discover. My dad's fervent prayer for you is for this book of prayers to lead you closer to the One we each call Father. My mom and I join my dad in that prayer for you now.

*Tonight we pray for the dad who needs to know that God really cares about him and everyone he loves. Lord, he needs to know that You are strong and You make him strong. He needs to know that You provide so he can provide. He needs to know that You protect so he can protect. He needs to know that You are peace so he can share peace. He needs to know You as Father so he can be the dad You have called him to be. We ask that You'd meet him as he prays each night. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Becky Thompson, creator of the Midnight Mom Devotional community; author of *Peace: Hope and Healing for the Anxious Momma's Heart*

# INTRODUCTION

I am the founder of the Midnight Dad Devotional online prayer ministry. A few years ago, my daughter, Becky Thompson, created a nightly prayer ministry called Midnight Mom Devotional, which currently reaches over ten million people a month. She asked her momma, Susan K. Pitts, to join her in this ministry, and together they pray with and for women around the world, reflecting the hope of Jesus Christ. Soon, those women reached out to Becky and Susan, wondering if there was such a ministry for their husbands, fathers, brothers, and other men in their lives.

Having been a pastor for the better part of forty years, I have learned that, as fathers, we see family relationships differently than mothers do. Mothers tend to focus their efforts on care and nurture and how their families are feeling on a daily basis. We, on the other hand, have a tendency to think about and discuss our relationships with a focus on our actions, our deeds, our work. We care for our families by providing for and protecting them.

I have also discovered that men often feel separated from God, wondering if God hears their prayers. So, as a father, as a dad, I began to lift up other dads in prayer, asking God to recognize and hear them as they toiled, worked, and often struggled with the day-to-day responsibilities they faced. Shortly thereafter, I began praying for dads in a new on-line community, the Midnight Dad Devotional. The nightly prayers helped dads see themselves as worthy of prayer and certainly worthy of God’s care and concern for their lives. Very quickly, other dads responded to the simple prayers, joining me, and together those dads became the “we” in “Tonight we pray for the dad who . . .”

In *365 Prayers for the Dad at the End of His Day*, I’ve provided prayers for dads, similar in style to the Midnight Mom Devotional but with an inspirational and aspirational aspect for you as a dad. Many of these prayers will seem as though they were written just for you and your circumstances. Others, on any given day, maybe not so much. In Jesus’s time, men prayed three times a day and let their requests be made known to God as with one voice. Everyone knew that they were communing with God. It will be much the same in this book. We will know that we are all praying for each other.

I also wanted to add a Scripture reference for each devotion to bring a little clarity to the message of the prayer. As I was praying each one, and sometimes after I had finished the prayer, a word or phrase within the prayer would display a sense of what the Lord Himself would like to portray to each of us. But rather than interrupt the prayer itself with

a Scripture reference, I wanted us to feel the Holy Spirit in the words themselves and afterward read the Scripture to cement, if you will, our understanding of what the Lord had to say. While the references are very clear at times and make a very obvious connection to the meaning of the prayer, there are also instances where the Scripture might elucidate a thought for a dad who is seeking some guidance for his own life.

I've also included a subject index in the back for when you are facing a particular situation. The prayers are intended to resonate with the situations you face as a dad. There are prayers to pray when the bills aren't paid, or the kids are sick, or you have lost your job, or you have started a new business. As dads, we tend to look forward to future success rather than reflect on past losses and failures. Just as God challenges us to be our better selves, so also will we find encouragement to be better in the face of difficulties. We encourage the dads to keep going, to build their faith, and to know God better, because that's what He wants for us.

Listen, if you take nothing else away from this prayer book, remember this: God has always intended for us to have a relationship with Him, and we can and will have success in our endeavors when we maximize our time with Him. We strive to succeed using our hands, our feet, and our strong shoulders. And it is in our nature to succeed in everything we set our hands to do. God even tells us that now is the time to succeed. In Ecclesiastes 9:10, He says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (KJV). Deuteronomy

28:8 tells us, “The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto” (KJV). And Proverbs 14:23 says, “In all labour there is profit” (KJV).

You are a man God can use. God knows you are imperfect. It is His desire that we exchange our imperfections for His goodness. And isn't that what you really want? To be more like Him and rest in His peace, His security, and His blessing? God has called you to the role of father, and you have God Himself as a role model. These prayers are intended to draw you closer to God's heart.

Dr. Mark Pitts



**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who really wants to be a good dad. He may not have had any idea what it would take to be successful as a dad. Even getting his child home from the hospital required more than he imagined. Then there were broken arms and braces, and he surely didn't know how much a teenager could eat! He also didn't know that he would have to be the first and last line of defense for his family. Of course he thought he'd protect them from the outside threats of violence, but he didn't really know that he'd have to protect them from themselves. That he'd be saying things like, "No, you're not wearing that."

Being a good dad requires time, work, money, and faith, in various amounts of each. And as with just about everything, true success comes from the "want to." As long as we want to, we will be the best dad we can be.

*Lord, keep this dad's heart willing and his body strong for the journey. Continue to fill his heart with love for his children, no matter what their circumstances in life. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Job would send for his children and purify them. . . . For Job thought: Perhaps my children have sinned, having cursed God in their hearts. (Job 1:5 HCSB)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who believes in God's promises. They are the dad's strength and comfort and assurance that tomorrow will be better than today. He doesn't always know the plan right away, especially because it is often fulfilled over time. But because this dad trusts in God, his family knows that their lives are safe, their prosperity is within reach, and their future is assured.

God is always with us and walks with us through our sorrows. And He will strengthen us in times of trouble. The world rises up and would defeat us but for our divinely provided confidence in God. When we go it alone, we usually fail miserably. Instead, we can trust that God has a plan that is for our good and will work with us on our behalf.

*Lord, this dad trusts in Your promises and will never be compromised in his dedication to his family. Be with him, strengthen him, and help him always. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. (Isa. 41:10 NKJV)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who wonders how things are going to work out for his family this time. He's been through struggles before and succeeded. But sometimes things change so quickly that he just can't quite see the end from where he's standing.

Sometimes it takes courage just to get up in the morning. It shouldn't be that way, but it often is. Many of us have pulled the covers over our heads before rising, hoping the day would just magically become yesterday, when we were in charge. But we can have an assurance that things will work out when we trust God. Our task is to keep going the way we always have and keep trusting because God's looking out for us and our family.

*Lord, this dad is wearing himself out trying to make all the right decisions. Open his eyes to see the best path, and give him the courage to walk it. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Do not be afraid of them, for nothing is hidden that will not be revealed [at the judgment], or kept secret that will not be made known [at the judgment]. (Matt. 10:26 AMP)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who has put in a hard day's work. He doesn't have any grand plans about tomorrow or next year. He's making it slowly but surely, and he'd like to make this day go away for a while.

Life is so hurried and chaotic, isn't it? Remember when Jesus was walking the earth and seemingly healing every person on the planet? Before that, He was a boy just like us living in a family. It's easy to think that even He wished for the quieter times with His brothers before He began His ministry. That's probably why He retreated to the hills—to refocus and reconnect with His Father. So tonight, take time to spend a few minutes with the babies. Tonight, be the good guy for the kids instead of worrying about the job tomorrow. Your children will love it.

*Lord, this dad needs You to calm his heart and mind for a while before the world crashes in. Remind him that he's a good dad making his way. Give him peace tonight. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

When you pray, . . . pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. (Matt. 6:6)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who is trying *real hard*, even when no one notices.

All of us look forward to being publicly rewarded for our efforts to change our own lives and perhaps the lives of others. We want everyone to see how much time and effort we have put in to change our circumstances. But that hardly ever happens because “everyone” is looking around hoping to get the same approval. Still, the Lord wants us to do our best, even when no one is watching. We’re all trying to be the best dad we can be, given our circumstances, which are different from every other dad. So at the end of the day, we should just look to the Lord for His approval and receive the “well done” from Him, because it means so much more and He is much quicker to give it.

*Lord, it’s probably true that there are no books written about this dad’s skills, but no one doubts how much he loves his family. He has done everything he knows to do, and he succeeds one day at a time. No flash, no dash, just the honest heart of a dad who wins when it’s hardest. Lord, this dad has faith, hope, and love. Help him keep going. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.*

Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. (Josh. 24:14 NIV)

**TONIGHT I’M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who believes he's going to make it. "It" might be tomorrow's rent. "It" might be the completion of that project at work or that final delivery. "It" might be a passing grade on his last online course. "It" might be the final detail in preparation for the new baby.

God has called us to do good even when doing good is not easy. Some of us are hesitant to start projects unless we are confident that we can finish them with excellence. There can be a great deal of satisfaction in completing tasks or accomplishing goals. God has many wonderful opportunities in store for His children. And the wise dad knows that when he keeps going, he can slip into the promise of prosperity and peace.

*Lord, this dad is determined to complete his journey. He always looks for the way where there has been no way. Keep his heart strong so he can walk with optimism and courage toward good times. Give him fresh spiritual eyes to see the road in front of him. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

So now finish this, so that your eagerness in desiring it may be equaled by your completion of it, according to your ability. (2 Cor. 8:11 AMP)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TONIGHT we pray for the dad who believes in himself.**

In good times and tough times, he has stayed true to his best self. He knows who he is, and he knows why he made the choices he made.

Our choices have consequences, and as we go through life, we'll continue to see the results of them. One of our best choices was to become a dad, and we can always be grateful for the opportunity to be a dad. Our children and family, no matter how old they are, give us joy and strength to be the dad God has called us to be. We know what success means, and we know the difference between prosperity and misfortune. For us, success as a dad means being there for our family—always there with a word of advice or a shoulder to lean on.

*Lord, this dad is the picture of commitment and determination. Remind him of just how much You love his dedication to his family. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR \_\_\_\_\_**



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**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who has survived a year.

The Lord has been close to this dad over the past year, enough that he has survived all the trials and keeps moving forward.

One of the hardest things for our finite minds to grasp is that God is, in fact, God. He knows the expected outcome of His words. When our circumstances change unexpectedly, we immediately wonder if He is aware that things are not going the way that would seem most convenient for us. It would be much easier for the Lord to change us into the image of His Son if things were not quite so difficult. God does not want us to suffer through trials, although He does remind us that trials do come and He will be with us when they occur.

*Lord, this dad was working through these trials during the past year, and You were present with him so that he is still standing today. He is forgetting that which is past and is ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Remind him of the promises in Your Word, and make Your presence known. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

The LORD sat enthroned at the flood; the LORD sits enthroned, King forever. The LORD gives His people strength; the LORD blesses His people with peace. (Ps. 29:10–11 HCSB)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_



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**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who knows the right thing to do and does it. He's a good man, and doing the right thing is part of his DNA. He knows it's right to keep close to his family even when he is on the road or just out of town.

When we're committed to our family, we're all in. We keep in touch to ensure the family will always stay together. We take measured steps to see that all the things at home get done, and we keep track of the details. Sure, there's always way too much to do at work, and it can be easy to put our family last on the list. Yet when we're committed to them, we know keeping those relationships strong is the right thing to do. It's a heart thing, not just a task to be completed. In our heart, it's important. And prayer completes the process so that the Lord is present in our family too.

*Lord, this dad counts on You for his choices. Strengthen his heart and mind tonight for doing things right tomorrow. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. . . . For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. (James 4:13–15 KJV)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_

**TONIGHT** we pray for the dad who is struggling with being a first-time dad, stepdad, foster dad, or adoptive dad.

He knew from a very young age that he would have a family someday. But the newness of everything just seems overwhelming today. It seems a bit hopeless, and he wonders how he'll figure out all the right steps.

We know that fatherhood is a forever thing. Once a father, always a father. It doesn't matter how that status came about. Whether in a hospital or in a courtroom, we became a forever father. And since God is Father, He has a special place in His heart for dads.

*Lord, remind this dad that he doesn't have to do everything perfectly. Show him daily how to be the dad You want him to be. Remove all hopelessness and replace it with joy. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.*

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. (Prov. 23:24)

**TONIGHT I'M PRAYING THIS FOR** \_\_\_\_\_