

ERIC CÉLÉRIER



BECOMING
a HOUSE *of*
PRAYER

A 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL TO CARRY GOD'S
PRESENCE INTO EVERY AREA OF YOUR LIFE

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DAVID  COOK®

transforming lives together

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BECOMING A HOUSE OF PRAYER

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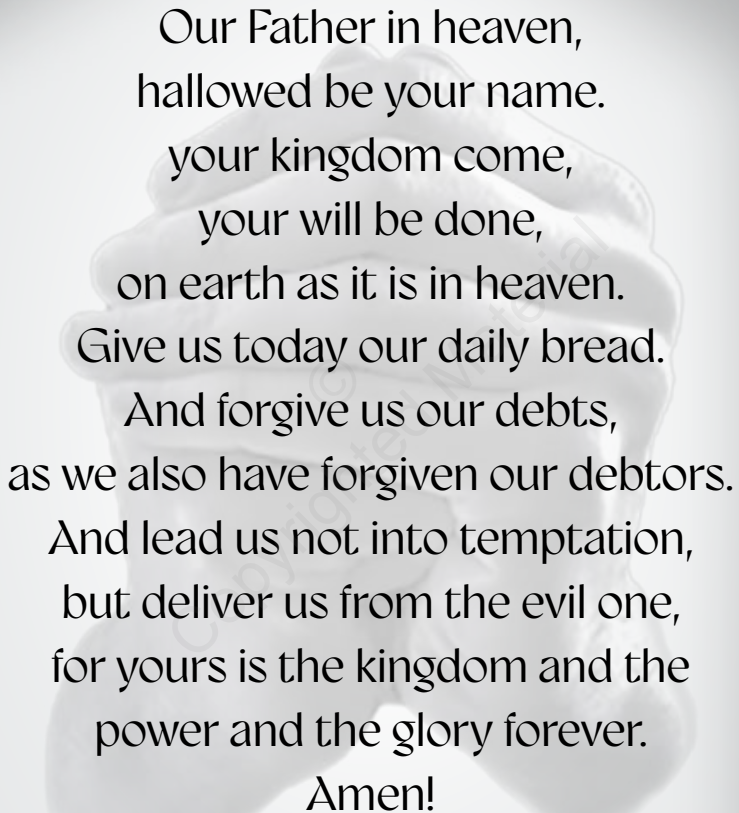
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Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one,
for yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen!

— Jesus Christ

What People Say about the Lord's Prayer

“Using the Lord’s Prayer as a floor plan, take a tour of the home God intended for you. Warm your heart by the fire in the living room. Nourish your spirit in the kitchen. Seek fellowship in the family room. Step into the hallway and find forgiveness.”

—Max Lucado

“The prayer of the Our Father is ‘truly the summary of the whole gospel.’”

—Tertullian

“The Lord’s Prayer is the most perfect of prayers.... In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence they should be desired.”

—Thomas Aquinas

“The Our Father is the most excellent prayer because it is the work of the Son of God, who showed us how we should pray and what we should ask for.”

—Francis de Sales

“Since our Lord is the author of this prayer, it is without a doubt the most sublime, the loftiest, and the most excellent.”

—Martin Luther

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Welcome to *Becoming a House of Prayer*

Dear friend,

I'm so glad you're here. It's a real joy—and a great honor—to walk this journey with you.

This isn't just a book you're holding; it's an invitation. An invitation to go deeper than you may have ever gone before. To step inside the house of prayer Jesus built with His own words—the Our Father—and discover room after room filled with beauty, truth, and life.

Think of this as a spiritual pilgrimage.

I encourage you: don't rush.

Take it slow.

Savor one chapter a day. Let each phrase of the Lord's Prayer become part of you, shaping how you see God, yourself, and the world around you.

When Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray ..." (Matt. 6:9), He wasn't giving us a formula—He was giving us a way to live.

The book is divided into thirty short chapters—easy to read in just a few minutes each. But don't let the simplicity fool you; each chapter holds treasures you can only discover by lingering, listening, opening your heart wide.

Inside you'll also find real testimonies from men and women who walked the journey through this book before you—stories born from real life, real struggle, and real breakthroughs. They're here to remind you that you're not alone.

At the end of each chapter, you'll find a prayer—not to memorize but to inspire your own conversation with the Father. Feel free to adapt these prayers, stretch them, cry them out, whisper them in the quiet. Make them yours.

My deepest prayer is that this book wouldn't just change your prayer life—it would change your whole life.

That you would discover you are not just invited to pray but you are invited to **become a house of prayer** yourself.

A place where heaven meets earth.

A place where the Father loves to dwell.

I'll be walking with you, chapter by chapter, day by day. I'm praying for you already.

Let's begin.

With love and hope,
Your brother and friend,
Eric Célérier

Who Am I?

My name is Eric Célérier, and my passion is simple yet profound: to bridge technology and theology to help people encounter the love of Jesus in real, transformative ways.

For the past thirty-four years, my wife, Muriel, has been my faithful companion—both in life and ministry. Together, we've raised three amazing children and now have the immense joy of being grandparents. Our journey has been woven with unity, grace, and a shared mission: to make God's love visible in a broken world.

In 2006, I founded **Jesus.net**, a global movement now bringing together over 130 ministries across the world, dedicated to digital evangelism and discipleship. Today, I'm also leading a new adventure: **HelloBible.app**—the world's first intelligent biblical assistant, designed to help people engage with Scripture through the power of AI, while keeping the heart firmly centered on Jesus.

Throughout the years, God has given me the honor of mentoring leaders, advising ministries, and speaking into the lives of people across the globe. As a global ambassador for *The Chosen* I've seen firsthand

how storytelling can open hearts to the gospel. I also continue to serve ministries by helping them navigate the opportunities of the digital age with strategy, prayer, and innovation.

As an author, my writings are born from this same longing: to help people encounter God personally, meaningfully, every day.

This book, *Becoming a House of Prayer*, is especially close to my heart.

It's not just a study of the Lord's Prayer—it's an invitation to live it, breathe it, and build your life around it. My prayer is that through these reflections, you will experience God's presence so deeply that your entire life becomes a house where heaven touches earth.

No matter the project—whether it's launching innovative apps, writing devotionals, mentoring leaders, or simply sharing a coffee with a friend—one thing drives me:

To inspire you to walk closely with God, and to experience His love, His truth, and His beauty in ways that change everything.

It's the greatest privilege and joy of my life to see hearts transformed when faith and technology meet at the feet of Jesus. I'm so grateful to share this journey with you.

Introduction

Unlocking the Ancient Power of the Lord's Prayer

Welcome to the journey that could transform your life—unlocking the ancient, life-changing power of the Lord's Prayer.

Spoken by Jesus Himself (Matt. 6:9–13; Luke 11:2–4) these timeless words have echoed across centuries, continents, and cultures, uniting Christians of every tradition. More than just a familiar recitation, the Lord's Prayer is a profound invitation into deep intimacy with God—a blueprint for daily living shaped by trust, worship, forgiveness, and surrender.

When the disciples asked, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1), Jesus didn't just give them words to memorize; He offered them a way of life. From the earliest gatherings of believers to modern churches around the world—Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, and

beyond—this prayer has remained at the heart of Christian identity and practice.

Each phrase is rich with meaning:

God as our loving Father
His kingdom advancing through our lives
Daily provision, offered freely
Forgiveness that transforms our hearts
Protection from temptation and deliverance from evil
Glory given to God forever and ever

In just a few powerful lines, the Lord's Prayer captures the essence of Christian faith—and invites you to live it.

Throughout this book, we will walk step by step through the Lord's Prayer, not merely studying it but **inhabiting** it—building a vibrant house of prayer where God's presence can dwell deeply in your life. You will discover how these ancient words, spoken by Jesus Himself, still breathe life, hope, and power into every corner of our modern world.

Are you ready to unlock the treasure Jesus placed within your reach?

Let's begin—together.

Part 1

THE INVITATION

Building Your Spiritual Home

Chapter 1

Write the Vision

“Lord, teach us to pray.”

Luke 11:1

Have you ever wondered why, out of all the incredible things Jesus did—walking on water, healing the blind, multiplying food—His disciples specifically asked Him to teach them to pray?

They didn’t ask Him to show them how to preach or how to perform miracles. What they longed to understand was the source of His power ... and His peace. Prayer was Jesus’ lifeline—the invisible bridge between heaven and earth. It anchored every miracle, every moment of compassion, every word He spoke.

What if you could discover that same lifeline?

What if prayer became your favorite place to live—not a duty, but a daily delight?

Finding Your Sacred Space

Everyone needs a special place to connect deeply with God. For you, it might be a quiet corner in your home, a park bench, or even your car

parked beside a lake. For me, it's a forest trail near our house. As I walk beneath the trees, the words of Scripture come alive. And again and again, it's the words of the Lord's Prayer that guide me.

Step by step, I found myself praying, "Our Father ...," and something unexpected happened. Each phrase opened up a room in my heart—a place where God was waiting to meet me.

One day, while walking and praying, this idea came to me like a whisper:

*Could the Lord's Prayer be more than a list of requests?
Could it be a spiritual house?*

I began to see it—a structure, a dwelling, a sacred architecture made up of phrases. A house with two floors: the upper floor focused on God's glory, the lower floor focused on our daily needs. A staircase connecting the two. A roof. A foundation. And each line of the Lord's Prayer—another door, another room.

I shared this vision with Muriel, my wife, and then with close friends—pastors, artists, theologians. Their encouragement gave me the boldness to write what you're reading today.

A Life-Changing Encounter

Not long after that, I received an email from my friend Déborah Rosenkranz—the author of *Un Miracle Chaque Jour* in German. Her French mother had helped her translate a few devotional texts, and one landed right in my inbox.

It included this verse:

Here is my greeting in my own handwriting—Paul.
Remember my chains. (Col. 4:18 NLT)

That verse hit me hard. Paul wrote it from prison, likely with a hand chained, aching, wounded.

A hand once used to harm, now used to bring life.

A hand the world may have tried to silence, now used to speak hope.

Debbie added this reflection:

That hand—the one once wounded, the one others tried to paralyze—became the very hand God used to write Scripture. What about your hand? Will you pick up the pen again? Will you let God write a story of healing through you?

That same day, I opened my laptop and started to write this book.

The Endless Adventure of Revelation

John ends his gospel with this breathtaking sentence:

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written. (John 21:25 NLT)

That verse still fills me with awe. God's truth is bottomless. His Word is eternal and living.

There are still books waiting to be written—and perhaps, you're meant to write one too.

One more verse ignited this fire within me:

Write down the revelation
and make it plain on tablets
so that a herald may run with it. (Hab. 2:2)

So I wrote—not for myself only, but for anyone who wants to walk more deeply with God through prayer.

Rooted in Timeless Truth

Did you know Jesus' prayer life was deeply rooted in ancient Jewish traditions?

Every day, He prayed the Shema:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
(Deut. 6:4)

Even the Lord's Prayer echoes the ancient Jewish prayers like the Kaddish, which speaks of God's name being honored, His kingdom coming, and His will being done.

Jesus wasn't erasing His heritage. He was fulfilling it—and offering us a simple, effective model to experience God's presence.

Emily shared, “Prayer is my safe space, an inner room where I’m completely loved and known. Here, God meets me exactly as I am.”

Are You Ready for a Challenge?

Here’s my invitation to you:

For the next thirty chapters, spend just ten intentional minutes each morning with God. Walk through your own sacred house of prayer—room by room—and see how He meets you.

What might happen if prayer became not something you do—but where you dwell?

Practical Steps Forward

- **Choose Your Sacred Space:** Find a quiet place to meet God each day.
- **Reflection Question:** Each morning ask, “Lord, what new revelation do You have for me today?”

Let’s Pray Together

Heavenly Father,

Like the disciples, I say, “Lord, teach me to pray.”

Transform the Lord’s Prayer from familiar words into fresh fire.

Shape my life into a living house of prayer, where every thought, every breath becomes an offering.

Open my heart wide to hear Your voice.
Let my prayers rise like incense and return to earth with power.
I believe You are already waiting for me in each room.
Thank You for the invitation. I say yes.
In Jesus' mighty name, amen.

Where We Go from Here

As we begin this sacred journey, remember:

Prayer is not just a discipline—it's a divine invitation.

A door is open.

Step through it—heart first—and discover the treasure waiting inside.

