

# Presidential Prayer Team to Host Largest Virtual Prayer Event in Nation's History

The Presidential Prayer Team will host the largest virtual prayer event in United States history on Thursday to commemorate the National Day of Prayer.

"We're going all-out in creating a virtual prayer room," Jim Bolthouse, president of the Presidential Prayer Team, says. "It's an online room, a personal online room that you can set up and you can sit there in your office, your home, anywhere with a device, phone device, a tablet or computer and participate in praying for a country."

[Click here to join the event.](#)

Bolthouse says an online prayer guide will help users pray for the president and other government officials.

People can also listen to how others are praying.

"[People tell us that] it's comforting to know that when I hear somebody praying, they pray and are concerned about the same thing I am," Bolthouse says. "And it just makes the world a lot smaller when you can hear Christians with the same concerns and praying the same way. So that's part of it. It really is an experience that I hope that when they go there, they'll spend 10 to 15 minutes, a half-hour or longer, just taking time to methodically pray for our leaders of our country.

"And then of course, we'd love to have them tell their friends because the more that we get people involved, the more we're getting people to pray, and that's our goal. Our goal is to reach anyone who has a living God living within their heart to

say, 'Let us help you direct your prayers for leadership.'

Listen to the podcast to hear more about the history behind the event and how you can get involved.

[Click here to pray with other Christians around the country.](#)

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## **Trump Calls on Americans to Use the 'Power of Prayer' to End Violence and Protect Religious Liberty**

About 100 people—religious leaders, Trump administration officials, and their guests—celebrated the “power of prayer” at the White House Wednesday night ahead of the day set aside annually for Americans of all faiths to pray for thanks and guidance.

“America will be a nation that believes forever, and we certainly believe—more than anyone—the power of prayer,” President Donald J. Trump declared in the State Dining Room before continuing with an unscripted flourish: “It’s the most powerful thing there is.”

In his opening remarks preceding the National Day of Prayer, the president welcomed representatives of various faiths, including Christians, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs and Hindus.

“Tonight we break bread together united by our love of God, and we renew our resolve to protect the sacred freedom of religion—all of us,” he said.

The president also acknowledged the recent religiously motivated attacks both in the United States and abroad.

“All of us in this room send our love and prayers to the Jewish Americans wounded at the Chabad of Poway shooting in California,” he said. “And our hearts break for the life of Laurie Gilbert-Kaye, who was so wickedly taken from us.”

“We mourn for the Christians murdered in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday and grieve for the Muslims murdered at their mosques in New Zealand,” he added. “Here at home, we also remember the three historically black churches burned recently in Louisiana and the horrific shooting last year at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh.”

The roomful of staff and supporters of Trump’s religious liberty policies applauded when he called for an end to violence and terrorism against people of all faiths.

Many well-known evangelical Christian leaders attended the White House dinner. They were perhaps his most enthusiastic supporters, greeting the president warmly as he and First Lady Melania Trump entered the room hand-in-hand. Some of them included Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, James and Shirley Dobson, Jentezen Franklin, Jerry Falwell Jr., Franklin Graham, Mike Huckabee, Robert Jeffress, Alveda King, Johnnie Moore, Ralph Reed and Paula White.

Saluting their approval of his record, he referenced what many of them acknowledge originally motivated their support for his candidacy.

“I’m thrilled to report that tomorrow the Senate will confirm the 100th federal judge through the court system,” he announced. “Under my administration, we’re getting to a level where we’re going to be breaking records with respect to the judiciary, which means a lot to the people in this room who were treated very poorly. With time you’ll see what happens.”  
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Click [here](#) to read the rest of this story from our content partners at CBN News.

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# **‘Prayer Works Miracles and Prayer Saves Lives’: Trump Addresses National Day of Prayer**

President Donald Trump praised the miracle-working power of prayer during his National Day of Prayer address in the White House Rose Garden.

“Prayer works miracles, and prayer saves lives,” Trump told the crowd.

Trump opened his remarks with a prayer for Venezuela and invited the victims of the recent terrorist attack in San Diego to speak, as well as a woman who found Christ through a faith-based opioid addiction recovery center.

The guests all shared how prayer made an impact in their lives.

Trump thanked charismatic leaders including Paula White Cain as he praised the value of religious liberty.

“These United States will forever be strengthened by the goodness and the grace and the eternal glory of God,” Trump said.

Watch the video to see the full ceremony, including worship led by Jonathan Cain, remarks by Vice President Mike Pence,

First Lady Melania Trump, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein of the Chabad of Poway, among others.

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# How You Can Find God's Will When 'Not Yet' Looks Like 'No'

Knowing God's will can be hard. In our fast-paced culture, we want the answer, and we want it now! But God often works through a process.

In part 2 of this three-part series on myths about God's will, we'll look at when a *no* is really a *not yet*. Read part 1 [here](#).

## When 'Not Yet' Looks Like 'No'

This is a great struggle, as we see it displayed thorough the lives of many biblical characters. Take David, for instance: Samuel anointed him as a young man to be the next king of Israel. How excited he must have been! He was quickly elevated after he killed Goliath and became commander of Israel's armies—the throne seemed like the next step. But King Saul got very jealous of David and tried to kill him, sending 300 trained assassins after him. David spent the next eight years running for his life!

How hopeless he must have felt at times, wondering if the promise of becoming king would ever come true. But God didn't forget His word, and suddenly—as quickly as David fled from Saul—David was elevated. David became king in one day, achieving this God-given dream, and reigned for a total of 40 years (see 2 Sam. 1–2).

His destiny was sure all along, despite the hardship and delay. All he needed to do was keep following the Lord, who was certain to lead him to “green pastures” and “still waters” (Ps. 23:2)—and it is the same for us!

### **Joseph’s Story**

Joseph is another great example. He had a dream as a young man that his parents and brothers would bow down to him. He shared this with his family, but they became angry. Genesis 37:8b tells us his brothers “hated him even more” and conspired to sell him into slavery in Egypt.

Later in Egypt, Joseph was imprisoned after his master’s wife falsely accused him (Gen. 39); and then while in prison, he was forgotten about for two more years after he correctly interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh’s servants (see Gen. 40–41). Scripture says that God’s word “tested [Joseph]” during this time (Ps. 105:19). Would Joseph give up his dream because people mistreated him, or keep believing that the Lord would bring about what He had promised?

Joseph, too, was elevated in a day (Gen. 41:14, 39-41), and a few years later, his whole family bowed to him. His brothers were scared that Joseph would retaliate against them for how they mistreated him, but he responded with a hopeful message, saying, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good” (Gen. 50:20b). Isn’t it amazing how God can work things for our good (Rom. 8:28), even as we wait in the queue of *not yet*?

### **Going Against Our Have-It-All-Now Culture**

In a day and age when few things are worth waiting for (instant messaging, fast food, instant downloads), God’s timetable is often quite different. He sees time from eternity, and “with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Pet. 3:8b). Instead of getting discouraged about waiting, we can cling to His

promises, while keeping in mind that He is Lord over *how* and *when* they will be fulfilled.

Joseph could never have foreseen the great deliverance God would work for him, and for the nations of the earth, through the persecution he endured. Every misstep by others was actually moving him one step closer to his destiny! David would likely not have been the great leader that he was, and would not have written all his psalms if he had not spent years running for his life. It was a really hard time, but God brought him out of it because he didn't quit.

Why does God sometimes delay the answer we are seeking, even if we know it's something that's in His will and is good for both us and the kingdom (like a ministry opportunity, marriage or a healing)?

### **Potential Reasons**

Sometimes we're not ready for the fulfillment of the promise yet, or others aren't ready; and sometimes God is using the delay to build our faith and work out a greater miracle. The Lord is always faithful to fulfill His promise in our lives, although it often requires perseverance from us in its delaying process.

Other times, God blocks certain situations by His answer, and the "no" is truly a "no." However, these are moments we are invited to dialogue with our Father (and trusted counselors) to discern if that's truly the case. This is not an attempt to provide "easy" answers and excuses when things are hard, but rather an invitation to press into God, in faith, instead of losing heart at the first "no" we receive when pursuing our goals.

God is good and always has our best interests at heart—even when our emotions and circumstances say otherwise. Press into Him today! "You shall seek [Him] and find [Him], when you search for [Him] with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13).

*What “not yet” do you believe is a “no” in your life? {eoa}*

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*This post originally appeared at .*

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## **7 Spiritual Keys to Fulfill Your God-Given Assignment**

In today's culture of increasing identity confusion, there is a need for believers to understand and model a healthy identity and purpose that is Christ-centered and kingdom-focused. When we know who we are, why we're here and where we're going, we will offer to the world a picture of what a true son and daughter of the kingdom looks like. Here are seven keys that may help start the process in learning how to know your true identity in the kingdom of God in order to fulfill your call and assignment.

**1. Determine to love Jesus more than anyone or anything.** Simple? Yes. Easy? No. We become what we focus on—who we focus on. As we fix our eyes on Jesus and determine to please Him above all else, our hearts and affections will be rightly placed. In order to make wise choices and determine God's will, loving Jesus first and foremost is foundational to everything else. We will never know who we really are apart

from learning who Jesus really is. We are to be a reflection of Him.

**2. Walk in the fear of the Lord, not the fear of man.** Once we have settled to love Jesus most, we can expect to be tested in it. The fear of the Lord keeps us faithful to His purposes even when others may misunderstand us, mock us or challenge us. Though I can walk with sensitivity towards people's needs and perspectives, I don't have to bow to them or change my beliefs for validation. Especially in the current atmosphere of hostility towards those who seek godly truth, we must guard ourselves from compromise at the altar of "acceptance." Walking in a healthy fear of the Lord provides wisdom, protection and confidence in all things eternal and right.

**3. Seek a reputation in heaven more than on the earth.** In today's social media, the more friends you have, the more tweets you post and the more "likes" you get, the more likely you are to draw a crowd. But getting attention is a lot different than having influence. Standing out in the crowd isn't hard to do in our shock-driven, entertainment-saturated culture. What's a lot more challenging is saying or doing something that will cause heaven to move on your behalf to change entire cities and even nations. Sometimes those in the secret place are changing history a lot more than those in the public eye. Seek to move heaven first and then watch the earth respond.

**4. Know your spiritual gifts.** You have been given a measure of spiritual gifts that have marked you from creation. The seven gifts listed in Romans 12:3-8 point to the motivations and passions your heavenly Father put within you from birth: prophesying, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading and showing mercy. When you can identify your primary "motivational gift," you can better know your strengths and weaknesses and where you best fit in the body of Christ. Though these gifts do not necessarily define who you are, they do point to what you're good at and what will bear the most

fruit in your life.

**5. Know your call.** Where your spiritual gifts explain your primary motivation, your calling is what you were born for, or better yet, who you were born to reach. God's priority is always people, and our calling will be a reflection of His heart to reach someone. This may take a lifetime to fulfill, but you will know it is His call because it continues to burn in your heart, keep you up at night and never quite goes away regardless of challenges or setbacks. It will require faith and is bigger than you are, but your call is what draws your heart and inspires your journey.

**6. Know your present assignment.** If your life story was written as a book, your calling would be the title. Your spiritual gifts would shine in the unique writing style and illustrations. The individual chapters would highlight the various assignments throughout your journey. Specific assignments will come and go and serve to advance the kingdom, increasing the measure of grace on your life to ultimately fulfill your call. Some may seem like side roads to your destination, but all will lead to His purposes as you trust His heart in knowing how to prepare and equip you.

**7. Measure your success by the fruit.** Regardless of our call, gifts and assignments, the true measure of success will be in the fruit that follows us. If we are walking in the fullness of our identity, the people around us will recognize it, grow from it and encounter Christ through it. God's grace will flow out of us and will exponentially increase in those around us. Look for disciples, not just followers. Look for reproduction, not just reputation. Look for transformation that lasts, not just a fascination that quickly fades.

Ultimately, knowing who you are is not about "finding yourself," but losing yourself in order to find Christ. Seek to know His heart above your own and trust His plans in molding and shaping your life to be a perfect representation

of Him. There won't be any identity confusion. In the end, the world won't see you anyway; just Him! {eoa}

*Wanda Alger is a field correspondent with Intercessors for America. She ministers with her husband in Winchester, Virginia. Follow her blog at .*

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## **You Don't Have to Be in the Spotlight to Impact Thousands for the Kingdom**

One of the most selfless, humblest individuals I have ever known is my wife's aunt Marie. At the young age of 14, Marie Johnsrud accepted Jesus' call to be a missionary. She spent the next several years training and preparing herself for the mission field. She went to business college and learned to use a typewriter. She learned to play the piano, accordion and organ so she could bring worship music to those she served. She diligently studied the Bible and attended Bible college in Seattle. And she did all of this while serving her local church.

Finally, in the fall of 1945, she departed for mission work in Africa. For the next 35 years, she served the people of Upper Volta (now called Burkina Faso), part of French West Africa. Marie traveled 7,000 miles to reach her new home. When she first arrived, she worked with the Bible translation team and cared for the children of other missionaries. She lived at times in the bush and at times in the city, quickly adapting to the culture and the African way of life. It wasn't long before her team produced the first translation of the Bible into the language of the Mossi, the largest ethnic group in

the area.

During her years in Africa, Marie ministered to and nurtured a broken generation. She left with reluctance after she completed her 35th year but felt God was leading her to return home to Tacoma, Washington, and her family. When her sister picked her up at the airport, she asked, "Marie, where is your luggage?"

Marie answered in her typical, pragmatic way: "Well, I don't have any luggage. I have everything I need right here." Marie was carrying two brown paper sacks that contained everything she owned. She had given everything else away to the people she served in Africa.

Her youngest sister, Lorraine, had worked hard to set up a fully furnished apartment for Marie in a seniors' facility, and so Marie settled into retirement. For her that meant on Mondays she taught English classes to immigrants, on Tuesdays she worked in the church offices doing anything she was asked, on Wednesdays she attended noon prayer meetings at the church and took care of little boys after school, on Thursdays she went to the mission to serve food to the hungry and on Fridays she helped elderly people in countless ways. Serving others was a part of who she was. She honored everyone she met with her service.

Years passed, and Marie received an invitation to return to Africa for an event to commemorate her missionary service. When she arrived at the venue, Marie was convinced she and her sisters had misunderstood the event details. The building was not a church as she had expected; it was a stadium filled with thousands of people. When Marie went up to the platform, thousands of Africans jumped to their feet, all of them chanting, "Mother! Mama!" Marie had never had a husband or children of her own. She never owned property or had a bank account. Yet she had impacted thousands because she served and honored the people of what is now Burkina Faso.

That stadium full of people testified of Marie's 35 years of ministry, her selflessness, her open home and her open heart. Marie had mothered, nursed and nurtured God's hidden gold, and because she chose to honor them, the lives of thousands of people were transformed. During my time with Marie, I eagerly listened to the stories she told of God's provision and of the precious people she served. Never once do I remember her being the center of the story. She always spoke about how God worked and how she saw Him shining through the faces of those she served.

Marie willingly gave up everything she had to serve others. If she had extra money, she would use it to bless others—she would never use it for herself. I have met many wonderful people of God who give their all to serve others. And in each case, they are the most blessed people I know. Then I look at the other side of the equation—people who are living large and getting their name out there. They are “the greatest” and know no god but the money they earn, but their lives are hollow. They do not know what it means to serve others. Like the rich man in Luke 16, they will never know what it is to walk with Abraham and sit at the feet of Jesus. {eoa}

*This article is adapted from I Choose Honor: The Key to Relationships, Faith, and Life (Charisma House, 2019) by **Rich Wilkerson Sr.** Wilkerson is the founder of Peacemakers and the senior pastor of Trinity Church in Miami, Florida. He is also an evangelist and author. Since 1973, Wilkerson has ministered to youths and families through evangelism and local church ministry. His humorous style and power-packed speaking have been the keys to seeing thousands turn to Christ. More than 1.5 million students have attended his presentations on over 1600 public school campuses throughout the United States and Canada. The Wilkersons also serve as chancellors at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Wilkerson and his wife, Robyn, are ministering in the heart of Miami and continue to be committed to the local community through*

*cutting-edge ministry outreaches. The Wilkerson's have been married for over 40 years and have four sons, three daughters-in-law and five grandchildren.*

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## **Pat Robertson Calls Young-Earth Creationism 'Embarrassing,' 'Nonsense'**