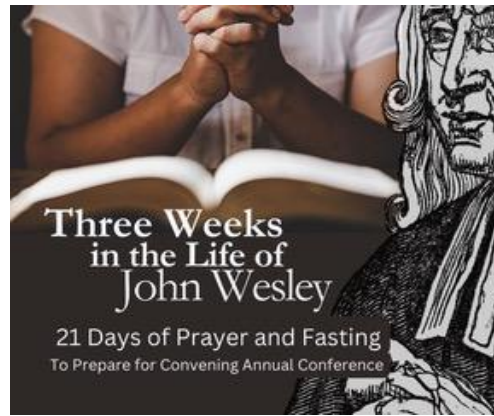


Three Weeks in the  
Life of John Wesley:  
21 Days of Prayer and Fasting  
to Prepare for the  
Convening Annual  
Conference



*My fear is not that our great movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great. ~ John Wesley*

“And when you pray ... “

~ Matthew 6:5a

## **Prayer Guide - Week 3**

## Day 15 – Monday, April 1, 2024

### Today's Scripture – Colossians 4:2-4 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. <sup>3</sup> And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

### Today's Prayer Focus

Paul, in prison, asks for prayers. Many in chains would do the same. However, Paul does not ask for prayers simply to be physically set free. The open door Paul seeks is one through which the message of Christ may freely pass. Center your prayers this day on those who dare to boldly witness to Christ, regardless of their personal circumstances. Pray for God to use the unique circumstances of every person in the Northeast Annual Conference as a platform from which to stand and clearly proclaim the Gospel.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,  
we thank you for the testimony of the Apostles,  
and for all the unnamed saints and martyrs  
who now surround us as a great cloud of witnesses.  
You called them to preach the Gospel,  
and gave them power to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.  
They have handed down to us this precious legacy of faith.  
Renew in us that ancient call,  
and give us the hope of Paul,  
that even in prison, doors for your Truth may be opened.  
Grant us again the power of the Holy Spirit,  
that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ,  
boldly, clearly, and gladly.  
We ask this through Christ, our risen Lord  
who by his resurrection broke the chains of death,  
and set the prisoners free. Amen.

## Day 16 – Tuesday, April 2, 2024

### Today's Scripture – 1 Samuel 1:9-17 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. <sup>10</sup>In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. <sup>11</sup>And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."<sup>12</sup>As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup>Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk <sup>14</sup>and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." <sup>15</sup>"Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. <sup>16</sup>Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." <sup>17</sup>Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

### Today's Prayer Focus

Hannah prayed for a child. She no doubt prayed for such a blessing for years. But, in this particular prayer her fervency is noted by Eli, the priest. Thinking her behavior odd at first, Eli eventually blesses Hannah when he understands her plea. And, her prayer was answered. Samuel, her son, was soon born. True to her vow made when she had nothing, she set apart Samuel for service to the Lord when she had all things. Center your prayers this day on contentment with God's plan for the Northeast Annual Conference. The blessings we seek may come quickly, or may come slowly. The harvest we seek may be abundant right away, or it may be lean for a season. The Lord will bless in his good time. Pray that we would be a people of the covenant, faithful to the covenant in good times and bad. Pray that we would be a people willing to freely and heartily yield all outcomes to the Lord's pleasure and disposal.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

(Wesley Covenant Prayer, from *Our Great Redeemer's Praise*, Copyright © 2022 by Seedbed. #710.)

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me  
with whom thou wilt.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be employed by thee or laid  
aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for  
thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have  
nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
thou art mine and I am thine. So be it.  
And the covenant I have made on  
earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

## Day 17 – Wednesday, April 3, 2024

### Today's Scripture – Acts 2:37-42 (NIV)

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

### Today's Prayer Focus

A new thing was happening in those heady early days of the Church, and those touched by the Gospel message did not know what to do next. “Repent and be baptized,” Peter said. Words as true today as they were then. But, then what? The Book of Acts says that those thousands gathered together. Center your prayers this day on the communal aspect of life together. Among the many who will gather at the Northeast Annual Conference, most will be new to each other. As the participants learn together, eat together, and pray together for three days in April, pray that such fellowship results in new connections, new friends, and renewed spiritual encouragement for the journey ahead.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

(based on “And Are We Yet Alive,” by Charles Wesley, and “Blest Be the Tie That Binds,” by John Fawcett)

And are we yet alive, O Lord?  
Out of all the troubles we have seen,  
the mighty conflicts past,  
fightings without and fears within,  
are we yet alive?  
We are alive, for you, Lord,  
have brought us through by your love.  
As those who gather at Annual Conference  
learn, pray, and share meals together,  
forge among them the blest tie that binds  
so that hearts united in Christian love,  
and the fellowship of kindred minds,  
be like to that above.  
We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

## Day 18 – Thursday, April 4, 2024

### Today's Scripture – 2 Kings 19:14-19 (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. <sup>15</sup> And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "LORD, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. <sup>16</sup> Give ear, LORD, and hear; open your eyes, LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God.

<sup>17</sup> "It is true, LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. <sup>18</sup> They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. <sup>19</sup> Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, LORD, are God."

### Today's Prayer Focus

A powerful enemy surrounded God's people. Many others had fallen before the might of Assyria. A message was sent to Hezekiah, King of Judah, promising the same fate for him and the people trembling in fear behind the walls of the city. Hezekiah does the right thing ... he spreads the threats before the Lord. Center your prayers this day on the Prayer Walk to occur around the walls of Christian Life Assembly on Thursday, April 11, the first day of Annual Conference. Pray that those who participate in the walk spread all fears and doubts before the Lord, so that the Lord can send the enemy away. Discern if you are being called to be part of the Prayer Walk next Thursday.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

Lord, God of all kingdoms of the earth,  
you alone protect your people.  
In one week, your people will be walking and praying  
around the walls of Christian Life Assembly.  
Whether they go right or left, a short distance or a long one,  
use their prayers, and this prayer  
to protect your people who will gather within the walls.  
As they encircle that space  
they will spread at your feet  
the fears and doubts of your people.  
Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see.  
Drive out before them all the evil spirits  
that would seek to disrupt and distract the Northeast Annual Conference.  
Use this Prayer Walk so that all may run to you  
and all the earth may know that you, alone, are God.  
This we ask in the name of Christ. Amen.

## Day 19 – Friday, April 5, 2024

### Today's Scripture – James 5:16-18 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

### Today's Prayer Focus

The first Northeast Annual Conference begins in less than a week. Our task over these past many days of prayer and fasting has been to ask for a rain of God's blessings when we gather. For many people and for many years, previous Annual Conference experiences were dry and barren, a dreaded annual ritual. Center your prayers this day on a fresh spirit of anticipation and eagerness for all participants in this inaugural Annual Conference. Pray for God's outpouring of his Spirit to wash away those arid, fruitless years of the past. Pray earnestly for God's refreshing, healing rain.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

Send your rain, O God.  
When your people hungered in the wilderness,  
Moses prayed;  
and you rained bread from heaven.  
When the land was parched because of sin,  
Elijah prayed for rain;  
and the heavens filled with clouds and wind.  
Send your rain, O God.  
Forgive us our sin, heal us,  
so that the prayers of the righteous be powerful and effective.  
Pour out your blessings upon the faithful who will soon gather  
at the Northeast Annual Conference.  
Wash away lingering resentments and dread from the past,  
so that these steps into your promised future  
are taken on well-watered, fertile ground.  
In the name of Jesus, send your rain, O God.

## Day 20 – Saturday, April 6, 2024

### Today's Scripture – 2 Samuel 7:18-19 (NIV)

<sup>18</sup> Then King David went in and sat before the LORD, and he said:

“Who am I, Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far? <sup>19</sup> And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign LORD, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign LORD, is for a mere human!

### Today's Prayer Focus

For all his human flaws, King David's great connection with God came out of his willingness to “[sit] before the Lord.” Whether carrying a great burden of sin, as in Psalm 51, or a great promise of the future, as in this passage from 2 Samuel, David sat before the Lord with it. Center your prayers this day on the delegates who will be selected to represent the Northeast Annual Conference at the first GMC General Conference in Costa Rica. These delegates will be entrusted with charting the great future of the Global Methodist Church. Pray that they, like David, would be willing to sit before the Lord, seeking his guidance and blessing.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

O God, Lord of lords, King of kings,  
those who are with you are called and chosen and faithful.  
Call forth now those who will stand with you  
and represent the Northeast Annual Conference  
as delegates in Costa Rica.  
Let those chosen to serve in this capacity  
seek first your honor and glory,  
setting aside every prideful impulse,  
sitting humbly before your throne,  
and seeking always your guidance and blessing.  
Assuage the disappointment of those who will not be chosen in this season  
by calling each to places of service that align with your will  
for their lives  
and for the good of your Church.  
We ask this through Christ, the head of the Body, the Church. Amen.

## Day 21 – Sunday, April 7, 2024

### Today's Scripture – Joel 2:28-29 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> “And afterward,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your old men will dream dreams,  
your young men will see visions.  
<sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women,  
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

### Today's Prayer Focus

This is what we desire. This is what we have been praying and fasting for these past 21 days. For God to pour out his Spirit on all flesh. This is what Peter said was happening at that first Pentecost long ago (Acts 2:14-18). Center your prayers this final day of these three weeks on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Pray for the Holy Spirit to come with a mighty wind and with tongues of fire on the people of the Northeast Annual Conference later this week. Ask for power so that we can, like the first disciples, boldly go and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

### Today's Suggested Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit.

As you hovered over the waters of Creation,  
ready to form the earth and the world at the speaking of the Word,  
so hover over the people of the Northeast Annual Conference,  
poised and ready to move  
as a new movement of your church is formed.

Come, Holy Spirit.

As you breathed life into the dry bones of your people  
so that they could once again stand tall,  
so breathe upon us in the Northeast Annual Conference,  
that we, too, may be fashioned into a great army,  
ready to do your will.

Come, Holy Spirit.

As you came upon your church at its beginning  
with the sound of a rushing wind and with tongues of fire,  
so send your power upon the Northeast Annual Conference  
at its beginning,  
so that we might pour out into the streets  
and proclaim your mighty works with boldness.

In the name of Christ, come, Holy Spirit. Amen.