

Pray With Us

a call to prayer and fasting



NBC PRAYER AND FASTING FOR JULY

Hi and welcome to the second half of 2026.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH YOU AND JESUS?

How have your conversations with God been going during June?

Have you been prompted by the Holy Spirit to contact anyone, to offer to be involved in a ministry, to go deeper in your relationship with Jesus or have other things been discussed?

Are you now working on making some changes to how you live out your faith because of who Jesus is urging you to be? Who we are hugely impacts what we do and don't do.

I have found the sermons based on Judges to be so helpful as different perspectives have been raised. My mind has been jolted into action concerning my attitudes and actions.

May none of us drift through July. Instead, I pray that we will all be alert as we listen for God's nudges, whispers and even loud and clear directions for us each day.

If you haven't worked out what you will fast from yet I hope that this will be revealed to you this month. Please remember fasting can be for a one off length of time or it can be something that we repeat regularly.

PRAYER INTERVIEW

A few weeks ago Scott interviewed me in the Sunday meeting about my prayer life. Following are the notes I made in preparation for the interview. Due to time constraints I couldn't use all of this on the day. I hope you find it helpful.

QUESTION 1

What has been the most meaningful or impactful prayer experience you've had recently?

1. Two recent instances – In April I asked God to enable me to make lots of connections with people when I gave out Others badges during a long holiday. He amazed me with the response and we had some deep spiritual conversations. If you want to know more about the Others badge please contact me. The second experience involves how God has directed Simone to a new medication being trialed that could slow down the rate of scarring in her lungs.

QUESTION 2

How do you maintain consistency in your prayer life during busy or difficult seasons?

My prayer life is not a set, once or twice, time in each day. Jesus and I have an ongoing conversation as either of us feel the need to contact one another. Hopefully the following points help your understanding.

I am so thankful there are people who can pray at a set time for a few minutes or a few hours and I have great examples of this in my family. My long prayer experiences happen when I am with others praying – not by myself.



1. Rosalind Rinker *Prayer: Conversing with God* book that was written in 1959 and revealing that prayer is a conversation between us and our creator in a relationship not a discipline drudgery I am forcing myself to do. *The Practice of the Presence of God*, by the monk Brother Lawrence is another book that confirmed for me even more deeply that my relationship with God is ongoing throughout the day. Discipline and prayer has never, ever gelled with me. My personality is one of organisation within what looks to be chaos. There are usually many activities happening at once and I need God's input many times in a day. So, for me, prayer is not a time I have to fit into my

schedule as it's already part of my everyday life. Our discussion involves me listening as well as speaking.

2. Myers Briggs personality prayer books were also significant in helping me see that conversational prayer is the best way for me. They helped show me that I didn't just have to sit still to pray, instead I could even walk around while interacting with God. My extroverted personality also can mean that speaking out loud is meaningful for me as I relate with Jesus.

3. So, to clarify and return to the question, this means that even in busyness this conversation of listening and talking continues. In fact, in busyness that increases the interaction. Confession: I am by no means perfect and every day there are times when I jump into a situation before involving God. Thank goodness for forgiveness!

4. For formal set times of prayer I am more at home doing this with others. Last year I joined the NBC online prayer group. Some wonderful prayer warriors in this group.

5. I am glad that many people have a set time for their individual prayer time. It's just not how I am wired up.

I admire people like General Eva Burrows and my cousin Major Stella Green who prayed for 1-3 hours a day at a determined time. God wants us to converse with him in the way that is most effective for us in building our relationship with him.

6. Prayer isn't just about us bringing our needs to God it is mostly about God bringing us to be more like him. Well, that's my experience anyway.

QUESTION 3

In what ways have you seen prayer influence your relationship with God and your daily decisions?

1. Prayer is **the** essential for me in growing relationship with God. Because it is an ongoing conversation I want to involve God in my life. I want to hear from him, to ask him questions, to find where he wants me to be involved – where does he want me connecting in his ongoing work right now? What does he want me to change in my life.

2. This means I am doing my best to listen for his nudges and urging to contact others, to pray for others, to be involved in this or that, to adjust things in my life.

3. I love music and so often God prompts me to pray when I am listening to music – Christian and non-Christian.

4. I love being in God's creation and this leads me to have time out with Jesus. This brings out the awesomeness of God.

5. I love reading books including poetry and this leads me to pray – to discuss things with God. Sometimes the books initiate an intellectual prompting and other times it is emotional. Some books that have helped me are: *Army on its Knees* by Colonels Janet and Richard Munn and Major Stephen Court (still available for Kindle), *O Lord poetry* by General John Gowans, *Just a Moment Lord poetry* Commissioner Flora Larsson, *Praying the Price* by Australian Baptist minister Stuart Robinson and a recent one *Prayerfulness* by Australian Anglican minister Peter Adam.

6. I love doing things. I'm an activist. I need to discuss with God about what I am involved in while I am doing it. So I often pray while on the run with anything that is involved in life.

7. Reading the Bible leads me to talk with Jesus. The Bible makes me question and it puts context and knowledge into our discussions.

8. Fasting leads me to deeper conversations with God. These days my diabetes prevents me from fasting from food but there are many other time-consuming things I can fast from.

9. All of these interactions and inputs build into what I think, decide and how I act. I can't imagine not having Jesus to discuss things over with.

10. I am still learning about this relationship I have with Jesus. There are times when I get sidetracked and I forget to intentionally bring him into the conversation. Eventually I realise I haven't been nudged lately by God because I haven't made time to listen.



11. God customises his relationship with us. For Simone he sometimes puts visions, pictures, feelings into her thinking and for me it is usually words that I visualise in my brain or hear in there.

12. I have a new friend called Tony and at our daughter's coffee shop, Told You So (TYS), we are getting to know each other. We regularly share with each other about our lives. We learn more about each other every time we meet. It is an ongoing learning. And, you know, this is how my conversation with Jesus is still unfolding. I am continually learning about his forgiveness, his desire for us to involve him in our everyday life so that we have his influence and power in using our intellect, gifts, feelings, interest and abilities to shine for him.

13. So God is always with me and we converse. I am so grateful that 55 years ago I willingly became a disciple — a devoted follower, a friend and child of God. He is always open and ready for us to discuss anything.

Prayer Points



- What am I learning from reading Judges and listening to the sermons each week?
- Is my relationship with God two way or do I do all the talking? If so, please help me to learn how to listen to you God the Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit.
- How can I incorporate fasting from something for the times I really need to go deeply with you? What is it each time that you want me to fast from?
- Please pray that the upcoming Alpha course at NBC will have many participants and leaders. Dear God do you want me to be involved?

Joyfully serving Jesus

Laurie Robertson

