

NOTHING TO FEAR

—PRAYER CHALLENGE—

Follow the seven principles that Jesus gave his disciples prior to sending them into a dangerous world to thrive in the midst of today's turbulence and confusion.

DAY 1: PREPARE TO BE SENT

PRAY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

Eternal God, thank you for the joy of your surprises. You do more for us than we can ask or imagine. Keep our hearts steadfast toward you. Lead us safely to the refuge of your choosing, for we know you desire to give us a future and a hope. Today, give us the power to do your will as we more fully realize that we are servants of heaven and stewards of your mysteries and your blessings. Give us the wisdom to make our faith the litmus test by which we evaluate each action, as we refuse to deviate from the path of integrity. Keep us from being careless about our spiritual and moral growth. We trust your mighty name. Amen.

DAY 2: DO A REALITY CHECK

PRAY IN GRATITUDE FOR WHAT THE LORD HAS ALREADY DONE.

God of our fathers and mothers, may we never forget how you have sustained us in the past. Help us prepare for active service in your kingdom. Give us the wisdom to trust you in the small things, realizing that faithfulness with little prepares us for fidelity with much. May we trust you to do what is best for our lives in good times and in bad. We place our hope in your mighty name. Amen.

DAY 3: THRIVE IN A PREDATORY WORLD

PRAY AGAINST THE REIN OF EVIL.

Beautiful Savior, free us from our bondage to evil. You have been our dwelling place in all generations, sustaining us with your steadfast love. Surround us today with the shield of your divine protection and favor, enabling us to resist the devil, so that he will flee from us. Teach us to obey your commands, doing your goodwill, as we find joy in your presence. Keep us from doing those things that would bring us regret, remorse, and shame. Renew our strength as you provide us with the courage to carry on. Amen.

DAY 4: BE AS WISE AS A SERPENT

PRAY FOR JUSTICE FOR THE OPPRESSED.

Lord of the universe, help us to conquer fear. As we learn to live in day-tight compartments, show us duties left undone. Give us the desire to do your will so that we will remember vows unkept and tasks unattended. Lead us even through life's challenging seasons to a deeper commitment to you. Send us out to be your instruments of good in the world. Thank you for your promise that you will never leave us nor forsake us. We pray in your sacred name. Amen.

DAY 5: BE AS INNOCENT AS A DOVE

PRAY FOR PEACE AMONG PEOPLE AND NATIONS.

Holy Spirit, save us from sloth and give us a social conscience built on the vision of the ancient prophets, who saw sufficiency for every person. Use us to hasten the day when the small and weak can make their contributions alongside the great and powerful. Lead us on a path that will empower us to foster peace on earth, when swords shall be beaten into plowshares and humanity will study war no more. Help us to remember that the hands of the diligent will rule. We pray in the awesome name of Jesus. Amen.

DAY 6: CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK

PRAY FOR BELIEF FOR THE UNBELIEVING.

Lord, make our lives productive for the glory of your name. Use us as your witness, and may our testimony begin at home. We wait in reverence before your throne to receive your guidance and follow your commands. Create in us clean hearts while renewing a right spirit within us. Help us today to discern your voice and do your will. We pray in your precious name. Amen.

DAY 7: PERSEVERE THROUGH REJECTION

PRAY FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF GOD'S SERVANTS.

Infinite Holy Spirit, whose love is broader than the measure of our minds, thank you for enabling us to live fearlessly in a threatening world. Lord, we pray for all those who are in peril. Protect all those whose work brings them into dangerous situations. We pray also for those who have failed in noble efforts and who are in danger of giving up the good fight. We ask you to sustain those whose fear of tomorrow renders them useless today. Keep us ever aware of the dangers that lurk in the paths of success and failure, defeat and triumph alike. We praise your holy name that we have nothing to fear. Amen.

From *Nothing to Fear*

By U.S. Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry C. Black

nothingtofearbook.com

