



DAY 1



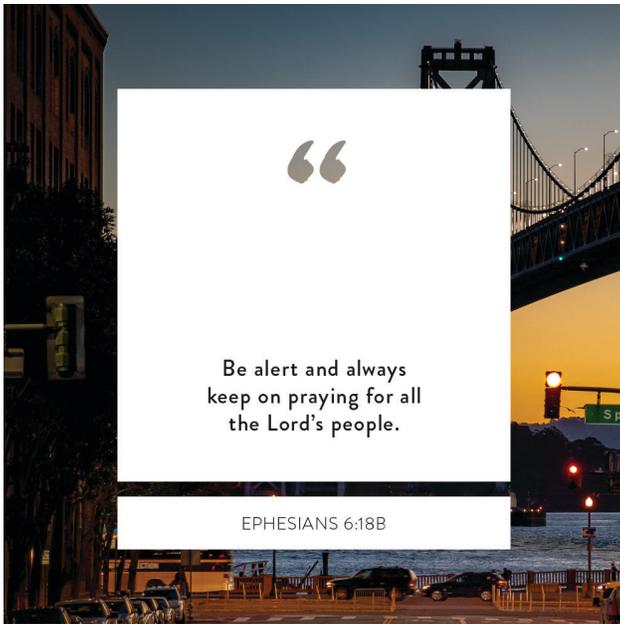
This verse almost seems too good to be true. There's no way that God hears every single person's prayer every time. But He does! There is not a single prayer that lands on deaf ears. When you talk to God, He listens. He's both big enough to hear everyone's prayer and personal enough to listen attentively. So, what do you need to talk to Him about today? What is the prayer that you've kept inside you because you were afraid He wouldn't listen? Talk to God today! Let Him hear your every thought; good and bad. Speak with the confidence of someone who knows they are heard!

DAY 2



Have you ever been annoyed by someone else's persistence? This happens a lot with kids, right? It seems like when a kid wants something, he or she will not stop asking until they get it. They'll follow you around the house right on your heels, pestering and asking and reminding you of whatever it is they want you to know, always trying to get your attention. Even though that situation may sound annoying, it's fairly similar to what God wants from us. He wants us to pray to Him all the time. He wants us to seek His attention always. That's the type of relationship He desires. But if you grew up in a house where your parents just ignored you, know that God is different. He doesn't want us to seek a relationship with Him just so He can ignore us. He wants us to seek after Him because He knows we'll find Him. He knows the joy that comes with being

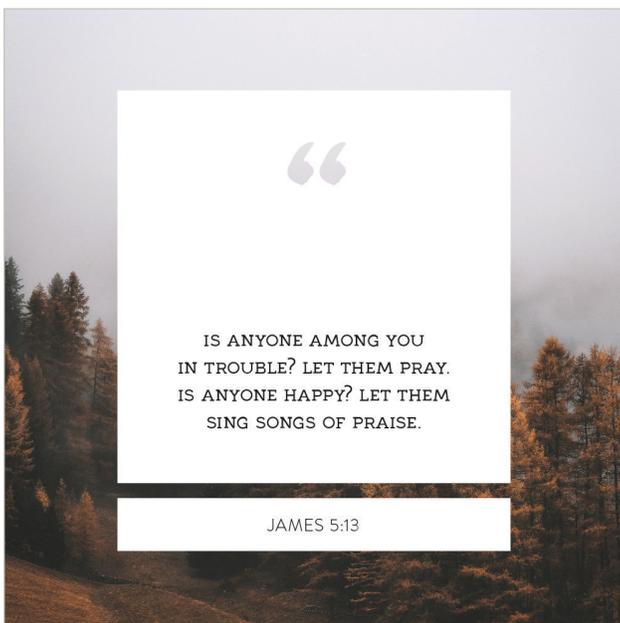
heard, and He wants to offer that to us every day. What would it look like for you to seek God today? If you're not sure where to start, try praying and talking to Him.



DAY 3

If someone were to hand you a book that was full of all the prayers you’ve prayed over your life, what would you find? What would be the topic of your prayers? If we’re honest with ourselves, most of us would find that we are the subject of our own prayers. We may pray prayers of gratitude and awe and admiration toward God, but most of the time, we’re asking for things or praying for things that we want. And that’s okay! God wants to hear our every prayer, so don’t stop taking your requests to Him. But when was the last time you prayed for someone else? Sometimes, the best way to use times of waiting and patience for a good purpose is to pray for other people. If you’ve already prayed for your situation, why not lift up someone else’s? Not only will this be a way for you to help and minister to other people, but these types of prayers distract us from whatever is going

on in our lives that we’re tired of thinking about anyway. What are some selfless prayers you can pray today? Is there someone you know going through a tough time? Pray and ask God to do for them what you’d want Him to do for you.

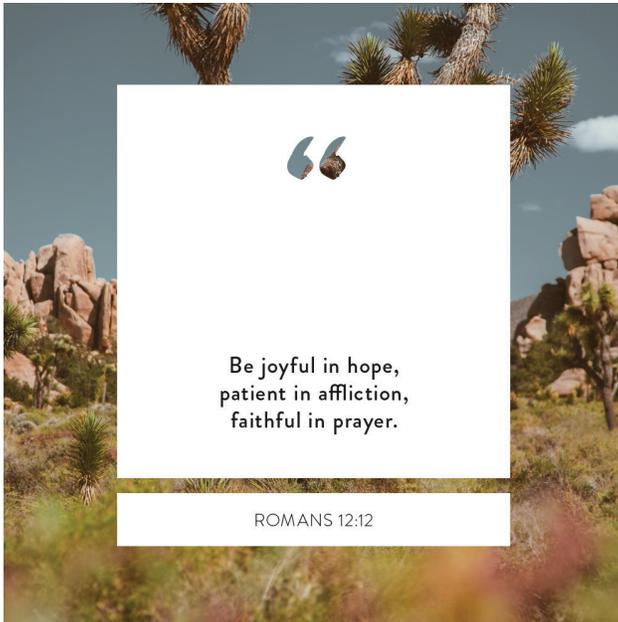


DAY 4

It’s easy to think that God only wants to hear from us at certain times. At least, a lot of us act as if God only wants to hear from us on Sunday mornings. But that’s not true. God ALWAYS wants to hear from you. If you’re going through hard times, He wants you to talk to Him. If things have never been better, He wants you to let Him know. If you’re sitting in traffic on a Wednesday afternoon, He wants to have a conversation with you. God loves you. That means He wants to talk to you. About everything. He wants to have a relationship with you, and like any relationship, He wants there to be open lines of communication. So, talk to Him! Tell him what you’re thinking, feeling, experiencing. Let Him in on whatever is going on in your heart, soul, and mind.



DAY 5



How would your life look differently if all three of these things were true of you? What would change if you were joyful, patient, and faithful? The charge to be joyful, hopeful, and faithful during life's struggles can feel like a hard pill to swallow. And that's okay. It's hard to look beyond our present circumstances and imagine that there is good on the other side. But the good news is that there is a bit of a promise in this verse. In the largest context of the letter to the Romans, when we read this verse, what we see is that God wants us first to be faithful in prayer. When we do that, He will begin to cultivate patience in our lives. And that patience is ultimately founded in the hope of Jesus, and who He is. And when we really begin to understand that what we are facing is light and momentary, that will bring us a joyful hope that our circumstances or

world will never be able to offer. Does this mean it's easy? No. But, it does mean it's possible to live in light of the hope we have.

NOTES, PRAYERS, AND THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK. . . .