



A FREE 2-DAY TASTE

When Only One of You Is Praying

*14 days of hope for the spouse
who believes alone*

THE STILL PRAYING COLLECTION • NO. 5



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Not Praying Into the Ceiling

READ: Psalm 65:1–5

“You who answer prayer, to you all people will come.”

— Psalm 65:2 (NIV)

You know the moment. Hands folded over dinner while your spouse waits politely for you to finish. A prayer whispered on your side of the bed. Grace said with the kids while the other chair stays quiet. Praying alone in a shared life can start to feel like talking into a phone with no one on the line, and somewhere along the way a suspicion creeps in: maybe these solo prayers count less. Maybe prayer for a spouse works better in stereo.

Start the fourteen days here, because everything else stands on it: the psalmist calls God the One who answers prayer. Not the One who answers prayers said by couples. Not the One who requires a quorum. Elijah prayed alone on Carmel against four hundred and fifty opposing voices, and fire fell. Hannah prayed so alone that the priest watching thought she was drunk, and Samuel was the answer. Scripture’s most famous prayers are overwhelmingly solos.

Your kitchen-sink intercession for the person sleeping beside you is not a lesser form of the real thing. It may be the purest praying you have ever done: no audience, no performance, nothing to gain except the thing itself. Every one of those prayers lands. Not one has ever hit the ceiling and bounced.

You will pray alone again today. Once, as you do, say this to yourself like a fact, because it is one: He hears me. He hears me about my spouse. He was listening before I started and He will be working after I stop.

REFLECT

1. When did praying alone start to feel diminished to you, and what do you think planted that idea?
2. What have you quietly stopped praying about because it felt hopeless? What would it mean to start again?

TRY TODAY

Pray for your spouse today by name, out loud, somewhere alone: the car, the shower, the walk. One honest minute. Notice that it felt like being heard, because it was.



You who answer prayer, thank You that a solo is enough. Hear me today about the one I love.

The Empty Seat

READ: Psalm 73:21–26

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

— Psalm 73:25–26 (NIV)

Church can be the loneliest hour of the week. Everyone else seems to come in pairs. The couples hold hands during worship; the sermon uses marriage illustrations; the small group signup sheet says “couples welcome” like a small dare. And beside you, where your husband or wife would be, there is either an empty seat or a body that came to keep the peace and left its heart in the car.

Nobody warns you about the specific grief of unshared worship: hearing something that moves you to tears and having no one at lunch who wants to know. Asaph, who wrote today’s psalm, knew about faith that isolates. His whole community seemed to be thriving without God while he strained to stay faithful, and it made him bitter, until he walked into the sanctuary and got his eyes recalibrated.

His conclusion has carried lonely believers for three thousand years: whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You. Read that carefully. It is not saying your desire for a praying spouse is wrong. It is saying that underneath every good desire is a deeper one that was never going to be met by a person in a pew, only by God Himself. Your spouse in church would be a gift. It would not be your portion. God is your portion, and a portion, in the old language, is the inheritance that cannot be taken away.

Next Sunday the seat may still be empty. But you have never once worshiped alone. The strength of your heart sits closer than any chair.

REFLECT

1. Where does the loneliness of unshared faith bite hardest: church, meals, decisions, grief, joy?
2. What is the difference, in your own words, between a gift you long for and the portion you already have?

✦ TRY TODAY

This Sunday, instead of managing the empty seat, tell God about it in five honest words during the first song. Then ask Him to be your portion for that hour, and watch what changes.



God of Asaph, when the seat beside me is empty, be the strength of my heart and my portion.



This is only the beginning

There are twelve more days waiting for you: the winning without words, Elijah's math, the long sermon of love, and hope without a deadline. Find the complete 14-day guide in the Everyday Mercies shop on Etsy, and come say hello at everydaymercies.com.

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