

# Crossroads

## The choices men face at life's intersections

This series of Scripture-based prayer guides is prepared especially for men — with a view to our particular needs and concerns.

You will notice that the series is focused on the biblical ideas of *paradox* and *contrast*. For us as Christian men, there are many *roads* but only one *Way*—the Son of God, the man Christ Jesus (*see John 14:6*).

On the roads of life, the challenges are sometimes between right and wrong—and, much more often, between the good and the best. But always, there are choices we must make. We need God's help in making the right choices for right living.

Also available in this series are prayer guides that examine our choices as God's Word reveals their reality—and our need for clarity as we choose the roads we travel. Look for them on the web at [www.learntoprayer.org](http://www.learntoprayer.org) :

<i>Old Man/New Man</i>	<i>Darkness/Light</i>
<i>Weakness/Strength</i>	<i>Loss/Gain</i>
<i>Sacrifice/Reward</i>	<i>Shadow/Substance</i>

...and others yet to be added!

See page 23 for the best way to make this series work for **you!**

## Choice #1: Flee and Pursue

Guided by the Holy Spirit, in the power of the Cross, on the wings of prayer, Christian men can win the battles we face today in the age-old conflict with the world, the flesh and the devil. We must realize that the battle-ground is prayer, and it is through a commitment to become men of prayer that we will stand strong and endure.

***“Flee and Pursue”*** is a biblical principle. It has to do with the choice we make to set aside—to turn away from—captivating things of the world in order to receive what God desires to give: the abundant life of fellowship with Him right now, and “in the ages to come, eternal life.” (Mark 10:30)

Keep ***Flee and Pursue*** handy and consider it God’s encouragement for your daily walk with Him. There are 7 days of biblical truth and suggested prayers to emphasize what it means to be a changed man—one who has heard and heeded the word of Jesus Christ that we must deny self if we are to know Him and serve Him fully and freely:

***Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*** (Matthew 16:24)

*Monday — Flee*

## **Pride**

**...be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud , But gives grace to the humble."**

(1 Peter 5:5)

Pride is basically the determination to have our own way. We may mask it by convincing ourselves that we “just want to do what is best,”—as a cover-up for the same old self-centered motivation that turned Lucifer into Satan, and will make us enemies of God even as we outwardly serve Him.

Make this your prayer as you begin your day:

- *Lord, open my eyes to see any sliver of pride that intrudes in my outlook or actions today.*
- *Remind me that the first thing Jesus identified as necessary for blessing is poverty of spirit (Matthew 5:3)—and that means humility, the opposite of pride.*
- *Keep me aware that I am always to regard others as more important than myself (Philippians 2:3)*
- *I pray these things in the gracious name of Jesus, amen.*

Make note of your response to this on page 20

*Monday — Pursue*

## Humility

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** (Matthew 5:3)

The first principle of living in God's kingdom is humility ("Blessed are the poor in spirit," Jesus says at the beginning of His Sermon on the Mount). All other blessings of the Christian life follow, and depend upon, our acceptance of this first principle. Without humility, pride enters and we miss all the rest.

The life of humility is a life of Christlike submission to the Father and compassion for others.

Pray this way:

- *Father, I submit myself, my life, my work, all that I am and all that I have, to You.*
- *I desire and ask that Your will be done in my life today.*
- *I thank You that You have given me the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16); help me to reflect Christ in all I do today. In His name I pray, amen.*

*Make note of your response to this on page 20*

## **Monday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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## **Tuesday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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## **Wednesday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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## **Thursday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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## **Friday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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## **Saturday**

*What I sense the Lord is saying to me*

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