

Our Personal Prayer to God for 2018

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)*

It's extremely important to approach God in prayer. It's the way we get to communicate with God, our Creator and Savior. There's something extra cool about being able to see what God does in our lives with a specific prayer that's prayed to Him every single day. We want to be in continual prayer this year with specific things we are taking and giving to God. We want to recognize him for worship; tell Him things that we need to confess and let God take control of; tell Him things we need to focus on and grow in to become closer to Him; and finally, we want to thank Him for everything.

This prayer worksheet is just the beginning of a daily discipline of prayer to God. It's a LOT to do in just one day. If you don't finish it for a few days - even weeks, let that be your prayer as you seek what God is desiring for you this year. Maybe your prayer to start off is that you don't know where to start or what to pray so God, please reveal to me what I need to focus on for the year or for individual sections you may be unsure in. Maybe you even start by writing out the prayer with a few blanks left to fill in later as God reveals those to you. **Above all, let this be YOUR OWN, PERSONAL PRAYER to God for the year - not someone else's year.**

The lists below don't include all the options for everything. None of these lists are exhaustive. They're meant to be starting places. If you don't make resolutions, don't choose that. If you want to put in a name of God that's not on here. DO IT! This is **YOUR PRAYER to God**. It's what's on your heart and what you'd like to pray over for your year. Feel free to highlight, circle, cross out, write in the margins and on the lines and whatever else you feel you need to do as you hash out your prayer for the year.

How do I remember to pray this prayer throughout the year? Write it out fully and post it somewhere you'll pray it every day whether that's your bathroom mirror, taped to the inside of your Bible, or under notes on your phone (this is great even if you have it posted at home for those nights away from home). Share with a trusted friend for extra accountability as you pray over your year.

GOD, (OR HOWEVER YOU ADDRESS HIM AS: FATHER, DADDY, ETC.)

WORSHIP + PRAISE // TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

+ SCRIPTURE

- You have not given me a spirit of fear and timidity. You have given me a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Lord, let me imitate You in all that I do. Help me to live a life of love, just as Christ loved me and gave himself up for me as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1-2)
- God, you have commanded that I be strong and courageous. There's no need for me to live in fear. You, my Lord, are with me wherever I go. You will never leave me or forsake me. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

+ NAMES OF GOD

- Savior, Redeemer, Everlasting God, Alpha + Omega, The Most High, Master, King of Kings, etc.

+ ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- loving, good, all-knowing, just, holy, merciful, faithful, sovereign, forgiving, powerful, etc.

RECOGNIZE, CONFESSION + STRUGGLES

+ RECOGNIZE THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL + IN CHARGE — NOT US

- Your ways are perfect, You intend good for us, You know better than I do, etc.
 - *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:11-12)
 - *Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? (Luke 12:22-26)
 - *"This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:9-10)

+ CONFESS YOUR OWN SINS + SHORTCOMINGS

- you know better than anyone else what goes in this section: relationships, lust, materialism, gossip, jealousy, hatred, self-hatred, cussing, stealing, laziness, disdain for God's word, selfishness, idolatry (loving something or someone more than God), living in fear of others, complaining, having an unforgiving heart, complaining, impatience, judging others, pridefulness, murder, seeking revenge, worry, not honoring God, etc.

+ YOUR PERSONAL DOUBTS AND STRUGGLES IN YOUR FAITH

It is perfectly normal to have doubts and struggles. It's part of each of our individual faith journeys. If you are struggling or doubting who God is, who you are in Christ or anything else - it is perfectly normal and okay to have struggles and doubts. We all struggle with something in our faith at some point or another. Those doubts and struggles don't make you any less of a Christian than if you didn't have them. In fact, our doubts and struggles are the very things that can spur us on to having a greater and deeper faith in God. Sometimes things happen in our world that don't make sense - a loved one passes away, you don't get the raise you've been striving for, you fail at something you feel like is so big that not even God can make it right again - (He can make it right though.) We've all been there. Even the strongest Christians can be rattled by something they don't understand. If you're embarrassed or ashamed of having doubts and struggles with certain things, give them freely to God. Taking them directly to God is a great way to talk to Him about those things and let Him help reconcile them for you.

- your personal questions and doubts about who He is and who you are to Him:
 - *God, if you're real, please show me. (*Is God real?*)
 - *God, I'm struggling to believe in you. I'm struggling to see that who you say you are is who you really are. You say that you're good but there's so much bad in the world. How can you be a good God when bad things happen and tragedies occur? Show me where you are in the midst of sin and tragedy. (*Why should I believe in God? How can I know God is there when bad things happen? Is He a good God even when there's sin and tragedy?*)

- your personal questions and doubts about who you are to Him:
 - *God, why am I important? Why did you make me? Am I valuable? Please reveal to me your purpose for who you made me to be and how valuable I really am to you. (*Am I important to Him? Am I valuable to Him?*)
 - *God, I've failed so how can you use me now? Please reveal to me how you're working my story out to serve you. (*If I've messed up, can God still use me?*)
 - *God, am I pursuing things the wrong things? Am I pursuing the approval of those around me instead of your approval? Please show me if the rhythms I've been living are ones that glorify you. Show me if the people I am around are the people I can be built up and encourage by and if not, please bring me those kinds of friends. (*Where do I belong? Where can I thrive?*)
 - *God, am I pursuing things that matter? The world is so big and I don't know how I can make a difference in it. I don't know how I can extend love and grace to those around me. Please help me to see where I can make a difference and show me ways that I can be a witness to those around me. (*How do I matter to the world? How can I make a difference today? How do I respond to the love and grace that Christ offers me?*)
 - *God, I don't know what I'm doing. There's so many options in front of me. Please show me how I can glorify you in the midst of whatever I'm doing both right now and in my future. (*What will I do? How will my life and my work glorify God?*)

GROWTH + FOCUS

+ WORD OF THE YEAR + GOALS + RESOLUTIONS

- intentional, grace, hope, brave, patience, choices, focus, relax, simplify, love, commit, trust, etc.
- individual goals you may have
- the strength to continue with my resolution throughout the entire year

+ SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE TO INCREASE IN YOUR LIFE

- reading and studying God's word, prayer, memorizing scripture, worship, service to others, fasting, worship, journaling, taking a sabbath, engaging in corporate worship, fellowship with others, being accountable to someone, confession, evangelism, submission to God and earthly authorities, etc.

+ SINS/THINGS YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH + HABITS YOU WANT TO BREAK

- you know better than anyone else what goes in this section: relationships, materialism, gossip, lust, jealousy, hatred, self-hatred, cussing, stealing, laziness, disdain for God's word, selfishness, idolatry (loving something or someone more than God), living in fear of others, complaining, having an unforgiving heart, complaining, impatience, judging others, pridefulness, murder, seeking revenge, worry, not honoring God, etc.

+ STEPPING OUTSIDE YOUR CHRISTIAN COMFORT ZONE TO PURSUE GOD

- pray for your enemy, that coworker you hate, over a broken relationship that seems unredeemable, for a closer relationship with someone you aren't that close to but maybe should be, that Jesus would be known to someone specific
- provide opportunities for me to boldly share the gospel with those around me and the courage to actually say the words
- give me the wisdom and insight to see where You are and how You're glorified in the trickiest, toughest and darkest of circumstances and how I can partner with You to do Your kingdom work there (homelessness, poverty, human trafficking, etc.)
- show me who the "least of these" are and send me to them

THANKS

- + FOR WHO YOU ARE
- + FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE
- + FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING

IN YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST'S NAME, AMEN.
