

pray *first*

Table of Contents

- 4 How to Use This Guide
- 5 Creating a Life of Prayer

Prayer Models

- 7 The Lord's Prayer
- 16 The Beatitudes
- 18 The Way of the Cross
- 21 The Tabernacle Prayer
- 31 Praying Scripture
- 50 Spiritual Warfare Prayers
- 63 Time-Honored Prayers
- 78 Prayer for Those Who Need God
- 82 Personal Prayer Focus

Note: All scripture referenced throughout is NIV unless otherwise noted.

How to Use This Guide

We don't have to follow a specific formula to talk with God, but practicing different ways to pray can help us find deeper purpose and connection to Him through our prayer time.

This guide is designed to give you several prayer models, scriptural patterns, and time-honored prayers to practice. You don't have to master all of them at once; you can select a different prayer model each day and spend time working through it at your own pace. You can go in any order you want, and you can even spend a few days on the same prayer as you become more comfortable with it.

To get started, I suggest beginning to master The Lord's Prayer as a pattern for prayer. Jesus said, "pray like this..." so we should learn how to pray from Him. As you pray, focus on the process His model of prayer reveals, not just saying the words, but giving yourself time to pray using His model as an intentional pattern. If your mind wanders, use The Lord's Prayer model to restore your focus.

Finally, the goal of using this guide is not to add pressure or overwhelm you. The goal is simply to get comfortable with different biblical and historical models of prayer, and for your prayer life to become more natural, effective, and enjoyable.

The important step is committing to regularly entering God's presence through prayer. The heart of this guide is to help you hear God's voice and practice talking with Him as your loving Father. While prayer requires some discipline to develop into a daily habit, please remember that this is a "get to," not a "got to." It's a privilege to be able to be in God's presence and hear His voice.

Creating a Life of Prayer

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

MARK 1:35

Prayer is most effective when it's a regular life habit that we cultivate, not when it's something we do every now and then. To understand how to have a life of prayer, we can look at the example Jesus gave during His life on earth.

Have a Certain Time

Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

Have a Certain Place

Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be a non-distracting environment where you can pray out loud and perhaps have some worship music playing in the background.

Have a Certain Plan

Go into your prayer time with a plan, and if it changes, that's fine. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave His disciples a prayer outline. We call it The Lord's Prayer. This outline, along with several other tools, are available in this booklet.

The big idea is for a time of prayer to become the first thing you do every day, at a particular time, in a regular place. This will help turn your prayer time into a life of prayer, like Jesus.

To make your prayer time even more meaningful, have a plan in place before you come to pray. Prepare an environment to meet with God.

I have a particular place in my house. I have a comfortable chair ready. I have my coffeemaker preset to brew 15 minutes ahead of time. I have programmed a streaming device to turn on a light by my chair and to begin streaming worship music to set the atmosphere. I come prepared to hear from God. I have my Bible ready and open to the Gospels (I read something about Jesus every day!).

Finally, I have journal to write down thoughts, notes and prayer requests. Personally, I use a black pen to write my thoughts, and a red pen when I think God is speaking to me, so that I don't miss putting into practice whatever He tells to me.

“Do whatever he tells you.”

—MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, JOHN 2:5

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Darryn Scheske". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Darryn Scheske
Senior Pastor of Heartland Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and
the glory, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is regularly recited in churches or at public events, but there's so much more to this prayer. The Lord's Prayer comes from two passages in the Gospels: Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4. One day, Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him,

“Lord, teach us to pray...”

LUKE 11:1

Notice how Jesus replied to this question. Jesus said,

“This, then, is how you should pray...”

MATTHEW 6:9

Notice Jesus isn't saying simply, “Pray this,” but rather, “Pray like this...”

“Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name.
Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is
in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us
our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into

temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

MATTHEW 6:9-13 (NKJV)

Jesus provided this model as an outline to teach us how to pray in a way that connects us to our Father personally, and empowers us to accomplish great things through Him. This model takes us through each part of The Lord’s Prayer, showing us “how” to pray in the way Jesus taught us.

1. Connect with God relationally

“Our Father, who art in heaven”

God loves for us to call Him “our Father”. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for that relationship.

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when He adopted you as His own children. Now we call Him, “Abba, Father.”

ROMANS 8:15 (NLT)

Proclaim your intimate relationship with God, addressing Him lovingly as your Father and thanking Him that you are His child.

Prayer

Father, I come to You in prayer today, thankful that I am Your beloved child in whom You are well pleased. I know I am a sinner, yet You have already forgiven me and adopted me as Your own through Your Son, Jesus Christ. You have called me by a new name. You see who I am becoming. I am so grateful to call You, “My Father.” Thank You for loving me. I love You.

2. Worship His Name

“Hallowed be Thy Name”

God loves when we worship Him, and there is power in His Name. Here is a list of some of His Names to help us worship Him specifically and personally:

God is our Righteousness	He makes us clean
God is our Sanctifier	He has called us and set us apart
God is our Healer	He heals all our diseases
God is our Banner of Victory	He defeated our enemies
God is our Shepherd	He speaks to us and leads us
God is our Peace	He is our peace in every storm
God is our Provider	He supplies all of our needs

God’s name is a place of protection —
the righteous can run there and be safe.

PROVERBS 18:10 (MSG)

Speak God’s Names out loud. When we proclaim who He is, we not only worship Him, we also remind ourselves how powerful and great our God is.

Prayer

Father, I am in awe of You. I praise Your Holy Name. You are my Righteousness and my Sanctifier. You are my Peace and my Provider. You are my Shepherd and my Healer. Your Name is a strong tower, a place of protection and safety for me. You are my Banner of Victory—You are already waving the flag of my victory over the enemy—You’ve already defeated him. Your Name is great, and greatly to be praised! I worship Your Holy Name today!

3. Pray His Agenda First

“Thy kingdom come; Thy will
be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Part of being a child of God is caring about what He cares about. We know His will is perfect, and we acknowledge His wisdom and sovereignty when we pray for His agenda first.

He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

LUKE 12:31 (TLB)

Spend time focusing on what God is focused on. His priorities include:

- Saving the lost
- Guiding those in authority — parental, spiritual, governmental
- His will to be done in our lives

Prayer

Father, I recognize my need for You today. There is no better plan on earth than Yours, and I pray for Your will to be done in my life. “Not as I will, but as You will...” (name the areas of your life where you need more of God’s presence today) and in our world. This world is lost and needs You desperately, and I pray for every person to know You as their personal Lord and Savior. I pray for the leaders in my life (pray specifically over parents, spiritual leaders, government leaders, employers, and any other leaders in your life), that You would give them supernatural wisdom and discernment as they lead. Give them a revelation of Your will and Your purpose for them. I give my life to You again today; have Your way in my life! Anything You want to do in or through me, I will do. Again, “not as I will, but as You will...” I ask today for wisdom and clarity as You show me Your will today.

4. Depend on Him for Everything

“Give us this day our daily bread”

God promises to supply all our needs, and He wants us to come to Him with our problems, needs, and desires and to trust Him to provide.

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!

PSALM 121:1-2 (NLT)

Ask God for what you need today. It may help to write down the concerns weighing on your mind or the desires of your heart. You can bring them to God, and trust Him enough to hand them over to Him fully. It may help to open your hands before God to physically show your surrender to Him. Problems can either be ours or God's — they can't be both.

Prayer

Father, I acknowledge that everything I need today will come from You. You made the heavens and the earth; You are more than capable of handling any situation I'm dealing with, so I give it to You completely (specifically talk to God about what is on your mind and heart right now and give it to Him). I look to You to help me, sustain me, and give me Your peace. Remind me of Your hope and power today. Thank You in advance for taking care of my needs.

5. Forgive and Be Forgiven

“And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us”

God has offered us complete forgiveness, and we can receive it at any time. When we turn away from our sins and receive His forgiveness, our hearts are more prepared to forgive others.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

Prayer

Father, thank You so much for forgiving me. You did this freely, before I even knew You or asked You to forgive me. You see who I am becoming. I want to become the person You want me to become. Show me any areas in my life that I need to bring before You in order to receive mercy, correction, and healing. I confess that I have been struggling with... (talk to God about any areas in your life where you are missing the mark of His standards — of who He is calling you to be), and I know that You want me to become like Your Son, Jesus. I do want to become like Him in my thoughts, speech, and behavior. I need You, Father. I can't change on my own. Please forgive me and help me to be who You want me to be. Thank You for showing me unfailing grace.

As You have so freely forgiven me, I also want to freely forgive others. Your love keeps no record of wrongs. Help me to erase the record of wrongs I am keeping against others. I don't want any bitterness to remain in me. Please heal my heart. Help me let go of all offenses. I release to You those who have hurt me, and I trust You with Your judgment to handle those situations according to Your perfect will. Thank You for giving me the ability to forgive today!

6. Engage in Spiritual Warfare

“And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil”

This part of the prayer is asking our Father to help us when we are tempted by evil. Prayer is not just connection with God, but confrontation with our enemy. This daily battle with evil has been historically called “spiritual warfare.”

Spiritual warfare can seem difficult to understand, but the Bible makes it very clear that we have an enemy who is trying to steal from us, kill us and destroy us (John 10:10). As we pray, we take our stand against the enemy and fight from a place of victory through Jesus, empowered by His Holy Spirit. There is power in God’s Word, and every lie of the enemy can be replaced with God’s truth.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

EPHESIANS 6:12

By recognizing that you have an enemy who wants to destroy you, you can begin to recognize his lies and claim God’s truth over your life. Ask God to show you any lies you’re believing or areas of warfare happening in your life. Ask Him to expose the enemy’s schemes and to help you receive His truth. Simply speaking the name of Jesus has great power to resist evil.

Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

JAMES 4:7, NIV

Through prayer, we can resist evil and walk forward in freedom.

Prayer

Father, I need You to lead me in the right way today. I recognize that my struggles today aren't against the people or circumstances around me, but against the enemy. Please help me to see how the enemy is lying to me. Help me to recognize his lies, take them captive, and make all of my thoughts obedient to the truth of Your Word (list out any specific areas God shows you where you have believed a lie that needs to be replaced with His truth. Example: "I will be tempted to believe that I am what I have, what I do, and what others say about me. But You call me Your beloved child in whom You are well pleased. I don't have to prove anything to anyone today!").

While the enemy wants to destroy me, I know that You came to give me life — beyond what I can think or imagine. I speak the Name of Jesus over my life and declare that no weapon formed against me will prosper. I don't have to fear the enemy because the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world.

7. Express Faith in my Father's Ability

“For Thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory, now and forever.”

Our loving and all-powerful Father is more than able to handle every situation we face today. We conclude our prayer time claiming His authority and power, focusing our minds on the truth and hope of who He is and what He can do.

Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for You.

JEREMIAH 32:17

Remind yourself of your Father's limitless power and then return to praising Him and declaring your faith in Him.

"Yours is the Kingdom" – all authority belongs to You

"Yours is the Power" – all mightiness flows from You

"Yours is the Glory" – Your victory will be complete

Prayer

Loving Father, nothing is too hard for You! Through Your great power, all things are possible. All authority is Yours, all might is Yours, and I know Your victory will be complete. I worship and praise You for Your power and presence in my life. You are my God, and You are worthy of all praise. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Father, I humbly **recognize my need for You**.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Father, I see a broken world and
know that **something needs to change**.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Father, **I see myself and know that I need to change**.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Father, I'm ready to go **"ALL-IN"** with You and Your way.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Father, **the mercy I need**, I freely give.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Father, let there be nothing **dark, defiling, or hypocritical in me**.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
will be called children of God.

Father, let me join you in **actively working for peace**.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

...even when it **costs me**...

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

...and no matter what, **I choose joy!**

MATTHEW 5:3-12

The Way of the Cross

For thousands of years, followers of Jesus have walked in the steps of Jesus, growing out of imitations of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem — a traditional processional route symbolizing the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. However, several of the traditional fourteen stations are based on legend rather than the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering on His way to the cross.

In 1991, Pope John Paul II inaugurated the Scriptural Stations of the Cross, which are based on the Scriptures. You can pray through the scriptural stations as a list in this book, or you can physically walk the Way of the Cross at Heartland Church.

“Lord Jesus Christ, help us to walk in Your way.”

The Scriptural Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

MATTHEW 26:36-41

2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas & arrested

MARK 14: 43-46

3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

LUKE 22: 66-71

4. Jesus is denied by Peter

MATTHEW 26: 69-75

5. Jesus is judged by Pontius Pilate

MARK 15: 1-5, 15

6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

JOHN 19: 1-3

7. Jesus bears the cross

JOHN 19: 6, 15-17

8. Jesus is helped by Simon the Cyrenian to carry the cross

MARK 15: 21

9. Jesus meets the women in Jerusalem

LUKE 23: 27-31

10. Jesus is crucified

LUKE 23: 33-34

11. Jesus promises His Kingdom to the repentant criminal

LUKE 23: 39-43

12. Jesus speaks to His Mother and the disciple He loved

JOHN 19: 25-27

13. Jesus dies on the cross

LUKE 23: 44-46

14. Jesus is buried in the tomb

MATTHEW 27: 57-60

15. Jesus rises from the dead

JOHN 20:1, JOHN 11:25

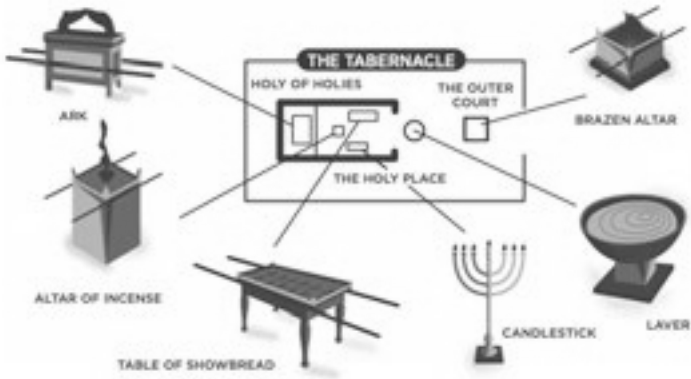
Traditional Prayer

God of power and mercy,
in love You sent Your Son
that we might be cleansed of sin
and live with You forever.

Bless us as we gather to reflect
on the suffering and death of Jesus,

that we may learn from His example
and walk in His way.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.



The Tabernacle Prayer

In the Old Testament, the Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God, built to His specifications, where He would meet His people. As they entered the tabernacle, they passed through seven stations, following God's instructions, to experience His presence.

Today, even though we no longer need the physical tabernacle to meet with God, these same steps can help us connect with Him. This prayer model will take us through each station of the tabernacle and use the purpose of each station to guide our prayers.

1. The Outer Court

Thanksgiving and Praise

The Israelites entered the Tabernacle with thanksgiving and praise, and we start our prayer time the same way.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

PSALM 100:4

Spend some time really thinking about all the blessings in your life for which you're thankful. You can write down a list, sing your own song of praise or just spend quiet moments reflecting on your gratitude and praise toward God.

Prayer:

Father God, You are good, and You deserve all my praise. Thank You for the many ways You have blessed me and for watching over me (tell Him specific things in your life that you're grateful for. Thank Him for something new that you've never thanked Him for before). I want to experience Your presence and Your love in a fresh way today, Jesus. Thank You that Your mercies are new every day. Thank You for who You are and all You have done for me.

2. The Brazen Altar

The Cross of Jesus

In the Old Testament, everyone had to regularly bring animal sacrifices as payment for their sins. Today, we don't have to do that because Jesus paid for our sins once and for all with His blood on the cross.

Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits
—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with
love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good
things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

PSALM 103:2-5

Thank God for the gift of Jesus. Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and love. Let the power of the cross and what it means for your life really settle in your spirit. In addition to expressing your gratitude, claim the power of transformation and healing that the cross of Jesus has in your life.

The cross provides us with five major benefits:

- Salvation - God forgives all my sin
- Healing - God heals all my diseases
- Redemption - God rescues me and restores me
- Transformation - God changes me into His likeness
- Blessing - God provides everything I need

Prayer

Thank You, God, for making a way for me through Your Son. Jesus, thank You for the sacrifice You made for me on the cross. You saved me, and You set me free. I praise You for being my

Healer. You have power over all disease and harm in my life
(list specific areas where you need to experience God's healing)

power). Thank You for being my Redeemer. You rescue me and give my life purpose. Thank You for transforming my life with Your love and making me new. I want to grow to be more like You (give Him access to every area of your life). Thank You for blessing me. I know You have good plans for me, and all that I have comes from You (thank Him for specific blessings in your life).

3. The Laver

Cleansing and Preparing

The next step in the Tabernacle was a bowl of water where people were reminded of their sinfulness and their need to be cleansed and forgiven by God. Checking our hearts and motives and surrendering our lives to God is an important part of daily prayer.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

ROMANS 12:1 (ESV)

Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we can confess our sins to Him and receive complete forgiveness and a fresh start. In prayer, humbly and sincerely turn away from your sins and allow God to cleanse and renew you. Then, surrender your life to Him.

Prayer:

God, I confess my sins to You and turn away from them (tell God any sin you know is in your life and confess it to Him with a

sincere heart. Ask Him to show you any other areas that need His cleansing). Thank You, God, for freely forgiving me. As I turn away from my sin, I turn toward You, and I offer myself to You:

I give You my tongue, to speak good and not evil

I give You my eyes, to focus on You and the needs of others

I give You my ears, to be sensitive to Your voice

I give You my hands, to do good for others

I give You my feet, to walk in Your way and follow Your footsteps

I give You my mind, to be transformed and used by You

I ask You, Lord, for the Fruit of the Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23, so that I can grow closer to You and make a difference in the lives of others. I ask for: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

4. The Candlestick

The Holy Spirit

The next piece of the Tabernacle was a seven-branched golden candlestick. The fire represents the Holy Spirit and how we are called to be light in the world's darkness.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord.

ISAIAH 11:2

When Jesus left the earth, Christians were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. He calls the Holy Spirit our “advocate.” We cannot do what God

has called us to do without His supernatural power. It is through the Holy Spirit that God comforts us, guides us and empowers us.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, I ask You to fill me. I need Your presence in my life, guiding, directing, comforting and counseling me. I know that You, Holy Spirit, are God in the Trinity with God the Father and the Son, Jesus. You are the Spirit of Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might and Knowledge. Give me a holy fear of the Lord, helping me to be in awe of who God is and what God does. Work in me, Holy Spirit. I honor You and ask You to empower me with Your spiritual gifts for the good of the church.

5. The Table of Bread

The Word of God

In the Tabernacle, a table with twelve loaves of bread represented the importance of reading God's Word for daily sustenance.

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

JOSHUA 1:8

God's Word is an incredible gift and a powerful tool, and it has great relevance and impact in our prayer life. Here is how you can incorporate God's Word into your prayer time:

- Take time to read and think about the Word
- Claim God's many great promises for your life and the world

around you

- Ask Him for fresh revelation of His Word
- Ask Him for a Word to help you as you go throughout your day

Prayer:

Thank You, God, for giving me Your Word. I commit to reading it, and I ask You to reveal Yourself to me through it. I want to know You more. Help me to grow more in love with Your Word and to be more dependent on it. I claim the promises You have for me, and I meditate on the truth of Your Word (pray any Scriptures that are on your heart or that God has given you in your current season). Give me fresh revelation from Your Word today and every day! I am hungry to see You more clearly through Your Word.

6. The Altar of Incense

Worship

A small altar of burning incense stood at the entrance to the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled. The people of God entered God's presence as they worshiped His Name. This altar represents worship and the pleasure it gives God when we worship Him.

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to Him and are safe.

PROVERBS 18:10 (NLT)

Thank God for making His presence available to you. Praise His Name and worship Him personally and specifically for who He is and how He has moved in your life.

Prayer

Thank You, God, for Your presence. I know that You are here with me. I worship You and You alone. I know God, that You are:

My Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6

My Sanctifier - Leviticus 20:7-8

My Healer - Exodus 15:26

My Provider - Genesis 22:14

My Banner of Victory - Exodus 17:15

My Peace - Judges 6:24

My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1

(As you pray through the different Names of God, focus on a few aspects of who He is that have been especially meaningful in your current season of life.) I know that You are always with me, God, and Your presence is life to me. You give me breath, joy and purpose. I love you, God.

7. The Ark of The Covenant

Intercession

The final place in the Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelled. There, the priest interceded by praying on behalf of the people of God. In the same way, we intercede on behalf of those around us.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

We can make a difference when we spend time praying for others.

Pray for those with whom you interact and connect, including:

- Those in authority — leaders in church, government, family and workplace
- Your family — both immediate and extended family members
- Your church — pastors, small group leaders, members and missionaries
- Your community — people in your city, nation and world
- Your relationships — friends, co-workers and acquaintances

Prayer

Thank You, God, for creating a way through Jesus for me to have Your presence wherever I go. I want to specifically ask You to watch over those in authority over me — my spiritual leaders, the leaders of our government, the leaders in my family and my employers (pray for these people by name). I ask that You give them wisdom and grace, watch over and protect them, help them to know and love You more. I ask You, God, to be present with my family. Bless them and keep them from harm (pray for any specific needs in your family right now). For those in my family who don't know You, I ask that You meet them where they are and guide their hearts toward You. I ask You to watch over my church, God. Give my pastor wisdom and vision, bless the Small Groups and everyone who steps foot into our buildings. I pray that You will bring the lost into our church, and that they will have a positive experience and come to know You. Keep our vision rooted in who You are and moving toward Your goals.

I ask You to watch over my city, my nation and our world. Bring peace and help us all take steps toward You (name areas where you feel a burden for your city, nation and the world). I pray for anyone who comes across my path to see Your light in me. I lift

up my friends, neighbors and coworkers. I thank You for them and pray for Your blessing over them (pray for any specific needs of others). Lastly God, I ask You to provide for my needs. I know that You sustain me, and that You care for me. I lift up my physical, emotional and spiritual needs to You (share the needs on your mind right now). I lay my cares at Your feet. Thank You for loving me, choosing me and calling me Yours. Amen.

Praying Scripture

The Word of God is one of the most valuable tools we have to build a dynamic daily prayer life. It brings power, truth and encouragement to our prayer time.

Praying Psalm 23

Let's begin with King David's Psalm 23. Take a moment to read it, and then use the prayer below as a way to apply the psalm to have a conversation with God.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
He refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths for His Name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely Your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.

PSALM 23

Prayer

God, You are my Provider, and I know You will take care of me.
Thank You for guiding me to places of rest. You are my source of

energy and passion. You keep me going and lead me toward a life of purpose and freedom. I know that even when I experience my darkest seasons of difficulty and challenge, I have nothing to be afraid of because You are with me. Your presence and power are a constant comfort to me. I know that You are preparing the way for me and that my enemies cannot touch me because You are taking care of me. I know that You have blessed me, and I thank You for choosing me and anointing me with purpose. Your blessings are so much more than I could ask for. I know that You are good, God, and that You are with me all the days of my life. You have chosen me, and I have chosen You, and that means I will be with You, in Your presence, forever.

Praying Psalm 139

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

PSALM 139:23-24

Prayer

Father God, I ask You to search my heart. If You find anything in me that is offensive, please show me and help me remove it from my life. Lead me to live a life that draws people to You. Help me live my life on earth in a way that impacts eternity.

A Prayer for Coming Near to God

Come near to God and He will come near to you.

JAMES 4:8

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You have promised that if I draw near to You, You will draw near to me. I need more of Your presence today, and I am drawing near to You through prayer, worship and reading Your Word. I open my heart to You and ask You to be near to me and change me to be more like You.

Praying Matthew 6:33

But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

MATTHEW 6:33

Prayer

Your Word tells me that if I seek first Your Kingdom and Your righteousness, You will lead me to a life of blessing, purpose and freedom. I am Yours today, God, and I give this day to You. Help me to focus on Your priorities first, sharing Your love and making Your Name known. I know that by focusing on You rather than myself, I will receive joy and peace.

A Joyful Prayer of the Forgiven

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

PSALM 32:1–11, NIV

Prayer

Loving Father, thank You for the joy and freedom that come from being forgiven. I don’t deserve Your mercy, but You cover my sin and cleanse my heart. You don’t hold my failures against me, and that truth brings peace to my soul. Help me to live in the light of Your grace—honest, humble, and grateful. Keep me from hiding

my faults, and teach me to walk in the joy of being fully known and fully loved by You.

Praying 2 Timothy 1:7

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

2 TIMOTHY 1:7

Prayer

Father, I know You have not given me a spirit of fear or timidity, but one of power, love and self-discipline. When my mind feels out of control, I pray that You will renew my spirit and let power, love and self-discipline fill me. Help me to look more like You every day I declare that anything that is not of You has to leave me in Jesus' Name. I proclaim that I do not have a spirit of fear, but I have a sound and healthy mind.

Praying Romans 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.

ROMANS 8:28

Prayer

God, You promise me in Your Word that in all things You work for my good. Right now, there are circumstances in my life that

don't feel good (talk to God about the specific situations that are causing you difficulty or pain). Even though this is how I feel, I choose to believe Your truth over my feelings. When You say You will work in all things for my good, I believe You. Even in situations that seem hopeless, I know You are working on my behalf and that You want more for me than I could ever want for myself. Thank You for having a purpose for me and for working all my life circumstances for good.

Praying Psalm 62:8

Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.

PSALM 62:8

Prayer

Father, in Your Word You invite me to pour out my heart to You. You are my refuge, and I know that anything I think, feel or do is ok to bring to You. Knowing that You are a safe place for me, I come to You and give You everything on my heart (talk to God about the specific things that are on your heart today). From what is worrying me to what is delighting me, what I hope for to what I'm afraid of, I bring it all to You because I know I can trust You. Help me and guide me in every area, in Jesus' Name.

Praying Deuteronomy 28:12

The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of His bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands.

DEUTERONOMY 28:12

Prayer

Lord, I believe You have everything I need and You want to bless me. You tell me in Your Word that You will open the heavens to bless the work I do. I know that without You, I can do nothing. I ask that You will open the heavens and pour out Your blessings and power over me. I give my work and my efforts to You, and I ask You for favor and blessing in anything my hands touch (surrender specific efforts to Him). May it be for Your glory alone so that others may see Your power and goodness at work.

Praying Romans 8:38-39

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39

Prayer

God, I am in awe of Your love for me. You are so great, and I am so small, yet You love me fully. I remind my soul today that nothing can separate me from Your love—I am so grateful! There is nothing I can do to win or lose Your love. You love me without condition. Because I know nothing on earth, in time or space, or anything in existence can separate me from Your love, I will live confidently and peacefully knowing I have always been and will always be fully loved by You.

Praying Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me,” declares the Lord.

ISAIAH 54:17

Prayer

Lord, I know that no weapon raised against me will succeed because I am Your child. I feel pressure in my life right now, and sometimes I feel as though life will overcome me (talk to God about the concerns weighing on you). Even though I feel this way, in faith, I claim Your promise that no weapon can overcome me and that any accusations that come against me will be silenced. This truth is verified by Your love and saving power in my life.

Praying Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Prayer

Father, my heart feels anxious (tell God what is giving you anxiety). I don't like this feeling, but I'm thankful I can come to You and receive peace. You invite me to replace my anxiety with prayer, and even though my mind and heart are racing, I come to You knowing that You provide healing and calm for my soul. Thank You for giving me breath and life. I thank You that I am fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image. I lay down all worries, all my physical and mental anxiety, and any attempt at trying to control it all (tell Him the things you are laying down right now). I surrender it all to You. I need You. I need Your peace that transcends my human understanding. Even if things are unstable around me, I pray that Your peace will be evident in my heart and my life. Guard my heart and mind, God. I trust that You are faithful, and I receive Your peace in my life today.

Praying Jeremiah 29:11-13

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord,

“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.”

JEREMIAH 29:11-13

Prayer

My God, I try to make so many plans for my life, but I know Your plans for me are best. You tell me that You have plans for me to prosper and have hope and a future. Thank You for loving me enough to have a plan for my life. You have promised me that when I call on You, You will listen to me. Thank You for listening when I pray. I am confident knowing that I serve a God who cares about my life. I want to find You every day, and You say that if I seek You with all my heart, I will find You. Thank You for showing me the way to You. I lay my plans down at Your feet and receive Your plans for me (mention your plans and lay them down before God). I know that You see the big picture and You know what is better for me than I do. I trust You, and I ask You to guide me toward Your plans.

Praying Hebrews 13:5

“Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

HEBREWS 13:5

Prayer

Father, I am so comforted by the fact that You will never leave me. You are always with me, and I am safe with You. As I go through my life and take on each new situation, I'm comforted knowing I'm not alone because You are by my side. Help me feel Your presence. When I feel uncertain or afraid, I pray You will comfort me through Your Holy Spirit and remind me that I am never alone because You, the Almighty God, have promised to always be with me.

Praying Matthew 11:28-30

Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I am so tired and worn out (tell God the things that are making you tired and weary). I feel exhausted mentally and physically. Life feels hard, and I feel like I can't keep up my current pace. You invite me to come to You when I am weary, and I fall at Your feet desperate for rest, peace and perspective. Show me where I am trying to do things on my own. Show me where I need to rest instead of strive. Teach me Your ways. Show me how to walk in gentleness, humility and rest. I know Your ways are higher than my ways, and I pray that You will transform my heart and mind to be more like You.

Praying Psalm 91:1-2

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”

PSALM 91:1-2

Prayer

God, I claim that I dwell in Your shelter, the Most High God, and I rest in Your shadow, the Almighty One. I claim that You alone are my refuge and fortress. You are my God and I trust You. When I face anything that brings me uncertainty or fear (confess these things to Him), I know that I can come to You as my safe place. Thank You for Your strength and protection in my life.

Praying Psalm 145:13-14

The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does. The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

PSALM 145:13-14

Prayer

Almighty God, as I claim the promises in Your Word through my prayer time, I praise You for Your character. Trustworthy, faithful—that is who You are. I thank You that I can trust You to be

faithful to me. I know that when I come to You with humility and a surrendered heart that You will lift me up.

A Prayer for Humility

“God blesses those who recognize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.”

— JESUS, MATTHEW 5:3

Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great or too awesome for me to grasp. Instead, I have calmed and quieted myself, like a weaned child who no longer cries for its mother's milk. Yes, like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, put your hope in the Lord— now and always.

PSALM 131, NLT

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up his divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11, NLT

Prayer:

Lord, I recognize my need for You.
More than anything, more than anyone— I need You.
Not just for help or direction, but because I was never meant
to live apart from You. So here I am—empty-handed and aware.
I can't fix it. I can't force it. And I don't want to fake it.
I just want to be with You. I want to be like You.

I know my heart is so proud. I know my eyes reveal the pride
in my heart. I chase after so many things that are beyond my
understanding. I want to be like the child in your arm who has
stopped crying for more,

I'm quieting my soul.
I'm learning to rest.
To trust. To let go.
You are near, and that is enough.

Jesus, You showed me how to do this.
Though You were God, You didn't cling to power.
You humbled Yourself. You became nothing—so we
might become whole.

And now You've been lifted high, and I gladly bow low.
There is no name greater. No life more beautiful.
No posture more powerful than surrender.

So I take the same attitude. I choose humility.
I lay down my pride, my striving, my need to be important.
And I trust You to lift up what needs lifting.
Jesus, I put my hope in You — now and always. Amen.

A Prayer for the Night

Answer me when I call to You, my Righteous God. Give me
relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

How long will you people turn my glory into shame?
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods? Know
that the Lord has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the
Lord hears when I call to him. Tremble and do not sin; when
you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Offer the
sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the Lord. Many, Lord,
are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light
of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their
grain and new wine abound. In peace I will lie down and
sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.

PSALM 4:1-8, NIV

Prayer

Father, as I end this day, I quiet my heart before You. Thank You for hearing me when I call. You see my distress, and You are my refuge. As I lie down tonight, I surrender every worry, every fear, and every burden to You. Shine the light of Your face upon me. Search my heart and make it clean. I trust You to protect me, provide for me, and give me rest. Fill me with Your peace and surround me with Your presence. Tonight, I sleep in safety—because You are near.

The Prayer of Jabez

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, “Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.” And God granted his request.

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

The Prayer of Jabez is a helpful model of a prayer we can pray every day.

1. Blessing

Jabez begins his prayer by asking God for His blessing. We need more of God's blessing to be better equipped to make a difference for His Kingdom. We need more provision, more spiritual gifting and more wisdom, so that we can bless others with what God has given us. James 4:2-3 tells us, "You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." God wants to bless us, but He is often waiting for us to ask with the right heart. We have a big God, and we can be bold in asking for His blessing. As James points out, God sees our heart, and when we ask for blessing with the motivation not only to help ourselves but to help others, this gets His attention.

Oh, that You would bless me...

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

Ask God for His blessing. Recognize your need for His provision, and set your heart toward wanting more than you need so that you can be a blessing to others.

Prayer

Father God, I pray that You would bless me with more than I need so that I can bless others. I pray for more provision, that You would equip me to give generously to others and meet their practical needs in Your Name. I ask You to give me greater spiritual gifting so that I can strengthen the church and be more effective for the Kingdom of God. I pray for an abundance of wisdom and discernment so that I can point others to You and make decisions that honor You. Help me keep Your generous

blessings in perspective, so that I never become self- serving staying focused on using what You've given me to serve other people.

2. Influence

Next, Jabez asks for more influence. As God's blessings increase in our lives, we ask for and experience greater opportunity to influence the world around us for Him. God has the power to bless us greatly, and He also has the power to open doors of opportunity for us to make a difference. We want to walk through doors that only He can open, and He responds when we specifically ask Him to give us more influence for His Name.

Enlarge my territory...

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

Pray for more influence. Knowing that God can make a way, trust in Him to open doors and lead you on the best path for your life and for His glory.

Prayer

God, make me effective in my sphere of influence. Open new doors for me to be able to influence and reach even more people (name any particular areas where you'd like to have more influence). Help me to be a good steward of the responsibility You've entrusted to me. I pray for greater territory to impact for Your glory.

3. Presence

In order to have lasting influence, we need God's presence in our lives. Through His power at work within us, God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). As we ask for blessing and influence, we also need to ask for His presence as Jabez did so that we are not operating out of our own strength but through the presence and the hand of our Almighty God.

Let Your hand be with me...

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

In humility, acknowledge your need for God's presence. Depend on Him and ask for more of Him in your life today.

Prayer

Lord, I know that without You, I am nothing. I cannot do what You've called me to do on my own. I am desperate for Your presence in my life. I depend on You completely. I recognize that the same Spirit who raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives in me. Through the power of Your Spirit, I pray that You will help me succeed in the opportunities You've given me. Thank You for being with me. I would never want to face today without You.

4. Protection

Finally, Jabez asks the Lord to protect him. If we are influencing the world for Jesus, we must understand the enemy will try to stop us. This leads us to pray that God will not only help us if the enemy attacks, but that He will protect us from the enemy attacking us in the first place. Jesus has already won the victory so we don't need to fear destruction. God promises to be with us and protect us, and because He is with us we have nothing to fear.

Keep me from harm.

1 CHRONICLES 4:10

Trust God to protect you. Tell Him specific areas where you feel the need for His protection and ask Him to cover areas that you can't yet see.

Prayer

God, as I walk out the purpose You have for my life, I pray that You will stop any and every attack of the enemy against me. Please protect my body, my mind and my emotions. Don't let the enemy get a foothold in my life. I pray, too, that You will protect my family and community from harm. I know that the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world, so I have nothing to fear. Thank You for watching over me. I love You and I trust You.

Spiritual Warfare Prayers

Prayer is not only communion with God; it's also confrontation with the enemy. When Jesus was on the earth, He came face-to-face with the devil when He was tempted in the wilderness (see Matthew 4 and Luke 4). Every time the enemy tried to tempt Him, Jesus responded with a reference from the Bible. He used the Sword of Truth to defend Himself from the enemy's attacks. Consider that in these exchanges, Jesus didn't confront the devil as God. He confronted the devil as a man with the Word of God. We should do the same thing. These spiritual warfare prayers and verses are examples we can use and adapt to our specific situations when we or someone we know is under attack from the devil.

1. The Armor of God

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17

Knowing that we're in a spiritual battle, God provides spiritual armor and equips us for the battles that come our way.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around.

EPHESIANS 6:11-18

Acknowledge that you're in a spiritual battle. Then, claim the protection God has given you by praying through the different pieces of armor described in Ephesians 6.

Prayer

Thank You, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You, and I declare that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ and the place I have in Your Kingdom. I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Cover me with Your holiness and purity—defend me from all attacks against my heart. Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Expose the lies I have believed, and show me Your truth today. I choose to live for the Gospel in every moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Give me strength to walk daily with You. I believe that You are powerful against every lie and attack of the enemy and I receive and claim your power in my life. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the traps of the enemy. Bring those Scriptures to mind today. Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day.

2. The Weapons of Warfare

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

When we are aware of spiritual warfare, we can be active in praying through it. God has given us victory and power to fight through the blood of Jesus.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5

You can command anything that comes against the truth of God and His Word to bow to the Name of Jesus. Take a bold stand, praying specifically and confidently through God's power and His Spirit.

Prayer

Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against me will prosper (Isaiah 54:17), and I declare it in Jesus' Name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). I declare in Jesus' Name that Satan cannot make trouble for me again like he has in the past. I declare in the Name of Jesus that all of these prayers are answered and taken care of by trusting You.

I stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from me; from my home, workplace, church family, children and loved ones. I declare that he is not able to stand against me. No weapon formed against me will prosper, because the Spirit of the Lord is with me, protecting me. I declare these truths in the Name of Jesus. Anything that comes against me or my family that is not in line with the truth and will of God, I command to bow to the powerful Name of Jesus. Father God, I give You all of my thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor and worship. Thank You for loving me, making me clean and giving me purpose.

3. Protection Prayer

2 Thessalonians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:3-5; Romans 12:1-2

We often worry about our safety and protection. When we feel this way, we can immediately come to God in prayer, pouring out our heart to Him and asking for and claiming protection for ourselves and our families in Jesus' Name.

But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen
and protect you from the evil one.

2 THESSALONIANS 3:3

Share your thoughts and concerns with God. Ask Him for His supernatural protection. He says He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways (Psalm 91:11). Claim this promise and lay everything down before Him trusting His good plans and His power to protect you and those you love.

Prayer

God, I bow in worship to praise You. Thank You for making a way for me through Your Son, Jesus. I surrender myself completely in every area of my life to You. I submit myself to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of the enemy in my life. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I reject every thought that tries to compete against the knowledge of Christ. I pray and thank You for a sound mind, the mind of Christ.

Today and every day I ask for protection over my family, friends, loved ones and myself. I ask for protection during all of our travels. I ask You to watch over our financial security, possessions, health and safety (be as specific here as you like). All that I have is Yours God, and I declare that Satan cannot touch me or anything You have given me. I rebuke the enemy and tell him to bow to the

blood of Jesus that covers me and my family. He will not take what You have given us and we are protected and provided for by You, God, and You alone.

4. Confession Prayer

Based on Romans 10:10; James 5:16; I John 1:7-9, 3:8

Our sin separates us from God, yet Jesus made a way for us to be reunited with God by dying on the cross to cover our sin. When we accept the gift of salvation we confess our sin, and as Christians, confessing and repenting of sin is something we continue to do. By coming clean and repenting before God, He is able to work in our lives and transform us into His image. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 JOHN 1:9

Assume a posture of humility, and without fear of condemnation or punishment, come sincerely to God confessing your sin on a regular basis. Whether your sin feels big or small to you, your sin is still sin and affects your relationship with God. You get His attention when you tell Him your sin and turn from that sin to follow Him. After you confess, remind yourself and claim the power of the blood of Jesus in your life to wash you clean and make you new.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, I confess all of my sins to You. I repent and turn away from them. I'm sorry for the wrong I have done. I confess the times I should have stepped up to do right and did nothing instead. I lay

it all down at Your feet. I submit my thoughts, words, actions and inactions to You. Thank You, God, for forgiving and making a way for me through Your Son, Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. You died on the cross for my sins and rose to life again on the third day. I confess all my sins and repent. I receive Your forgiveness and ask You to cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, setting me free, making me holy and giving my life purpose.

5. Forgiveness Prayer

Based on Matthew 6:14-15; Leviticus 19:18

Forgiveness can feel challenging, yet God makes it clear in the Bible that He freely forgives us and we are expected to do the same for others.

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

MATTHEW 6:14-15

Come before the Lord with humility, honesty and sincerity. Share the areas in your life where you need to forgive others. Even if you aren't able to settle a situation with that person, you can settle it with the Lord, letting them off the hook by forgiving them. As you choose to forgive those who have hurt or offended you, you can also praise and thank God for forgiving you when you didn't deserve it.

Prayer

Lord, I have a confession to make. I haven't loved others well.

I have resented certain people and have not forgiven them in my heart. God, I know that You have forgiven me for so much, and I need Your help to follow You and forgive others. In faith, I now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself because You have made me new in the Name of Jesus.

6. Pride Prayer

Based on Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 26:12; 1 Timothy 3:6

The Bible tells us that pride comes before the fall. Pride can be a very real issue in our lives, but we have the power to overcome it through Jesus.

When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.

PROVERBS 11:2

Practicing humility requires overcoming pride in our lives. Just as you confess other sins, regularly confess your pride to God. Submit it to Him, asking Him to help you walk in humility, free of pride and self-absorption. If you feel like pride is an issue that continues to surface in your life, confess it daily and bring it before God.

Prayer

Father God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I know pride keeps me from You. I put down anything that would cause me to have pride in my heart in dealing with other people. Help me to prioritize others over myself. I ask you God, to remind me daily that true humility is not thinking less of myself, it's thinking of

myself less. I humble myself before You and come to You like a child.

7. Generational Bondage Prayer

Based on Exodus 20:4-6, 34:7;

Numbers 14:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1, 12:1

Generational bondage is sin that can be passed down from generation to generation. Whether it's pride, addiction, divorce, abandonment, sexual sin or something else, through spiritual warfare, you can claim the power of Jesus to stop the sin with your generation not passing it on to anyone else in your family.

You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

EXODUS 20:4-6

Recognize the generational bondage that might be in your life and bring it before God. Ask for His power to defeat the sin that has affected generations of your family. Ask for it to stop right now, with you, and rebuke any sin or anything that tries to pull you away from your relationship with Christ. Pray for protection, healing and a new path for you and your family.

Prayer

Father God, I understand that I have inherited certain consequences from my family. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I proclaim Your power to break any hold of mental or physical illness, pride, addiction and anything else on me and my family that are a result of sin being passed down through parents, grandparents or other family members (if specifics come to mind, talk to God about it). I proclaim that all generational sin ends here and now, and that I will not pass these on to anyone in my family. Thank You, Lord, for setting me free and making a new way for me and my family.

8. Healing Prayer

Based on 1 Peter 2:24; Psalm 103:2-5; Luke 1:37

Our God is a God of miracles. Just as we read about in the Bible, we still see Him perform miraculous healing today. He is our healer, and we can confidently approach Him asking for healing for ourselves or someone we know.

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—
who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who
redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love
and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good
things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

PSALM 103:2-5

In faith, ask God for healing. Proclaim His power and goodness, believing and trusting Him to take care of you or those you're praying for to be healed.

Prayer

Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before You asking for healing (name yourself or someone you are praying to experience healing). My hope is in You as our healer. I believe You are able to do this. Your name is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, and I believe every knee will bow to You including the name of (name disease or disorder). Thank You, Jesus, for dying on the cross so that we can receive healing. You say that You forgive our sins and heal our diseases, and I praise You for this. Thank You that the spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in us. I stand in faith believing for healing for (yourself or someone you're praying for). Nothing is impossible for You, God! Give us peace and direction as You work in our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

9. Marriage Prayer

Based on Ephesians 5:25-30

God created marriage, and His design for it is good. In marriage, just as in any human relationship, we have to work to love well. We can't do this successfully in our own power. We need God, who is love Himself, to give us His Holy Spirit and to guide us in our marriage. Marriage is a picture of Jesus Christ and His bride, the Church. As Christian husbands and wives, we have the high honor to represent the love and commitment Christ has for the Church through our love and commitment to each other.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her, that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the Word, so that He might present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands

should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church.

EPHESIANS 5:25-30 (ESV)

Thank God for your marriage. Start by asking Him to help you be the best spouse you can be. Ask Him to help you love well and to see your spouse as He sees them. Then, pray for your marriage, asking God to use your marriage to impact the world for Him. Ask Him for protection physically, spiritually and emotionally. Pray for unity in your marriage and wisdom from Him about how to live your lives as one. Bring to Him anything in your marriage that concerns you, and trust Him to work on your behalf.

Prayer

Thank You, God, for loving us, and for creating marriage to be an illustration of Your love for us here on earth. Help me, God, to love my spouse (call them by name) the way You love me. Help me to listen to my spouse, give honor and put my spouse before myself. Protect us physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We ask You to build greater unity between us, make us stronger as a couple, more devoted to one another and to You. Use us God, build us up to be an example of what Godly marriage can look like. Use us together to do more than we could ever do apart. We ask for greater influence and more impact on the people around us. We ask you to work through us in the lives of our friends, family and even those far away.

Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and move through us to bring those far from You closer, so they can encounter the Living God, who seeks and saves the lost, and who sets us free and gives us purpose.

We choose as a couple to love You first, God. We put our relationship with You before anything and everything else. We confess our need for You. Thank You for bringing us together. We choose to love one another today and every day. Thank You for our marriage. We ask You to bless it, build it and be present in it always.

The Prayer for the Betrayed and Distressed

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea; hear me and answer me. My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught because of what my enemy is saying, because of the threats of the wicked; for they bring down suffering on me and assail me in their anger. My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen on me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest. I would flee far away and stay in the desert; I would hurry to my place of shelter, far from the tempest and storm." Lord, confuse the wicked, confound their words, for I see violence and strife in the city. Day and night they prowl about on its walls; malice and abuse are within it. Destructive forces are at work in the city; threats and lies never leave its streets. If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers. Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the realm of the dead, for evil finds lodging among them. As for me, I call to God, and the LORD saves me. Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice. He rescues me unharmed from the battle

waged against me, even though many oppose me. God, who is enthroned from of old, who does not change—he will hear them and humble them, because they have no fear of God. My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant. His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords. Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken. But you, God, will bring down the wicked into the pit of decay; the bloodthirsty and deceitful will not live out half their days. But as for me, I trust in you.

PSALM 55:1–23, NIV

Prayer

Father, listen to my prayer. I bring You my troubled heart. You know the weight I carry—the betrayal, the pain, the fear that overwhelms me. I wish I could just fly away to a quiet place of rest. Don't ignore my cry. I'm overwhelmed—my thoughts trouble me and my heart is heavy. You see the violence, the lies, the broken promises. You know the pain of being betrayed by a friend, someone who once walked beside me. You understand this wound, and You care.

But Lord, You are my shelter in the storm. Morning, noon and night, I bring my distress to You. I know You hear me. I know You rescue me. I will not be undone by the chaos around me, because You are constant. You are just. You are near. I lay every burden at Your feet—every fear, every loss, every wound. I will not carry it anymore. You have promised to sustain me, to hold me securely. I hold on to the truth that You are trustworthy. I give my burdens to you for you will take care of me. You will not permit me to slip and fall. I will not be shaken, because I trust in You.

Time–Honored Prayers

The Apostles Creed

The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest and most unifying statements of Christian faith. Though not written by the apostles themselves, it reflects their teachings and was used as a baptismal confession in the early church, likely formed between the 2nd and 4th centuries.

For centuries, Christians across denominations have recited this creed as a public declaration of faith, anchoring believers in the essentials of the gospel. It connects the global Church across time and space in shared belief.

“I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.”

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,”

and believe in your heart that God raised
him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9, NIV

The Jesus Prayer

The Jesus Prayer is a short, ancient invocation that early followers of Jesus repeated continuously as a way to remain in unceasing communion with God. Today, it is still used around the world as a way to quiet the soul and rest in God's mercy. Practiced as both a breath prayer and a tool for inner stillness, it draws on Scripture's call to cry out for mercy and centers the heart on Christ.

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

“God, have mercy on me, a sinner!”

LUKE 18:13

The Prayer of Abandonment (“Totally Yours”)

Pope John Paul II (1920–2005) adopted the motto *Totus Tuus* (“Totally Yours”) as a reflection of his complete devotion to Jesus. His life and ministry were marked by deep surrender, rooted in suffering, prayer, and unwavering faith in Christ.

“Holy Spirit,
Live in me, Act in me,
Speak in me and through me,
Think your thoughts in my mind,
Love through my heart,
Give me your dispositions and feelings, Teach, lead me and
guide me to Jesus, Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts
and behavior, Possess my soul,
Take over my entire personality and life,

replace it with Yourself,
Incline me to constant adoration,
Pray in me and through me,
Let me live in you and keep me in this union always.
Amen.”

“Not my will, but yours, be done.”

LUKE 22:42

The Prayer of Mary

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is honored throughout Christian history for her humility, obedience, and faith. Chosen to carry the Son of God, she responded not with fear, but with surrender and worship. Her prayer, “The Magnificat,” recorded in the Gospel of Luke, is the earliest recorded hymn of the New Testament and has become one of the most enduring songs of praise in Christian liturgy.

Mary prayed this prayer after her cousin Elizabeth greeted her with awe, affirming her role as the mother of the Messiah. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Mary erupted into worship—not only rejoicing in what God had done for her, but proclaiming what God does for the lowly and oppressed. This prayer echoes Old Testament songs like Hannah’s (1 Samuel 2) and reveals Mary’s deep knowledge of Scripture and confidence in God’s covenant faithfulness. It has become a model of trust, praise, and radical hope in the kingdom of God.

And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has

scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

LUKE 1:46–55

“Do whatever He tells you.”

MARY, JOHN 2:5 (ESV)

The Prayer of St. Francis

St. Francis of Assisi (c. 1181–1226) was known for his humility, poverty, and love for God and His creation. The spirit of this prayer matches his life and message: to become an instrument of God’s peace. It calls us not just to seek peace, but to become it.

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury,
pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life. Amen.”

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

MATTHEW 5:9

The Praises of God

The Praises of God is also believed to have been composed by St. Francis in the final years of his life, likely during a time of illness and physical suffering. It is a pure outpouring of adoration—naming the attributes of God without any mention of self or asking for things. This prayer of praise reveals an awe of God’s goodness and faithfulness, and it invites worshippers to exalt God for who He is.

You are holy, Lord, the only God,
and your deeds are wonderful. You are strong.
You are great. You are the Most High, You are almighty.
You, holy Father, are King of heaven and earth.
You are Three and One, Lord God, all good.
You are good, all good, supreme good, Lord God,
living and true. You are love, You are wisdom,
You are humility,
You are endurance
You are rest, You are peace.
You are joy and gladness.
You are justice and moderation.
You are all our riches, and you suffice for us.
You are beauty.
You are gentleness.
You are our protector,
You are our guardian and defender.
You are courage.
You are our haven and our hope.
You are our faith, our great consolation.

You are our eternal life, great and wonderful Lord,
God almighty, merciful Savior.

The Prayer of John Wesley – Covenant Prayer

This prayer of surrender was introduced to Heartland Church on Day 3 of the 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, by one of our Covering Pastors, Dr. JoAnne Lyon.

John Wesley (1703–1791), founder of the Methodist movement, wrote this prayer for a prayer service held on Monday, August 11, 1755, in London, with 1,800 people present. Soon this prayer was being prayed, again and again, uniting the hearts of believers to allow God to employ them to change the world. As a result in the years to follow, there came a great spiritual revival in the UK that brought about many systemic societal changes, including the abolishment of child labor, and the abolishment of slavery.

This is a prayer of deep surrender of ourselves in complete trust to God. At first use, the words of the prayer can be jarring and discomforting. Open your heart to God and pray these words until you mean them in your heart.

“I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside
for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy
Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.”

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

ROMANS 12:1

The Prayer of Sojourner Truth – A Prayer for Trusting God

Formerly enslaved, Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) became a powerful voice for abolition and women's rights, fueled by deep prayer and prophetic conviction. This prayer was reportedly spoken aloud by Truth as she walked alone toward Washington D.C., trusting God to provide food, shelter, and strength for her mission.

“Oh God, you know I have no money, but you can make the people do for me, and you must make the people do for me. I will never leave preaching while I live. When I go to the horse trough, I always find water; and when I go to the Lord, I always find His mercy.”

“I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.”

PSALM 37:25 ESV

The Prayer of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman – A Prayer: “Open Unto Me”

The Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman (1899–1981) was a theologian, preacher, and one of the most influential spiritual mentors of the 20th century. He served as Dean of Chapel at both Howard University and Boston University—the first Black man to hold such a position at a major U.S. university. As a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and co-founder of the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples (the first intentionally

interracial interfaith congregation in the U.S.), Thurman's influence reached deeply into the Civil Rights Movement. His contemplative vision shaped generations of spiritual leaders, combining justice and intimacy with God.

"Open Unto Me" is one of Thurman's most beloved meditative prayers, found in his classic devotional *Meditations of the Heart*. This prayer names the deep needs of the human soul—fear, sorrow, weakness, hatred—and invites God to respond not just with help, but with God's own presence.

Open unto me — light for my darkness.
Open unto me — courage for my fear.
Open unto me — hope for my despair.
Open unto me — peace for my turmoil.
Open unto me — joy for my sorrow.
Open unto me — strength for my weakness.
Open unto me — wisdom for my confusion.
Open unto me — forgiveness for my sins.
Open unto me — tenderness for my toughness.
Open unto me — love for my hates.
Open unto me — Thy Self for my self.
Lord, Lord, open unto me!

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

MATTHEW 7:7

The Prayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – A Prayer that Open Hearts

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929–1968) was a Baptist pastor, theologian, and leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. He called the church to confront injustice with love, nonviolence, and deep moral courage to act—for the church to be more than a place of worship and comfort, but a force of transformation in the world.

These prayer excerpts are drawn from handwritten pastoral prayers King wrote for the radio broadcasts of the services of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta and public events.

“Thou Eternal God, out of whose absolute power and infinite intelligence the whole universe has come into being, we humbly confess that we have not loved thee with our hearts, souls and minds, and we have not loved our neighbors as Christ loved us. We have all too often lived by our own selfish impulses rather than by the life of sacrificial love as revealed by Christ. We often give in order to receive. We love our friends and hate our enemies. We go the first mile but dare not travel the second. We forgive but dare not forget. And so as we look within ourselves, we are confronted with the appalling fact that the history of our lives is the history of an eternal revolt against you. But thou, O God, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for what we could have been but failed to be. Give us the intelligence to know your will. Give us the courage to do your will. Give us the devotion to love your will.”

“Lord, we thank You for Your Church, founded upon Your Word, that challenges us to do more than sing and pray—help us to go out and work as though the very answer to our prayers depended on us and not upon Thee.”

“Give us the courage to stand up for truth and righteousness, even when the consequences may be severe. Grant that we will go on with the faith that the right will always win. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.”

“But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

AMOS 5:24 ESV

The Prayer of Mother Teresa – The Prayer of Love

Teresa of Calcutta, affectionately known as “Mother Teresa,” was a Catholic nun and missionary who founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. Her life was marked by radical compassion and service to the poorest of the poor in India and beyond. Though she became a global icon of mercy, her personal journals revealed a deep interior struggle with spiritual doubt—making her prayers of faith and love even more poignant.

This short, intimate prayer was offered by Mother Teresa as a daily expression of personal devotion. It’s simple and unadorned—just as her life was—but it opens a window into the childlike trust and surrendered love that defined her mission. Meditate and repeat this prayer for an extended period to let Christ’s love fill your heart and mind.

“My Lord Jesus, in my heart I believe
in Your tender love for me. I love You.”

“We love because He first loved us.”

1 JOHN 4:19

Prayers in the Midst of Suffering

The Prayer of Serenity

This prayer, attributed to American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr (1892–1971), has become a spiritual anchor for millions. Originally written in the 1930s, it was adopted widely by Alcoholics Anonymous and recovery communities for its clarity and wisdom. Its simple words have comforted people facing impossible situations—reminding them to release what they cannot change, engage what they can, and trust God with the rest.

“God, grant me the serenity to accept
the things I cannot change, courage to change
the things I can, and wisdom to know
the difference. Living one day at a time,
enjoying one moment at a time; accepting
hardship as a pathway to peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will; so that I may
be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever and ever in the next. Amen.”

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

The Sufferer's Prayer

As daily I walk the Way of Your Cross, Jesus,
I see you pray, "Father, if there is any way I don't
have to go through this..."
Oh Lord, if there is any way, remove this suffering from me.
But I say with you, "Not as I will, but as you will."
Whether my body is lying on a bed, frail and broken body,
Whether I am fever-burnt; in hours of pain,
Whether I suffer betrayal from someone who shared my bread,
Whether I endure false accusations from the arrogant,
Whether I experience the denial and abandonment
by closets friends,
Whether I am flogged by those who know I am innocent,
Whether I am mocked, ridiculed and abused,
Whether I am crushed under the weight of death itself,
I accept in humility whatever help and compassion you send
through strangers as though it were from God himself.
For I am learning with You, Jesus, for You learned obedience to
Your Father's will through what you suffered.
This is my body, Jesus. Lift it on high with You.
Receive each muffled groan and every sigh,
For suffering endured helps me in who I am becoming,
I am becoming like You, my Savior, in my flesh.
I join you in your suffering, as you bled and fell over and over.
I join myself with Jesus on His cross so nothing of my pain is
ever lost. I forgive those with Jesus, for they do not know what
they do. In my pain, offer mercy to others who need it.
In my suffering, I consider the needs of my loved ones.
In my disappointment, I do not give up on those who
let me down. I will finish my assignment
faithfully, until my final breath.

I will trust you, my Savior because death is not the end.
Every day I walk this Way with You,
Each day as I stay on Your path,
Every time there is a resurrection in the end.
I put my hope and trust in You, Jesus,
Now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer for One Near Death

In the name of the Almighty Father who made
you, in the name of Jesus Christ, who suffered for you,
and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who has
filled you and carried you with grace.

Go in peace into your true home, prepared
for you before the foundation of the world,
in the power of the Holy Spirit,
into the Arms of Jesus, into the Presence of God in His holy
city, Angels of the Lord, welcome them with joy.
Saints of God, surround them now.
Let them hear in their soul now,

You are not alone.
You are going home.
Well done, good and faithful servant,
Enter into the joy of your Lord.

A Prayer for Those Who Mourn

God of all comfort,
we bring You our sorrow and our gratitude.

We thank You for the life of Your servant, [Name],
whom You have now called home.

We trust them to Your mercy—
forgiving what was broken,
and receiving them into the place of rest,
where light and peace replace all fear and pain.
You are the keeper of promises,
the One who welcomed Abraham
and welcomes us still.

So we entrust [Name] to Your safekeeping
until the day when You make all things new—
and raise them up with all the saints
to inherit what You've prepared from the beginning.
And now, Lord, we pray for those of us who remain.
You are the Father of mercies and the God who comforts us in
all our pain.

So come near to this family.
Be their strength when words run out.
Be their shelter when the storm of grief hits hardest.
Lift them into the peace of Your presence.
Let them feel Your arms even in the ache of absence.
Jesus, You went before us in death, and You
broke its power once and for all.

Because You rose, we have hope—not just for someday,
but for right now. Help us to walk forward, pressing on
toward the day when every tear is wiped away and we are
reunited with those we love in the joy of Your kingdom.

We pray this in the name of Jesus,
our risen Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Road Ahead

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.

Still I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please
you. And I want to have that desire in all that I am doing.

I pray that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

I know this, that if I trust You, You will lead me by the
right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Today, again, I will trust you, though I may seem
to be lost and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are always with me,

and you will never leave me to face anything alone.

In Your precious name, Amen.

The Doxology

Glory to the Father, and the Son,
And the Holy Spirit
As always before,
So now and evermore.
Amen.

Praying For Those Who Need God

God desires for everyone to know Him. As followers of Christ, we are called to partner with Him in praying for those who don't know Him to come to know Him and accept the free gift of salvation.

1. Ask the Father to draw them to Jesus

God draws people to Himself. It's not something we can make happen based on our own efforts, so we need to be faithful in praying that the Father would draw those He's placed on our hearts to Jesus.

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws them...”

JOHN 6:44 NIV

Prayer

“Father, I pray for the people around me (list specific names), that You would supernaturally draw their hearts to You. Send Your Holy Spirit to them, and give them the desire to give their lives to You. Help them to recognize their longing for more in life as a spiritual thirst only You can quench. Open their ears to hear Your voice.”

2. Bind the spirit that blinds their minds

The truth can be right in front of some people, and they still can't see it because something is in the way, blocking their view of God. We can pray

against whatever is in their way so that they can see the light of God.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:4 NIV

Prayer

“Father, bind the evil spirits that are blinding the minds of the people around me. In the name of Jesus, I pray that they would be able to see clearly, to recognize who You are, and to give their hearts to You. Remove all hindrances the enemy would use to distract them from Your truth. Open their eyes, Lord, that they might see Jesus.”

3. Pray that they may have a personal relationship with God

God came so that everyone could have a relationship with Him. God wants His sons and daughters to come home to Him. Praying for people to have personal encounters with God makes all the difference.

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by Him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

ROMANS 8:15 NIV

Prayer

“Father, I pray that people will understand how much You love them. Loose the Spirit of Adoption for the people around me, so that they come into a meaningful relationship with You. Stir in their hearts a longing to come home, to hear Your voice, and to see You welcoming them with open arms. Let them know You are always running to meet them and hold them close.”

04. Pray for believers to cross their paths

This step is twofold. We can pray for other Christians to influence the people around them positively, and we can also look for opportunities to influence others positively ourselves. God’s plan to reach people is worked out through those who already know and love Him.

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

MATTHEW 9:38 NIV

Prayer

“Father, I pray for the lost around me to meet believers who will influence them in a positive way. Lord, let my life shine in such a way that people want to know the God I serve. Allow others to see my genuine love and concern for them in all that I say and do. Let me be Your hands and feet to serve them and let them know just how much You love them.”

05. Release the Spirit of wisdom and revelation on them, so they may know God better

People need to see their own sin, see what Jesus did on the cross, and see the hope that comes from giving their life to God. We can pray for this kind of spiritual revelation that only comes from God.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation, so that you may know Him better.

EPHESIANS 1:17 NIV

Prayer

“Father, I pray for the people around me to experience the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation. I pray that they would truly understand their spiritual condition and see what Jesus did for them on the cross. Help them to have the information and experiences needed to come to You, so they can understand all You have for them.”

Personal Prayer Focus

God has put us on the earth at this specific time for a reason. Knowing this, we can look at those around us at this time in history and take personal responsibility to pray.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4 NIV

Pray for those in authority and those under your authority.

Pray for those in your family and your circle of influence.

Write down the names of specific people and pray for them.

My Government

President

National Leaders

State Leaders

City Leaders

My Family

Spouse

Children

Parents

Siblings

Extended Family

My Church

Pastor

Small Group Leader

Small Group Members

My Life

Employer

Coworkers

Employees

Teachers/Professors

Close Friends

Those Who Need God
