

PRAY FIRST: A GUIDE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER



Personal Prayers

Praying God's Word

Prayer is conversation with God. It allows us to be ready to face anything that happens. These prayers will help in various areas of your life. We encourage you to look up the scriptures and read them as part of your slot and spot.

ARMOR OF GOD

(based on Ephesians 6:13-17)

Do you ever feel like you are left to face difficulties alone? God gives us spiritual armor that we are able to “put on” every day and in every situation we face.

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 power against every lie and attack of the enemy, and I receive and claim your power in my life. Nothing that is coming today can overcome me because you are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counteract the traps of the enemy. Bring those scriptures to my 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.”*

WEAPONS OF WARFARE

(based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

Are there moments when you are facing temptation and you want to know how to make the enemy leave? The power that is in you through Jesus is greater than anything you face.

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 challenges me or my family and 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.”*

HOPELESSNESS

(based on Psalms 34)

Has there been a season in your life where you have felt completely hopeless? When you felt weak, beaten down, or didn't want to continue on? God wants to come close to you. He will carry the burdens for you and transform your hopelessness into hope for the future.

PRAYER: *“Father God, I am thankful for your love and faithfulness each and every day. I recognize that in some way I have fallen short of your glory and I ask for your forgiveness. Your word assures me*

that you are 'close to the broken hearted and save those who are crushed in spirit.' (Psalm 34:18) I thank you that in my brokenness you speak most clearly to me and provide a path forward. 'For when I am weak you are strong' in my life. (2 Corinthians 12:10) I praise you for transforming my brokenness into your glory! When I am broken you speak new life into my soul. 'May these dry broken bones come to life as I hear the word of the Lord' (Ezekiel 37:4) in this storm of my life. Thank you for your forgiveness, mercy and grace! To God be the glory! In Jesus' name."

MARRIAGE

(based on Ephesians 5:31-33)

Is your marriage not what you thought it would be? Are there things in your relationship that need to be healed? 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 guide us in our marriage.

PRAYER: *"Heavenly Father, I thank you for your faithfulness, kindness, and daily provisions. I thank you for the gift of marriage. Your word says 'a cord of three strands cannot be easily broken.' (Ecclesiastes 4:12). I ask for forgiveness for not making you Lord of my marriage. Help me to be who you've equipped me to be, so I am able to love my spouse the way they need to be loved. Please strengthen us as a couple, reminding us to sacrifice for each other daily, so we can be a reflection of Jesus' love for his bride, the church. In Jesus' name."*

RACIAL RECONCILIATION

(based on Ephesians 4:3-6; Mark 12:28-31; Psalm 139:23-24)

God created every person in his image on purpose and for a purpose. We are all unique and have value in the eyes of God. We need to do our part to foster reconciliation, advocate for equality, and work to ensure that every person is treated with dignity, respect, and honor.

PRAYER: *“Father, I recognize that you created every person in your image and that you have great purpose for each of us. I ask you to help me see every person as you see them. Help me to love others with the unconditional love of Jesus and to make every effort to promote peace, unity, and equality for all people. Forgive me for the times that I have not valued others or spoken up for what is right. Give me boldness to confront inequity when I see it and to honor others in my thoughts, words, and actions. Help me to love my neighbor as myself and to be an ambassador for reconciliation, as you have called me to be. I ask you to break the spirit of racism and division off of our nation, in Jesus’ name. Thank you for making us one by the blood of Jesus and the power of your Spirit.”*

ADDICTION

(based on Jeremiah 17:14; John 14:27; Matthew 11:28-29; James 5:15-16)

Do you feel like your addiction is who you are? Do you feel like no matter how hard you try to resist the pull, you cannot turn from it? You are NOT your addiction. You are who God says you are. A child of God, created for a purpose, bought with a price. There will be victory in this part of your life.

PRAYER: *“God, I do not want this addiction to dictate my life any longer. I am tired of hiding, lying, and living in less than your best for me. Please help me to claim your promises and words over my life. I am sorry I’ve chosen to listen to the lies of the enemy. Help me to see what you see in me. Help me to give my burdens to you instead of distracting myself with my addiction. All things are possible with you. All things are created new when you come into focus. The next time I reach for (identify your addiction), give me strength to resist and reach for you instead. Stay with me on my road to recovery. I want you to have the glory of my life. I want you to have the victory when I am living clean and pure before you.”*