

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for THE MILITARY



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

Prayer Guide: Praying for The Military
Copyright © 2011, PrayerPower, Dallas, Texas

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for

THE MILITARY

PrayerPower

P.O. Box 801368, Dallas, TX 75380-1368

1-800-949-PRAY

www.learntoprayer.org

Prayers from God's Word

These Bible-based prayers have been written in a way that makes them easy to pray. They include requests for not only practical, material needs, but for deeper spiritual needs as well. Because they are written from Scripture, they express God's will. And when we pray His will, He promises to answer! (1 John 5:14-15)

Easy Ways to Use These Prayers

- Read them just as they appear:
“It's hard to be away from family and friends. Keep them connected over the miles.” (Ephesians 6:22)
- Use them as an outline for your personal prayer.

Pray a sentence or two, just enough to present a complete thought. Then add your own personal prayer, before moving on to the next thought:

“It's hard to be away from family and friends. Keep them connected over the miles.” (Ephesians 6:22)

You might add something like— *“Help their love for one another to grow stronger in spite of the distance between them.”*

Table of Contents

Prayers

Protect Them	2
Secure Their Armor	3
Give Them Courage	4
Direct Their Paths	5
Keep Them Ready	6
Strengthen Their Families	7
Encourage the Lonely	8
Comfort the Hurting	9
Hear Their Prayers	10
Save the Lost	11
Keep Them Pure	12
Guard Their Integrity	13
Make Them Examples	14
Guide Their Leaders	15
As You Pray These Prayers...	16-17
Are You a Child of God?	18

Protect Them

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

The Bible tells us You are our rock, our fortress, and our shield. They need You to be all these things and more! They don't have to be in the heat of battle to be in danger; the world is a dangerous place wherever they are.

(Psalm 18:2)

Help them to run under Your wings when they face danger of any kind. Help them to stay in constant touch with You, living in Your presence. Then send Your angels to surround them and guard them wherever they go!

(Psalm 57:1; 91:4, 1-2, 9, 11; 2 Kings 6:17)

Help them to turn to You as their refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Go before them and protect them from behind. Be their shade from the heat, their shelter from the storm, their hiding place—protect them from trouble. Watch over them, for You never sleep. Their lives are in Your hands; may they trust in You and not be afraid. (Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 52:12; 25:4;

Psalm 32:7; 121:4-5; 31:15; 56:11)

Keep them safe. In Jesus' name, amen.

Secure Their Armor

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

I know Satan is real, and there is spiritual warfare going on all around them—so help them to be strong in You and Your tremendous power. Their battles are not only in the physical realm, but they're fighting against the devil and his evil forces in the spiritual world—a battleground that they can't even see! (Ephesians 6:10, 12)

Help them to put on Your full armor daily as their protection—Your truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation—that are meant to be more than words. Help them to live so that these things are real and make a difference in their lives. (Ephesians 6:13-17)

May they realize they need Your armor, and wear it every day as a way of life. Keep them clothed in Your armor; then help them to take up the assignment You give them for battle: to pray! Help them to pray all the time and to remember that verses from the Bible are the best weapons for prayer—for the sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:18, 17)

Help them to stand firm. In Jesus' name, amen.

Give Them Courage

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

When there seems to be no way out of the troubles they're facing, give them the faith to believe that You will make a way. May they be confident that You are with them, and never be afraid—confident that You will strengthen and help them, hold them steady, keep a firm hold on them. Thank You for promising no one can snatch us out of Your hand! (Isaiah 43:1-2, 5; 41:10; John 10:28-29)

Help them to take heart, knowing that You have a plan and purpose for their lives. You've said in the Bible that what You plan, You will do. May that give them courage and confidence to trust that no matter what happens, You will accomplish what You plan to do. (Jeremiah 29:11; Isaiah 46:11; Psalm 57:2)

Give them the courage of David, who went after Goliath because he knew the battle was Yours, not his. He had the slingshot, but You made sure his aim was right! May they count on You to fight their battles for them.

(1 Samuel 17:34-37, 45-50)

Keep them strong in heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

Direct Their Paths

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

When their days are filled with stress and confusion, help them to know what to do, where to go, which way to turn. Help them hear You saying clearly—“This is the way, walk in it.” (Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:20-21)

They need to be able to recognize that it’s You when You speak to their hearts, so help them to come like sheep to their shepherd, listening and willing to follow where You lead. (John 10:2-4; Psalm 23:1-2)

So often they are facing unexpected situations, going down roads they’ve never seen before. Turn their darkness into light, smooth and straighten out their paths. I ask You to lead them, for I know You won’t ever let them down—You are their faithful God! (Isaiah 42:16; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

Help them to know You as their rock and their fortress. For the sake of Your name lead and guide them. Keep their steps firm and if they stumble, keep them from falling. (Psalm 31:3; 37:23-24)

May they sense Your presence. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Keep Them Ready

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

May they always rely on You, knowing You never grow tired or weary. Help them to put their hope in You, knowing You'll give them strength when they're weak and power when they're worn out—keeping them ready for anything! (Isaiah 40:28-31)

When they feel they can't go on, help them to come to You, for You have said You will give us rest. May they not be surprised by the struggles they face, but stand firm and not give up when their faith is under fire. (Matthew 11:28; 1 Peter 4:12; Isaiah 7:9)

May they never give up or quit, even when they don't know what to do. When they're surrounded by troubles, help them to be certain that You are with them. When they're knocked down, help them to get up and keep going. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Help them to believe that in Christ they have the strength for anything, that when they're weak—He will be strong! (Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:10)

Let nothing defeat them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Strengthen Their Families

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

Some of them are married, and some aren't—but the stress of separation from family and friends, of moving and not being able to put down roots, of dealing with financial hardship during tough times—can be a strain on them all. Help them to give their concerns to You, because You care for them. (1 Peter 5:6-7)

Keep their marriages strong. Help every husband to love his wife as he loves himself, and may every wife love and show respect for her husband. May their children live obedient lives and honor their parents. (Ephesians 5:33; John 13:34; Ephesians 6:1-3)

May they build each other up, and encourage each other, whether they're together or apart. May they treat each other the way they want to be treated. (1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 7:12)

Keep them from complaining or arguing. May the married stay faithful, and live so that no one can point a finger of blame at them. (Philippians 2:14; Malachi 2:15; Philippians 2:15)

Hold their families together. In Jesus' name, amen.

Encourage the Lonely

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

It's hard to be away from family and friends. Keep them connected over the miles. Help them to stay in touch, so that they'll each know how the other is, and what's going on in their lives. (Ephesians 6:22)

Wherever they are, help them to reach out, to find friends that are closer than brothers. When they're lonely, don't let them withdraw; keep them willing to meet with others whenever they can. (Proverbs 18:24; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Even more, may they live in a close, personal relationship with You. May they come near You, for if they do, You have promised You will come near them. Teach them what it means to live in Your love and to search for You with all of their hearts, for You have promised if they do, they'll find You. (1 John 1:3; James 4:8; John 15:9; Jeremiah 29:13)

Help them to know You not only as their Lord and their God, but as their brother and their friend. (Jeremiah 9:24; John 10:14; John 20:28; Romans 8:29; John 15:15)

May they sense Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.

Comfort the Hurting

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

People hurt for many reasons. I know You can ease any pain, so I ask You to help them when they're hurting. You're our God who comforts us when we go through troubles, and You bring us through hardships of all kinds. Come alongside and strengthen them when they're hurting, so that they can help others who face the same struggles. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

You are close to people whose hearts are breaking, those who are discouraged and have given up hope. You see their troubles and grief, and pay attention when they cry out—help them when they suffer loss or pain. (Psalm 34:18; 10:14, 17)

When they hurt, help them to find their joy in You, for Your joy is our real strength. May they trust You as the God of hope. Fill them with joy and peace by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that they'll simply overflow with hope no matter what they are facing. (Nehemiah 8:10; Romans 15:13)

Hold them close when they're hurting. Help them to feel Your love. In Jesus' name, amen.

Hear Their Prayers

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

I know they should pray for what they need, but sometimes that isn't easy because of all that's going on in their lives. Help them to learn to pray on the run, and every day to make some time to be alone with You.

(Matthew 6:11, 6; Mark 1:35)

Teach them to pray without giving up, to pray all the time about everything, and to keep praying until You answer. (Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:5-8)

Help them to not just ask You for things, even important things, but to remember to confess their sins, so nothing will get in the way of their prayers being heard. When they pray, help them to have strong faith and not doubt—and to pray with right motives, not asking for selfish things.

(Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:9; Isaiah 59:2; Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7; James 1:5-6; 4:2-3)

Make them faithful to pray for each other, whether they're together or half-way around the world. May their prayers be powerful and effective. (1 Samuel 12:23; Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16)

Hear their prayers. In Jesus' name, amen.

Save the Lost

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

Help them not to be so caught up in their own needs that they fail to pray that You will save the lost. I pray for the lost now, especially for those among their families and friends, for those who are serving with them—and even the enemies that You bring across their paths. (1 Timothy 2:1-4; Matthew 5:44)

Help the lost to see why they need Christ. Send someone to share the truth with them, that He died for their sins, that He paid the price for them to spend eternity in heaven. Move in their hearts to help them understand and accept the truth. (2 Corinthians 4:4; Acts 26:17-18; 1 John 2:2; 1 Peter 3:18; Acts 16:14; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

May the lost realize they can never be saved by the things they do or don't do, that they can never earn their way to heaven, but can only come to Christ by faith. Help them to be willing to receive Your gift of eternal life, to believe that You raised Jesus from the dead, to say "Jesus is Lord"—and mean it. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:22; 6:23; John 11:25-26; 1:12; Romans 10:9)

Draw the lost to Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Keep Them Pure

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

Help them to remember that their bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and to stay away from things that are wrong in any way. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 2 Corinthians 7:1)

May they live so that everything they do, even eating and drinking, is done in a way that honors You. May all that they do be done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17)

Keep their thoughts clean. Give them pure hearts and steady spirits so their feet won't slip. Help them not to give in to immorality under any circumstance. May they respect and honor every relationship. Help them to know and make right choices. (Philippians 4:8; Psalm 51:10; 73:2;

1 Thessalonians 4:3-4; Philippians 1:9-10)

Help them not give in to temptations. Remind them that You have promised that You won't let any temptation they face be stronger than they can resist. Help them to call out to You for a way to escape every temptation. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Don't let them fall. In Jesus' name, amen.

Guard Their Integrity

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

May integrity guard their hearts and thoughts, so that they're the same inside and out. Help them to live for You, putting You and all that You stand for first in their lives. May they want to obey You and live according to Your Word. (Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 6:33)

Make them smart enough not to try to figure things out for themselves, but to ask You for help with whatever they face, every decision they make. May they choose to live as You want them to, trusting You to guide them every step of the way. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Help them to be men and women of their word, saying "yes" when they mean "yes," and "no" when they mean "no," so that others can count on them. May they live clean lives with pure hearts, refusing to let down their friends and loved ones. (Matthew 5:37; Psalm 24:3-4)

May they live blameless lives, so their feet will never slip. (2 Peter 3:14; Psalm 17:5)

Help them to stand firm. In Jesus' name, amen.

Make Them Examples

Father, for _____, those who are serving with him/her, and their families...

Help them to be like salt and light wherever they are in the world—changing the flavor of things for the better and keeping good things from going bad. May they live so as to bring the light of Christ to people who live in the darkness without Him. (Matthew 5:13, 14)

Give them the strength to live like Christ no matter where they are or what they're doing, so that others will see Him in them. Make them more like Jesus every day. Help them to make right choices, living by what You teach in the Bible. May they honor You with everything they do, because You have given them all they need to live the life that they should. (1 Thessalonians 1:5-6; Colossians 1:27; Romans 8:29; John 3:30; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 119:30; Joshua 1:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Peter 1:3)

Help them to be examples to others, living like Your children, filled with the light of Christ—living in a way that pleases You. Make them determined to have nothing to do with things that are sinful and wrong. (Philippians 3:17; Ephesians 5:8, 10-11)

Keep them pure. In Jesus' name, amen.

Guide Their Leaders

Father, for the leaders of those who are serving and their families...

Give those in authority wisdom in every decision. Help them to think clearly with discernment and common sense. Make them strong leaders. (James 1:5; 2 Chronicles 1:10; Proverbs 3:21-22)

Help them to lead with integrity, and may steadfast integrity guide them and keep them on track. (1 Kings 9:4; Proverbs 11:3; Psalm 78:72)

Give them leaders who are living Spirit-filled lives, guided by Your principles. Direct their leaders' steps according to Your Word—for their leaders are directing theirs! (Ephesians 5:18; Psalm 119:105, 133)

Be their leaders' defender and protector, and keep them always on guard. Help them to be strong and courageous, standing firm in their faith. Encourage and strengthen them. (Proverbs 23:11; Psalm 41:2; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Deuteronomy 3:28)

Help them to take heart, to have courage and faith in You, no matter what they're facing day to day. (Acts 27:22, 25)

May they be an inspiration. In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean as God hears and answers these prayers. You're praying His will over the lives of those serving in our military, and these are prayers He promises to answer (1 John 5:14-15)! If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through these prayers, each time adding your own prayers to make them even more personal.

Consider that Prayer Is More than Asking

The main purpose of prayer is to help us know God. To do this, we have to spend time with Him, just as we must with any person if we want to know that person well.

(John 17:3; 1 John 1:3)

1. Begin Each Day with God

Jesus taught us that it is important to have some quiet time with our Father every day. Early morning is usually the best time, before we're caught up in busyness. If this isn't a part of your daily life now, ask God to help you begin with just a few minutes, and He will. (Matthew 6:6; 9-13)

2. Come with clean hands and a pure heart.

The Bible promises that we can draw close to God if we have clean hands and a pure heart, and He will come close to us (James 4:8). That simply means we must confess our sins. When we do, God forgives us and makes us clean (1 John 1:9), and we may come to Him.

3. Have a listening ear.

God usually speaks to us (John 10:4-5) as we read the Bible. You don't have to spend a long time in the Word, but for you to hear His voice clearly, it is important to spend at least a few minutes in the Bible every day. Pray as you read. Ask God to speak to your heart: *What do you want me to know today? What do I need to learn?*

Knowing God Personally

Jesus said that eternal life is *knowing God* (John 17:3). We have that life the moment we trust Jesus for salvation. We can then live every day in a real, vital, personal relationship with God. What a privilege, available to all of God's children! (See page 18.)

Are You a Child of God?

This is a question that is easy to answer—if you aren't sure—by verses from the Bible that reveal this truth:

- Have you believed in Christ, trusting Him, relying on Him for everything? Have you received Christ into your heart and life? (John 1:12)
- Have you “believed in Your heart” that God raised Jesus from the dead, and “spoken with your mouth” that Jesus is Lord? (Romans 10:9)
- Do you sense that you are a new creation in Christ evidenced by a desire to spend time in God's Word? (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- Are you experiencing God's call to live as “a child of light,” including the conviction and power to turn away from sin? (Ephesians 5:8-9; Luke 13:3, 5)
- Is the “fruit of the Holy Spirit” influencing your life and relationships in increasing measure? (Galatians 5:22-23)

If these things don't seem real in your life and you want them to be, speak to a pastor or godly friend, or pray like this:

“God, I believe Jesus is Your Son. I now receive Him as the Lord, who is the Savior of my life. I believe that Jesus died for my sins, that He was buried and raised again from the dead. I confess that I have sinned against You and I am sorry. Thank You for forgiving me! Thank You for the gift of salvation!”

“Please strengthen me to love You, to serve You and to turn away from the temptations and sins of this world. Thank You for the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal and forever Savior! I pray in His name, amen.”

For other Scripture prayer guides:

Prays for the Overwhelmed

Praying for Guidance

Standing My Ground

...and more

PrayerPower

www.learntoprayer.org

A Scripture Prayer Guide

Praying for
THE MILITARY

PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

P.O. Box 801368
Dallas, TX 75380-1368
1-800-949-PRAY
www.learntoprayer.org