

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for
**NEW LIFE IN
CHRIST**



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

Prayer Guide: Praying for New Life in Christ
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NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

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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:
“Open their hearts to respond to the truth of the gospel.” (Acts 16:14)
- 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:
“Open their hearts to respond to the truth of the gospel.” (Acts 16:14)

You might add something like—“I know that only You can open their hearts. They can neither understand or receive the truth without You. Please touch their hearts with Your love and power.”

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Believe in Christ's Name

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

As I pray for these who are not yet saved, there is so much at stake. I can't help but think of all the lives they'll touch and pray for in their lifetimes following their salvation, and the impact that can have for the generations to come! (Psalm 22:30-31)

I thank You that You have clearly said in Your Word that You want the lost to come to You through Christ—that You want all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. I thank You that Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for all men. No one was left out of His sacrifice; the price has already been paid. (1 Timothy 2:1-6)

Jesus came into the world as the true light that gives light to every person. May these who are unsaved see that light and be drawn to it, loving it more than the darkness. May they receive Christ and believe in His name—trusting and relying on Him, not simply understanding who He is—for those who do are given the right to become Your children. (John 1:9; 3:19; 1:12)

Grant them new life in Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Given Spiritual Life

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Save them by Your grace. Grant them new spiritual birth, that they will be truly born again, for they can neither see nor enter Your kingdom until they're born of the Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:5; John 3:3, 5, 8)

Send Your Spirit to them, for He is the breath of life. May He come over them like the wind that blows wherever it pleases. Bring Him like the breath who entered the dry, dead bones Ezekiel saw in the valley. Draw the Spirit as the breath who will enter them and give them life.

(Revelation 11:11; John 3:8; Ezekiel 37:5, 6, 9-10)

Pour Your Spirit upon them as Your gift, the promise who will indwell them. Put Your Spirit in them, and they will live—and know that You, the Lord, have done it.

(Isaiah 44:3; Acts 2:38-39; Ezekiel 37:14)

Give them to Christ, because He receives those You give Him, and He will protect them and keep them safe.

(John 17:2, 9, 12)

Breathe life into them, Your spiritual life, as only You can do. In Jesus' name, amen.

Have Their Eyes Opened

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Send Your life-giving Spirit to hover over the lives of these in need of salvation, as He hovered over the waters of creation to bring forth life. (John 6:63; Genesis 1:2)

In Your kindness and love, I ask You to send Your Spirit to save them. In Your mercy grant them rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom You pour out on us generously. Make them heirs of eternal life! (Titus 3:4-7)

Open their hearts to respond to the truth of the gospel. Help them to believe that You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. May they never reject Your Son. (Acts 16:14; John 3:16, 36)

Send them someone as You sent John the Baptist—to testify to the truth, that they may be saved. Send someone as You sent Paul to the Gentiles—to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light. (John 1:29; Acts 26:17-18)

Send them life and truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Drawn to Christ

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Unless You draw these who are unsaved to Christ, they cannot come. Except You enable them, they're lost.

(John 6:44, 65)

Because of Your great love and mercy, make these who are spiritually dead in their sins alive with Christ. Give them ears to hear and hearts to respond to the truth.

(Ephesians 2:4-5; John 5:24-25; Acts 16:14)

Save them by Your grace—through the faith that is a gift from You. Help them to understand that they can only be saved by grace, the gift of Your unmerited favor, totally undeserved. Help them understand that they can never be good enough or work hard enough to earn their salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Rescue them out of the kingdom of darkness and bring them into the kingdom of Your Son. Make them new creations in Christ: give them a whole new spiritual life. Reconcile them to Yourself through Christ, so that their sins will not be counted against them. (Colossians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19)

Draw them, enable them, rescue them. In Jesus' name, amen.

Hear Your Words

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

You are the God who gives life to the spiritually dead.

(Romans 4:17)

I thank You that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But Scripture asks, how can these I'm praying for call on Jesus if they have not believed in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they've not heard about Him? And how can they hear without someone bringing the truth to them? And how can they hear, unless that person is sent? (Romans 10:13-15)

I ask You to send someone into each of their lives, someone with the message of life, the Word of Christ—for Your Word does not return empty, it accomplishes what You desire and achieves the purpose for which it is sent. (Romans 10:17; Isaiah 55:11)

May they hear the words of Christ—for His words are spirit and they are life. May the words that they hear not be stolen from their hearts. (John 6:63; Luke 8:12)

Send someone they can respect, to bring them the truth. In Jesus' name, amen.

Receive the Truth

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

You are the Lord of the Harvest, and I ask You to plant the seeds of truth in the hearts of these who need salvation. Only You can help them to see the cross and understand their need of our Savior, to know Him as the Son of the living God. Reveal Christ to them. (Matthew 9:38; 16:16-17)

Send Your workers into the field, people they trust, whose very lives will be the salt and light they need to see. Send someone into their lives as You sent Peter to Cornelius; help them to be as ready as Cornelius was to listen to the truth. May the Holy Spirit come upon them even as they hear, with His saving power. (Matthew 9:38; 5:13, 14; Acts 10:30-33, 44)

Give them faith to believe in the name of the Lord Jesus as Savior and Redeemer and to receive Him into their hearts. May they confess with their mouths, “Jesus is Lord” and believe in their hearts that You raised Him from the dead. (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; Luke 2:11; Isaiah 47:4; Romans 10:9)

May they hear the truth, and believe it. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Be Enlightened

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Send someone to gently instruct them when the time is right in their lives, someone to share the gospel not simply with words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. May they receive Your Word and accept it, not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the Word of God. (2 Timothy 2:25; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5; 2:13)

Enlighten them, that they may see Christ as the light of the world and follow Him so they will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life. Show them Your unfailing love and grant them Your salvation. (Psalm 13:3; John 8:12; Psalm 85:7)

Have mercy on them, as You had on Paul. I know He once was a Pharisee who opposed Jesus, who persecuted Your people and put them in prison. He was violent, acting in ignorance and unbelief—yet the grace of our Lord was poured out on him abundantly, along with faith and love. May it be so for these I pray for—apart from grace, they cannot be saved. (Acts 26:5, 9-11; 1 Timothy 1:13-14; Ephesians 2:8-9)

In Your mercy, pour out Your grace. In Jesus' name, amen.

Have Open Hearts

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Some of these I'm praying for may attend church regularly, and they don't know that they're not saved. Send someone to open their eyes, as You sent Paul to Lydia. She worshiped You, she was a woman of prayer—yet she didn't know Christ until You opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. Do it for these I pray for; open their hearts. (Acts 16:13-14)

If they're students of the Bible, protect them from thinking that by that, they possess eternal life. Help them see that the Bible testifies about Jesus, that they must come to Him personally to have life. (John 5:39-40)

Don't let them be deceived like the Pharisees—who prayed, fasted, tithed and regularly attended their synagogues, for none of that saved them. Jesus came in Your name, and they didn't receive Him. Help these who are lost see that there is no other way! (Luke 18:11-12; 11:42, 43; John 5:40, 43; 1:12; 14:6)

Send them the right person at the right time. In Jesus' name, amen.

Turn to God

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

Some of the unsaved I'm praying for are rich in many ways. That concerns me, because Jesus said it's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for the rich to enter the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:25)

But how I thank You that when Jesus' disciples asked in amazement, "Who then can be saved?"—He answered, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:26-27)

The issue with the rich young man who turned away from Jesus wasn't his wealth, but his attitude toward his wealth; his heart was the problem. Protect the hearts of these I'm praying for, that they won't grow calloused through choosing not to believe. (Acts 28:27)

Enlighten them, for their minds have been made dull, and a veil covers their hearts. Help them to turn to You, for when they do, the veil is taken away. Give them hearts to know You, that You are the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:14-16; Jeremiah 24:7)

Bring them through the eye of the needle. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Willing to Repent

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

May the Spirit convict these who are lost of their sin and their need for righteousness. In Your kindness, I ask You to lead them to repentance, to a new direction in mind, heart and belief. (John 16:8; Romans 2:4)

Grant them the repentance that will lead them to a knowledge of the truth, so that they may repent and believe the good news of the gospel—for unless they repent, they will perish. (2 Timothy 2:25; Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3, 5)

Send the Holy Spirit to help them understand that the wages of sin is death—and that they will die in their sins if they choose not to repent and believe. Even in the last hours of their lives, lead them to call out to Christ, like the thief on the cross, that they may be saved. (Romans 6:23; John 8:21; Luke 13:3, 5; 23:42-43)

May they understand that Christ died in their place, that He paid the price for all their sins, that He died once for everyone, that they have no other hope. In their understanding, may they believe. (Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14; John 3:16)

May they turn to You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Know the Price Is Paid

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

I come on behalf of these who are not yet saved to thank You that the price has been paid for their salvation.

Jesus has made the sacrifice, He has bought them with His blood—they just don't know it, they have not been enabled to see the truth. (1 John 4:10; Revelation 5:9; John 6:65)

Help them to understand that Jesus gave Himself for them, to redeem them—He gave Himself as a sacrifice, once for all. Christ died as a ransom to set them free from their sins. He is able to save them completely, if they will only believe! (Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 9:26, 15; 7:25; John 8:24)

They can't accept who Christ is. He is like a stumbling block to them, until You call them, but if You do, they'll see Christ as He is. Speak to them, Father, for everyone who listens to You and learns from You will come to Christ. Help them believe, for everyone who believes has everlasting life. (1 Corinthians 1:23-24; John 6:45, 47)

May they understand that the price has been paid, at so great a cost. In Jesus' name, amen.

Be Set Free

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

May these who need salvation be set free from the kingdom of darkness, from the law of sin and death. Bring them to their senses, that they may escape from the trap of the devil, who wants to keep them as his own. (Colossians 1:13; Romans 8:2; 2 Timothy 2:26; John 8:44)

Thank You that Jesus appeared on earth to undo Satan's work, and that by dying, Jesus rendered the devil powerless. Jesus came to set the oppressed free, and when the Son sets them free, they are free indeed. May these in need of You know the truth—the way, the truth and the life!—for the truth will set them free. (Hebrews 2:14-15; Luke 4:18; John 14:6; 8:36, 32)

Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel. I ask that You let Your light shine out of the darkness and into their hearts. Call them out of the darkness into Your wonderful light—for You don't want anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Corinthians 4:4, 6; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 3:9)

Set them free, that they may come. In Jesus' name, amen.

Not Stumble over Christ

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

May they not mentally stumble over Christ and who He is, for He is a stumbling block to some and is like foolishness to others. It's because they can't understand; in their natural state spiritual truth is beyond them.

(1 Corinthians 1:23; 2:14)

Give them the gift of faith, a measure of faith that will enable them to look to Jesus and believe in Him; if they do, they'll have eternal life. May they come to know Christ as the resurrection and the life—for whoever believes in Him will live and will never die. (Ephesians 2:8;

Romans 12:3; John 6:40; 11:25-26)

Help them to see Jesus as He is, Your Son, and to realize the truth that He died for their sins. Otherwise, He becomes like a stone that blocks their way, a rock that makes them fall, because they can't believe Your truth. Have mercy and as they walk in the dark, help them see a great light. May they understand that the brightness of Your glory is seen in the face of Christ, that You and He are one. (John 10:36; Hebrews 7:27; Isaiah 8:14; 9:2; 2 Corinthians 4:6; John 10:30)

Help them to believe. In Jesus' name, amen.

Acknowledge Christ

Father, I pray for (name one or more) ...

As You are drawing them to Christ, as You are enabling them to come, give them the courage to step forward to make their decision known. Help them to acknowledge Christ before men, so that He will acknowledge them before You in heaven. (John 6:44, 65; Matthew 10:32)

May the day come when they will declare Jesus to be Lord, when they will openly agree that Jesus is the name above all names, the name at which one day every knee will bow in heaven, on the earth and beneath the earth—and every tongue confess, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

(Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:10)

Lavish Your love on them, that they may be called Your children. You have already demonstrated Your amazing love for them, for You sent Your one and only Son into the world that they might live through Him. Help them to receive His life. Give them a love for the truth, that they may be saved. (1 John 3:1; 4:9; 5:11-12; 2 Thessalonians 2:10)

Save them as only You can, through Your mercy and grace. 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 heart's desire over the lives of the lost (1 Timothy 2:4)! 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.”

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