

# PRAYER GUIDE

## *Prayers for* GUIDANCE



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

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PRAYER GUIDE

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GUIDANCE

**PrayerPower**

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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:  
“Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to be still and know that You are God...” (Psalm 46:10)
- 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:  
“Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to be still and know that You are God...” (Psalm 46:10)

You might add something like—*“Help me not to run ahead of You, not to make rash decisions. Settle me down!”*

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## Be My Hope

Father, I need a clear word from You...

The Bible says that You teach those who know You as their Savior, those whose hope is in You all day long. You are my Savior, but have I truly put my hope in You all day, every day? Forgive me for the times I've trusted in myself instead of in You—and help me to change. (Psalm 25:4-5; 1 John 1:9)

You are willing to teach sinners and to guide us according to what's right, when we're humble. I know I'm a sinner, and I ask You to forgive me for the times I've been too proud to confess my sins, too self-centered to ask for Your help. Help me to trust and rely on You, not on myself. (Psalm 25:8-9; Isaiah 50:10)

Scripture tells us that You confide in those who fear You, that You show them how to make the right choices. Is that what's in my heart—the reverent fear, the awesome respect that You deserve? Is it reflected by my personal prayer and worship? Forgive me for the times it hasn't been, and help me to become a person who worships You in spirit and the truth of who You are. (Psalm 25:14, 12; Hebrews 8:12; John 4:23)

Help me to hope only in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Hear Me When I Call

Father, I need a clear word from You...

I know that it's the person who chooses to live in Your presence—the one who spends time at Your feet, the one who lives in Christ, the one who lives like a sheep faithfully following his shepherd—who is best able to hear Your voice. (Psalm 91:1-2; Luke 10:38-42; John 15:4; 10:3-4)

Help me to live that close to You! I realize that means I must be willing to spend time with You every day as Jesus taught us to. Forgive me when I fail to give You the time and attention You deserve, and help me to be more consistent in prayer than I've ever been. (Matthew 6:6, 12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Wherever I am in my relationship with You, no matter how clearly I've learned to hear Your voice day by day, sometimes I'm caught off guard by what's happening in my life. Then I find myself desperately needing Your help to make decisions. In Your mercy, hear me when I call to You and show me things that I can't know without Your help and understanding. (1 John 1:3; Daniel 9:9; Jeremiah 33:3)

Hear the cry of my heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Shepherd

Father, I need a clear word from You...

I'm coming to You as my Shepherd, feeling very much like a helpless lamb, unable on my own to know which way to go. I would rather feel like a lion, more in control, but I'm not. Without You I can do nothing. I need You because without You I can't make right decisions.

(Psalm 23:1; John 15:5)

You are the One who knows the future, who holds the days of our lives in Your hands. You alone know how my decisions will affect my life and the lives of others. Please—lead me down the right path. Help me to know what to do. Help me to make right choices!

(Psalm 139:16; 31:15; 23:3)

Help me not to worry, but to have faith in You. Help me to trust You to speak to me as clearly as a shepherd speaks to his sheep, so that I may recognize Your voice. Help me to hear You say, "This is the way, now follow it." Don't let me go down the wrong path. Speak to my heart—I'm listening! Give me the courage to follow You when I hear. (John 14:1; 10:27; Isaiah 30:21; Psalm 27:11; 1 Samuel 3:9)

Lead me; help me to follow. In Jesus' name, amen.



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## Help Me to Be Still

Father, I need a clear word from You...

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to be still and know that You are God—to be patient, to trust You, and not worry. I need Your help to wait patiently, because time often seems so short and problems so overwhelming. May Your grace and Your strength be all that I need to help me wait on You and not run ahead, to be confident that with You I can make it over, around, or through any problems I face. Please turn to me and hear my cry! (Psalm 46:10; 40:1, 4; Matthew 6:25; 2 Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 18:29)

Help me to set aside my personal desires as I make decisions, to want only Your will. Help me to find joy and pleasure in You, even in the midst of stressful times—for when I delight in You, Your Word says You will give me the desires of my heart. Make Your desires, my desires! (Matthew 6:10; 1 John 2:17; Psalm 37:4)

In tense moments, help me to take the anxious thoughts that come to mind and turn them into prayers. Help me to keep my heart thankful, and grant me Your peace, as I trust in You. (Philippians 4:6, 7)

Give me Your peace. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Counselor

Father, I need a clear word from You...

Be my Wonderful Counselor, and help me to listen to what You have to say. Situations I haven't seen before come and go, with decisions needing to be made. May I trust You as the One who can guide me along these unfamiliar paths, who can turn what seems like darkness into light. (Isaiah 9:6; 42:16)

Please go before me, because no matter what decisions I make, it's never easy to go forward. Make a way where there seems to be no way. Help me to trust totally in You, not in anyone or anything else. Let there be no idols in my life—nothing, no one, that I consider more important or trustworthy than You. (Isaiah 52:12; 43:19; Psalm 22:4-5; Ezekiel 14:3)

Give me Your point of view. I used to think like a child, but I mustn't do that now. Help me to put childish (selfish!) thoughts aside, to make mature decisions. I need Your perspective, for Your thoughts are not the same as mine and Your ways are far beyond my understanding. (1 Corinthians 13:11; Isaiah 55:8-9)

Help me to know what to do. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Show Me Your Ways

Father, I need a clear word from You...

I know that You have plans for me, plans for good, not for harm, plans that give me a future and a hope. Direct me toward Your plans! Your Word says that if we pray, You will listen; if we seek You with all our heart, we'll find You. (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

I humble myself, confessing I don't have all the answers. I don't know what to do. I'm seeking You—earnestly, urgently. Forgive me for the times I've failed to pray and seek You before making decisions in the past, for not asking for Your insight. Help me to change. Hear my prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:14-15)

I know that You are always with me; please take me by the hand and guide me with Your counsel. Help me to see what to do from Your point of view. Guide me along the right path; don't let me stumble. (Psalm 73:23-24; Proverbs 4:11, 12)

Help me to trust You and Your unfailing love, to be confident that You will point out the way. Teach me to do Your will! (Psalm 143:8, 10).

My eyes are on You! In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Guide

Father, I need a clear word from You...

I ask You to be my guide, to help me with every decision I must make. Help me to be pure in heart and motive as I'm thinking through what I should do. Don't let my feet slip; don't let me lose my foothold. (Psalm 48:14; 73:1-2)

Help me to get up early every morning to pray and read Your Word—and to listen carefully. Help me to hear what You're waiting to teach me! Help me to be aware of Your presence with me; teach me what it means to live in Your love, to know You better than I ever have. Help me to come close to You with clean hands and a pure heart, and as I do, draw close to me. (Isaiah 50:4-5; Matthew 28:20;

John 15:9; 17:3; James 4:8)

Help me to always sense that I'm with You, living in Your presence. For as I do, You will guide me with Your hand and Your right hand will hold me fast. Help me to know You as the strength of my heart. May I learn how good it is to be close to You—and to stay there, where I belong. In Your mercy, lead me. (Psalm 139:7-10; 73:26, 28; Isaiah 49:10)

Help me to follow only You. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Help Me to Hear

Father, I need a clear word from You...

I feel like I'm at a major crossroads, at a place where what I decide to do will have a great effect on my life and the lives of others. It's a hard place to be, and I feel so inadequate! Help me to give You the concerns of my heart, knowing You care for me. (1 Peter 5:7)

Show me if there is sin in my heart that I haven't seen, so that I may confess and be forgiven. I don't want anything to hinder my prayers! Help my relationships with others to be respectful and free of tension, that I may live at peace with everyone, as far as it depends on me. May there be no unforgiveness in my heart, no lack of generosity, no selfish motives or doubt. (Psalm 66:18; 1 Peter 3:7; Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:32; Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3; 1:6)

May I always come to You with a humble heart. Help me to take time to seek You out as Moses did. Speak to me as clearly as You spoke to him. Teach me to listen for You, to hear and to pay attention to what You say. (Daniel 10:12; Exodus 33:7, 9, 11; John 8:47; Luke 15:1; 1 Kings 19:11-13; Mark 4:23-24)

Help me to discern Your voice. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Sure Foundation

Father, I need a clear word from You...

The world is a shaky place to live, with shifting morals easy to get caught up in. Help me to turn to You as my sure foundation, the rock on which I stand to keep my balance and think clearly as I make decisions. The world's wisdom is foolish, but enticing; don't let it sweep me away. (Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 40:2; 1 Corinthians 1:20)

Protect me from the influence of the world. Help me not to give in to the way the world thinks. The world's ideas sound good, but I know they're based on worldly thinking and values—they're not from Christ. Many trust in the ways of the world; don't let me listen to their advice. Help me to trust in You and Your name, to put my trust and hope in Your Word. (John 17:11; Colossians 2:8; Psalm 20:7; 1:1; 119:86, 114)

Help me to be willing to surrender my life to You. don't let me think like the world, but transform me into a new person and change the way I think. Then I'll know Your good and pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

Give me Your stability. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Show Me Your Kindness

Father, I need a clear word from You...

How I thank You for loving me enough to send Christ to die for me, and for His willingness to give His life. Through Him may I come to You and hear Your quiet voice. Help me to hear You now; I need a word from You. (1 John 4:9-10; John 14:6; 1 Kings 19:12-13)

May I always keep in mind that everything I have is from You alone through Christ, my Savior and Redeemer. Because of Him I can come before Your throne in heaven and be treated with undeserved kindness to find the help I'm desperate for. (1 Corinthians 8:6; Titus 3:4-6; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 4:16)

That's what I need now, Your kindness—Your kindness that never fails—and the help that only You can give. Help me to trust You from the bottom of my heart. Help me not to try to figure things out for myself, but to turn to You. Help me to listen for Your voice in everything I do, everywhere I go—especially in the decisions I must make. May I never assume that I know it all! Help me to always put You first. (Psalm 18:50; Proverbs 3:5-6; Matthew 6:33)

Thank You for loving me! In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Light

Father, I need a clear word from You...

Sometimes when I must make decisions, I feel as though my mind is cloudy. You are the true light, the light of the world, the Bright Morning Star—as bright as the light at the end of a tunnel! Shine the light of Your presence on the situations I face when I need Your guidance.

(John 1:9; 8:12; Revelation 22:16)

Just as You spoke light into the dark world, speak Your light, Your clarity, into my thinking now. Help me to set my mind and heart on things above, and not on the problems I'm facing. Help me not to be so absorbed in what's going on in my life that I fail to consider what You would want me to do in the decisions I make. (Genesis 1:3;

Colossians 3:2)

Help me to remember that it's Your Word that is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path, showing me where to go. May Your principles be my guiding light. Help me to measure every decision in light of Your Word, knowing it will give me wisdom, insight, and understanding to direct my steps. (Psalm 119:105, 130, 98, 99, 104, 133)

Light my path as only You can. In Jesus' name, amen.



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## Open My Eyes

Father, I need a clear word from You...

Help me to see with my mind's eye, to know the right thing to do whenever I must decide something important. May I have Your wisdom, understanding, and common sense. (Proverbs 2:6)

You give helpful advice to those who obey You. That's what I need when I face significant decisions in life—so please, help me to live a life of obedience that is pleasing to You. Help me to show You my love through my obedience—and forgive me for the times I've chosen to go my own way. (Proverbs 2:7; 1 John 3:22; John 14:15, 21, 23, 24; Psalm 51:2, 4; Isaiah 53:6)

Help me to always consider what's right and what's wrong, and to choose what's right. May my choices be based on what I know You have clearly stated in Your Word. Help me to live according to Your Word and to walk continually in Your truth, and be able to see how it applies to the things I must decide. Give me an undivided heart, so that I will always desire to make the right decisions. (Isaiah 7:15; Psalm 119:30-31, 9; 26:3; 86:11)

May my heart be totally Yours. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Be My Way

Father, I need a clear word from You...

Your Word says You will...

lead us (Psalm 78:52),  
guide us (Psalm 31:3),  
teach us (Psalm 132:12),  
give us counsel (Psalm 32:8),  
explain things to us (Mark 4:34),  
watch over us (Psalm 121:7),  
go before us (Psalm 59:9-10),  
protect us from behind (Psalm 139:5),  
and make a way for us—through anything (Isaiah 43:19)!

I need all these things in the decisions I make—but more than having You make a way, I ask You to help me know You as the Way—for You are the Way to the Father, the Truth and the Life! (Acts 19:23; John 14:6)

May I live close to You, reaching for Your hand, holding onto You as the Truth. May I always desire to follow You closely, as You walk with me through life. (Psalm 84:10; Isaiah 41:10; Hebrews 13:5)

Help to know Your presence. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## Help Me to Choose

Father, I need a clear word from You...

There are many choices in life that are not necessarily decisions between good and bad, but good, better, and best! When they come, help me to think like Jesus, to have His attitude, His mind—His desire to do only Your will. (Philippians 2:5; 1 Corinthians 2:16; John 5:30)

When times come to make critical decisions, help me to live by Jesus' example, praying through decisions as He did. The night before He chose His twelve disciples, He even prayed through the night—as He did in the garden of Gethsemane. (Luke 6:12-13; Matthew 26:36-44)

I want to be a person of prayer, able to pray through my decisions. Help me to be willing to ask, seek, and knock—with pure motives and nothing to hinder my prayers. Help me to pray in faith, without doubt in my heart. May I always ask for wisdom when I need it, and believe I'll receive it. Help me to trust that I'll find You faithful! (Matthew 7:7; James 4:3; Isaiah 59:2; Mark 11:22-23; James 1:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:9)

Keep me strong in my faith, and in prayer. In Jesus' name, amen.

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## **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 as you ask Him to guide you (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, 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)

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## **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.)

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## 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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