

PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for STRENGTH *in Our* MINISTRY



PrayerPower

Helping God's people learn to pray.

Prayer Guide for Strength in Our Ministry
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PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for

STRENGTH *in Our* MINISTRY

Prayers for Staff, Board, Volunteers,
Contributors, Intercessors

*May we who serve together pray these prayers for one another,
that we may serve effectively in God's strength and will.*

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:

“Help us not to worry when things don't go the way that we expect.” (John 14:1)

- 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:

“Help us not to worry when things don't go the way that we expect.” (John 14:1)

You might add something like— *“Help us to be flexible, and be confident You are in control.”*

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Enjoy New Life in Christ

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

I'm sure that most of the people who are part of our ministry, including those who volunteer, give, or pray for us, are saved. But You are the only One who truly knows what's in a person's heart, so I ask You to give those who are lost the gift of salvation. Make them spiritually alive in Christ. (John 3:3, 5; 2:24-25; Ephesians 2:8-9, 4-5)

Rescue those who are in the kingdom of darkness. Bring them into the kingdom of light. In Your mercy and by Your grace, give them new life. Make them new creations in Christ. (Colossians 1:12-13; Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Draw them, enable them to come to Christ, for unless You do, they cannot come. You have said in Your Word that You don't want anyone to perish, but everyone to repent. You want everyone to be saved, so I'm asking You to save those who are lost. (John 6:44, 65; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4)

May everyone connected with our ministry truly be born again. There's nothing more important! In Jesus' name, amen.

Live Spirit-filled Lives

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who has been given to all of us who believe. I'm grateful that He is our Counselor, our Comforter and Helper. (Acts 2:38-39; John 14:16)

Help us to live Spirit-filled lives. May all of us who serve the ministry surrender ourselves completely to You. Help us to be so empty of "self" that Your Spirit can live in us as fully and freely as He desires. (Ephesians 5:18; Romans 12:1)

Don't let us grieve Your Spirit with unconfessed sins—things we've done that we shouldn't do. Help us not to quench Him by failing to do the things we should. May we live in such a way that we stir Him up within us! (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; James 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:6)

Help us to be so filled with Your Spirit that He is able to flow from us like rivers of living water. May He cause others to see Christ in us. (John 7:38; John 17:23; Colossians 1:27)

May Your Spirit be evident in every part of our lives and service. In Jesus' name, amen.

Pray with Strength

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

May a daily quiet time alone with You be our priority, so that we can maintain a personal relationship with You. May that relationship be one of growing spiritual intimacy. (Matthew 6:6; John 17:3; 1 John 1:3)

Help us to abide in the Vine, to live in Christ. May Christ and His words live in us, so that we'll bear much fruit, lasting fruit, and receive whatever we ask in prayer. (John 15:5, 7, 16)

Teach us to pray according to Your will. Help us to always pray and not give up, to pray without ceasing. Enable us to persevere in prayer, to be bold and to pray with right motives. (Luke 11:1; 1 John 5:14-15; Luke 18:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 11:5-8; 18:2-5; James 4:2-3)

May our prayers be offered in Jesus' name—in line with His character, prayed from His point of view, in His authority. Lead us to ask for those things that will advance His kingdom and bring You glory. (John 14:14, 12-13)

Help us to live righteously, according to Your will, so that our prayers will be effective and accomplish much for Your kingdom! In Jesus' name, amen.

Know God's Will

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Fill us with the knowledge of Your will with spiritual wisdom and understanding. Help us to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the Lord, and pleases Him in every way. May we bear fruit through the work of our ministry. Enable us to grow in our understanding of who You are and how You work in the world. Strengthen us with Your power, so we'll have the endurance we need. (Colossians 1:9-11)

Help us to give ourselves to You daily as living sacrifices. Keep us pure and devoted. Take away any desire to live according to the ways of the world. Transform us! Change the way we think by renewing our minds, so that we can know Your will—Your good, and pleasing, and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)

May we surrender our will to Yours. Help us to live as servants of Christ, to do Your will wholeheartedly. Keep us standing firm and steadfast, ready and able to persevere in Your power. (Matthew 6:10; Ephesians 6:6; Colossians 4:12; Hebrews 10:36; Colossians 1:11-12)

Fill our hearts with Your desires. In Jesus' name, amen.

Follow God's Plan

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Help us not to get so caught up in our own plans that we miss what You want us to do. Lead us to pray through every decision. Teach us to hold our plans loosely, recognizing that we can move forward only if it's Your will. May we never boast about our own plans, but acknowledge that everything depends on You. (James 4:13-15)

Help us to trust You and keep us from leaning on our own understanding of what we should do. Don't let us insist on going our own way, but lead us to seek Your will, and then direct our steps. If we don't hear from You, how can we know where we're going? (Proverbs 3:5-6; Deuteronomy 29:19; Proverbs 20:24)

Help us to be led by the Spirit. Let us be like Moses, and refuse to go forward unless we're sure that You are with us. Let Your favor rest upon us; bless our work and service for the ministry. Make our efforts successful for Your kingdom and glory. (Romans 8:14; Exodus 33:15, 13; Psalm 90:17)

Teach us to follow as You lead. In Jesus' name, amen.

Receive God's Provision

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

You are our Provider, and nothing is too difficult for You! You brought manna in the desert and water from the rock. May You provide what we need as well. (Genesis 22:14; Jeremiah 32:27; Exodus 16:4-5; 17:6)

Give us donors who understand the importance of the work we're doing for Your kingdom. Help them to want to share in that work through their financial gifts. Encourage them to give more than enough to cover our immediate needs. (2 Corinthians 8:3-4, 7, 14; Philippians 4:18)

May those who give sow their funds generously, so that they may reap generously. As they give, return to them even more—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. Help them to be cheerful givers, whose contributions are pleasing to You. As they give to us and to others, meet their needs as only You can through Christ. (2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Luke 6:38; Philippians 4:15-19)

Guide us in fund-raising, and keep us from putting our trust in anything or anyone but You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Manage Well

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Help us to be good stewards of everything You give us. Lead us to use whatever funding we receive responsibly. May we live and serve in such a way that one day we'll hear You say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" Keep us faithful with the few things You give us, so that we may be trusted with more. (Matthew 25:14-23)

Guide us to put first things first in the ministry. Don't let the things that are urgent keep us from having time to do what is really important. May we use our skills, talents, and abilities wisely. Show us how to make the most of our time and energy, our finances and resources. (Acts 6:2-4)

We have so much to do! Help us to learn from Mary and Martha that busyness can keep us from the one thing that Jesus said is most needed—unhurried time at His feet. May we make that our priority, so that we can learn from Him and enjoy His friendship. (Luke 10:38-42)

Help us to waste nothing, and allow You to multiply everything. In Jesus' name, amen.

Serve as One

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

As we serve in ministry together, help us to have servant hearts. May we consider others better than ourselves, and put their interests above our own. Remind us to treat others the way we want to be treated. (Philippians 2:3-4; Matthew 7:12)

Let us experience complete unity with each other as we work together. May our unity help us to be patient and cheerful, able to get along with each other as we follow Christ together. Help us to accept one another with all of our differences, just as Christ accepted us. (John 17:23; Romans 15:5-7)

Show us how to be humble, gentle, and patient—and when necessary, to put up with each other in love. Lead us to be kind to each other, to be quick to show compassion, and willing to forgive. May Your Spirit keep our hearts united, and help us to work together in peace, free from all emotional tension. (Ephesians 4:2-3, 32)

Make us one, as You and the Lord Jesus are one. In Jesus' name, amen.

Encourage Others

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

May we encourage and strengthen each other, as well as those we serve. Lead us to say the right thing at the right time, building each other up in every way. (Acts 15:32; Ephesians 4:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Give us the gift of encouraging others, and help us to use it to lift one another's spirits. As we lift others up, keep us from being discouraged. Help us to take heart knowing that You are with us, that You will never leave us, never forsake us. (Romans 12:8; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)

Comfort our hearts and give us strength in every good thing we do and say. May our words and thoughts be pleasing to You and to others as we bless and encourage them. Help us not to speak without thinking. Keep us mindful of the impact our words can have, and help us to be eager and willing to give the constant encouragement that will lift others' spirits and give them fresh hope.

(2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Colossians 4:8; James 3:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Psalm 141:3; Acts 20:2)

Keep us positive and upbeat. In Jesus' name, amen.

Communicate Clearly

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Help us to communicate clearly. Don't let us be confused by others, and keep us from confusing ourselves. May we keep our eyes on You, for You are not the author of confusion, but of peace. May we mean what we say—let our “yes” be “yes,” and our “no” be “no.” (Galatians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 14:33; Matthew 5:37)

Lead us to see and hear each other clearly, and to understand with our hearts. Help us to avoid any misunderstanding or miscommunication that could lead to disagreements—especially anything that would keep us from working together. Keep us from being easily upset, and willing to consider others' perspective on issues we face. (Acts 28:27; 15:37-40; 2 Thessalonians 2:2-3)

May we always speak the truth in Christ. Help us to measure our words, to be sensible and watch what we say. Help us to guard our words, to be quick to listen and slow to speak. (Romans 9:1; Proverbs 10:19; Psalm 141:3; James 1:19)

May we always understand the heart behind the words.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Exercise Faith

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Help us not to worry when things don't go the way that we expect. Jesus said we're not to worry, not to let our hearts be troubled or be afraid. Help us to trust You for every part of our lives and ministry, no matter how impossible things seem. (John 14:1, 27)

Increase our faith, and don't let it fail! May our faith continue to grow, and help us not to doubt. We believe—help our unbelief! (Luke 17:5; 22:32; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Mark 11:23-24, 22; Mark 9:24)

Keep our faith strong, so when it's tested, it will prove to be more valuable than gold. Help us to live by faith and not by sight, for without faith it's impossible to please You. May our personal faith be an encouragement to one another as we serve together. Help us to never limit what You can do because we don't have faith, or because we haven't asked for what need. May we always pray with right motives. (1 Peter 1:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 1:12; Matthew 13:58; James 4:2-3)

May we exercise our faith like a muscle, so that it will grow stronger every day. In Jesus' name, amen.

Stand Our Ground

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Help us to be strong in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His mighty power. May we clothe ourselves in the full armor of God—living the life of Christ—so that we can take our stand against the devil’s schemes. May our armor be complete, nothing missing, so that after battling rulers, authorities and spirits of darkness we’ll still be standing firm. (Ephesians 6:10-14)

Help us to take our stand with the truth of Your Word as our belt, holding our armor in place. May integrity be the breastplate that guards our heart. Help us to keep the gospel of peace firmly on our feet, and wear salvation as our protective helmet. May faith be our shield, for strong faith can quench every flaming arrow the enemy sends. (Ephesians 6:14-17)

Help us to take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the spoken Word of God—and pray! Help us to pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Spirit. May we stay alert and be persistent in prayer for all Christians everywhere. (Ephesians 6:17-18)

May we stand our ground in Christ. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Finish Strong

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

May we finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given us—and may He keep us strong to the end! (Acts 20:24; 1 Corinthians 1:8)

Help us to let go of anything that could slow us down or hold us back, especially sin, because it can easily trip us up. Keep us moving forward. Give us endurance to finish the race You have set before us. Don't let us be content just to finish the race, but help us to put ourselves into our work as though we're running to win first place! (Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 9:24)

When we seem surrounded by troubles, don't let them crush us. When we're perplexed and don't know what to do, don't let us quit. If we're knocked down, set us on our feet and keep us going. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)

Don't let us tire of doing what is right. Fill us with power when we're worn out, and give us strength when we're weak. (2 Thessalonians 3:13; Isaiah 40:28-29)

When we're weary, help us to catch our second wind in Christ. In Jesus' name, amen.

Complete the Work

Father, I pray for those of us who serve together...

Thank You for the workers You have brought our ministry. Fill us all with Your Spirit, and the skill, ability and knowledge we need. Place us where our personal and professional experience can best serve. Help us to bless others through gifts You have given us. (Exodus 35:31; 36:1; 1 Corinthians 12:4)

May we always do our best in the ministry work You have opened the door for us to do, the good works that You prepared long ago. (Ephesians 2:10)

Grant us Your favor. Make our efforts successful, so that we won't fail. Let everything go well! Help us to enjoy our work, to find real pleasure in all we do for Your kingdom. May we work cheerfully, with all our heart, knowing that no matter what we do or how we serve, we're working for You. (Psalm 90:17; Ecclesiastes 2:10; Colossians 3:23)

May we never seek praise for ourselves, but give You the glory. You alone deserve all praise because of Your love and faithfulness! (Psalm 115:1)

Do through us as You desire. In Jesus' name, amen.

As You Pray These Prayers...

You Are Praying God's Will

Think what it will mean to you and the others who serve together in your ministry as God hears and answers these prayers. You're praying His will into your lives—You're praying what's on His heart. If you've prayed one prayer a day, you've realized it takes only a minute or two. Keep praying through them, 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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Standing My Ground

Prayers for the Overwhelmed

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