

New Testament Prayers

...of JESUS

A command to pray for those who persecute us:

...and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

...pray for those who mistreat you.

Luke 6:28

A model prayer for disciples of Jesus to pray:

This, then, is how you should pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Matthew 6:9-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples. He said to them, When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'

Luke 11:1-4

A prayer for anointed workers to be sent into the Harvest:

Then he said to his disciples,

The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:37-38

An example to pray for children:

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.

Matthew 19:13-15

(see also Mark 10:13-16 where it says Jesus blessed them)

A prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit:

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:13

A parable to teach the importance of persistence in prayer:

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Luke 18:1-8

(see also 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

A command to watch & pray for an escape from the terrible times to come & to be able to stand before Jesus instead:

Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36

A prayer for protection of faith in the face of Satanic attack:

Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

Luke 22:31-32

Simon, Simon (Peter), listen! Satan has asked excessively that [all of] you be given up to him [out of the power and keeping of God], that he might sift [all of] you like grain, But I have prayed especially for you [Peter], that your [own] faith may not fail; and when you yourself have turned again, strengthen and establish your brethren.

Luke 22:31-32 (Amplified NT)

A prayer of submission to the perfect will of God & for strength in the midst of temptation:

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed,

My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour? he asked Peter.

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

He went away a second time and prayed,

My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.

Matthew 26:39-42

(see also Mark 14:35-38; Luke 22:39-46)

An intercessory prayer asking the Father to forgive those sinning against us:

Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

Luke 23:34

A prayer for the protection of His disciples by the power of the Father's name resulting in God-like unity:

...Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

John 17:11b

A prayer for the protection of His disciples from the evil one:

My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

John 17:15

A prayer that His disciples would be sanctified by truth:

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

John 17:17

A prayer that His disciples would know complete God-like unity so that the world would know that He is from God:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:20-23

A prayer that His disciples would be with Him & see His glory:

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

John 17:24

...of PAUL

A grateful & persistent prayer for supernatural wisdom & revelation so that we might know God better and see our destiny as saints, & the supernatural, resurrection power available to us:

I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe...

Ephesians 1:16-19a

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe...

Ephesians 1:16-19a (Amplified NT)

A prayer for the release of supernatural strength in the hearts & revelation of the love of God resulting in the fullness of God in our lives:

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:14-19

When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will give you mighty inner strength through his Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts as you trust in him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love really is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is so great you will never fully understand it. Then you will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (NLT)

An alert, persistent & supernatural prayer for the right words & boldness in the ministry of the Word:

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Ephesians 6:18-20

Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere. And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words as I boldly explain God's secret plan that the Good News is for the Gentiles, too. I am in chains now for preaching this message as God's ambassador. But pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NLT)

A prayer for our love for each other to increase in wisdom resulting in discernment and righteousness:

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

A persistent & grateful prayer to know God's will in wisdom, to be fruitful & pleasing to God, to grow in the knowledge of God & to be strengthened unto perseverance:

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 1:9-12

A prayer for unity in the church:

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other each with the attitude of Christ Jesus toward the other. Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6 (NLT)

A prayer to be filled with supernatural joy, peace and hope:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

A prayer for Israel (or any other nation or people) to be saved:

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

Romans 10:1

Believe me, friends, all I want for Israel is what's best for Israel: salvation, nothing less. I want it with all my heart and pray to God for it all the time.

Romans 10:1 (The Message)

A grateful & joyful & earnest prayer for the release of apostolic ministry, to increase in love, & for supernatural strength resulting in holiness:

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Now we can give thanks to our God for you. We thank him for the joy we have in his presence because of you. Day and night we ask him with all our heart to let us see you personally and supply what is needed in your faith. May our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus prepare the way for us to come to you! May the Lord make your love for one another and for all people grow more and more and become as great as our love for you. In this way he will strengthen you, and you will be perfect and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all who belong to him.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (GNB)

A prayer for the release of the faithful work of God to bring mature & complete holiness:

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (The Message)

A persistent prayer to be enabled to see the fullness of God's purposes fulfilled in our lives so that the Lord Jesus may be glorified:

With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

A prayer for the Word to spread to see unbelievers won to Jesus; to be delivered from hypocrites; for strength & protection from the evil one; & for revelation of God's love & Christ's perseverance:

Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men, for not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

One more thing, friends: Pray for us. Pray that the Master's Word will simply take off and race through the country to a groundswell of response, just as it did among you. And pray that we'll be rescued from these scoundrels who are trying to do us in. I'm finding that not all believers are believers. But the Master never lets us down. He'll stick by you and protect you from evil. Because of the Master, we have great confidence in you. We know you're doing everything we told you and will continue doing it. May the Master take you by the hand and lead you along the path of God's love and Christ's endurance.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 (The Message)

Note the Scriptures describing God causing His Word to increase resulting in many being born again:

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

Acts 12:24

When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed.

Acts 13:48

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.

Acts 19:20

Prayers that God would open a door for ministry:

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Colossians 4:2-4

...I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Romans 1:10-12

Note the Scriptures (in their context) describing God causing a door to open for His Word by manifesting His power to confirm it with signs and wonders. In other words, that a door of power and opportunity would increase resulting in people being born again:

On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.

Acts 14:27

One of those listening was a woman named Lydia...who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

Acts 16:14

because a great door for effective work has opened to me...

1 Corinthians 16:9

Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me,

2 Corinthians 2:12

...See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut...

Revelation 3:8

An urgent plea for the believers to join Paul in his prayer struggle:

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Romans 15:30-33

A prayer for righteousness:

Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong...

2 Corinthians 13:7a

A commitment to prayer for a disciple's perfection:

...our prayer is for your perfection.

2 Corinthians 13:9b

Epaphras, from your city,

a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident of the whole will of God.

Colossians 4:12

Examples of “remembering” or “mentioning” prayers:

We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

Philippians 1:3-5

I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers.

2 Timothy 1:3

I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers,

Philemon 1:4

(see also Romans 1:9-10; Ephesians 1:16)

A commitment to prayer for a disciple's perfection:

...our prayer is for your perfection.

2 Corinthians 13:9b

A prayer of benediction:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace (favor and spiritual blessing) of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the presence and fellowship (the communion and sharing together, and participation) in the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (so be it).

2 Corinthians 13:14 (Amplified NT)

An encouragement to pray for all people, and especially leaders:

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NLT)

A prayer to encourage evangelism:

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Philemon 1:6

...of the early Church

A prayer for the impartation of boldness to speak God's word with the release of healings, signs & wonders in the face of persecution:

When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God.

"Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Acts 4:24-31

Examples of prayer for the commissioning of Spirit-filled servant:

They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid hands on them.

Acts 6:6

While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:2,3

Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Acts 14:23

A prayer of a martyr:

*While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.
Then he fell on his knees and cried out, Lord, do not hold this sin against them.
When he had said this, he fell asleep.*

Acts 7:59-60

An example of prayer for disciples to receive the Holy Spirit:

When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit... Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:15

An example of prayer for the raising of someone from the dead:

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, Please come at once! Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, Tabitha, get up. She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord.

Acts 9:36-42

An example of prayer for the salvation of non-believers:

Agrippa interrupted him. Do you think you can make me a Christian so quickly? Paul replied, Whether quickly or not, I pray to God that both you and everyone here in this audience might become the same as I am, except for these chains.

Acts 26:28-29 (NLT)

An example of prayer for healing:

Near the shore where we landed was an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us courteously and fed us for three days. As it happened, Publius's father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him.

Acts 28:7,8 (NLT)

...of JOHN

A prayer for spiritual & physical prosperity:

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

3 John 2

Dear friend, I am praying that all is well with you and that your body is as healthy as I know your soul is.
3 John 2 (NLT)

...of JAMES

A teaching on the power & priority of prayer:

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.

James 5:13-18

Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven, healed inside and out. Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't, not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

James 5:13-18 (The Message)

...of the Writer to the HEBREWS

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Encouragements to pray in the Spirit

And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

Romans 8:26,27 (NLT)

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say Amen to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.

1 Corinthians 14:14-18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

Ephesians 6:18

But you, dear friends, carefully build yourselves up in this most holy faith by praying in the Holy Spirit

Jude 1:20 (The Message)

**this handout is based on a list originally compiled by Mike Bickle,
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Bible Translations used in this handout:

Unless otherwise noted, all texts are from the New International Version (NIV)

NKJV = New King James Version

The Message = the Bible in Contemporary Language

Amplified NT = Amplified New Testament

NLT = New Living Translation Bible

GNB = Good News Bible