



THE PRAYER CLOSET

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Children are a precious gift from the Lord. Because of this, it is a tremendous responsibility before God to raise them. The foundation for raising godly children is prayer. Children must be prayed for faithfully and wisely. This praying is to be done by the parents, grandparents, other family members, the members of the church teachers, pastors, and deacons. In order to pray faithfully and wisely for the children in your life, the following prayer list is offered as a guide. This is a list of 31 Biblical virtues. Each prayer request is based on scripture. You can focus on and pray for one virtue for each day of the month. When there are less than 31 days in a month, you can combine two for one day.

This prayer list gives you the opportunity to pray for and focus on virtues that please God and will mold godly and holy character in your child. You can pray for these things along with safety for the child and the concerns of his or her day. Plead with God for these virtues to be planted and nurtured in your child's life by the Holy Spirit through your efforts, the influence of others, and the choices and actions of your child.

PRAYING FOR YOUR CHILDREN

1. **Salvation** - "Lord, do your work of grace in my child's heart. Enable my child to obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (John 6:44; 2 Timothy 2:10).
2. **Growth in Grace** - "I pray that my child may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).
3. **Love For God's Word** - "Father, I pray that you will create in my child a hunger for the Word of God. May he/she find your Word more precious than much pure gold and sweeter than honey from the comb" (Psalm 19:10).
4. **Love** - "Grant that my child will learn to live a life of love for God and others through the Spirit who lives in him/her and pours out the love of God in his/her heart" (Romans 5:5).
5. **Purity** - "Create in my child a pure heart. O God, and cause that purity to be shown in their actions" (Psalm 51:10).

6. **Faith** - "I ask that faith will take root and grow in my child's heart so that by faith he may receive what is promised to him" (Luke 17:5-6; Hebrews 11:1-40).
7. **A Servant's Heart** - "O god, create a servant's heart in my child that they may serve wholeheartedly as if they were serving the Lord, no men" (Ephesians 6:7).
8. **Hope** - "I pray that You, the God of hope, would cause hope to overflow in my child's life" (Romans 15:13).
9. **Humility** - "God, please cultivate in my child the ability to have true humility before God and to show true humility before all" (Titus 3:2; 1 Peter 5:5).
10. **Compassion** - "O Lord, please clothe my child with the virtue of compassion" (Colossians 3:12).
11. **Honesty and Integrity** - "May honesty and integrity be my child's virtue and their protection" (Psalm 25:21).
12. **Self-Control** - "Father, help my child not to be like many others around them, but enable him/her to be alert and self-controlled in all he or she does" (1 Thessalonians 5:6).
13. **Justice** - "God, help my child to love justice as You do and act justly in all that he/she does" (Psalm 11:7; Micah 6:8).
14. **Faithfulness** - "Let love and faithfulness never leave my children, but bind these twin virtues around his/her necks and write them on the tablet of his/her heart" (Proverbs 3:31).
15. **Courage** - "Enable my child to always be strong and courageous in his/her character and his/her actions" (Deuteronomy 31:6).
16. **Mercy** - "Let my child always be merciful just as their Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36).
17. **Respect (For self, others, authority)** - "Lord, enable my child to show proper respect to everyone as Your Word commands" (1 Peter 2:17).
18. **Biblical Self-esteem** - "God, help my child to develop a strong self-esteem that is rooted in the righteousness of Jesus and the realization that he/she is God's workmanship, created in Christ" (Ephesians 2:10).
19. **Perseverance** - "God, teach my child perseverance, especially to run the race with perseverance the race marked out for them" (Hebrews 12:1).
20. **Joy** - "Let my child be filled with joy given by the Holy Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

21. **Peace-loving** - "Lord, enable my child to make every effort to do what leads to peace (Romans 14:19).
22. **Responsibility** - "Grant that my child will learn responsibility because each one should carry his own load" (Galatians 6:5).
23. **Generosity** - "Enable my child to be generous and willing to give, laying up treasure for themselves as firm foundation for the coming age" (1 Timothy 6:18-19).
24. **Kindness** - "Lord, enable my child to be kind to others at all times" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).
25. **Willingness and Ability to Work** - "Lord, teach my child the value of work and to work with all their heart, to the Lord and not as to men" (Colossians 3:23).
26. **Passion for God** - "Lord, please create a passion in my child's heart to know You and love You" (Psalm 63:8).
27. **Prayerfulness** - "God, grant that my child's life will be characterized by prayer. Enable him/her to pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18).
28. **Gratitude** - "Grant that my child will always be overflowing with thankfulness and always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 2:7).
29. **Self-discipline** - "God, I ask that my child will acquire a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair" (Proverbs 1:3).
30. **A Heart for Missions** - "Father, create a desire in my child to see your glory declared among the nations, to see your marvelous deeds among all peoples" (Psalm 96:3).
31. **Contentment** - " Lord, teach my child the secret of being content in any and every situation, through Him who gives strength" (Philippians 4:12-13).

USING THE WORD TO DEEPEN YOUR PRAYER LIFE

The Word of God is essential to your prayer life. It is the foundation for your fellowship with God. In the Word of God, God has revealed himself, His will, and His plans to you. From reading and studying the Word of God, you learn about God and His ways. Then, in prayer, you learn how to communicate with the God who has revealed Himself to you.

Many Christians have a "quiet time". This is a time in the Christian's day when he or she reads the Word and prays. The quiet time usually begins with the reading of the Word of God. Then the person closes his Bible, pushes the Bible to the side, and prays. Too many times Christians separate reading and studying the Word from prayer. Yet, the two go together; you cannot separate them.

In order to deepen your fellowship with God, take what you learn from the Word of God and talk with God about these things. The more you know God and His Word, the deeper your fellowship with Him. The "Preparation for Prayer Sheet" will enable you to do this. When you read the Word, use this sheet to prepare you to communicate with God. In every text, look for the following:

ADORATION - What can I praise God for from this text?

What characteristics, names, or actions of God are in this text?

CONFESSION - What sin(s) does this text point out? Am I guilty of this?

THANKSGIVING - What can I thank God for from this text?

SUPPLICATION - What requests do I need to make to God?

What requests can I make for others?

When you fill this out, make this part of your prayer time. Praise God for what you learn about Him, confess the sin(s) that the text points out, thank Him for what He has done in the text, and make your requests based on the commands or promises in the text.

You can make copies of this sheet or you can start a notebook following this outline. Use the Word of God as a tool to deepen your prayer life! Discover the power and blessing of combining the Word of God and Prayer!

PRAYING THE BEATTITUDES

The Beattitudes describe the character of people who have entered the Kingdom of God. Those who have surrendered to God and entered the Kingdom of God have a radically different life-style from all others. These verses describe what your life is to be characterized by as a member of God's Kingdom.

Whenever God declares what should characterize your life, that should become your prayer request. Every command of God should become a prayer request. You should plead that God would work this into your life. I want to challenge you to pray through the Beattitudes. I want to encourage you to make these truths your prayer request.

You can start with the first beattitude. The following steps are offered as a guide:

- 1). Memorize the verse.
- 2). Meditate on the verse - Think about it from every angle.
- 3). Ask God to show you what it means to be "poor in spirit".
- 4). Pray about what you've learned.
- 5). Examine your life to see if this is becoming a part of your life. **The Word of God informs you of God's demands and expectations. Through prayer, these things are worked into you. Prayer makes these a living reality in your life.**

This sample prayer is offered as a guide. You can write your own or you can use this one. Plead with God to make you poor in spirit each day of this month. Ask Him to make this characteristic of your life.

Praying the Beattitudes

Matthew 5:3 - Poor in Spirit

Heavenly Father and Holy God,

In your Word, O God, You say that my life is to be characterized by poverty of spirit. I recognize that You are all-sufficient. You need nothing. You are complete in Yourself. From You, By You, and Through You are all things. I also recognize that you are holy. The cherubim surround Your throne. From eternity past throughout all eternity, they cry out continually, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty!"

Yet, I also see that I am utterly sinful. It is only through Your Son, Christ Jesus, that I am forgiven and the power of sin has been broken in my life. I confess that no good thing dwells in me. I am bankrupt spiritually. I have no power and no resources to make myself holy. I am utterly insufficient for this. I am absolutely dependent on You for any spiritual good or benefit in my life. All that I can do is cry out for mercy and depend on You. As the angels cry out, "Holy, Holy, Holy!", I plead in your presence, "Have mercy, Have mercy, Have mercy, O Holy God!" My only hope is in You and Your mercies that are fresh and new every morning. Father, I confess my utter dependence on You. Please remove any self-confidence, self importance, and self righteousness that is a part of my life. O God, protect me from ever developing the Laodicean complex. Don't allow me to become blinded to my need of You and Your power. I praise You with all my heart. Thank you for hearing me, O God. Amen.

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER SHEET

DATE: _____

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: _____

Opening Prayer: "Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law (Psalm 119:15, NKJV)."

ADORATION:

CONFESSION:

THANKSGIVING:

SUPPLICATION: