



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Transforming Lives Through Intercessory

Prayer And Fasting

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ISSUE 8

PRAYING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The loss of prayer in our schools grieves Christians. A righteous anger burns in the hearts of Christians concerning the loss of this freedom. The righteous grief and anger of Christians has motivated them to labor for a return to school prayer. Christians know the power of prayer and its effectiveness in bringing change and transformation in the lives of people. Because of this, there has been an increased emphasis on a return to prayer in school in recent years.

It is right and good to have an emphasis on prayer in schools. Yet, what about prayer for schools? As prayer in school has been emphasized, we have forgotten about praying for schools. It is not enough to grieve over the loss of this freedom.

It is not enough to have a righteous anger concerning this evil. Working for a return to prayer in school is only half of the battle. There has to be intercession for the students, the parents, the teachers, and the administrators. The church has the responsibility to offer powerful and strategic intercession for all involved in the school systems of our land.

It is unsure what will happen in the school prayer issue. All Christians need to labor to maintain and preserve our religious freedoms. Yet, at the same time, we should not and cannot fail to intercede for those involved with the school system. To do so would be a sin (1 Timothy 2:1-2). At the same time, the minds and lives of millions of children and young adults are being shaped and molded. The church cannot fail in interceding for the students and those involved in the molding and shaping of their lives.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on praying for our schools. Suggestions will be offered on how to intercede for students, teachers, parents, and administrators. It is my hope and prayer that you will be convicted and motivated to pray for the schools in your area and across the country. This is a crucial matter and deserves the attention and intercession of every Christian. God has often been pleased to begin spiritual awakenings among students. By praying for our schools, it could be a catalyst for another awakening

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among the students of this nation. Prayer is an essential element in the transformation of our schools and genuine change among the children and youth of this nation.

When God's people do not pray fervently and faithfully, Satan gains ground, the flesh conquers, and the world prevails.

"Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak"

(Matthew 26:41)

Why Should You Pray For The Schools?

Before we look at how to pray for the schools, we need to see why we should do this. We need to lay a foundation for our praying. This foundation must be based on the teachings of the Word of God. There are some powerful reasons from the Bible why believers should intercede for schools.

Believers should pray for the schools because it is the responsibility of the church. In **1 Timothy 2:1-2**, the apostle Paul declares that the church's responsibility is to intercede. He writes, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence." The church's intercession can have a powerful and righteous affect on society. By praying, the church can transform the society. The church is an agent of righteousness in the world. The church makes a difference through its intercession.

Through prayer, the church has an incredible potential to impact the schools. The schools are shaping and molding the minds and lives of millions of young people. The church can have a powerful influence in how these lives are shaped and molded through prayer. Through prayer, the power of God

is released into their lives and situations. When the church prays for the schools, the power of God is released into the schools. The power of God can vitally and eternally affect the lives of the students and the course of their lives.

Believers must pray for schools because the destiny of the nation is determined in the classroom. The future of a nation is being determined right now. The people who will guide this nation, its institutions, businesses, schools, families, and churches are being shaped and molded in our schools today. If the church desires to have an influence on the future and destiny of this nation, the church must intercede for the students, teachers, parents, and administrators that are involved in the school system. The church can and will make a difference through prayer. The Word of God says, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (**Ecclesiastes 3:1**). For these children and young adults, this is a time of preparation. It is a time for their beliefs and values to be shaped and fixed. The church can have a distinct influence in this matter by interceding for the students and those who teach them. The Word of God says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (**James 5:16**). When righteous people plead with God, they can influence a generation of young people. When this happens, they have a formidable influence on the destiny of that nation.

Believers must intercede for the schools because Satan has made them into a primary target. Satan is a wise and deceptive enemy. He is filled with hate and desires to damn and destroy. The Word of God declares, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (**1 Peter 5:8**). He is the roaring lion who seeks to damn the lives and souls of young people. He is the roaring lion who wants to poison and destroy Christian kids. He would love nothing more than to damn young people to hell. He would love to wound and destroy Christian youth.

Satan has made the school systems a primary target. He has determined that he can do great damage through the schools. Think about it. Where do most young people spend the majority of their time? It is at school. They are in school around their peers more than they are at home or in church. Many children spend more time with their

teachers than they do with their parents. This places the children and young people in a vulnerable position. This gives Satan a perfect opportunity to work in their lives to accomplish his evil and devious plans. This allows him the opportunity to attack with his lies, his schemes, and his temptations.

The church has to go on the offensive in this matter. We must provide a covering for the students. We must offer prayer through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We must stand against the attacks of Satan through the school systems. We take this stance through intercession.

Praying for the schools can be a powerful tool for evangelism. The Christian young people in the school systems of our nation have an immense opportunity. Jesus Christ calls His people to have a positive and powerful impact on the lost world, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned. It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (**Matthew 5:13-14**). He also calls on Christians to share with lost people about their need of a personal relationship with Him, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (**Acts 1:8**). In the schools, Christian youth have an opportunity to exercise a righteous influence. They have an opportunity to share the gospel with their lost friends and classmates. By praying for Christian students and teachers, we are actually praying for a righteous influence in the schools. We are also interceding for the salvation of lost children and youth. We must pray that God would help and empower the Christians in the school system to exercise a righteous influence and to share the gospel of Jesus. We must pray that they would take advantage of this opportunity.

At the same time, believers need to pray for schools to protect Christian students from worldly and evil influences. Just as Christian youth have an opportunity to have a righteous influence, they can also be influenced by the wrong people and values. Other young people who do not know Jesus Christ will surround Christian students. The Word of God says, "Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits" (**1 Corinthians 15:33**). They will be

exposed to ideas, values, language, and behaviors that do not please God and are in opposition to His Word. This places the Christian youth in a vulnerable position. And no Christian youth is immune. They will face these temptations and there is the possibility of corruption by and compromise with these things. Believers must pray that the faith of Christian students would be blessed and fortified to stand strong in this environment. We must continually plead for these students and teachers. We must cry out to God for their protection.

Praying for the schools fits with the character of God. God is a God of knowledge. The Word of God says, "For the LORD is the God of knowledge" (**1 Samuel 2:3**). The Word of God also says, "With Him are wisdom and strength, He has counsel and understanding" (**Job 12:13**). God is the source of knowledge. He has created it. All truth has come from God. He is the standard of truth. Pursuing knowledge is an honor to God. It is glorifying to God. God has created people with minds. His purpose in doing this is so that people will pursue the truth that He has created. We are to pray that the students will pursue knowledge. We are to pray that the teachers will impart truth to the students. By praying for students and teachers, we are actually glorifying the knowledge of God.

Praying for the schools is in line with God's command for man. When God created all things, He gave a command to man. That command is, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (**Genesis 1:28**). God commanded man to have dominion over the earth. God desires that man use the world that He has created. He wants man to grow in knowledge and be a good steward of what He has created. The key to this is that man study, research, and grow in understanding of this world. This will happen only if people labor to study and grow in their understanding. By praying for the schools, you are praying that people will grow in their knowledge of this world and how to use it. This is in line with God's command of dominion.

Children are a precious gift from the Lord. This should motivate believers to pray for the schools. The children and the young people in the schools are made in the image of God. The Word

of God says, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth" (**Psalm 139:13-15**). These things are true of the young people in the schools across our land. God has created these young people. They are the work of His hands. God skillfully created them. They are the wonderful work of God. In no way do I want to minimize the personal sinfulness of these young people. All of them have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (**Romans 3:23**). All of them have a sinful nature that must be dealt with through the power of God and the work of Jesus Christ (**Ephesians 2:1-10**). Yet, it must be emphasized that they are the handiwork of God and are accountable to God.

Because of this, we should be motivated to pray for them. They are accountable to God and will one day stand in judgment. They are made for eternity. These young people will one-day experience the joy and the blessedness of heaven or the misery and damnation of hell. They are God's handiworks. He has entrusted us with this precious gift. We should labor with all our strength to intercede for them and minister to them. Because they are God's gift, the work of His hands, we should be motivated to pray for them.

Praying For The Students

The following are suggestions on how you can intercede for the students of a school system. You can pray these things for individuals, classes, or entire schools. These prayer requests can apply to different school settings, from grade school to college. These prayer requests can also be adapted to those who practice homeschooling.

You can use this as a prayer guide or develop your own from it. The key issue is to offer powerful and strategic intercession for the students.

- ◆ *Pray that the lost students of the school will surrender to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of their lives (**John 3:1-16; John 6:44; Matthew 11:28**). Plead that the Holy Spirit will work powerfully in the lives of the students who*
- do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Ask Him to convict the lost students and draw them to Jesus Christ. Call on Him to stir the hearts of the lost students, showing them their lostness and their need of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ◆ *Pray that the believing students will exercise a powerful and righteous influence in the school (**Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12, 3:15-16**). Pray that God would enable the believing students to live holy and obedient lives. Ask that their lives will be a shining testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that God would remove anything from their lives that would hinder their testimony.*
- ◆ *Plead that the believing students will be powerful witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ (**Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8**). The believing students need to live holy lives. Yet, they also need to be personal witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that they would be filled with the Holy Spirit so that they can speak boldly about who Jesus is and what Jesus can do (**Acts 4:31**). Ask God to give them wisdom about sharing their personal faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that they will grow spiritually so that they can share and defend their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in a loving and powerful way.*
- ◆ *Plead with God to give believing students' strength and courage when they are persecuted for their faith (**2 Timothy 3:10-12**). Christian students will face persecution. This persecution may come in a variety of forms. It can range from being ignored to ridicule to violence. Pray that God would protect these students and would give them strength and courage in these situations. Ask God to enable them to stand strong in the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- ◆ *Pray that the believing students would be protected from evil, worldly influences (**Proverbs 1:10-19; 1 Corinthians 15:32; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 John 2:15-17**). Students who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will surround believing students. They will be exposed to ideas, values, and behaviors that are not pleasing or acceptable to God. There is a danger that these ideas, values,*

and behaviors can take root in their lives. This is why David writes, "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night" (**Psalm 1:1-2**). If a person listens to the counsel, the ideas and values, of the ungodly, that person will walk or live in a way that is not pleasing or acceptable to God. Pray that the believing students will know the truth and will stand strong in it. Ask God to give them the discernment to see through the empty and foolish values, ideas, and behavior of the world.

- ◆ *Pray that the students will have a hunger for learning* (**Genesis 1:28; 1 Samuel 2:10; Job 12:13**). God is a God of knowledge. He is the source of all truth. He has created individuals with a capacity to learn and to think. Pray that the students will use their ability to think and to learn. Call on God to stir within them a hunger to learn and grow in their understanding of their subjects. Plead with Him to create a desire for reading and thinking in the lives of the students.
- ◆ *Pray that the students will be delivered from laziness* (**Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5; 10:26; 12:24; 12:27; 13:4; 15:19; 19:15; 19:24; 20:4; 24:30-34**). A hindrance to learning is laziness. Pray that a spirit of laziness will not dominate the students. Ask God to show them the futility and sinfulness of laziness. Plead that laziness will be destroyed from their lives. Pray that they will not make excuses but will do their work.
- ◆ *Plead that the students will be diligent in all areas of their lives* (**Ecclesiastes 2:24; 3:1-8, 22**). Pray that the students will be diligent in all that they undertake. Ask God to enable them to work hard in their studies and to do their best in their extracurricular activities. This is a unique time in their lives. This is a time of preparation for their future. Plead with God to enable them to make the most of this time. Call on Him to empower them to be diligent in learning and preparing for their future.
- ◆ *Plead that the students will develop healthy relationships* (**Exodus 20:12-17; Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39; Ephesians 4:32**). During these years, these young people will be developing their relationship skills. How they learn to relate to people at this time will determine how they relate to and treat others throughout the rest of their lives. Pray that they will develop healthy relationships with others. Ask that they will learn to relate to others with compassion, respect, and understanding. Pray especially that these young people will develop healthy relationships with the opposite sex. Ask that they will learn how to respect and care about each other. Call on God to help them from developing unhealthy ideas or practices in relationships with the opposite sex.
- ◆ *Ask that the students will have good relationships with the teachers and the administration* (**Romans 13:1, 7; 1 Peter 2:13-14**). This is crucial to the learning process. Pray that the students will have respect for the teachers and will show this respect to the teachers. The Bible teaches submission to authorities. Pray that the students will submit to the teachers and administrators who are in authority over them. Plead that the students will have a good working relationship with the teachers and administration.
- ◆ *Pray that Satan's schemes among the students will be destroyed* (**1 Peter 5:8-9; James 5:16**). Satan is determined to damn to hell as many people as he can. He longs to wound and destroy the testimony of Christians. He will carry out this malicious and wicked strategy among the students of a school. Satan is no respecter of persons or ages; he will work in the school system among young people just as he will anywhere else. The Word of God says, "Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices" (**2 Corinthians 2:11**). The Bible tells us that Satan has "devices". This word means "schemes" or "plans". Satan has schemes or plans that he has develop to use against lost people and Christians. He uses these schemes to carry out his evil and malicious purposes. Pray that Satan would be hindered from working powerfully in

the school system. Pray that he would be bound by the power of God and that His evil and malicious plans would utterly fail. Ask God to destroy His works and plans against the students. Satan hates these students and has a terrible and tragic plan for their lives. Pray that through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit these plans would be destroyed and would have no effect on the students.

- ◆ *Pray for a deep and powerful work of the Holy Spirit among the student body (John 16:7-11; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 42:1-2).* Plead that the Holy Spirit will do a powerful work of grace in the hearts of the students. Pray that genuine spiritual awakening would begin among the students. Pray that the power of God would fall on the students of the school system, meeting their particular spiritual needs. I know that there are restraints on freedom of religion in the schools. I know that there are attempts to eliminate any Christian influence in schools. Yet, federal restraints and the agenda of anti-Christian people cannot stop the sovereign Spirit of the living God. They cannot stop His powerful work in the lives of people. Jesus says, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). This should give confidence to every believer in his or her intercession for the schools. The Holy Spirit saves. He revives. He heals. He changes. He blesses. He does all this in response to believing prayer. Pray with all your intensity for a work of the Holy Spirit in the schools.

Praying for today's students is your investment in the future. You are taking part in shaping and molding the future of the nation and the church. You can make a difference if you will pray! Through prayer, you can have a powerful influence that will extend beyond your lifetime.

Praying Against The Problems Among Students

In addition to praying for the students, it is necessary to pray against the problems among students. It is apparent that the schools have problems. These problems are often severe and widespread. There are numerous ways that teachers and administrators are attempting to deal with these problems. Yet, the root of the problem is in the hearts and the lives of the students. There has to be a change of heart in the lives of the students. A crucial part of this change is intercessory prayer.

The following are some of the most prevalent problems in the schools. These are prayers based on Scripture that you can use to intercede concerning the problem. You can use these and develop your own from them.

Rebellion: "Father, Your Word teaches that people are to submit to the powers that You have ordained. I pray that the students of _____ would submit to and respect their teachers, coaches, and administrators. Remove any spirit of rebellion that exists in the lives of the students of _____ school. Your Word says that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. Rebellion is a demonic stronghold. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and Your mercy, I ask that You would tear down the stronghold of rebellion in the lives of the students at _____ school" (Romans 13:1, 1 Samuel 15:22).

Drugs: "You have created the students of _____ school. They are the work of Your hands. Enable them to keep their bodies free of drugs. Lord God, I pray that You would deliver the students of _____ school from drug addiction. By Your preserving power, protect those students that have not yielded themselves to drugs. Father, by Your Son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, deliver those young people who are addicted. Set them free through Your power and Your grace. I plead that You would cut off the flow of any drugs into _____ school" (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 139; Galatians 5:20).

Alcohol: "Father, Your Word warns us of the dangers of alcohol. Your Word says that wine is a

mockers, that strong drink is a brawler, and that whoever is led astray by it is not wise. Father, I plead that the students of _____ would not be led astray by alcohol. I pray that they will see through the trap that is being set for them by Satan. Father, I ask that they would realize the truth of **Proverbs 23:29-30**, "Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine." Cause them to realize the damaging and deadly consequences of alcohol. By Your preserving grace, protect those who have not started drinking. Give them strength to say "No!" By Your gospel and Your power, set those free who have started drinking. Cause them to hate alcohol with all their being. By Your own power, cut off alcohol from _____ school (**Proverbs 20:1; Jeremiah 32:17**).

Broken and troubled homes: "Father, You have created marriage and family. For Your glory and the good of people, You have created these institutions. According to Your standard, marriage is a lifetime commitment. Parents are to love and train their children. Yet, Father, many disregard and disobey Your standards. The consequence for this is broken homes. The children are the ones who suffer the greatest. I plead that You would bless the families that make up _____ school. Strengthen and bless the families of _____ school. Lord, for those children that come from broken homes or homes that are in trouble, I plead that You would have mercy on them. You are a compassionate God, abounding mercy to generations. You are a merciful God and I ask You to extend this mercy to them. Protect them, bless them, and enable them to do well in their work and other activities. I ask that You would intervene and that You would not let the broken home destroy their life or their potential" (**Mark 10:1-12; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Exodus 34:6-7; Lamentations 3:21-23**).

Violence: "Father, You hate violence done to the innocent and the helpless. Your Word says in **Psalm 11:5**, "The LORD tests the righteous, but the wicked and the one who loves violence His soul hates." Father, I plead that You would protect and

defend the students of _____ school from violence. I pray that You would intervene and keep students or others from doing harm to the students of _____ school. I ask You to thwart the devious and evil plans of those who would do violence to the students or teachers. Because of Your hatred for violence, I pray that You would deliver the students of _____ school from it (**Psalm 18:48, 140:11; Proverbs 28:17; Psalm 7:16**).

Sexual immorality: "Father, You expressly forbid sexual activity outside of the marriage relationship. Your Word says, "Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge" (**Hebrews 13:4**). I pray that You would grant the students of _____ school a desire for purity. Father, I plead that You would strengthen and protect the students that are still virgins. Grant them the power to resist temptation and to have a clean and pure thought life. Deliver them from pornography and immoral thinking or talking. For those students who are engaging in sexual activity. I plead that You would have mercy on them. Cause them to see the consequences of sexual immorality. Your Word says, "Can a man take fire to his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, and his feet not be seared?" (**Proverbs 6:27-28**). There are serious and deadly consequences to sexual immorality. Grant them repentance from this sin and enable them to remain pure until they marry. I pray that the students of _____ school would develop healthy relationships (**Proverbs 17:17**).

Peer pressure: "Lord God, I pray that the students of _____ school would be delivered from peer pressure. Give them the strength to resist temptation. I ask that they will not be enticed by others to do what they know is wrong. Grant them the ability to stand strong and not follow others into wickedness. I pray that You would cause the students of _____ school to see the seriousness and the end of those who blindly follow the crowd (**Proverbs 1:10-19**).

The Occult: "Father, Your Word declares that Satan is a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. He is out to destroy and damn anyone that he can. He powerfully works through the occult. I

pray that You would deliver the students of _____ school from any and every occultic influence or activity. I pray in the name of Jesus that every inroad that Satan has made in the school through the occult would be stopped and destroyed. I plead that the students who have been drawn into this evil would be set free. Jesus has won complete victory over Satan and his forces. He has power and authority over them. On the basis of His authority and victory, I pray that the students of _____ school would be protected from and delivered from the power of Satan through the occult (1 Peter 5:8-9; Colossians 2:15).

Cheating: "Father, I pray that the students of _____ school would not yield to the temptation of cheating. I ask that they would work hard and that they would do their own work. I plead that they would hate cheating and lying. Grant to them a love for work and diligence and a hatred of laziness and cheating. Enable each student to do his or her best according to the ability that You have given him or her (Proverbs 6:17; 1 Timothy 2:2).

Praying For The Teachers

Teachers need the prayers of God's people. Their job is demanding and challenging. Their work is strenuous and the pay does not compensate for the labor. At the same time, they are confronted with a sobering responsibility. They are helping shape and mold the minds and lives of the next generation. Due to the difficulty and the seriousness of their job, they should be primary targets for the intercession of the church.

The following are prayer requests that you can use to intercede for teachers. These prayer requests can also be adapted to help you pray for administrators of the school. You can use these requests as a guideline or develop your own from them. The key issue is to provide faithful and fervent intercession for those who teach.

- ◆ *Pray that unsaved teachers would enter into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:15-18, 6:44; Acts 4:12, 17:30-31).* Pray that God would genuinely and powerfully save those teachers who do not

have a personal relationship to Jesus Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict them and draw them to Jesus Christ. Pray that these teachers would turn from their sin in repentance and to Christ in genuine faith.

- ◆ *Pray that believing teachers will exercise a powerful and righteous influence among the students and teachers (Proverbs 28:1; Matthew 5:13-16).* Ask God to enable the believing teachers to live righteous lives before the students and the other teachers. Plead with Him to empower them to live holy lives that glorify God. Ask that the students and teachers will see a difference in their lives because of Jesus Christ and His salvation.
- ◆ *Ask God to empower the believing teachers to be faithful and powerful witnesses of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 4:31).* Pray that the believing teachers will share their personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ask God to give these teachers the wisdom to know when and how to share their faith. Plead with God to protect these teachers as they share their faith. Call for God to intervene and protect their lives and their jobs.
- ◆ *Ask that the teachers will have a heart for truth (Proverbs 22:17; John 18:38).* Pray that the teachers will have a desire to learn and will impart what they learn to the students. Ask that the teachers will not follow foolish theories or false ideologies. Pray that the teachers will love truth and will labor to share that with the students. Ask that that they will set the example of seeking for and learning truth.
- ◆ *Plead that the teachers would be given wisdom to know how to teach and how to deal with the students (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5).* Teachers have to deal with students who have varied backgrounds and learning styles. Each student is unique and different. This will require much wisdom in how to teach, how to treat, and how to discipline the students. Plead that God would grant wisdom to the teachers in how to teach, treat, and discipline the students.

Pray that the teachers will know how to deal with problem students (Proverbs 22:15). A teacher has to deal with a classroom of students. These students are going to bring their own unique set of problems to the classroom. Yet, there are some young people that are going to be extremely troubled. Ask God to give teachers the wisdom and insight that is needed to deal with these types of kids. Pray that God would grant them compassion and wisdom for this situation.

- ◆ *Ask God to help the teachers deal with the parents of the students (Matthew 22:39-40).* Pray that the teachers will have the wisdom and insight to know how to deal with the parents. Ask that they will have the compassion and firmness in their dealings with parents. Call on God to help them deal with unkind and abusive parents.
- ◆ *Pray that the teachers would be strengthened to cope with the pressure and demands (2 Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:1; Psalm 73:26; Isaiah 40:29; Jeremiah 16:19).* Teachers deal with students throughout the day. They face the challenge of teaching and disciplining these students. They also do massive amounts of paperwork. They face the parents of their students. They have to deal with all these things along with the pressures and demands of their personal lives. Pray that God would give them the strength that they need in order to deal with the pressures and demands that they face. Ask Him to pour out His favor on them.
- ◆ *Ask God to protect the teachers from discouragement (Philippians 4:13).* Dealing with students and parents can put a strain on teachers. Teaching is a difficult profession. They are dealing with students from a variety of backgrounds, abilities, and problems. To face these students on a daily basis and to attempt to teach and discipline them is challenging and demanding. It can often lead to discouragement. The strong desire to teach can often be quenched by the problems and the pressures of the classroom. Pray that God would protect the teachers from discouragement. Ask Him to empower them to

excel even in the face of discouragement. Pray that they will have a spirit of perseverance in spite of the problems.

- ◆ *Plead that God would bless the personal lives of the teachers (Psalm 103:1-5; James 1:17).* Teachers have lives outside of the classroom. They have feelings. They have families. They have pressures. They have problems. Pray for God's blessing on their personal lives. Plead with Him to bless the physically, emotionally, financially, and spiritually. Call on Him to bless them with good and perfect things. Ask Him to help them deal with the problems of their personal lives. It will be difficult for a teacher to do an effective job in the classroom if there is turmoil in his or her personal life.
- ◆ *Pray that the teachers will understand the seriousness of their responsibility (Ecclesiastes 12:14).* Teachers are influencing a generation of people. What they do in the classroom will affect cities, communities, states, the country, and the world for many years to come. God has given this responsibility to them. All authority comes from God (Romans 13:1). They will one day give an account to God for their work with the students and the impact that they had on generations of young people.
- ◆ *Pray that the believing teachers will have a spirit of prayer (Colossians 4:2).* Ask God to give the believing teachers a heart to pray for the students and the other teachers. Pray that they will saturate their work and their students with prayer throughout the day.

Praying For The Parents

The following are prayer requests that you can use to intercede for the parents of the students. The parents are the key to the development and growth of the students. Raising and training children is a difficult and demanding task. Parents need the prayers of the church. The following prayer request can help you intercede for the parents.

- ◆ *Pray that unsaved parents will come to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior (John 3:16, 6:44, Matthew 11:28; Acts 4:12).* Plead with

God to save lost parents. Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict, call, and convert these lost parents through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- ◆ *Plead that believing parents will be growing in their relationship to God (John 8:31-32; 1 Peter 2:1-2).* Pray that the believing parents will mature in their relationship to God. This will enable the parents to help their children grow in their relationship to God. You cannot lead someone where you have not been yourself. Pray for the growth and maturity of the parents.
- ◆ *Ask that the believing parents would exercise a powerful and righteous influence (Proverbs 28:1; Matthew 5:13-16).* Pray that the parents will take a stand for Jesus Christ and godly values. Plead that they will not compromise with worldly standards.
- ◆ *Pray that the parents would be genuinely interested in the child and his or her education (Ephesians 6:4).* Pray that the parents will take an active role in the education and development of their children. Ask God to cause them to be actively involved in the lives of the children. Pray that the parents will not neglect the children and their development.
- ◆ *Plead that the parents will have good relationships with the teachers and the administrators (Romans 13:1).* Ask God to grant good working relationships between the parents and the teachers and administration. Pray that the parents would give respect and support to the teachers and the administrators.
- ◆ *Plead that the parents will create an atmosphere at home that will help the child learn and grow (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).* Ask God to convict the parents about teaching and training their children. The biblical principle is that education begins in the home. The parents must take the initiative to teach and train the children. Pray that this will be the conviction of the parents.
- ◆ *Pray that the parents will exercise discipline at home (Proverbs 22:15).* Ask God to move in the hearts of the parents concerning this. Plead with Him to grant conviction concerning this. Call on Him to convict parents of the necessity of disciplining their children. Discipline begins in the home. If a child does not learn discipline in the home, he or she will exhibit rebellion to every type authority. Pray that parents will determine in their hearts to love and discipline their children.
- ◆ *Pray that believing parents will have a spirit of prayer for the administrators, teachers, and students (Colossians 4:2).* Ask God to create a burden and longing for prayer among believing parents. Plead with God to move them to pray for their children, the teachers, and the administrators. Pray that they will saturate every aspect of their child's life through prayer.
- ◆ *Ask God to give the parents a burden concerning the seriousness of their responsibility (Psalm 127:3-5).* Children are a gift from God. Parents are accountable to God for this gift. These children are also the future of the nation, the church, our institutions, and the economy. This is a staggering responsibility. Pray that they will recognize this in a unique and profound way.
- ◆ *Plead that the parents will be sensitive and wise concerning the needs of their children (Ephesians 6:4).* Pray that the parents will have a special sensitivity toward their children. Ask God to help them recognize the needs and problems of the child. Ask Him to enable them to meet these needs and deal with these problems.
- ◆ *Ask God to give strength and power to the parents in order to cope with the pressure and demands of raising a child (2 Samuel 22:3; Psalm 18:1).* Raising children is a rigorous and demanding calling. Parents have many pressures and concerns. Pray that God would give them strength to face the demands of raising a child. Ask God to give them the power to teach and train their children.

Praying For Spiritual Awakening Among Students

As I have prayed for students and genuine spiritual awakening among them, the Lord has enabled me to develop a pattern of prayer concerning this. He has given me a basic plan of how to plead with Him for this. This plan is simply a guide to help believers to plead with God for this great necessity. You can use this plan or develop your own from it. I offer it simply as a guide and as motivation for intercession. This plan can be used to pray for students of a school or even for the kids that make up a church youth group.

This plan for prayer is based on the acrostic **S.C.H.O.O.L.** Each letter represents a particular blessing that you need to ask of God. These blessings are essential to receiving the desperately needed awakening among students. Plead with God for these things with all the boldness and faith that you have. Call on Him to grant a genuine spiritual awakening to the youth of our day—an awakening that will spread to all sectors of our society.

Spirit-Pray that the Holy Spirit would powerfully move among the young people. Plead that His power would fall on them and meet their particular spiritual needs. Pray that He would convict and call lost youth to the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that He would convict and renew the faith and commitment of saved youth. Ask Him to reveal His mighty power in the lives of young people (**John 16:7-11; Psalm 80**).

Confession-Pray fervently that young people will acknowledge their sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal their sin to them in fresh and powerful ways and that He will move them to confess their sins. Pray that God would grant repentance to young people. Ask Him to create within them a hunger for God, His Word, and holiness of life (**Psalm 51; Acts 3:19; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Psalm 42:1-2**).

Homes-Ask God to transform the homes of the young people. Pray that the Holy Spirit would bless the marriages of the parents. Plead that the parents and the children will have good and healthy relationships. Pray that their homes would be

places where Christ is exalted and the Word of God is the foundation (**Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Proverbs 5:15-23; Psalm 127**).

Obstacles-Pray that any obstacles to this awakening would be removed by the Holy Spirit. Ask God to deal with anything that might hinder the experience of a genuine work of the Holy Spirit. Pray that Satan's plans for these young people would be destroyed. Plead that he will have no effectiveness in getting a stronghold in their lives and in destroying their lives (**Ephesians 4:30; 1 Peter 5:8-9; John 8:44**).

Openness-Pray that the young people will have openness to the Word of God. They are hearing so many messages. Ask God to give them a hunger for the Word of God. Pray that the lost youth will be open to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. Plead that the believing youth will build their lives on the Word of God (**1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**).

Leaders-Pray that God would raise up young people who have a heart for Him and for spiritual awakening. Ask Him to mold young men and women who will be the vessels through which He can send awakening. Pray that He will give these young people a fearless and relentless attitude toward God, His Word, and spiritual awakening (**2 Chronicles 7:14**).

Prayer Coordinators and Prayer Ministries

During recent fasts, God has burdened me to pray for prayer coordinators and prayer ministries in churches. He has given me an unceasing burden to intercede for these things. If you are a prayer coordinator, please contact me. I would love the opportunity to pray for you. If you are interested in starting a prayer ministry in your church, also please contact me. I would love to pray about this matter. Please send me your name and the name of your church.

**Check out new Prayer Products on Web
site**

WEB SITE UPDATE

We have made some changes and additions to our web site and feel that this will be more helpful and useful to you. Below are the items that have been added and/or changed:

1. A **marquee** has been added to front page showing the newly added features.
2. The **Praying Parent Brochure** has been requested by many. A navy blue icon allows you to access and print the brochure at your convenience.
3. Three prayer guides (**Praying for your Pastor, Praying for the Lost, Praying for Revival**) have been added to help you intercede in specific areas. Icons are available near the bottom of the front page which allow you to view and print the guides.
4. "**Praying Through Proverbs**" is a weekly devotional taken from the book of Proverbs. A maroon icon allows you to send us your E-mail address in order to receive the devotional. The devotional series begins the first week of September.
5. The **Prayer Conditioner** sheets have been updated to a booklet format. The format allows additional journaling space. The adult conditioner is an 8 ½ X 11 booklet and the children conditioner is 5 ½ X 8 booklet. The conditioners will help you develop skills in intercession. We have also added two new "Prayer Products". They are **Praying for You Church Manual** and **The Prayer Life of Jesus Workbook**.
6. "**The Message Board**" has been activated to provide opportunities such as daily devotions, news about the ministry and a forum for insights about prayer. There will also be a space provided for you to give us feedback.

We are seeking to make the site one that will be useful to you personally and/or to your church. Our prayer is that God would continue to lead us to provide necessary information that would be helpful to you in your relationship to Him. **Come visit our site at www.prayerclosetministries.org!**



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