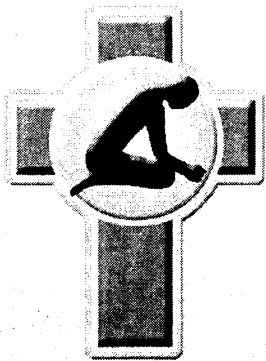


THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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WARFARE PRAYER FOR THE LOST

When we pray for lost people, we are entering into spiritual warfare. We are going against the enemy and his forces of evil. Satan has the lost person bound (**Ephesians 2:1-3**). He desires to continue his devious hold over this person. He in no way wants to give up his grip in this person's life. We are praying for this hold to be destroyed. We are asking for this person to be set free and experience Christ's salvation. This puts us into the midst of spiritual warfare. We are going counter to Satan's purpose for this person.

I'm not sharing this in order to scare or discourage any believer. You must know that praying for the lost is spiritual warfare. Satan and his demons are real. Their desire and efforts to blind and lead lost people to hell are just as real. Praying for the lost is a spiritual battle that has eternal consequences. It is pleading with God to touch and change people along with asking for the destruction of Satan's powerful and murderous schemes.

When we pray for the lost, we must plead with God to save and deliver people. Yet, we must also pray against the attacks and schemes of the enemy. The Bible teaches the reality of Satan and his demons. They exist and are laboring to lead hosts of people to an eternal hell. Because of this, we must pray against the works and plans of the enemy. Through prayer, we are to fight and agonize for

those whom Satan intends to doom to hell. It is not an either/or option. We must pray for God to save while also warring against the enemy and his demons.

Through Jesus, you are more than a conqueror. Because of the blood and righteousness of Jesus, you have nothing to fear. Because of Jesus' name, you have mighty power to pray for the lost and fight against the schemes of the enemy. You can make a temporal and eternal difference in the lives of the lost through your intercession.

In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, we will focus on warfare prayer for the lost. We will offer a variety of Scripture prayers and ideas to help you fight for the lost on your knees. It is our hope and prayer that these materials will enable you to stand in the gap for the lost and pray the harvest in.

Why Do We Need To Do Spiritual Warfare In Behalf Of The Lost?

We must pray for the lost because of Satan's work in their lives. *First, Satan has enslaved the lost.* The Bible tells us that the lost live under the power of darkness in the kingdom of Satan (**Colossians 1:13**). The Word also reveals that Satan has taken them captive to do his will (**2Timothy 2:26**). The

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Scripture teaches that the lost walk according to Satan's evil desires, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (**Ephesians 2:1-2**).

From these verses, we can see that lost people are bound by Satan. They are unable to resist him. They are powerless to overcome his evil and powerful grip in their lives. They must have something outside of themselves to set them free. This is why we must pray. It is only the power of God released through prayer that can break this satanic stronghold over peoples' lives. It will take the almighty power of God to destroy Satan's grip in the lives of people. And this power flows as we seek God for the lost.

Second, Satan hates people and wants to destroy them. The Lord Jesus Christ described Satan in this way, "He was a murderer from the beginning" (**John 8:44**). Jesus also describes him as a thief, "The thief does not come except to steal and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (**John 10:10**). In contrast to Jesus, Satan desires to kill and destroy. It is his desire to wound, hurt, and condemn people to an eternal hell. He has no love or pity for anyone. He only wants to steal, kill, and destroy.

This is why we must pray for the lost. It is only through prayer that we can thwart his murderous schemes. It is only by pleading with God that lost people can be delivered from Satan's destructive goals. We must stand against his deadly, wicked plans by seeking God for the salvation of those who do not follow Jesus Christ.

Third, Satan actively works against lost people. He labors to keep people from coming to Christ. He strives to continue his devious hold on the lives of people. The Word of God declares that he blinds the minds of unbelievers to keep them from understanding and believing the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). He seeks to snatch the Word out of a person's heart to hinder them from being saved

(**Matthew 13:4, 18-19**). He lies to unbelievers so that there will be no room for the truth in their lives (**John 8:44**). The Bible teaches that Satan actively works against people coming to Christ. He opposes any attempt to bring someone to Jesus Christ.

Because of this, we must pray fervently for the lost. Leading people to Jesus involves spiritual warfare. Satan will not give up his murderous grip in the lives of people. He does not want to release his captives. He will not do it unless he is forced through the Word of God and prayer. Prayer is our weapon to fight for the lives and eternities of those who are lost. Through prayer, we come against this active opposition of the evil one. Through prayer, we can see people set free and come to Jesus in true faith.

Warfare Prayers

The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to pray for lost people. You can use them to pray for individuals or areas. These prayers will enable you to pray against Satan's work and to plead for God's work in those who need Jesus. They are based on the Word of God. You can plead them with confidence and expectation. You can use these or develop your own from them. The key issue is to pray God's Word for those who are bound by Satan.

Father, I plead that _____ would surrender to Jesus in true faith. I ask that _____ would turn to Christ that He might destroy the works of the devil in _____'s life. This is why You sent Jesus. I pray that _____ would receive Him and would be set free from the grip of the evil one (**1 John 3:8**).

Father, Your Word says that the devil is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He is attempting to destroy _____. I plead in Jesus' name that You would save _____. I ask that You would deliver _____ from this wicked plan of the enemy. I ask that _____ would turn to Jesus and experience eternal life (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Father, Your Word declares that Satan schemes against people. He has developed a plan to keep _____ from coming to Jesus. He is working to hinder _____ from giving his/her life to Jesus. I ask that You would hinder, frustrate, and destroy his schemes against _____. Remove them so that _____ will surrender himself/herself to Jesus as Lord and Savior (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).

Father, Your Word says that the devil blinds the minds of unbelievers. I pray in Jesus' name that You would remove what the devil is using to blind _____'s mind. I ask that You would destroy whatever the devil is using to keep _____ content in unbelief and lostness. Let the light of Your gospel penetrate _____'s mind and heart. Draw him/her to Jesus (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Father, Your Word declares that the devil will attempt to snatch the Word from _____'s heart. I ask in Jesus' name that You would prepare his/her heart. I plead that _____ would receive Your Word. Cause him/her to meditate on it and apply it to his/her life. Use Your Word to show _____ his/her need and to draw him/her to true faith in Jesus (**Matthew 13:4, 18-19**).

Father, Your Word says that Satan is a liar. He is lying to _____ in order to hinder him/her from coming to Jesus. I plead that You would enable _____ to see through the lies. I pray that _____ will receive the truth of Your Word and will be saved by it (**John 8:44**).

Father, I ask that You would deliver _____ from the kingdom of Satan and darkness. Place _____ into the kingdom of Your dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (**Colossians 1:13**).

Father, Your Word says that Satan is the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. I ask that You would hinder and destroy that work in _____'s life. I

plead that You would shatter his attempts to keep _____ from coming to Jesus (**Ephesians 2:1-2**).

Father, Your Word teaches that Satan is a tempter. He desires to lead people into sin. Father, I pray that You would bind Satan's tempting power in _____'s life. I plead that You would cause _____ to hate the sin that the enemy uses to keep _____ bound and lost (**Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5**).

Father, Your Word declares that Satan is the prince of the demons. He has numerous demons to do his work. I ask in Jesus' name that the demons assigned to _____ would be thrown into confusion. Cut them off from communication with the evil one. Hinder their efforts to keep _____ from hearing and believing the gospel. I plead that _____ would turn to Jesus in true faith and repentance (**Mark 3:22**).

Father, I pray that You would change _____'s mindset concerning Jesus and Your Word. I plead that the arguments and reasons that _____ has against Jesus and Your Word will be torn down. I ask that they would be demolished. Shatter these things so that _____ will receive the truth and will surrender to Jesus (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I ask that You would destroy the pride that is keeping _____ from Jesus Christ. I plead that You would break _____'s desire to rule his/her own life – to decide what is right and wrong. Show _____ that he/she is not God, but that You are. I pray that _____ would repent and surrender himself/herself to You through Jesus (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would shield _____ from the lies and temptations of Satan. I know that he is attempting to feed _____ lies, thoughts, and temptations that will keep him/her from repenting and believing in Christ. Cut off

Satan's access to _____. I pray that _____ would hear and believe only the truth of the Word of God (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I ask that _____ would turn to Jesus in true faith. Cause him/her to know that Jesus is the only hope for salvation, life, and freedom. I plead that _____ would turn to Jesus and would be set free from bondage and oppression of the evil one (**Acts 10:38**).

God's Character And Your City\Community

The following is a prayerwalking guide that you can use to pray for your city or community. It is based on God's character. The great need of our cities and communities is God. This guide can help you pray for your city or community to experience who God is. You can use these or develop your own from them.

Father, You are the true God. I pray that every person in this area would come to know You and worship You alone (**Deuteronomy 6:4**).

Father, grant healing and hope to the people of this area through Your great compassion (**Psalms 86:15**).

Father, fulfill Your good and eternal purpose for this area. I ask that You would accomplish all that You have purposed for this city\community (**Psalms 33:11**).

Father, I pray that every person in this area would trust in You because You are faithful (**Psalms 146:6**).

Father, I ask that every person in this area would believe and obey Your reliable Word (**Psalms 33:4**).

Father, You see and know all things. You see the crime in our area. Expose and bring to justice all the criminals in this area (**Psalms 11:14**).

Father, I plead that everyone in this area will seek You and find out how good You are (**Psalms 34:8**).

Father, I ask that the people of this area would repent and receive Your forgiveness (**Ephesians 1:6-7**).

O God, grant Your help and strength to those who are suffering and struggling (**2 Corinthians 12:9**).

Father, I plead that the people in this area would hate sin as You hate sin. Cause them to hate what You hate and to love what You love (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).

Cause the people of this area to reverence You and worship You as the angels of heaven do (**Isaiah 6:3**).

Father, I ask that the people of this area will know that You are not a respecter of persons and will accept anyone who believes in Your Son Jesus (**Acts 10:34**).

Father, I ask You to intervene and help the oppressed and needy in this area (**Psalms 140:12**).

Father, I pray that the people in this area would experience Your love, which is better than life itself (**Psalms 63:3**).

Father, enable the believers in this area to love one another in the same way that You love them (**1 John 4:7**).

Father, I plead that You would withhold Your judgment but will have mercy on this area. Grant spiritual awakening to this entire area that people may praise You and rejoice in You (**Psalms 78:38**).

Father, have mercy on the people in this area and deliver them from all that binds and wounds them (**Lamentations 3:22**).

O God, save and sanctify the people in this area by Your almighty power (**Jeremiah 32:27**).