



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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## Praying For Victory Over Sin

Can you experience victory over sin in your daily life? The Word of God says, "Yes!" to this question. The Bible teaches that you, as a follower of Jesus Christ, can face and overcome sin in your life. That may seem hard to believe. You might have a tendency to believe that this applies to others but not to you.

Sin lives as the persistent enemy of the believer. It wars against us on a daily basis, "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would (**Galatians 5:17**)."

Sometimes it comes at us head-on. At other times, it labors to sneak up on us. You gain victory over one sin only to fall prey to another sin. At times, temptation seems to come out of nowhere. It appears that sin always crouches at the door of our lives, waiting to overtake us (**Genesis 4:7**). Struggling against sin characterizes the life of every child of God. Until we enter heaven, this battle will rage.

How then can you have victory over sin in your personal life? Self-effort cannot win the battles against sin. Human resolve will not match sin's power. Mental gymnastics cannot stand against the deceitfulness of sin. In this war, you have to fight with supernatural weapons, "For though we walk in the flesh, we

do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (**2 Corinthians 10:3-4**).

What are your weapons for fighting against sin? God has provided you with an effective arsenal for fighting against sin. He has given you the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, a new nature, the church, other believers, the promises and warnings of His Word, and the examples of others. Yet, He has given you one more crucial weapon in this daily battle – prayer. Prayer plays a significant role in helping you fight and overcome sin.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on praying for victory over sin. As you call on God, you will receive the power and help you need in the daily battles against sin. The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to help you in praying for victory over sin in your personal life.

Father, Your Word says that I am dead to sin and alive to You. In Jesus' name, I acknowledge this and by faith trust You for this. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, sin no longer has control of my life. Help me to walk in this day-by-day (**Romans 6:11**).

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Father, Your Word says that I am not to allow sin to reign in my body, obeying its lusts. I plead for Your grace and power to do this (**Romans 6:12**).

Father, Your Word tells me I am not to allow my members to become an instrument of sin but of righteousness. I plead in Jesus' name that I will yield my mind, emotions, will, and body to You for righteousness (**Romans 6:13**).

Lord God Almighty, sanctify me entirely. Deliver my whole life from the power of sin. I ask that my spirit and soul and body will be preserved complete and without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (**1 Thessalonians 5:23**).

Father, in Jesus' name, I pray that I will abstain from every form of evil. Teach me to hate sin in every form (**1 Thessalonians 5:22**).

Father, in Your Word, You have promised me a way of escape from every temptation. Open my spiritual eyes so that I will not miss it. Stir my heart to look for the way of escape when I am tempted (**1 Corinthians 10:13**).

Father, You have provided me with everything I need to live a holy life. Enable me to walk in holiness before You and before others (**2 Peter 1:3**).

Lord Jesus, Your Word says that I can do all things because of Your strength. I can have daily victory over sin, particularly over (a sin or sins that you especially struggle with). Through Your strength, empower me to face and overcome this sin/sins (**Philippians 4:13**).

Father, in Jesus' name, I renounce the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Grant me the power and wisdom to live in the way that pleases You (**1 John 2:15-16**).

Father, I commit to look away the minute something tempting or potentially tempting comes into my view. Give me the wisdom and power to guard my heart and mind (**Job 31:1**).

Father, I pray that I will repent of my personal sin and will desire the sincere milk of the Word.

Weaken my desire for sin and increase my desire for Your holy Word (**1 Peter 2:1-2**).

Father, Your Son Jesus Christ died to make me holy. Because of His work on the cross, I ask You to make me holy. Purge me of the sin that Christ died to save me from on the cross (**1 Peter 1:15-19**).

Father, Your Word says that Christ bore my sin. He bore my sin that I might be transformed and live a righteous life. Because of Your Son's work in my behalf, cause me to hate sin. Because of Christ's work on the cross for me, I pray that You will change me and enable me to walk in obedience to You (**1 Peter 2:24**).

Father, I often feel vulnerable and weak against sin. You say that You show Yourself strong in the midst of my weakness. In my weakness and vulnerability, unleash Your power and help me to overcome temptation and sin (**Deuteronomy 3:24; 2 Corinthians 12:9**).

Father, Your Word says that Your angels exist to minister to believers. O God, when I am tempted, send Your angels to help me. When the devil attempts to deceive and trap me, send Your angels to protect and strengthen me (**Hebrews 1:14**).

Merciful Father, You are able to keep me from falling. You will one day present me without fault before Your throne. Grant me the mercy and power to stand firm against temptation and sin (**Jude 24-25**).

Father, I come against the enemy and his temptations, the world and its pleasures, and the flesh and its enticements with the Word, Christ's blood, my testimony, and a yielded life. You have declared that I am more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. Enable me to walk and live as a conqueror through Christ (**Revelation 12:11; Romans 8:37**).

Father, my war against sin is a battle of the mind. In Jesus' name, I resist every sinful thought. In Jesus' name, I will not accept the

lies of the enemy. In Jesus' name, I refuse anything contrary to Your Word. Grant me the

strength and help to take every thought captive to Christ (**2 Corinthians 12:5**).

Father, I plead that I will walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Holy Spirit, fill me with the power to overcome the lusts of the flesh (**Galatians 5:16**).

Father, I ask You to empower me to put the deeds of the flesh to death. At the same time, I ask You to cultivate the fruit of the Spirit in my life. Remove what is evil in my life and replace it with the fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:19-24**).

Father, I ask You to give me the wisdom and power to use Your Word as a sword. I pray that I will destroy temptation when it comes against me with the Word – the sword of the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 6:17**).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that I will be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. I accept and pray on the armor of God; enable me to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy (**Ephesians 6:10-17**).

Father, Your Word tells me how to live a pure life – help me live according to the truth of Your Word (**Psalms 119:9**).

Father, I seek You with all my heart; do not let me wander from Your commandments (**Psalms 119:10**).

Father, I ask that I will hide and treasure Your Word in my heart; deliver me from sin (**Psalms 119:11**).

O God, deliver me from sin; I pray that it will not rule over me. I ask You to guide me in a blameless path. I pray that the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart will be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer (**Psalms 19:13-14**).

## Developing A Hatred Of Sin

Praying for victory over sin includes developing a hatred of sin. That may sound

unusual to you. Yet, for the child of God, you must ever be on your guard against sin. You cannot allow yourself to be complacent toward sin.

You live in a sinful world. That which is sinful bombards you on a daily basis. Every day you are exposed to sinful images, speech, and actions. This daily exposure can harden you to how evil sin is. It can blind you to how much God hates it. It can also make you vulnerable. It can take the edge off your striving against it.

The following are some directions on how to cultivate a hatred of sin:

- ✓ *Meditate on how God responds to sin.* The Word shows that God responds harshly to sin. He unleashes earthly, temporal consequences for sin (**Galatians 6:8**). He has unleashed staggering judgments because of sin (**Genesis 6:6-7**). He will punish people in hell for eternity because of sin (**Revelation 20:11-15**). The fires of hell will burn forever because of sin's absolute wickedness and vanity. Do you see how evil and abominable sin is? If the holy and pure God responds to sin in this way, it has to be the greatest of all evils.
- ✓ *Meditate on the fact that sin devastates and brings death.* Don't be deceived; sin destroys and devastates (**James 1:14-16**).
- ✓ *Meditate on the truth that sin has consequences.* God will allow the consequences of sin to roll through your life (**Galatians 6:8**).
- ✓ *Meditate on the truth that sin grieves the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 4:30**).* You are in utter need of the Spirit's work and power. You cannot live the Christian life without Him and His work. Your sin grieves Him; it moves Him to show His displeasure. He will withhold His blessing and power. This will impair and hinder your own growth, witness, and effectiveness as a child of God.
- ✓ *Meditate on the fact that sin leads to eternal punishment in hell (**Romans 6:23**).* People must suffer for eternity for sin. They will experience God's justice for their life of sin. This ought to reveal to us how despicable and evil that sin is.

## The Dying Savior

Praying for victory over sin also includes remembering, reflecting on, and responding to Christ and His work on the cross in our behalf. Christ's work on the cross can and ought to motivate us to fight and war against sin in our lives. Meditate on the following truths about His work on the cross in your behalf. Reflect on these on a regular basis. Remember them when you are tempted to sin.

- By His death, Christ has put away your guilt (**Isaiah 53:10**).
- By His death, Christ has cleansed you from your impurity (**Zechariah 13:1**).
- By His death, Christ has saved you from your sin (**Matthew 1:21**).
- By His death, Christ has taken your sin away from you (**John 1:29**).
- By His death, Christ who knew no sin became sin for you (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).
- By His death, Christ has rescued you from this present evil age (**Galatians 1:3**).
- By His death, Christ has freed you from your sins (**Revelation 1:5**).
- By His death, Christ was pierced for your transgressions and crushed for your iniquities (**Isaiah 53:5**).
- By His death, Christ has delivered you from God's wrath (**Romans 5:9**).

A dying Savior cripples and crushes the power and enticement of sin. When you are tempted, remember the cross. When you are enticed to sin, reflect on the suffering of Jesus Christ. When you feel weak and vulnerable to sin, look back to the cross and see the Savior dying and bearing your sin.

How can you love that which caused your Savior so much pain? How can you delight in what cost Jesus Christ His life? For

the believer, looking back to the cross can help you overcome temptation and sin. It is a powerful antidote to the lure of sin.

Maybe you are not a believer. You have not surrendered your life to Jesus Christ. Right now, you have not experienced the power of Jesus Christ in your life. However, you can be forgiven of your sin; you can have victory over sin. Jesus Christ can give you a new life.

The good news of Jesus is that He died for sinners. The Bible says, "But God commendeth (reveals) his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (**Romans 5:8**). Christ died to save sinful people from their sin and to change them.

If you see yourself as a sinner and want to be saved and changed by Christ, call on Him now. Jesus Christ has come to save people from their sin. Right now, tell God that you are a sinner. Confess that you need His salvation. Put your trust in Jesus as your Savior and confess to God that You believe in His Son Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask Him to change you. If you need help, you can use the following prayer to seek God:

*God, I am a sinner. I have sinned against You. I can't change myself. Yet, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Savior of sinners. I confess that He is Your Son and You have sent Him into the world to save sinners. I now put my trust in Him as my personal Savior. I give Him my life as my personal Lord. I ask You to save me and forgive me of my sin. I call on You to change me and to give me a new life through Your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.*

If you have prayed this prayer from the heart, please share this with other believers. At the same time, please contact us at The Prayer Closet. We'd like to help you get started with your new life in Jesus Christ.



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