



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER

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ISSUE I

PRAYING FOR UNBELIEVERS!

Christians desire that the people around them will come to Christ, “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian. And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds” (**Acts 26:28-29**). This sums up the heart of Christians – that all others around them might come to know Christ and to experience His forgiveness and salvation.

How can we bring others to Christ? The foundation of bringing others to Christ is prayer. There is no substitute for praying for unbelievers, asking God to work in their lives and drawing them to Jesus Christ in true faith. This issue of “**The Prayer Closet**” will focus on praying for unbelievers – those who do not confess Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. It is my hope and prayer that this issue will encourage you and assist you in praying for people to come to Jesus Christ.

The Biblical Basis Of Praying For Unbelievers

Why should believers pray for the salvation of unbelievers? The Bible teaches us the following truths about evangelistic prayer:

- *Praying for unbelievers is God’s will for every believer (**Romans 10:1**)*. In this verse, we see Paul’s heart for the lost. His longing for their salvation led him to pray for them. While this is a revelation of His heart, these are also inspired words from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit provides Paul as an example of our attitude toward unbelievers. We are to have a burden for them and to pray for them.
- *Prayer is part of God’s method in bringing unbelievers to Christ (**Romans 10**)*. **Romans 10** reveals how God saves unbelievers. God’s method for bringing them to Christ is a believer’s passion for the lost (**10:1**), a believer’s prayers for the lost (**10:1**), and a believer’s proclamation to unbelievers (**10:17**).

- *Prayer destroys strongholds in peoples’ lives (**2 Corinthians 10:3-5**)*. Unbelievers have many excuses, rationalizations, and lies that hinder them from hearing the truth. Prayer can break through and destroy those things.
- *Praying unbelievers is essential because of their condition (**Ephesians 2:1-3**)*. They are lost, bound, blinded, and headed to eternal hell. Their only hope is the power of God released through prayer.
- *Prayer can overcome the enemy (**2 Corinthians 4:4**)*. Satan is actively working to hinder and blind unbelievers from coming to Jesus. It is only by prayer that this crafty and powerful enemy can be defeated.
- *Prayer prepares believers to witness to unbelievers (**Romans 10:17; Acts 1:8**)*. As we pray for unbelievers, it increases our desire and burden for their salvation. It also gives us power to share the gospel in word and deed.
- *Prayer focuses the power of God on unbelievers (**Jeremiah 32:17**)*. When we pray for lost people, God’s power is released into their lives. It is only by the power of God through the gospel of Jesus Christ that an unbeliever can repent and trust in Jesus alone.
- *Praying for unbelievers is a way of glorifying God (**1 Corinthians 10:31; Matthew 22:37-38**)*. Since we know and love God, we want to see Him glorified. God is glorified in the salvation, the transformation, of people. Praying for unbelievers can lead to their transformation that will then bring glory to God.

Scripture Prayers For The Salvation Of Unbelievers

The following are Scripture prayers to assist you in praying for unbelievers. These prayers are based on Scripture. You can use them or develop your own from them. The crucial issue is to plead the Word of God before God for unbelievers.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I plead that You will draw _____ to Jesus Christ in true faith and repentance (**John 6:44**).

In the name of Jesus, I ask You, Father, to quicken _____ who is dead in sins and trespasses (**Ephesians 2:1**).

Father, I ask You to bind and remove Satan's work in _____'s life and to open _____'s eyes to the truth of the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would convince _____ that he/she is lost, separated from God, and headed to hell (**Romans 3:23**).

Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, I pray that You would destroy any false ideas that _____ has about Jesus Christ and salvation through Him (**Proverbs 14:12**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that You will seek out _____ and save him/her from his/her sins and eternal condemnation (**Luke 19:10**).

Father, I pray that You will open _____'s heart so that he/she will receive and believe the gospel (**Acts 16:14**).

Holy Spirit, I ask You through Your power and _____'s circumstances to prepare him/her to hear and receive the Word of God (**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**).

Holy Spirit, I plead that _____ will understand the gospel when it is presented to him/her so that the devil cannot snatch it away (**Matthew 13: 5, 9**).

Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, I plead that the Word of God will take root in _____'s life and bring about true salvation in _____'s life (**Matthew 13:6, 20-21**).

Father, I ask that the pleasures of this world and the pressures of life will not choke the Word of God that has been sown into _____'s life (**Matthew 13:7, 22**).

Father, I plead that You will deliver _____ from the kingdom of darkness and

place _____ into the kingdom of Your dear Son (**Colossians 1:13**).

Father, I pray that _____ will receive the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ the Lord (**Romans 6:23**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that _____ will not trust in himself/herself, but that _____ will completely trust in You as his/her Savior and Lord (**Galatians 2:16**).

Holy God, I pray that You would grant genuine repentance to _____, a repentance that will cause him/her to hate sin and to turn from it (**Acts 11:8; Luke 13:1-3**).

Lord God, I plead that You would grant _____ genuine faith, a faith that trusts in Jesus alone and surrenders to Him as Lord and Savior (**Ephesians 2:8-10**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would stir _____ out of his/her indifference and complacency concerning his/her condition and his/her need of the Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Corinthians 6:2**).

I ask in the name of Jesus Christ that _____ would surrender himself/herself to the Lord Jesus Christ (**Romans 14:9**).

Father, I pray that You will send people continually into _____'s life who will share the gospel with him/her (**Romans 10:14**).

Father, I plead in the name of Jesus that You will put a new heart in _____ and that You will place Your Holy Spirit in him/her (**Jeremiah 42:30; Ezekiel 11:19-20**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You will cause _____ to hate sin and that You will break the power of those sins that are hindering him/her from coming to Christ (**Mark 9:43-47**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that _____ would surrender to You, denying himself/herself, take up the Cross, and follow You (**Luke 9:23**).

Father, I plead that _____ will understand that his/her only hope for forgiveness and acceptance

with You is through Jesus' work on the Cross (**I Corinthians 1:18**).

Father, I pray that _____ would not neglect the glorious salvation, which is available through Your Son (**Hebrews 2:1-3**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that _____ will feel and know the burden of his/her sin and will come to You for forgiveness and salvation (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

Father, I plead that _____ will make a genuine commitment to Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior of his/her life (**Luke 14:24-33**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that _____ will not be content with the appearance of righteousness but will seek You for the transformation of his/her whole life (**Matthew 23:27-29**).

Father, I pray that _____ will see that his/her good works are as filthy rags in Your sight and that they will not save him/her (**Isaiah 64:6**).

Father, I ask that _____ would believe and trust Your Son that You sent to be the Savior of sinners (**John 5:24**).

Lord Jesus, I ask that _____ would not die in his/her sins but would trust You and receive eternal life (**John 8:24**).

Because You came into the world to save sinners, I plead with You to save _____ who is a sinner and in need of Your grace and mercy (**I Timothy 1:13-16**).

Holy Spirit, I pray that You would humble _____ so that he/she sees his/her need of Jesus Christ (**Psalms 18:27; Proverbs 8:13, 29:23**).

When Someone You Love Is Lost

It's an agonizing experience when someone you love is lost. You long for them to know the forgiveness and salvation that comes God through Jesus Christ. You yearn for them to be set free from the bondage of sin and Satan in their lives. Yet, what do you do? How can you continue in prayer and witness for those you love outside of Christ? The following are some Biblical principles that I hope can help you in this agonizing struggle.

Realize that there is hope (Acts 16:15, 29-34).

In these texts, God saved whole households. His power can reach and change any sinner. Rest in His power and grace that can save your loved one. There are no hopeless cases this side of the grave. As long as this person is living, there is hope for salvation.

Ask God to give you persistence and endurance (Luke 18:1).

Pray that God will grant you the endurance to be faithful to this person. When a person turns to Christ in faith, it is usually a process. Ask God to help you to pray, love, and witness to this person for the long haul. Also, pray for a spirit of persistence. Sometimes your loved one may outright reject the gospel. He or she may show no interest whatsoever. Ask God to help you persist in loving, praying for, and ministering to him or her regardless of his or her reaction.

Pray for the influence of other believers (I Corinthians 3:5-8).

In this text, Paul reveals that God uses a variety of people to bring unbelievers to Jesus. The salvation of a lost person is a process – a process in which God uses a variety of people in bringing the person to Jesus. There are times when family members may not listen to you and your witness. Yet, there may be others that your loved one will listen to. Pray that God would send into your loved one's life believers that he or she will love, respect, and listen to. Plead that He would grant your loved one friends who will be faithful to minister to him or her.

Continue to plead that your loved one will be radically changed through Jesus Christ (John 3:16).

Call on God to change your loved one through His grace and power. There is a tendency to pray for God to change certain sinful habits in a lost person's life. Yet, a person can exchange sins without experiencing a change of heart. Plead with God to regenerate your loved one. Ask Him to transform your loved one through the power of the Spirit and the gospel.

Ask God for opportunities to show love and mercy to your loved one (Matthew 5:13-16).

Even when your loved one will not listen to your words, he or she can see your actions. Pray for opportunities to demonstrate the love of Jesus to this person. Ask that they will sense and know the difference in your life because of Jesus Christ.

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Pray tenaciously (Isaiah 62:2-7).

Wrestle with God concerning your loved. Plead His promises. Claim His Word. Pray for mercy and grace upon your loved one. Determine in your heart to seek God until He answers.

Don't lose heart (Galatians 6:9)

When someone you love is lost, it can be a long, weary struggle. It would be easy to give up hope and feel that he or she will never come to Christ. Yet, don't give up. Don't lose heart. God is a merciful and sovereign God. As long as your loved one is alive, there is hope. Never give up. Never give up. Never give up.

Worship God (Psalm 148)

When someone you love is lost, continue to worship the Lord in public and private. Keep on praising Him. Why? When we worship the Lord, it helps us keep our eyes focused on Him. It fixes our faith on Him. It releases healing in our burdened hearts and weary minds. This is crucial as you pray for, witness to, and minister to your beloved unbeliever.

Prayer Evangelism Seminars

When The Prayer Closet Ministry began in 1998, I knew that one of our priorities had to be encouraging and equipping believers to pray for the lost. That was the passion of my heart and I had a tremendous burden to call on and help believers and churches in this. As I prayed and fasted, I felt burdened to launch a ministry that would embolden and assist believers in praying for

the salvation of sinners – across the street to the end of the world.

Because of this, I've developed seminars concerning prayer evangelism. These seminars can be done in a variety of ways. It can be done during Sunday services, a weekend retreat, in revival services, or in prayer meeting times. The purpose of these seminars is to encourage, equip, and embolden believers to pray for the lost and to share their faith in Jesus Christ. These seminars are:

Praying People To Jesus – The Basics Of Prayer Evangelism

Your Church: A House of Prayer For the Lost Across the Street and Across The World

Becoming A Prayer Missionary – Impacting The World Through Intercession

If I can be of help to your church or your mission group, I'd be honored and humbled to come. There is no cost or fee; I will come on a love-offering basis. When I go to a church to speak, my goals are:

- (1) To glorify God;
- (2) To preach and teach God's inerrant, infallible Word'
- (3) To affirm and encourage the pastor;
- (4) To encourage and equip the church.

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