



# THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVES IN PRAYER

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## TRUE PEACE

From politicians to pop stars to the average person, people long for peace. Peace is an elusive commodity in this world. The hate and conflict around us overwhelm us. We live in a world full of war and uprisings, rebellion and conflict. How can there be true peace in this fallen world?

It shouldn't surprise us that Jesus has a radical approach to peace. When you read and study the beatitudes, you come to realize that Jesus' teachings are the exact opposite of the world's position. Nowhere is this truer than Jesus' teaching on peace, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God" (**Matthew 5:9**). What does Jesus teach us about peace and peacemakers?

### True peace begins when a person trusts in Jesus Christ.

People consistently look for peace outside of themselves. They believe that they can find it in possessions, position, power, or a whole host of other things. However, Jesus declares that a person can only know peace when one comes to Him in faith and repentance.

We have to start with the realization that there is conflict between God and us. That may be a startling statement to some. Few people see themselves at odds with God. They don't think of themselves as hostile toward God. They may think that they're just not into God or all that religious, but certainly not hostile to Him.

Yet, the Word of God reveals something very different. In **Colossians 1:21**, the Bible says that in our natural state, we are "alienated and enemies in our mind by wicked works." In **Romans 8:7**, the Bible says that the "carnal mind (our natural state before Christ) is enmity (hostility) toward God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

The Bible teaches that we are hostile to God – that we are at war with God. You may say, "How can that be?" By choosing our way and living life the way that we desire, that is hostility toward God. God sees

ignoring or rebelling against Him and His Word as hostility toward Him. A person wars against God by choosing to live life without regard to Him or His Word. Choosing to live life your way is rebellion toward God; it is hostility toward Him.

Yet, the war ends when we come to Christ! When we turn to Jesus Christ in faith, we are putting our weapons down. We are saying to God, "I'm surrendering to You. I want to obey You. I want to live my life for You now." When this takes place, you have peace with God. This is where peace begins (**Romans 5:1**).

Peace starts on the inside – in your heart. You can only have true peace by acknowledging your sin and hostility toward God. Then, you must turn to Christ in faith and surrender your life to God. There is nothing outside of you that will give you true peace. The world does offer a peace, but it's not the true peace that only God gives to those who trust in Jesus Christ His Son.

### True peace leads a person to be a peacemaker.

When you experience peace with God, you want others to know that same peace. Jesus tells us that the children of God are peacemakers. A person becomes a child of God by faith in Christ (**Galatians 3:26**). Through faith in Jesus Christ, you move from being the enemy of God to being a child of God. You have a right relationship with God and experience true peace – the peace of a relationship with a heavenly Father who will bless, help, and secure you.

When you experience this, you want to share it with others. The child of God is a peacemaker because one wants others to experience this salvation, this peace, through Jesus Christ. Peacemakers declare to others the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ.

Peacemakers seek to help people acknowledge their hostility toward God. They move behind enemy lines to tell people who are perfectly content to remain indifferent toward God that they are actually at war with Him. They communicate that God will receive them if

they acknowledge their rebellion and will submit to Him through His Son Jesus Christ. Peacemakers are evangelists who share this message with their friends and family, colleagues and classmates. They do this because it is the only way to true peace.

It's interesting that Jesus says that a child of God is a "peacemaker." We are not simply a peace-lover or a peacekeeper. The child of God gets involved. The child of God seeks to be a peacemaker – to do the bothersome, nearly impossible work of bringing people to saving faith in Jesus Christ. A peacemaker has been given the ministry of reconciliation (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20**) and labors to carry it out.

### **We continue to experience peace by resting in truth of the gospel.**

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we become the children of God. We have peace with God. We have this peace because we have moved from being a rebellious enemy to an adopted child. God doesn't just tolerate you; He proactively loves you. By the Cross and the empty tomb of Jesus, you are now the loved, secure, adopted child of God. He will never disown you; nothing can separate you from the love of God through Jesus Christ (**Romans 8:39**).

Through the Cross and the empty tomb, you are now the child of God. You did not earn this adoption. God gave this freely to you in His love. You can be assured that He will continue to love you. If you ever doubt His love, then look to the peace-giving, adoption-securing blood that Jesus Christ shed on the Cross. By continuing to focus on Christ and His work, you know that you are a secured, permanent part of God's family. You can count on the fact that He will bless you, help you, and intervene in your behalf. You can live and walk in peace regardless of your outward circumstances.

This is why Paul refers to the shoes of peace in the armor of God (**Ephesians 6:15**). This peace helps you stand firm in all circumstances. When Satan, your enemy, attempts to sow doubt, fear, and worry into your life, the shoes of peace give you sure footing. When your circumstances are totally against you, the shoes of peace keep you from sliding. The peace that you experience at salvation continues to sustain you as you walk with the Lord. A child of God is characterized by peace – peace with God and the peace of God in one's circumstances.

### **How do we apply this beatitude to our lives?**

- **Reflect on and rejoice in the peace that you have because of your faith in Jesus Christ.** This

beatitude is a reminder of the peace that we have with God. There was a time when we were alienated from God and hostile toward Him. We were rebels without hope. Yet, when we turned to Jesus Christ and surrendered ourselves to God, we came to know peace. Thank God for your salvation and regularly meditate on what you were and what you now have through Jesus – peace with God!

- **Pray for those who need peace with God.** Outside of Jesus Christ, people are alienated and hostile toward God. They need to turn to Christ; they must lay down their weapons and surrender to God through Jesus Christ. If Christians are called to be peacemakers, this must necessarily mean that people do not have peace with God in and of themselves. Commit yourself to pray for those who need this peace with God. Ask God to empower you to be a peacemaker – one who shares the good news of Jesus Christ. Call on Him to enable you to share who Christ is and what Christ has done for you.
- **Remember that a peacemaker may have to deal with conflict.** It is a challenge to share the gospel. People may not like to hear the gospel message. We may have to deal with adverse reactions. Yet, remember that God had mercy on you and He has called you to be a peacemaker. He has called you to be like Him – one who offers peace to those that are alienated and hostile. Don't give up; don't be distressed. Labor with God's help to be a peacemaker.
- **Walk in the peace of the gospel.** The gospel says that through Christ, you are loved, accepted, and secure. No matter what happens, you belong to God and He will never fail you or forsake you for Christ's sake. What is it that seeks to rob you of peace? Confess it to the Lord. Cast your worries, fears, and anxieties on Him and let this peace anchor you in all circumstances.

### **Praying Over Man's Lostness**

One of the ways that you can practice being a peacemaker is by praying for the lost. A helpful way to do this is by praying biblical truths concerning their lostness. The following Scripture prayers can assist you praying about their condition and pleading for their salvation.

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will comprehend that he/she has sinned and fallen short of

the glory of God and will turn to Christ (**Romans 3:23**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that he/she is under Your wrath right now because he/she will not receive Jesus Christ. Draw him/her to Jesus Christ (**John 3:35**).

I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that the wages of sin is death—eternal separation from God and punishment in hell. Do not allow him/her to be deceived about this (**Romans 6:23**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will know with deep and abiding conviction that he/she has broken God's law and stands guilty before Him even at this moment (**1 John 3:4**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will understand that he/she has a sinful nature that is leading him/her away from God and into eternal hell. Make it clear to \_\_\_\_\_ that this is his/her worst problem and that Jesus is the only answer (**Ephesians 2:1-3**).

I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that he/she is a slave to sin. Show \_\_\_\_\_ that the chains of sin bind him/her. Reveal to him/her that only the power of Jesus Christ can set him/her free and that he/she will turn to Christ in true faith (**John 8:31-35**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that he/she has no power to deal with his/her sinful nature. Cause \_\_\_\_\_ to know that his/her power cannot deal with his/her sinful nature. Show him/her that Jesus Christ is the only One who can (**John 8:36**).

Father, show \_\_\_\_\_ that his/her good works cannot deal with his/her sin and lostness. Reveal to him/her the utter hopelessness of good works dealing with sin (**Galatians 3:9**).

Father, I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that he/she is lost and headed to an eternity of misery and despair without a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will believe in Jesus Christ, surrendering his/her whole life to You (**John 3:16**).

Father, I ask You to convict \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth that he/she is in rebellion against You. Show \_\_\_\_\_ that without faith in Christ, there is no peace between You and him. Reveal to

\_\_\_\_\_ that his/her lifestyle is actually rebellion and a sign of hostility against You. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will surrender to You through faith in Jesus Christ (**Romans 5:1; James 4:4**).

Lord God, I pray that You would reveal to \_\_\_\_\_ that You are a holy God. Show \_\_\_\_\_ how offensive his/her sin is. Teach him/her the truth that You hate sin. Grant to \_\_\_\_\_ the conviction that there is nothing that \_\_\_\_\_ can do to gain favor with You. Cause him/her to know that the only way that he/she can enter into relationship with You is by turning to Your Son, Jesus, and trusting in Him. I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will trust in Christ alone for his/her salvation (**Isaiah 6**).

### Praying Psalm 1 For Your Child

**Psalm 1** displays the lifestyle and end of the godly and the ungodly. It offers guidance on how to pray – especially for your children. The following are Scripture prayers to help you pray for your children:

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will not walk in the counsel of the wicked but will know and obey the Word of God (**1**).

I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ will not stand in the way of sinners but will be thoroughly committed to standing for Jesus Christ (**1**).

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will not sit in the seat of scoffers but will be settled and certain in the will of God (**1**).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will delight in Your Word more than any earthly pleasure and possession (**2**).

Lord God, grant \_\_\_\_\_ a heart for Your Word so that he/she will read and meditate on Your Word daily (**2**).

I ask that \_\_\_\_\_ would be firmly and deeply rooted in Christ like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, enabling him/her to consistently yield spiritual fruit and not withering in the face of adversity (**3**).

I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will cherish You and Your will so that all he/she does will prosper for Your glory and their good (**3**).

I pray that \_\_\_\_\_ will live exactly opposite of the wicked that are like the chaff that the wind drives away and are eternally condemned by God. Empower \_\_\_\_\_ to live a holy life before You and others (4-5).

Father, teach \_\_\_\_\_ that he/she is in Your hands and that You have a good and holy purpose for him/her (6).

Father, I plead that \_\_\_\_\_ will know that You love him/her and that he/she has hope now and for eternity (6).

### Prayer Closet News

I just want to thank you for your continued support of The Prayer Closet. Right now, we are still in the process of finishing our facility on The Prayer Closet land. We still lack insulating the building, sealing the floors, and getting gravel around our building. I'm also in the process of going through the old office, sorting out what needs to be moved to our new office and what needs to be discarded. During our 17 years of ministry, we have accumulated a great deal of materials and supplies.

The purpose of this ministry is to transform lives. I long for this ministry to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord for bringing people to Jesus Christ and for equipping and encouraging believers and churches . When *The Prayer Closet Ministries* started

in 1998, there was one goal – to glorify God through the transformation of lives. That is still the purpose of this ministry. Please pray that God will grant us wider and deeper impact for His glory and His kingdom.

I talked with a pastor last night from the Middle East. They are using our manual *The Praying Pastor* to encourage and help pastors in their prayer lives. They are also holding seminars across their nation using our materials on spiritual awakening and prayer evangelism. Your prayers and financial donations are making a difference across the world.

I am deeply grateful for your prayers and your support. Please continue to pray. I would also ask you to consider giving to support the work of this ministry. Your financial gifts will be used to reach people across the United States and the world. Please consider joining us in transforming lives across the globe. May God richly bless you!

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