



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYE

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PRAYING FOR HOSPITALS

This may sound like an unusual topic for a prayer newsletter. Perhaps even an unusual prayer target for believers. However, I'm deeply convicted that believers and churches should pray over the hospitals and medical facilities in our cities and communities. I believe that there are a couple of reasons for this.

First, as believers, we are called to intercede for a variety of people and needs. The Word of God says in **1 Timothy 2:1**, "I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." The Bible tells us that prayer is our first priority. We are to pray for all kinds of people with all kinds of needs. The clinics, medical centers, and hospitals have a variety of people with a variety of needs. The church's calling to intercession should stir us to pray concerning these people and places.

Second, think about the number of people involved in the medical facilities and hospitals around you. On one hand, you have all the employees. Many of our church members have jobs in the medical field. At the same time, look at the number of people who pass through these places. Everyone in your city or community will pass through them at some point. They impact nearly all the lives of the people in your city or community. By praying over these facilities and hospitals, you can have a powerful impact on countless lives. This enables us to be the salt and light that Jesus has called us to be (**Matthew 5:13-15**).

At the same time, God calls His people to have compassion for others. We are to follow the example of our Savior, "But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (**Matthew 9:36**). When Jesus looked out on the crowds, he saw a host of physical and spiritual needs. He felt great compassion for them, a compassion that moved Him to act. How can we do any less? The people in these facilities and those who are patients at them have a host of

physical and spiritual needs. Our compassion over their need should drive us to intercession.

This issue of *The Prayer Closet* will focus on how to pray for hospitals and medical centers. We will examine how to pray for the staff at the hospitals and for the patients at them. You can apply them to clinics or any type of medical facility. The following are suggestions on how you might pray. You can use these or adapt them as you see fit.

You might consider praying specifically over this concern one day a week. If you have a number of hospitals and medical facilities around you, you might assign each of these facilities to a particular day of the week in which you will intercede. The following are prayer pointers to aid you in praying for the hospitals.

Praying For The Staff

- *Pray for the salvation of the administration and staff (**John 3:16; 6:44**).* Plead that God will draw the lost staff at the hospital to saving faith in Jesus Christ. Ask that they will see their need of Christ and will turn to Him in repentance and faith.
- *Pray for the spiritual growth of the believers at the hospital (**1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18**).* Ask that they will grow in their relationship to Jesus Christ and that they will mature in their understanding of and obedience to the Word of God.
- *Plead for healthy relationships among the administration and the staff (**Ephesians 4:25-32**).* At hospitals, you have a variety of people with a range of personalities. Add the stress of working in this field and it creates an atmosphere where strife and conflict can quickly develop. Pray that there will be good, healthy relationships among the administration and staff. Ask that God would intervene in the relationship problems in these facilities.

- Ask that the believers in hospitals will exercise a righteous impact (**Matthew 5:13-15**). Plead that God will strengthen the faith of the believers in these facilities. Pray that they will have boldness in standing and speaking for Jesus Christ. Ask for God's protection over them.
- Pray that God will meet the needs of the administration and staff (**Philippians 4:19**). Call on the God of sufficiency to meet every need of all the staff at the hospital. Ask God to manifest His mercy to them by meeting their needs.
- Plead that God would strengthen and grant stamina to the staff of the hospital (**Psalms 29:11**). The personnel at hospitals work long hours under stressful conditions. Call on God to give them strength and stamina as they seek to fulfill their calling.
- Ask God to grant them grace to deal with the stress of their jobs and calling (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). Those working in the medical field face stress – the care of the patients, working with other staff, regulations and laws. Along with this, they have to deal with the daily pressures and problems of their own personal lives. Pray that God will help them deal with the stress and will be effective in their calling to care and heal.
- Pray for the health of the healthcare workers (**Psalms 139:13-14**). Healthcare workers are exposed to illness on a regular basis. At the same time, they are under pressure and stress. Ask God to strengthen and sustain their bodies.
- Plead that they will have a heart of compassion for the patients (**Matthew 9:36**). Jesus showed compassion for those in physical and spiritual need. Ask that the medical staff will maintain their compassion for those in need.
- Ask that God would enhance the abilities and skills of the staff (**Ephesians 3:7**). Those who work in the healthcare have various abilities and have been trained with skills to help others. Pray that God would powerfully enhance these abilities and skills so that they can be effective in helping and caring for others.
- Pray that God will give them wisdom and insight on how to treat and minister to the patients (**Proverbs 2:5-6**). Call on God to give the doctors, nurses, and other staff the wisdom and insight to diagnose and treat the patients.
- Ask God to renew the passion and calling of the healthcare workers (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**). As previously stated, healthcare workers deal with a host of problems, pressure, and stress.

Prolonged exposure to these things cannot only affect their health but also their passion and calling. Pray that God will renew their passion for helping others. Ask God to fill them with fresh power and determination in their high calling.

- Plead that the administrators will be wise and just, faithful and kind, free from corruption and the love of money (**1 Timothy 6:17-19**). Administrators have a difficult task. One on hand, they have the job of taking care of the staff and the patients. On the other hand, they do have a hospital to run – to make it financially sound and secure. It's a fine line and tough decisions have to be made. Yet, we need to pray that they will be wise and discerning in those decisions. We need to ask God to grant them discernment on how to make sure the staff and patients are taken care of while at the same time sustaining and securing the hospital. Plead that patient care will be a priority in their labors.
- Ask that the staff will be able to deal with the issues of life and death. Healthcare workers walk that fine line between life and death. They see both on a regular basis. Pray that God will grant them help and mercy to face and deal with this in their calling.
- Plead that God's glory would be manifested in the hospital (**1 Corinthians 10:31**). Above all, plead that God will work in powerful ways – ways that manifest His power, mercy, and presence. Pray that God will be glorified in all that takes place in the hospital.
- Thank God for the hospital and for the staff (**James 1:17**). God gives us all kinds of good gifts. Hospitals and medical staff are among those good gifts. We need to thank God with blessing us for these facilities of caring and healing. We should thank God for those who have responded to this high calling of helping and caring for others.
- Plead that it will be a place of healing and wholeness (**Psalms 139:4**). God is concerned with the whole person. Ask that He will use the hospital or medical center to provide healing and wholeness.

Praying For The Patients

The following are some prayer pointers to help you pray for patients. These prayer pointers are based on **Psalms 41:3**, "The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." God is able to strengthen those who are sick; He is able to restore them from the bed of their illness.

- *Plead that God will grant healing to the patients (Exodus 15:26; Jeremiah 17:14).* Pray that God will manifest His power and mercy in healing the patients in the hospital. God can and does use medical care and medicine to heal. Ask God to intervene in the lives of the sick and hurting and grant His healing.
- *Plead that God will use this time to meet the spiritual needs of people (John 3:16; 1 Peter 2:2).* Call on God to work powerfully in the lives of the patients. Pray that He will use this time in their lives. If the patient is lost, pray that he will come to see his need of Christ and will turn to God by faith in Jesus and repentance of sin. If the patient is a believer, pray that God will draw the believer closer to Him, enabling him to walk with more confident trust in God.
- *Pray that God will meet every need of the patients (Philippians 4:19).* Every patient has a variety of needs. There are physical needs. However, there are also financial, emotional, and spiritual needs. Ask God to manifest His power and to meet those needs. Pray that the patients will know it is the hand of God that does this and that they will call on Him.
- *Ask that God will give strength and hope to the patients (Romans 15:13).* There are times when it takes time for healing to manifest. Healing may take place over a long period. It may take time for medicines and treatment to take care of the illness. As they wait, plead that God will sustain the patients, granting them strength and hope.
- *Pray that God will grant peace to the patients (Romans 15:33; Philippians 4:7).* During the stress and uncertainty of being sick or hurt, people need peace. God and God alone can grant that peace. Plead that they will sense and know true peace in this time of adversity in their lives.
- *Pray that the power of God will be released in the patients' lives (Psalm 115:3).* Ultimately all healing comes through the power of God. Whether with the means of medicine and medical arts or without any means, it is the power of God that transforms and heals. Plead that God's power will flow through the hospital, bringing healing and relief to those who hurt.
- *Ask God to calm the anxiety and fear of the patients (Psalm 56:3).* During times of illness and injury, a person can have a great deal of anxiety. Fear can grip an individual. Pray that God would intervene and deliver them from their anxiety and

fear. Ask that they will call on the Lord and trust in Him rather than giving in to anxiety and fear.

- *Plead with God to sustain and help the families of the patients (Nehemiah 9:21).* Times of injury and illness are stressful for the families involved. Call on God to intervene in the lives also. Pray that He will provide for them and sustain them. Ask Him to meet all their needs, especially their spiritual needs in this time.
- *Ask that Satan's schemes would be defeated and destroyed (2 Corinthians 2:11).* Since hospitals are places of disease and brokenness, healing and hope, Satan will attempt to work powerfully in them. He especially loves to use times of illness and injury to carry out His wicked schemes. Pray that God would hinder him and destroy his work in the lives of the staff and patients.

Healing And The Attributes Of God

The following is a prayer guide that you can use to pray for healing in peoples' lives. This prayer guide is based on the attributes of God. God has revealed Himself in His Word. We can take these attributes and use them to plead with God to grant healing in the lives of people.

Father, You are the God who is rich in mercy. Your mercies are fresh and new every morning. Great is Your mercy, O Lord! I plead in Jesus' name that You will manifest Your mercy in _____'s life and grant healing to his/her body (**Ephesians 2:17; Lamentations 3:23**).

Father, You are the God of almighty power. There is nothing too hard for You. I pray in Jesus' name that You would release Your power into _____'s body, granting healing and restoration. Heal him/her by Your almighty power (**Jeremiah 32:17**),

Father, You are the God of all knowledge. Nothing is hidden from You. You know all things perfectly. You know what's wrong with _____ and how to heal him/her. I pray in Jesus' name that You would heal and restore _____ from what is wrong in his/her body (**Psalm 147:5**).

Father, You are the Sovereign God. You and You alone are God. No one can equal You. Nothing can compare to You. You reign over all things, even over illness and injury. I plead in Jesus' name that You

The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
Dr. Kevin Meador
P.O. Box 278
Hickory, MS 39332

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would manifest Your sovereignty by healing _____ (**Psalm 115:3, Exodus 18:11**).

Grant _____ the healing that is necessary in his/her body (**Genesis 22:9-14**).

Father, You are the unchanging God. As You have been, You always will be. You have healed. You will heal. I plead that You would be true to Your unchanging nature and heal _____. Just as You have healed in the past, so now grant healing in his/her body (**Malachi 3:6**).

Father, You are the God of love. I pray that You would reveal Your love by healing _____. He/She is suffering and needs the touch of Your power. Out of Your great love, release Your power in his/her life (**1 John 4:8, 16**).

Father, You are good. You are the good God who gives good and perfect gifts. I plead that You would grant _____ the gift of healing. Make Your goodness known by filling his/her body with Your power and healing him/her (**Psalm 25:8; James 1:17**).

Father, You are the ever-present God. You are not far away but present and active. I plead that in this situation You would reveal Your healing power in _____'s life. O God, rise up and act! I plead in Jesus' name that You would heal _____, showing that You are real and present at this very moment (**Psalm 46:1; Jeremiah 23:23-24**).

Father, You are the God of grace. You grant grace to help in the time of need. Father, _____ has a great need. He/She needs Your healing power. I pray in Jesus' name that You would make known Your grace by healing _____. Reveal Your grace by restoring _____'s body to wholeness (**Psalm 145:17; Hebrews 4:16**).

Father, You are the God of all glory. Make Your glory known by healing _____. Show how great You are by restoring him/her (**Romans 11:36**).

The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332
(601) 635-2180 (601) 646-5960

EMAIL:
prayer@prayerclosetministries.org

WEB PAGES:
www.prayerclosetministries.org

Father, You have revealed in Your Word that You are the God who provides. You are able to meet all the needs of our lives. I plead in Jesus' name that You would provide healing to _____.