



Guide for Prayer

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Questions to Ask as I Begin to Pray

Lord, am I totally convinced of Your love for me, and willing to trust You in all things?

Lord, in what areas of my life are You trying to change me and make me new?

Lord, how have I sinned or become distant from You and Your Holy Spirit?

Lord, where in my life do I need to listen to Your voice and confess my separation from Jesus, Your Son?

Lord, who are You calling me towards to befriend, to defend, to share the good news of Your love with?

Lord, what do You want to do in my life that I cannot see or am ignoring today/tonight?

Lord, will You help me to be aware of who is sick and hurting so that I may serve them?

Lord, will You help me to see others as people that You created and that You care for?

Lord will you bless our outreach to children and youth through [your Church programs] and help us to reach the next generation of the Church?

Lord, will You help our church to become blind to gender, class, race, and economics, and to welcome everyone who comes through our doors as family?

Lord, will You draw our country, our youth group, our Church, and my family together in Your love?

Lord, is there anything that I am holding on to so tightly that I can't see clearly? If so, would you help me to let go of it?

Helpful Prayers

A PRAYER AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY

Lord, open my lips, so that my mouth may proclaim your praise.

Open my eyes, so that I may see your works and human needs.

Open my ears, so that I may hear your word and the cry of the poor.

Open my nose, so that I can distinguish what is alive from what is dead.

Open my mind, so that I may understand you and your word.

Open my heart, so that I may make room for you and seek and find you in all things.

Open my hands, so that I may receive from you and cheerfully give to people.

A PRAYER AT THE END OF THE DAY

I love You, God, with all of my heart. Thank you for creating me. Thank You for wanting to have a relationship with me. Thank You for protecting me and guiding me today. Please forgive me for the wrong that I have done today to You or to others. If I have done anything good, please accept it as a gift of thanks to You.

Protect me while I rest in your peace tonight. Take the heavy things that I have carried today, and hold them while I rest in You. I love you, Lord. Goodnight.

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US TO PRAY (THE LORD'S PRAYER)

*Our Father in Heaven, let Your name remain Holy. Bring about Your kingdom. Manifest Your will here on earth, as it is manifest in heaven. Give us each day that day's bread, no more, no less, and forgive us our debts as we forgive those who owe us something. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. But let Your kingdom be, and let it be powerful and glorious forever.
Amen*

Matthew 6:9-13 (The Voice)

THE PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

A Daily Prayer Guide

MONDAY: A Prayer for PATIENCE

Father, God, I begin this new day and this new week seeking Your help. When I lack energy, give me Your Spirit. When I lack discipline, give me Your love. When I lack time, give me Your patience. Smile on the things that I have to do today:"

(Name the really important items on your to-do-list.)

Help me to please all those I need to please...or at least help them to be patient with me. Let the patience and forgiveness I receive from others equal the patience that I give to them. The world around me seems to be spinning out of control. I am worried about _____
(Think of places or people in the news)

Be with us, Lord. I go through this life as best I can and sometimes it's just barely enough. Other times I fall seriously short of the mark. Walk with me. Make me aware of Your Presence this week. I will give You the glory. Amen.

TUESDAY: A Prayer for FAITHFULNESS

I will not question You, God I will go where You send me. I will deal with all that comes my way. I will open my heart to You and believe that all things will work out for my good because I love You. I will listen to the scriptures. I will learn from them. I will pray and know I am heard. You, Lord, are not my destination on this journey because You are beside me while I walk. You, Lord, are the journey itself.

I am a servant of the Creator of the universe. I will not be bogged down by _____ (name things that are keeping you from focusing on your relationship with God.)

God will lift my Spirit. I will not be dragged down into the muck and mire. I am a servant of God. Amen.

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WEDNESDAY: A Prayer for KINDNESS

God, there are times when I just want to throw someone through a wall, and the week is barely half over! Help me be kind to those who aren't. Help me be kind to my family and friends who must live with me. Help me be kind to those who try my patience. I'm feeling overwhelmed, God. Stand beside me. Let me feel Your Presence.

(Take a moment to sit in silence. Breathe deeply. Calm yourself.)

Stay with me, God. Get me through this crazy week. Help me deal with these crazy people. Fill my soul. Amen.

THURSDAY: A Prayer for PEACE

I am Your servant, God. When there is chaos around me, help me stay centered. When those around me argue and fight, let me be Your peacemaker. Show me what's important. Help me to keep an open mind. Help me to soothe the anger of others. Help me remember what is truly important. Help me to resolve the conflicts in my life.

(Name aloud the difficult situations and people that you are struggling with; include yourself and the tough decisions you must face.)

Stay with me, God. Enter into the hearts of all those with whom I cannot find common ground. Fill their hearts and fill mine. Let us stop fussing and find peace. I am Your servant God, Amen.

A Daily Prayer Guide

FRIDAY: A Prayer for SELF-CONTROL

God, I don't always live the way I should. I tell the world about being honest and true and pure. Then sometimes they look at me and run. When I said I'd be Your servant, I thought it would be easier. I thought You'd take away all my problems and temptations. I thought I could be the kind of person I tell others they should be. It doesn't always work that way, God. I see others having a wonderful time, and I miss being part of that. I see something shiny off to the side of "the path" and I go wandering after it without a thought.

(Think of some temptations in your life; things that distract your mind from God's will for you. Name those things to God.)

Keep my head right, God. Keep my eyes focused on Jesus. Keep my feet on the path. Keep my heart desiring what is good. The Bible says, "Everything is permissible, not everything is beneficial." Help me know the difference. And when I already know the difference, help me make the right choice anyway. Amen.

SATURDAY: A Prayer of JOY

God, there is something about Saturday that I love. Even if I'm working, I love this day. Even if I'm stuck doing something I'd rather not do, I love this day. My body and my mind have ideas for my time today, but my heart wants to watch TV and eat cereal and ice-cold milk! Thank You for all the wonderful things I never think to thank You for. Thank you for a day off from school. Thank you for cereal and ice-cold milk - for food in general! Thank you for _____. (Name out loud other little things for which you forget to thank God.)

God, waking up on Saturday morning is like waking up to a warm hug. If I sweat today in my back yard, I will thank You for the rain. If I strain through today shoveling snow, I will thank You for sunshine. My days on this earth are few compared to the eternity that I want to spend with You, God. May Heaven be one big, long Saturday! Amen.

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SUNDAY: A Prayer of LOVE

This is Your day, God. I will use it to honor You. I will stand here and inhale Your air. I will feel the sunlight on my face. I will sing Your songs. I will praise Your name. I will remember You in all things, God. When the sun goes down today, I will remember You. I will thank You for the gift of living another week. (And thank You for getting me through the last one.) Thank You for my family and my friends. Thank You for Your patience.

Thank You for the faith You put in me, even when I let You down. Thank You for Your kindness. Thank You for Your self-control. Thank You for the joy You've given me. Thank You for Your love, God. I am Your servant.
Amen.

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