

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURES

Guided prayers for a variety of seasons in our lives

written by Lillianne Kohler

The following resource was written by Lillianne Kohler, a longtime member of Bent Tree and actively involved in the prayer ministry among other areas in the life of the church. She is a gifted writer with a heart for people to experience Jesus and a passion for prayer.

Use the following resource in your own life and faith practice as you navigate through where you find yourself in life in different moments.

WHEN YOU FEEL YOUR PRAYERS HIT THE CEILING AND BOUNCE RIGHT BACK TO YOU

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

- 1) Read a verse.

Example - James 4:3 NLT “And even when you ask, you don’t get it because your motives are all wrong — you want only what will give you pleasure.”

- 2) Ask yourself why you are asking for the things you are praying about.
- 3) Pray - Jesus, I’m not even sure why I’m asking you to make these things work out. But, I can tell you that I don’t want it to work out any other way. But, is this what you want Jesus? Help me to have the right attitude about this situation. I ask this in your name, Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

MATTHEW 17:20

Could you have a lack of faith or a lack of firmly trusting God?

JEREMIAH 29:13

Could you be half-heartedly seeking God for His help and answer?

JAMES 4:3

Are you asking with wrong motives? A wrong attitude? What is the purpose behind your prayers?

1 JOHN 5:14-15

Is what you are asking in line with the will of God?

JAMES 1:6-8

Are you double-minded? What is the stability of your faith?

ISAIAH 59:1-2

Do you have a secret sin? Are there wicked ways you need to turn away from?

1 PETER 3:7

Do you honor your spouse or put down your spouse when talking with others or even in your thought life?

PROVERBS 21:13

How much mercy do you show others? Has road rage become your standard walk in life?

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PROVERBS 28:9

What do you think about the Bible and the scriptures? What is your attitude toward them?

MALACHI 3

How are you giving?

JOHN 15:1-7

How well are you abiding in Jesus?

1 JOHN 2:15-17

Where's your focus? Is it on the wants and pleasures of this world or on what pleases God?

MARK 11:24-25

Where do you stand with forgiving others? Is there any unforgiveness you need to deal with?

2 CORINTHIANS 12:8-9

Could your prayer have been answered and the answer is NO?

MATTHEW 6:25-34

Do you worry so much that you do not trust God to answer your prayer?

QUOTES

“God answers prayer in the best way, not sometimes, but every time, although the immediate manifestation of the answer in the domain in which we want it may not always follow.”

Oswald Chambers

“Prayer is a unique channel of dialogue between you and the Lord.”

Elizabeth Alves

“The reason many of us leave off praying and become hard towards God is because we have only a sentimental interest in prayer.”

Oswald Chambers

EMPOWERING YOUR PRAYERS

PSALM 51

Almighty God,

I ask that you hem me in both before me and behind me and create within me cleanness and wholeness of heart that I may be Your servant to stand in the gap for others.

I ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

JAMES 5:16

Jesus, in Your name may my prayers avail much.

May they help advance Your kingdom and bring Your victory in the lives of those for whom I pray.

I ask this in your name, Jesus.

Amen

2 KINGS 6:14-18

Open my eyes to see how I need to pray and blind the enemy to Your work, Almighty God.

In the name of Jesus, I ask this.

Amen

HOSEA 2:5

Oh, my Redeemer, blind my eyes to temptation so that I see only God's way.

Let nothing stand in the way of my prayers for others and for myself.

Thank you, Jesus.

Amen

I'M SINGLE - NOW WHAT?

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

- 1) Read a verse

Example - Luke 12:29-31 NLT

“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.”

- 2) Ask yourself what are you worrying about? What do you need to turn over to God?
- 3) Pray - Oh Jesus, You know how I battle to remember You are going to take care of me. Help me to keep my eyes off the small amount of food in the cabinets and refrigerator. Help me to know You will make the food last. Help me to seek You first before I worry about things and get desperate enough to take actions that will harm me and my walk with You. I ask this in your name, Jesus. Amen

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

I FEEL UNWORTHY TO HAVE A PARTNER.

2Cor 7:16; Psalm 138:8; Phil 1:6; Phil 4:13;
1Peter 4:12-13; 1Cor 12:22

I FEEL I'M BEING LEFT OUT OF THE FUN.

Psalm 73:28; Isaiah 41:10; Isaiah 43:18-19;
John 14:18; Hebrews 10:36

I'M SO LONELY.

Psalm 91:2; Psalm 94:14; Psalm 139:7-18;
Isaiah 41:17; Joshua 1:9

I FEEL DESPERATION TAKING OVER ME.

James 3:16-18; Luke 12:29-31; Isaiah 43:2;
Psalm 27:14; Psalm 43:5

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT PERSON FOR ME?

Isaiah 40:31; Prov 13:20; Psalm 32:8; Phil 4:6-7;
James 1:5

DEALING WITH OTHER'S EXPECTATIONS

Phil 1:6; Prov 3:5-6; Galatians 6:4

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I NEED TO FIND OUT WHO I AM.

Galatians 6:3; James 1:22-25; Titus 1:15-16;
Psalm 46:10; Psalm 119:59; Matthew 6:26

WHAT GOOD AM I IF I'M SINGLE? WHAT CAN I DO ALL BY MYSELF?

2 Tim 2:20-21; Galatians 6:4; 1 Corinthians
7:25-38; Matthew 19:10-12

I ENVY THOSE WHO HAVE A PARTNER.

John 14:18; Phil 4:10-12; Hebrews 13:5b;
Exodus 20:17; Proverbs 14:30

I FEEL ABANDONED.

Luke 12:7; Romans 8:37-39; Matthew 28:20;
Isaiah 43:1-21; Isaiah 54:10; Deuteronomy 4:31;
Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 40:1-3; John 14:18

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

Galatians 6:4-9; Matthew 6:31-34; Jeremiah
29:11; Isaiah 43:2, 40:31; Psalm 16:11, 32:8-9,
90:17

HOW DO I TURN MY LIFE OVER TO JESUS?

Phil 3:12-14; Romans 8:28; 1 Peter 5:7; Joshua
24:15

HOW DO I FORGIVE THE PERSON WHO HURT ME AND LEFT ME TO FEND FOR MYSELF?

Hebrews 10:30; Hebrews 12:15; Ecclesiastes
7:8-10; Matthew 18:21-22; Matthew 13:13;
Psalm 147:3; Psalm 37:8-9; Phil 4:8-9; 1 John
1:9

I NEED TO BE MORE INDEPENDENT, BUT I NEED TO KNOW HOW.

2 Cor 4:9; James 5:7-8; Phil 3:12-14; Prov 3:5; 1
Cor 12:12-27

HOW DO I ACCEPT GOD'S WILL FOR ME AND WHERE HE HAS PLACED ME?

Isaiah 55:8-9, 14:27; Phil 1:6; Prov 3:5; Romans
8:9

I'M TEMPTED TO DO THINGS I KNOW I SHOULDN'T DO.

Colossians 3:2; Hebrews 4:15-16; 1 Peter 1:14-
15; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 2 Peter
2:9; Philippians 4:8

PRAYER BLESSING

Now may the God of peace...equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

Hebrew 13:20-21 (NLT)

QUOTES

“Prayer alerts the enemy to your awareness of his intentions while safeguarding you from his attack.”

Priscilla Shirer

“Prayer is how we press our hands into the invisible and find the hand of Christ reaching back.”

James K.A. Smith

“Prayer is the way the life of God is nourished.”

Oswald Chambers

“Prayer is God’s own word alive in your mouth.”

Elizabeth Alves

WHAT TO PRAY WHEN I WAKE UP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

WHAT WAS IN THE NEWS?

Ask God to bring resolution and redemption to an issue or person's situation.

WHO NEEDS PROTECTION?

Ask God to protect family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, your city, and the leaders of your community.

WHO NEEDS TO HEAR THE TRUTH?

Ask God to open eyes and ears to truth about Jesus of those you encounter who don't know Jesus.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I THANKED GOD?

Thank Jesus for family, friends, His provision, His blessings, the trials you are experiencing.

ASK FOR REST.

Even though you are unable to fall back to sleep, ask that your body feels rested in the a.m.

WHEN WAS THE TIME YOU LAMENTED?

Cry out to God for needed resolutions, redemption, and restoration.

THANK GOD FOR THE BIBLE, HIS WORD THAT HE HAS MADE KNOWN TO US.

PRAYER BLESSING

Lord, I know that you are with me, always. I belong to you and am grateful for your love. Please calm my thoughts and give rest to my body and soul that I may be ready for all that you have prepared for me.

PRAYER VERSES FOR FAMILY AND MARRIAGES

PRAYING SCRIPTURE

- 1) Read a verse

Example: Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT)

“But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along the riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.”

- 2) Picture the family member you are praying for and insert their name in the verse.
- 3) Pray like this: Father in Heaven, may _____ trust in you and have hope in you. May _____ be like a tree planted by the water with roots deep in you, our living water, so that _____ is not shaken or upset when there is heat or drought. And may _____ be like this strong tree, with leaves staying green and always producing fruit.

In the name of Jesus I ask this.

Amen

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

VERSES FOR MARRIAGES:

Romans 15:5-7; Jeremiah 32:38-41; Ephesians 5:22-28; 1 Peter 3:7

VERSES FOR THE FAMILY UNIT:

Deuteronomy 30:14; Psalm 139:7,14; Psalm 32; Psalm 90:17; Psalm 5:11-12; Proverbs 4:10-13; Jeremiah 32:37-41; Matthew 13:23; Romans 15:5-7; 1 Corinthians 1:10-11; Ephesians 1:16-20, 3:14-20; Colossians 1:9-13; Hebrews 13:20-21

VERSES FOR SPOUSES:

Psalm 1:1-3; Psalm 40:4; Jeremiah 17:7-8; 1 Peter 3:7

PRAYER BLESSING

“May the LORD bless you and protect you. May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.”

Numbers 6:24-25 (NLT)

“Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgement. Show mercy to still others, but do so with great caution, hating the sins that contaminate their lives. Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.”

Jude 23-25

“...choose today whom you will serve. ... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

QUOTES

“The world was made partly that there may be prayer; partly that our prayers might be answered.”

C.S. Lewis

“Prayer is the mechanism that brings down the power of heaven into your experience.”

Priscilla Shirer

“Prayer is not a question of altering things externally, but of working wonders in a man’s disposition.”

Oswald Chambers

“Prayer makes a way sovereignly for God to act on Earth.”

Elizabeth Alves

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM LIBIN AS YOU WALK THROUGH SPIRITUAL BATTLES

I want to remind you from Acts 19 that when Paul came to Ephesus, Ephesus was a place filled with demonic and spiritual forces. There were numerous temples dedicated to over 50 gods and goddess. The leading deity of Ephesus was Artemis. The power of God broke out through the preaching of the gospel, that idol makers ran out of business and therefore they caused a riot. The city gathered to avenge Paul and they began to chant for hours “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians.” Talk about spiritual warfare. So what happened to Ephesus. Let me tell you what happened.

In 262 AD, the temple of Artemis was destroyed never to be rebuilt, and the ruins of the temple were used to build Christian churches. Today, the great Artemis sits in shambles in a museum, but Jesus is Lord over the nations. His kingdom is advancing, and his church is exploding! That’s what happened!

No matter what you’re facing today, may we rest in the finished work of Christ on our behalf and enjoy him while we experience all that I’m about to share...and more!

Remember, and be encouraged!

- The outcome of our spiritual battle is victory.
- We can stand firm in the battles of this world because we are seated in the victory of Jesus.
- We are not fighting in hopes of a victory that Jesus will win, we are fighting in view of the victory that Jesus has already won.
- Colossians 2:15: He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.
- 1 John 3:8b: The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil’s works.
- John 12:31: Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
- Revelation 20:10 The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet are, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- We have seen the end, and we win. So how do we live now?
- Romans 8:31: What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?
- Romans 8:37-39: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You are fully equipped and armed for any spiritual battle. Your enemy has already been defeated. You will not live as victim because in Christ you are a victor. God's truth has set you free. And you combat the lies of the enemy with the word of God. Pray in the Spirit. Walk in the Spirit. Put up the shield of faith, let his righteousness cover you, be strengthened by his power. You can stand firm in the battles of this world because you are seated in the victory of Jesus.