

John MacArthur writes: “Before Jesus gave up His spirit as He hung on the cross, He took time to pray for those who were murdering Him. He prayed, ‘Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing’” (Luke 23:34). God began to answer His prayer on the Day of Pentecost as some three thousand people repented and were baptized that day, and there have been countless multitudes that have been saved through the centuries. In response to Jesus' intercession for the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12), God has snatched many souls from eternal death.

Do you have a heart to pray for the lost like Jesus did? Do you have the passion that inspired John Knox to plead, ‘Give me Scotland or I die’? Is your attitude that of George Whitefield, who prayed, ‘O Lord, give me souls or take my soul’? Do you, like Henry Martyn, mourn when you see others trapped in false religion and cry out, ‘I cannot endure existence if Jesus is to be so dishonored’?

God used those faithful men as powerful tools to bring salvation to dying people. Each of them had a clear and vivid understanding of what is at stake in the gospel—it’s an issue of life or death, an eternity in heaven or hell. Do you realize that your unbelieving family members, your co-workers, and your neighbors will spend forever suffering in torment away from the presence of God if they don’t embrace Christ? That realization should drive you to your knees to plead, not only with them to believe the gospel, but with God to save their souls.”

Below are listed fifteen things you can ask of God in praying for the salvation of others. In praying for the lost . . .

1. That God Draws Them to Himself

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...” - John 6:44

2. That They Seek to Know God

*“God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.”
- Acts 17:27*

3. That Their Hearts be Prepared for the Gospel

“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.” - Mark 4:8

4. That the Word Becomes Revelation Lifting of the Veil of Their Hearts

*“And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4*

*“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.”
- Ephesians 1:17-18*

5. That They Believe the Scriptures

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God...” - 1 Thessalonians 2:13

*“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”
- Romans 10:17*

6. That Satan is Bound from Blinding Them to the Truth

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.” - Matthew 13:19

*“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”
- 2 Corinthians 4:4*

7. That the Holy Spirit Works in Them

“When (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment... He will guide you into all truth...” - John 16:8-13

8. That the Root of Pride Be Broken (in us and them)

*“For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does... We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.”
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-5*

9. That God Sends Someone to Lead Them to Christ

*“Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”
- Matthew 9:37-38*

10. That They Believe in Christ as Savior

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” - John 1:12

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; He has crossed over from death to life.” - John 5:24

11. That They Turn from Sin

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” - Acts 3:19

12. That They Confess Christ as Lord

“...if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” - Romans 10:9-10

13. That They Come to True Repentance

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” - 2 Peter 3:9

“[that] God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they many come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.” - 2 Timothy 2:25-26

14. That They Yield All to Follow Christ

“And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.” - 2 Corinthians 5:15

“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ...” - Philippians 3:7-8

15. That They Take Root and Grow in Christ

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” - Colossians 2:6-7



Praying for the Lost