

Prayer Guide

2018 Renewal Weekend

This guide is a resource for you to use in your quiet time with God. We hope you will use the guide each day and that your prayer life will be renewed before, during, and after the Renewal Weekend to a level it's never been before.

The Bible instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to *"pray without ceasing."* That was an encouragement from Paul to remind his brothers and sisters in Christ to not only pray a certain time of the day, but to let them know to pray all day long as the Spirit leads.

Everyone is on a different level of their Christian walk. Some people know how to pray, some don't. This guide will be a helpful tool for anyone.

Firstly, it's important to find a time of day that works best for you to commune with God. We just discussed praying without ceasing, but it's important to have a particular time of day when you and the Lord come together in prayer. Then you can pray without ceasing when the Spirit leads you to pray for someone or something.

Secondly, have a particular place where you and the Lord meet together during this time of prayer. Some people have a prayer closet, some people have their favorite chair, or some people have a special place outside. Still others may be pacers – they like to walk around while praying. Whatever works best for you!

Just remember, prayer for each individual is unique. No two people pray the same way, in the same place, at the same time. Prayer is your personal time with the Lord.

If You Don't Know What to Pray

Some people say they don't know how or what to pray. Let's go to the Word and see how Jesus instructed his followers to pray.

"But you, when you pray, go into your inner room and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you. And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they

will be heard for their many words. Therefore, do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him. Pray, then, in this way:” Matthew 6:6-9

Jesus then proceeds to move into the Lord’s prayer. This is a pattern of prayer, not the exact way you should pray. Let’s break it down:

“Our Father who art in heaven” – You can first begin your prayer by recognizing God as your Father, your Daddy, your Abba. Example: When you call someone on the phone, you ask to speak with that specific person. So, when you begin your prayer time, you want to acknowledge the one to whom you will be praying—your Father in heaven.

“Hallowed by Thy name” – Go ahead and start your worship time with Him and praise Him by proclaiming He is holy. Hallowed = to make holy. When Isaiah got a glimpse of heaven, this is what he saw *“I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’” Isaiah 6:1-3*

Another example is when John also got a glimpse of heaven and this is what he saw *“and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. And the first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God, The Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.’ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ‘Worthy are Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:6-11*

“Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” – This speaks of submission to God. When we submit our lives to God, we lay down our own agendas, our own plans, our own goals and we give God our lives and ask Him to use us as a vessel to bring glory and honor to His name. We ask that His will be done and we admit our need for Him to help us accomplish His will in our lives on this earth. Our new agenda, goal and plan will be to accomplish His will here on earth.

“Give us this day our daily bread” – Present your supplications to God—He wants to know what you need. He already knows what you need, but he likes to hear you communicate your needs to Him in prayer. You can pray for your essential needs—food, shelter, and clothing. These things are temporal and earthly, but they are things we all need in our daily lives. God wants us to depend on Him for our daily needs. He is Jehovah Jireh—The Lord Will Provide (Genesis 22:1-14).

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” – Seek forgiveness. The verses directly following the Lord’s example of prayer are: *“For if you forgive men for their transgressions, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions.”* Matthew 6:14-15 No one is excited about forgiving someone who has hurt them, but forgiveness frees you—not them. Did you know that the devil uses others to hurt you? *“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”* 1 Peter 5:8

Devour = to drink down; to swallow entirely.

Some people allow the devil to influence their thoughts, actions and decisions. Sometimes these negative influences filter down to others and creates a hurtful environment. Paul stated in Romans 3:23 *“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”* This means other people have sinned, you have sinned and no one is free from sin. There are things we have done to hurt others. No one wants to hear that—we want everyone to think we’re perfect and wonderful. We need to remember who our anger should be directed towards—the devil. When you are mad at another person, the devil is off enjoying his triumph in causing division, separating friends, ripping people to shreds through gossip. Don’t allow the devil to have a foothold in your life!

God even wants us to pray for people who have hurt us.

“Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not.” Romans 12:14

When you pray for someone to be blessed who has hurt you, God’s Word is immediately activated in that person’s life. You may never see the results, but this will be very freeing for you. The more you pray blessings on that person, the greater the freedom from this hurtful event in your life. Furthermore, when you try to take your own vengeance in someone’s life, it will be hurtful. When you pray blessings over someone, you are getting God involved and His vengeance is redemptive.

“Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord.” Romans 12: 19

Give your hurts to God and let him heal your heart—walk in forgiveness.

“And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” – We need God’s guidance so we will not be in a situation where we can be tempted. God does not tempt us.

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.” James 1:13-16

It is important for each Christian believer to put on their spiritual armor every day because each day is a spiritual battle in the heavenly realm for us. We’ll talk more about that in the section below. Be careful who you hang around with – are their beliefs the same as yours? Be careful what you listen to and what you see with your eyes.

“Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.” Philippians 4:8

Always remember, what you listen to and what you see that does not line up with the Word of God, will put you in a position of greater temptation.

Spiritual Warfare Praying

“Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.” Ephesians 6:11

What schemes is Paul talking about in this verse? A scheme is a well thought out plan of attack, like something a terrorist might devise—very deadly and very serious. A lot of people don’t believe there is a devil or if they do they think he’s going to show up on their doorstep dressed in red with a pitch fork in his hand and horns on his head. That’s all fairytales. To make a long story short, the book *This Present Darkness* by Frank Peretti is one of the best depictions of spiritual warfare.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (people), but against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm, therefore having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of

peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for the saints.” Ephesians 6:12-18

Let’s look at the different pieces of the spiritual armor:

Belt of Truth – When you go into battle each day, it’s very important that truth prevail in your life and as you walk in truth, speak truth, and live a truthful life, it will help you win the battle in this area of your life.

Breastplate of Righteousness – Only one person in this world was deemed righteous by God and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. The only way we can put on the Breastplate of Righteousness is to accept the sacrifice of death that Jesus offered on our behalf. This righteousness offers us an impenetrable defense against the attacks of the devil, because our life in Christ is guarded and protected by His righteousness. Seek the Lord first and foremost in all things.

*“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”
Matthew 6:33*

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Do you seek Him?

Shoes of Peace – The Christian life can bring about peace with God, peace with self, and peace with others. This peace does not mean we will never encounter any obstacles or have frustrating days, but that we will have peace in the midst of these frustrations. We can spread the peace of God to others with our Shoes of Peace.

Shield of Faith – The devil is ready to shoot his fiery arrows when we least expect it. He waits for the most opportune moment to attack—usually when we lower our shield and think nothing bad will happen, that’s when we can get hit with temptation. We have the opportunity to quench ALL the flaming arrows the devil sends our way when we put on our full armor of God.

Helmet of Salvation – Some say that our mind is the devil’s primary target, because he will put all kinds of negative thoughts in our minds, make us doubt our salvation, and make us double-minded which will make us unstable in all our ways. If you are in a place today where you are doubting your salvation, please speak with one of the pastors or pray and ask God to confirm your salvation to you—He will!

Sword of the Spirit – This is the Word of God and is a very necessary part of our equipment as Christians. The Word enables us to answer attacks on our faith as well as make sure our everyday decisions are compatible with the Word of God. The Word will guide us, comfort us, encourage us, and strengthen us—the Word of God is powerful to counter the attacks of the devil. Please read Luke 4:1-13. In each instance when Jesus was tempted by the devil, Jesus responded, *“It is written...”* Jesus threw the Word of God back at the devil in response to the devil’s temptations. We have the same power to use the Word of God as a weapon against the attacks of the devil in our own lives.

Prayer – When we get in our special prayer place and pray on our heavenly armor each day, we can also express our adoration to God, we can praise Him, we can confess our sins to Him, we can thank Him for answered prayers, we can express our need of Him in our lives, we can ask for things we need, we can intercede on behalf of others, and we can pray for the salvation of those who do not know Jesus as their Savior.

Prayer Focal Points

- Renewal in our family of faith.
- Ministry opportunities in our community, country and abroad.
- Unity within the Wilsonville Baptist Church body.
- Family – Spouse, children, parents, siblings and extended family.
- Church – Bro. Steve Thomas, Jeff Vick, Chuck Webb, Matt Jones and other staff members, Small Group Leaders, SS Teachers and the congregation of Wilsonville Baptist Church.
- Government – President Trump, Vice President Pence, national, state, and town leaders.

- Employer/School – Boss, Co-Workers, Principal, Teachers, Coaches, Professors, Lunchroom Workers, Maintenance crews.
- Close Friends – People who are close to you or have influence over you.
- Salvation – Pray for those you know who need to have a relationship with Jesus. List their names here and pray for their salvation daily.
- Specific Prayer Requests: