

# PRAY FIRST

David E. Longenecker STRONG FAITH FAMILY CHURCH

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## This, then, is how you should pray:

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For yours is the kingdom, power and the glory forever."

- *Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)* 

Names of God	Their Meanings	Their Benefits for Us
Jehovah Tsidkenu	Our Righteousness	I am forgiven of all sin.
Jehovah M'Kaddesh	Our Sanctifier	I am set apart for ministry.
Jehovah Shalom	Our Peace	I have peace & sanctuary.
Jehovah Raah	Our Shepherd	I am led by the Holy Spirit.
Jehovah Rapha	Our Healer	I have health & healing.
Jehovah Jireh	Our Provider	I have success & provision.
Jehovah Nissi	Our Banner/Victory	I am secure & victorious.
Jehovah Shammah	The Lord is There	I have God's presence &
		power.

#### HOW SHOULD I PRAY

#### 1. Connect with God relationally.

Our Father in heaven.

## 2. Magnify God's name above the problem.

Hallowed be Your Name.

## 3. Pray according to God's will.

Your kingdom come, <u>Your will be done</u>, on earth as it is in heaven.

## 4. Depend on God for everything.

Give us today our daily bread.

## 5. Keep your heart right with God and people.

Forgive us our debts, <u>as we also have forgiven</u> our debtors.

#### 6. Take your stand against the enemy.

And lead us not into temptation, but <u>deliver us from the evil one.</u>

## 7. Have faith in God's ability.

For <u>Yours is the kingdom</u>, power and the glory forever.

## JESUS'S PRAYER MODEL

Jesus's model of prayer starts with praise and worship—hallowing the name of God. Realizing that our God is Jehovah Rapha (our Healer), Jehovah Jireh (our Provider), and Jehovah Nissi (the One who gives us victory). Once you connect with who God is, then pray:

## YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE

- A. Pray for Your Nation, State, County and City
- B. Pray for Your Church

- 1. For Your Pastors
- 2. Small Group Leaders
- 3. Members of Strong Faith Family Church
- 4. Vision of Strong Faith Family Church
- 5. The lost
- C. Pray for Your Family
- D. Pray for Yourself

#### GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD

- A. Offer your requests to God the Father in the Name of Jesus (John 16:23-24).
- B. Ask God to bless every area of your life.

## FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS

- A. Ask God to forgive you—receive His forgiveness.
- B. Forgive and release others.

## LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

- A. Put on the whole armor of God.
  - 1. The Helmet of Salvation
  - 2. The Breastplate of Righteousness
  - 3. The Belt of Truth
  - 4. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace
  - 5. The Shield of Faith
  - 6. The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God
- B. Pray for God's protection in all areas of your life.

## FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY

- A. Make your faith declarations.
- B. Return to praise and worship.

## THE ARMOR OF GOD

#### BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN HIS MIGHTY POWER

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

- *Ephesians 6:11-18 (NIV)* 

Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything, as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day.

## THE ARMOR OF GOD PRAYERS

## **Helmet of Salvation**

Thank You, Lord, for saving me. I allow your salvation to cover my mind and protect me from thoughts contrary to who I am in Christ. I rest in my salvation and in the place I hold in Your kingdom.

#### **Belt of Truth**

Thank You that the Spirit of Truth lives in me. Your truth frees me from the lies of the enemy. Continue to reveal Your truth to me. I desire to live a life of honesty, integrity, and truth.

## **Shield of Faith**

Thank You, Lord, for the faith You've given me. My faith allows me to walk in confidence; trusting in Your unrelenting love for me, even when the enemy tries to come against me. There is nothing that can overcome me because You are with me and for me.

## Breastplate of Righteousness

Thank You, Father, for making me the righteousness of God in Christ. I am NOT a sinner, I am righteous. I choose to walk in my righteousness. I refuse to live in condemnation or corruption. Instead, I guard and guide my heart in Your righteousness.

## **Shoes of the Gospel of Peace**

Today, I choose to live for the Gospel at every moment—sharing with others what You've done for me. It's as I acknowledge Your presence that I have peace and become a peacemaker.

## **Sword of the Spirit**

Your Word is the Sword of the Spirit. I use Your Word against the enemy's attacks. I speak Your Word only. I walk by faith, not by sight. Holy Spirit, bring the Word to my remembrance today. In Jesus name, Amen.

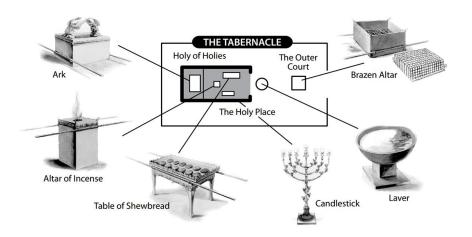
## TABERNACLE PRAYERS

The Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God where God chose to meet His people. Each element of the Tabernacle is a guide that helps us to connect with God and symbolizes God's provision for us.

The diagram below shows the placement of the elements and how they serve to lead us into the presence of God.

If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sin and I will heal their land.

## - 2 *Chronicles* 7:14



## APPROACHING GOD IN PRAYER

Below is a brief description of how these elements allow us to connect with God as we enter into His presence.

## **The Brazen Altar** — The Cross

The Brazen Altar was a figure of the cross of Christ. It represents our salvation, healing, redemption from the curse, new nature in Christ, and God's provision. We start prayer by turning our attention to the finished work of Jesus.

## **The Laver** — Preparing to Enter God's Presence

The Laver was the place the priests cleansed themselves before entering the Holy Place. Likewise, we should repent from any known sin, forgive others, and keep our heart pure before God.

## The Candlestick — The Holy Spirit

The seven candles represent the sevenfold Spirit of God (Revelation 3:1; Isaiah 11:2). The candlestick symbolizes the light of the Holy Spirit—being Spirit-led in our prayers. As we connect with the Holy Spirit He will lead us, guide us, and produce fruit and gifts in our lives (Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

## The Table of Shewbread — God's Word

God's Word is likened unto bread. The shewbread symbolizes us receiving a fresh revelation of God's Word (Matthew 4:4). All of our prayers should be in harmony with the Word of God.

## The Altar of Incense — Worship

Magnify God's names. Our worship ascends to God like incense.

## The Mercy Seat (Ark) — Intercession

The Mercy Seat symbolizes God's presence. Now you pray for: (1) Your City, Nation, and World. (2) Your Church—pastors, leaders, members, and vision. (3) Your family and yourself.

## TYPES OF PRAYERS

## The Prayer of Faith

The Prayer of Faith is also known as the Prayer of Petition—a prayer to change things. This prayer must always be based on God's revealed will in His Word and should never contain an "if." The prayer of faith "knows" the will of God. This prayer is used primarily for your own life, situations, and circumstances.

Scripture References: Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24

## The Prayer of Praise and Worship

Praise and worship are the highest forms of prayer. These are not prayers of petition or request. They are not prayers through which you are asking. Instead, you are offering. You are ministering unto the Lord—thanking and blessing Him.

Scripture References: Acts 13:1-4; Acts 16:22-26; 2 Chronicles 20:15-22; Luke 24:50-53

## The Prayer of Commitment (casting your cares upon the Lord in prayer):

We are to commit our way AND cast our cares onto the Lord. We are to roll the burden of our cares onto Him. Worry shows a lack of trust. Worries, cares, burdens, and anxieties are some of Satan's greatest tools in defeating well-meaning Christians. One way to beat worry and unbelief is through the prayer of commitment—casting away your cares.

Scripture References: Philippians 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7

## The Prayer of Consecration

This prayer is used when we consecrate and dedicate our lives for God's use—to go anywhere and do anything God tells us to do. This is the ONLY prayer we can pray, "If it be Thy will."

Scripture References: Luke 22:42

## The Prayer of Agreement / United Prayer

The prayer of faith and the prayer of agreement are two of the most powerful types of prayers for bringing about immediate change. In the prayer of agreement, numbers are not important, agreement is! Heartfelt united prayer produces powerful results. The main rule to united prayer, and the prayer of agreement, is all individuals involved must be in one accord. Praying in one accord means total agreement with one another and with the Word of God—praying with complete unity of purpose and expected results.

Scripture References: Matthew 18:18-20; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:23-31

## The Prayer of Intercession / Supplication

The word "intercede" means to act between two parties with the thought of reconciling them. The prayer of intercession stands in the gap on behalf of another. Normally, we intercede for the unsaved. The word "supplication" means a humble, earnest entreaty or request. If a request is not made in a heartfelt fervent manner, it would not be supplication.

Scripture References: Ezekiel 22:30; Genesis 18:23-32; Romans 8:26; Philippians 4:6

## THE EPHESIAN PRAYERS

These are excellent prayers for those who need wisdom and revelation, or when you do not know how else to pray. God's Word always works! There are many short prayers found throughout the epistles, but the following are the two main prayers. These prayers have been taken from the Amplified Bible and have been put in first person as a help to the reader.

## **Ephesians 1:17-23**

(17) I pray, Father, that You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, will grant unto me the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the deep and intimate knowledge of You, (18) by having the eyes of my understanding flooded with light, so that I can know and understand the hope to which You have called me, and how rich is Your glorious inheritance in the saints – Your set apart ones. (19) And so that I may know and understand what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of Your power in and for me who believes, as demonstrated in the working of Your mighty strength, (20) which You, Father, exerted in Christ when You raised Him from the dead and seated Him at Your own right hand in the Heavenly places, (21) far above every name and every title that can be conferred – not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which is to come. (22) And You, Father, have put all things under His feet and have appointed Him the Universal and Supreme Head of the Church. (23) Which is His Body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all – for in that Body lives the full measure of Him who makes me complete, and who fills me everywhere I go with Himself.

## **Ephesians 3:14-19**

For this reason, seeing the greatness of this plan by which I am built together in Christ, I bow my knees before You, Father, the Father of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, (15) For whom every family in Heaven and on Earth is named. (16) May You grant me out of the rich treasure of Your Glory to be strengthened and reinforced with mighty power in the inner man by the Holy Spirit – indwelling my innermost being and personality. (17) May Christ through faith actually dwell - settle down, abide and make His home in my heart. May I be rooted deep in love and founded securely on love, (18) that I may have the power and be strong to apprehend and grasp with all the saints, Your devoted people, the experience of Your love, the breadth, length, and height and depth of it. (19) May I really come to know – practically, through experience for myself – the love of Christ, which far surpasses knowledge (without experience); and that I may be filled (through all my being) unto all the fullness of You, Father - that I may have the richest measure of the Divine presence and become a body wholly filled and flooded with You Yourself.

## **DECLARATION OF FAITH**

Once you have offered up your prayers before God, it's time to declare your faith in God's ability! In other words, it's time to make faith confessions like:

### I AM ACCEPTED

John 1:12		I am God's child.
John 15:15		I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1		I have been justified.
1 Corinthian	ıs 6:19-20	I have been bought with a price. I belong
		to God.
1 Corinthian	ıs 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body.

Ephesians 1:5 I have been adopted as God's child.

Ephesians 2:18 I have direct aggest to God through the least aggregation of the control of

Ephesians 2:18 I have direct access to God through the Lord

Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:14 I have been forgiven of all my sins.

#### I AM SAFE

I am free forever from condemnation.
I am assured that all things work together
for my good.
I am free from any condemning charges
against me.
I cannot be separated from the love of God.
I am confident that the good work that
God has begun in me will be completed.
I am a citizen of Heaven.
I have not been given a spirit of fear, but
of power, love, and a sound mind.
I find grace and mercy to help in time of need.
I am born of God and the evil one cannot

touch me.

#### I AM IMPORTANT

Philippians 4:13

Matthew 5:13-14 I am the salt and light of the earth. I am a branch of the true Vine, a channel John 15:1, 5 of God's life. John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit. Acts 1:8 I am a personal witness of Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple. Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship. Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

strengthens me.

I can do all things through Christ who

The Bible is clear that our words control our lives (James 3:2-5). Therefore, once we have prayed, we are to align the words of our mouth with God's Word. Then, stand back and watch as God works a miracle in your life (Hebrews 6:12). Our Daddy loves you! So make sure you "Pray First!"