# **Prayer Resources**

## General

Have your Bible and/or bible app to readily look up references.

Praise God Confess your sins and shortcomings to God Express thanks to God

#### Personalize the prayers.

In which organizations or institutions are you involved? Who do you know in each area over which you pray? Family, church family, life group members, friends, co-workers, church prayer list, anyone who comes to mind. Pray for specific people, places, organizations and institutions by name.

Without being self-centered, don't forget yourself. As you pray a thing for others, humbly ask the Holy Spirit to show how the same prayer might apply to you so as to make you more like Jesus.

## **Seven Areas of Focus**

(AmericaPrays.org/model)

#### **1. PRAY FOR UNBELIEVERS TO BE SAVED.**

Pray that people's hearts will be opened to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Savior. Pray that every person in the world will be able to hear the Gospel in their native language. (Matthew 9:37-38; 24:14; Romans 10:1; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 26:18)

#### 2. PRAY FOR A NATIONAL SPIRITUAL AWAKENING.

Pray that Jesus will revive the Church and awaken our nation to the greatness and supremacy of Jesus. Pray that God will pour out His Spirit on America and forgive our sin and heal our land. Pray that millions of Americans will be convicted by the Holy Spirit, repent of their sins, and turn to God with all their hearts. (2 Chron. 7:14; Daniel 9:18-19; Psa. 85:6; Hab. 3:2; Acts 2:37-41)

#### **3. PRAY FOR UNITY OF THE CHURCH.**

Pray that denominational, theological, and ethnic walls will come down so that pastors will love each other, pray together, and serve each other. (John 17:20-23; Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:3-6)

#### 4. PRAY FOR FAMILIES.

Pray that Jesus will heal, restore, and strengthen every marriage and family. Pray that husbands will love their wives like Christ loves the church and that wives will respect and submit to their husbands. Pray that the hearts of parents will be turned toward their children to love them and raise them in a God-honoring way. Pray that children will respect and obey their parents. (Genesis 2:24; Joshua 24:15; Psalm 127:3-5; Malachi 4:6; Ephesians 5:22-33; Ephesians 6:1-4)

#### **5. PRAY FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION.**

Pray that God will heal our nation of racism and use the church to stand against racial conflict, violence, and prejudice. The church must lead the way in racial reconciliation by modeling love and respect for every person regardless of the color of their skin or their ethnic background. (Romans 10:12-13, Galatians 3:28, Acts 10:28, Acts 10:34-35, John 7:24, 1 John 2:9, James 2:9, Revelation 7:9)

#### 6. PRAY FOR LIFE TO BE VALUED AND PROTECTED THROUGH ALL STAGES OF LIFE, BEGINNING AT CONCEPTION.

Pray for God to break the culture of death in America and restore a culture of life. Pray for legalized abortion to come to an end. (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Proverbs 24:11; Deuteronomy 21:8-9)

#### 7. PRAY FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

Pray that God will help them make wise decisions and govern with integrity, justice, and mercy. (1 Tim. 2:1-2; Rom. 13:1; 1 Pet. 2:17; Titus 3:1-2; Micah 6:8)

# Seven Centers of Influence in Our Nation

(https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/prayforamerica)

#### **1. GOVERNMENT**

Pray for your leaders, as well as the judges in our courts. Ask God to grant them wisdom to act with integrity. (I Kings 3:28; I Timothy 2:1-2; Exodus 18:21; Proverbs 11:3; Romans 13:1-2)

**Federal Government** - Consider praying for our President, Vice President, Cabinet Members, Congressional Leaders, Supreme Court Justices

**State Government** - Consider praying for your Governor, Executive Leaders, Legislative Leaders, Judicial Leaders **Local Government** - Consider praying for your Mayor, City Counsel, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Judges, County Officials To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for the government, visit <u>"Praying for Leaders and Elected Officials in</u> <u>Government"</u>

#### 2. MILITARY

"He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them...and encouraged them with these words: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him. With him only is the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles...'" (2 Chronicles 32:6-8) Perseverance to endure hardship (Isaiah 43:2; Deuteronomy 31:6)

Wise leaders who inspire respect from those under their command (Romans 13:1)

Protection and support for the families they have left behind (Romans 1:8-10)

To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for the military, visit "Praying For Our Armed Services"

#### 3. MEDIA

"...Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable–if anything is excellent or praiseworthy–think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

The decision makers within the media to realize they can make a profit by producing uplifting projects (Proverbs 8:10-11)

Christians in media to find favor and be filled with creative ideas that bring kingdom principles and life-giving messages to the public (Proverbs 2:1-15)

To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for businesses, visit "Praying for Arts, Entertainment and Media"

#### 4. BUSINESS

"I have filled him with the Spirit of God, giving him great wisdom, ability, and expertise in all kinds of crafts. He is a master craftsman, expert in working..." (Exodus 31:3-4)

Impartation of ideas and resources to open principled businesses, especially in areas that need an economic boost (Psalm 132:15)

Christian workers to display Christ-like humility and service to their co-workers (Philippians 2:3) To read more on WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for businesses, visit <u>"Praying for Businesses and the Workplace"</u>

#### **5. EDUCATION**

"If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding." (Proverbs 2:3-6)

A safe atmosphere conductive to learning

Excellence in educators (Exodus 18:20-21)

Equal opportunities for every student to achieve their full potential (Philippians 1:9)

To read more about WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for churches, visit "Praying For the Education of Young People"

#### 6. CHURCH

"So then, just as you received Jesus Christ 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. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ." (Colossians 2:6-8)

The church would find a new zeal and commitment to the mission and purpose of Jesus Christ (Matt 22:37) Unity with and among churches that reveal God's love to the world (John 17:23) Integrity–that God's people look and act differently from the world (I Peter 2:11; 1 Corinthians 13:6)

To read more about WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for churches, visit "Praying for the Body of Christ"

#### 7. FAMILY

"If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand." (Mark 3:25) Unity and love in individual families that reach out in hospitality toward others (Romans 12:9-13) Establish healthy relationships between parents and children (Malachi 4:5-6) To read more about WHY, HOW, and WHAT to pray for families, visit <u>"Praying for Families In Our Nation"</u>

# **Additional Topics**

#### THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

**FIRST RESPONDERS:** 

- Police
- Fire
- EMS

**MEDICAL COMMUNITY** 

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

#### PERSONAL REPENTANCE AND SANCTIFICATION

RECONCILIATION

**ENEMIES OF ANY KIND** 

# **Paul's Prayers for the Church**

#### Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

#### Ephesians 1:15-23

Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called-his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else-not only in this world but also in the world to come.

God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.

#### Philippians 1:3-11

Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation-the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ-for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

#### Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

# **A Qualifying Humility**

"Be willing to pray that most difficult of prayers, "Lord, whatever it takes, make me humble." Remember, humility is your greatest friend, pride your greatest enemy." Dr. Bill Kynes

The big "C" Church glorifies God only to the extent it is unified and operating in its biblical, Spirit-led gifts, callings and offices. But it cannot serve its intended, life-giving purpose without a qualifying humility.

"God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble" James 4:6b

"The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. For, as he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it." Vincent de Paul

"...and My people who are called by My name <u>humble</u> themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14 [emphasis added]

We need a mighty move of God to heal our land. Humility is the first priority in the above "formula". How else will we rightly pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways?

In the 19th century, Andrew Murray made the case that humility is the root of every virtue. No godly virtue or character trait can be ours; nor can any spiritual or temporal discipline be properly practiced without humility; for it is humility which provides the essential integrity to empower and inform all the rest.

Humility is not an exercise in self-flagellation. We are of inestimable value to God. He laid down His very life to ransom us! Humility is rather a God-centered, Holy Spirit-enabled, self-denial. It draws one into true intimacy with God – Psalm 138:6a says, "For though the Lord is exalted, yet He has regard for the humble." Thus, the humble bear much kingdom fruit and are incredibly sharp weapons of spiritual warfare. Possessed of the Spirit of Christ, they win the battles He gives them to fight in the war He already won; by humbling Himself for us.

Every member of His Church has the assignment to help increase His kingdom with every fiber of their being. The Church is His chosen instrument. He has no Plan B. He doesn't need one. But only by Christ-like humility will the Church have the God-given power and unity to win souls and be "salt and light" to the world.

## Brothers and sisters: Let us be humble before our God.

"They that know God will be humble, and they that know themselves, cannot be proud." John Flavel

"Humility is royalty without a crown." Spencer W. Kimball

"Humility is the foundation of all the other virtues hence, in the soul in which this virtue does not exist there cannot be any other virtue except in mere appearance." Saint Augustine

"Be willing to pray that most difficult of prayers, 'Lord, whatever it takes, make me humble.' Remember, humility is your greatest friend, pride your greatest enemy." Dr. Bill Kynes

"If I murmur in the least at affliction, if I am in any way uncharitable, if I revenge my own case, if I do anything purely to please myself or omit anything because it is a great denial, if I trust myself, if I take any praise for any good which Christ does by me, or if I am in any way proud, I shall act as my own and not God's." Jonathan Edwards

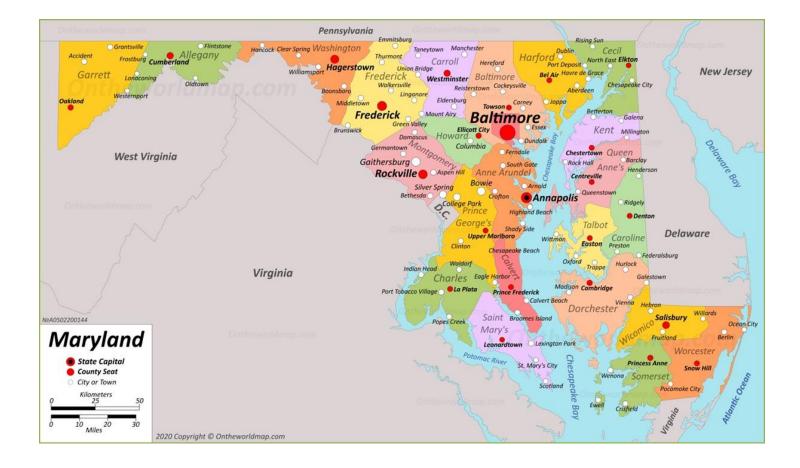
"Humility is so shy. If you begin talking about it, it leaves. The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less." Tim Keller

"God alone knows how to humble you without humiliating you and how to exalt you without flattering you." Ian Blakelock

### DISCIPLINES OF ACTION (Practiced Discreetly)

- 1. Watch how you respond to the accusations or criticisms of other people.
- 2. Watch how you respond to the pride of others.
- 3. Watch how you respond to hardships or slights.
- 4. Watch who you associate with.
- 5. Perform some task that is "beneath" your dignity.
- 6. Spend time thinking about your own sins and imperfections.
- 7. Do some anonymous good deed and keep it anonymous.
- 8. Avoid putting on a false front.
- 9. Restrain from always giving advice or offering your opinion.
- 10. Cultivate a heart of thanksgiving.
- 11. Practice submission.
- 12. Give honor to others.
- 13. Do not fear humility.

"For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He adorns the humble with salvation." Psalm 149:4



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