



HOW TO PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

I. PRAYING FOR YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

- A. **Pray Regularly for the Church** - Praying for the church regularly will help our hearts to connect with the church and feel what the Lord feels for the church in our region.
- B. **See the Church as God's Solution for your City** - All the prayers in the New Testament are specifically focused on the church. This does not mean we should not pray for the lost, but it does mean that God sees the church as the answer to the issues in your city.
1. Praying for the church is praying for the lost because a strong, vibrant church in your city will lead to the conversion of the lost and will answer the others issues of darkness in the city. God desires to answer the issues of wickedness, darkness, and sin with a strong and vibrant local church.
 2. Pray not only for your local congregation but also for the entire church in your city. While the church is composed of individual congregations and many different groups, we always want to pray the Lord's heart for the entire church in our city. The Lord does not desire just to visit one congregation but to release power on the entire church in a region.
- C. **Ask the Holy Spirit for Revelation** - As you pray for the church in your area, ask the Holy Spirit what He feels about the church in your area. Listen and pray into the revelation the Lord gives you. The goal, over time, is not just to pray for the church in a detached way but to begin to feel the Lord's heart for the church in your region and agree with the things that are on His heart.
- D. **Pray Positive Prayers for the Church** - Always pray positive prayers for the church and for believers. When under a burden, do not pray around the negative aspects of the burden but pray for the impartation of the positive.
1. When we pray negative prayers, our spirit becomes negative. While there are real crisis in the church, praying for the impartation of the good things the Lord desires will help keep our heart fully alive when praying for the church. In prayer meetings, it is critical that you pray in a positive way. Negative prayers will quickly make a prayer meeting un-enjoyable and even contribute to a spirit of strife in the church in your city.
 2. Praying positive prayers helps us avoid a judgmental spirit. While the Lord releases His burden to us in the place of prayer, we want to avoid ever having a judgmental spirit towards other believers. Often when praying negative prayers we can adopt a spirit of superiority over believers who we feel are in compromise and we want to avoid this spirit.
- E. **Use Apostolic Prayers** - As you begin to pray for the church in your city, use the apostolic prayers from the New Testament. Each prayer in the New Testament is for the church in a particular region or city. These prayers give us language that we can pray for the church. If you feel a burden for the church in your region, pray the positive side of the burden (i.e. what you want the Lord to impart to the church) and find an apostolic prayer with that theme. Over time, praying these prayers will give you Biblical language and a Biblical model for praying for the church. A sheet containing New Testament prayers is included at the end of this sheet for reference.



KEY APOSTOLIC PRAYERS & PROPHETIC PROMISES

PRAYER FOR REVELATION OF JESUS' BEAUTY THAT WE MIGHT WALK IN OUR CALLING AND DESTINY BY GOD'S POWER

17 That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may **KNOW** (experience) what is the hope of His calling (assurance/ clarity of God's call for our life) what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (our destiny as Jesus' inheritance), ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... (Eph. 1:17-19)

PRAY TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT'S POWER THAT JESUS' PRESENCE BE MANIFEST IN US SO WE EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE

16 THAT He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, ¹⁷ THAT Christ may dwell (manifest His presence) in your hearts through faith; THAT you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may be able to comprehend (experience) with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height- ¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; THAT you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)

PRAYER FOR GOD'S LOVE TO ABOUND IN US BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD RESULTING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS IN OUR LIFE

9 That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge (of God) and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve (rejoice in) the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere (no compromise) and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness... (Phil. 1:9-11)

PRAYER TO KNOW GOD'S WILL, TO BE FRUITFUL IN MINISTRY AND STRENGTHENED BY INTIMACY WITH GOD

9 That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy... (Col. 1:9-11)

PRAYER FOR UNITY IN THE CHURCH AND TO BE FILLED WITH SUPERNATURAL JOY, PEACE AND HOPE (CONFIDENCE)

5 May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another... ⁶ that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the...Father... ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:5-6, 13)

TO BE ENRICHED BY ALL THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT INCLUDING POWERFUL PREACHING AND PROPHETIC REVELATION

5 That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance (anointed preaching/singing) and all knowledge (prophetic revelation), ⁶ even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you (by miracles), ⁷ so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of...Jesus Christ, ⁸ who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:5-8)

FOR THE RELEASE OF GRACE TO BRING THE CHURCH TO MATURITY ESPECIALLY TO ABOUND IN LOVE AND HOLINESS

10 Praying exceedingly that... (God will release His Spirit and grace to) perfect what is lacking in your faith?... ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all... ¹³ that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father. (1 Thes. 3:10-13)



KEY APOSTOLIC PRAYERS & PROPHETIC PROMISES

PRAY TO BE WORTHY (PREPARED OR MADE SPIRITUALLY MATURE) TO WALK IN THE FULNESS OF OUR DESTINY IN GOD

¹¹ We pray always for you that God would count you worthy of (prepare us for) this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness (plans for us) and the work of faith with power, ¹² that the name of...Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God. (2 Thes. 1:11-12)

THAT THE WORD WILL INCREASE ITS INFLUENCE (EFFECTIVENESS) IN THE CITY AS GOD RELEASES HIS POWER ON IT

¹ Pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly (rapidly increase its influence) and be glorified (confirmed with apostolic power and miracles), just as it is with you...³ The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one...⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience (perseverance or endurance) of Christ. (2 Thes. 3:1-5)

FOR IMPARTATION OF BOLDNESS (SINGING AND SPEAKING THE WORD) BY RELEASING HEALING, SIGNS AND WONDERS

²⁹ Lord...grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, ³⁰ by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. ³¹ And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:29-31)

RELEASE OF GOD'S PROMISE TO BE ENDUED WITH POWER FOR ALL WHO TARRY (LABOR IN PRAYER) FOR BREAKTHROUGH

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. (Lk. 24:49). ⁸ You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem...and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

FOR THE LORD TO RELEASE HIS ZEAL FOR HIS PEOPLE AND FOR HIS MANIFEST PRESENCE TO SHAKE ALL THAT RESISTS HIM

¹⁵ Look down...and see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are (the manifestations of) Your zeal and Your strength, the yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? ¹⁶...You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name. 64:1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down (manifest Your power)! That the mountains (obstacles) might shake at Your presence-- ² as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- to make Your name known to Your adversaries (sin, sickness, Satan), that the nations may tremble at Your presence! ³ When You did awesome things for which we did not look (expect)... ⁴ Since the beginning of the world men have not heard...nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. ⁵ You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways. (Isa. 63:15-16; 64:1-7)

FOR THE RELEASE OF GOD'S PROMISE TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT AND RELEASE DREAMS, VISIONS AND PROPHECY

¹⁷ In the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ On My menservants and My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood, fire and vapor of smoke. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. ²¹ Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Acts 2:17-21)



KEY APOSTOLIC PRAYERS & PROPHETIC PROMISES

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL TO BE SAVED AND THE RELEASE OF THE PROPHETIC ANOINTING, MIRACLES AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

¹ My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (Rom. 10:1)

²⁶ All Israel will be saved...The Deliverer (Jesus) will come out of Zion. He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. (Rom. 11:26-27)

¹ For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace (or be silent: release a prophetic spirit), and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest (or I will not be inactive: release power), **UNTIL her righteousness (in all heart issues) goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns** (ministry to others). (Isa. 62:1)

Actual OT Prayers for Israel

(Isa. 63:15-64:12; Dan. 9:4-19; Mic. 7:7-20; Hab. 3:2-19; Ezra 9:5-15; Neh. 1:4-11; 9:5-38; Ps. 44; 45:3-5; 65; 67; 79; 80; 83; 85; 86; 90:13-17; 102:12-22; 110:1-5, 122:6-7; 132:11)

OT prophetic promises to pray over Israel (these truths can also be prayed for the Church): Deut. 4:27-31; 30:1-10; 31:29; 33:26-29; Isa. 11:10-16; 29:14, 17-24; 30:18-33; 32:15-19; 33:2-6, 17; 35:1-10; 42:10-17; 43:1-7; 44:1-5; 45:17, 22-25; 51:3-11; 54:1-17; 56:6-8; 59:19-21; 60:1-62:12; 66:7-14; Jer. 3:14-20; 16:14-21; 31:1-14; 32:16-23; 32:37-42; 33:6-26; 50:4-5; 50:19-20, 34; Ezek. 11:17-20; 16:60-63; 20:33-44; 34:11-31; 37:1-28; Hos. 2:14-23; 3:5; 5:15-6:3, 11; 14:1-8; Joel 2:28-32; 3:17-20; Zeph. 3:8-20; Hag. 2:6-9, 21-22; Zech. 8:2-8; 12:10-13:6; Mal. 4:1-6.