



PRAYER GUIDE

Praying for the lost.

“It seems that God is limited by our prayer life. He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks him to do it.” John Wesley

One of our 1st steps in reaching those that don't know Christ is through prayer. ***Without prayer we will not see the will of God manifested on the earth, which is souls saved.*** Opening our eyes and prayer go hand and hand. When we open our eyes we are moved to pray and when we pray our eyes are opened and we develop a heart for people!

Key Principles to remember when praying for the lost (unbeliever):

State of a Lost Person (unbeliever)

Ephesians 4:17-18 (NKJV) “This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, **having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;**”

Objective- For men to come to salvation and the knowledge of the truth.

1 Tim 2:3-4 (NKJV) “For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

Open Doors- We can pray for God to open doors for the gospel to go forth in the lives of unbelievers and for laborers to be sent to them to bring them the truth.

Colossians 4:2-4 (NKJV) “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, **that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ,...**”

Open Hearts- Our Prayers should be directed at taking our authority and removing the obstacles to an unbeliever receiving the Gospel. We want their hearts to be softened and open so the word of God could be received, take root in their lives and they can go on to bear fruit.

Acts 16:14 (NKJV) “Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. **The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.**”

2 Cor 3:14-16 (NKJV) “But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**”

Foundational principles when praying for the lost.

1. It's God's will and desire for all men to come into a relationship with him.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NKJV) *"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks be **made for all men**, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all men to be saved** and come to the knowledge of the truth."*

Some key principles found in 1 Timothy 2:1-4:

- A. Prayer is one of our first steps and should be a priority.
- B. God desires for us to pray for all men, which includes unbelievers.
- C. We should be praying for our leaders.
- D. Prayers for unbelievers are good and acceptable to God.

****Acceptable-** (apodektos) pleasing and welcome, agreeable & accepted

- E. Our prayers will help bring people to salvation and the knowledge of the truth.

2. When we pray according to God's will, He answers us.

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) *"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, **that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us**. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."*

****God will answer our prayers when it comes to praying for the Lost, but there is still a possibility that they don't respond to him and reject the Gospel because they do have a free will.**

3. In prayer love and compassion must be our foundation and motivation.

1 Cor 14:1- (Amplified) *"Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire **[this] love** [make it your aim, your great quest];"*

4. Prayer prepares our hearts to change our world.

Psalms 5:3 (AMPC) *"In the morning You hear my voice, O Lord; in the morning I prepare [a prayer, a sacrifice] for You and watch and **wait [for You to speak to my heart].**"*

Jude 20 (AMPC) *"But you, beloved, **build yourselves up** [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;"*

5. There is tremendous power available in prayer.

James 5:16 (NKJV) *"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.**"*

6. When we pray we must not doubt, but believe.

James 1:6 (NKJV) *"But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."*

7. In prayer the Holy Spirit will teach us, guide us, and pray through us.

John 14:26 (NKJV) *"But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach** you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all things that I said to you."*

John 16:13 (NKJV) *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide** you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will **tell you things to come.**"*

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) *"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered."*

Scriptural ways to pray for the lost.

1. We must understand that it's God's will for all men to be saved.

1 Tim 2:3-4 (NKJV) *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires **all men** to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but **that all should come to repentance.**"*

2. We need to be persistent and unmoved by what we see.

Luke 18:1 (NKJV) *"Then He spoke a parable to them, that **men always ought to pray and not lose heart,**"*

1 Cor 15:58 (NKJV) *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be **steadfast, immovable,** always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."*

3. Pray for conviction to come upon the unbeliever.

Acts 2:36-37 (NKJV) *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." **Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart,** and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

John 16:8 (NKJV) *"And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin,** and of righteousness, and of judgment:"*

4. Take authority over the lies of the enemy, so light can shine in their hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (NKJV) *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **whose minds the god of this age has blinded,** who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them."*

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) *"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) *"And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, **"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."***

5. Prayer for protection in their lives.

Hebrews 1:14 (NKJV) “Are they not all ministering spirits **sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?**”

6. Prayer for laborers to be put in their path.

Matt 9:37-38 (NKJV) “Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. **Therefore pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**”

7. Go before the Lord in intercession.

Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV) “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, **and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land**, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”

****Intercession-** (enteuxis) Seeking the presence and hearing of God on the behalf of others. A meeting with, a conversation, a petition.

8. Pray for a hunger for the Lord to develop and a dissatisfaction for the things of the world.

Psalms 34:8 (NKJV) “Oh, **Taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man that trusts in Him!**”

9. Pray in the Spirit.

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us **with groanings which cannot be uttered.**”

10. Pray that they would encounter the transforming power of “God’s Love.”

Psalms 107:8- 9 (NIV) “Let them give thanks to the Lord for his **unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind**, for he **satisfies** the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”

Jeremiah 31:3 (NKJV) The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.

Praying for ourselves and other believers.

1. That our Love would abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.

Phil 1:9-11 (NKJV) *“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”*

2. That we would fearlessly and boldly make known the mystery of the Gospel.

Ephesians 6:19-20 (NKJV) *“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— **and for me, that utterance may be given to me that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*

Acts 4:29 (NKJV) *“Now, Lord, look on their threats, **and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word.**”*

3. We would bear fruit in every good work.

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV) *“that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;”*

4. Pray for God to open doors for us to share the gospel and that we share it clearly.

Colossians 4:2-4 (NKJV) *“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, **that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ**, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak”*

5. His purposes will be fulfilled in our lives and he would be glorified.

2 Thessalonians 1:11- 12 (NKJV) *“Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ”*

Potential obstacles to an unbeliever coming to Christ.

1. Satan, the god of this world.

2 Cor 4:3-5 (NKJV) “But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are **perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

John 10:10 “The thief does not **come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

2. The person allows the word to be stolen or nullified through no roots or cares and desires of the world.

Mark 4:13-20 (NKJV) “And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. **When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.**”

**The seed of the word itself is never the problem, because it is incorruptible and will do its job. Although it can be stolen, endure only for a season, or be choked out.

3. A person willfully rejecting the gospel.

Hosea 4:6 (NKJV) “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Because you have rejected knowledge,...**”

Luke 20:17 (NKJV) “Then He looked at them and said, “What then is this that is written: ‘The stone which the **builders rejected** Has become the chief cornerstone’?”

4. The word not going forth or lack of prayer.

Romans 10:14-15 (NKJV) “How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? **And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?** And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace Who bring glad tidings of good things!”