PRAYING IS GOD'S IDEA

MOST PEOPLE PRAY. People pray about many things: Sunshine for a picnic. Protection on a trip. Health issues. Passing a test. Finding a job. Family concerns. Milestone events.

These are all part of everyday life, and God wants us to pray about them. He also wants us to come to Him about our deepest need—that we know Him personally—and are sure that He will bring us safely to heaven when we die.

God has not made it difficult for us to reach out to Him. He promises if we draw near to Him—if we call out to Him and respond to Him—that He is there in an instant! God *LONGS* to hear us pray—and His ears listen.

These Scripture-based prayers are formed using a number of translations. Verse references are included on each page to facilitate further study.
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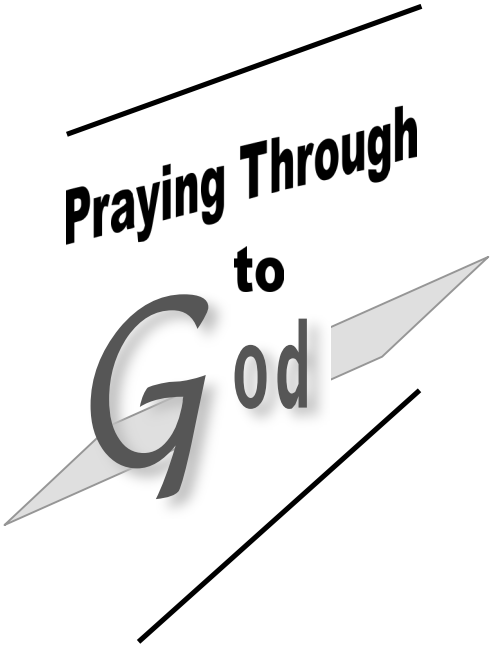

All of us have longings. We long to be loved in our relationships, to feel accepted, and know that we belong. We long for joy that lasts. We long to know "Why am I here?" and "What will happen to me after I die?" Our longings can set us on a spiritual journey. Asking. Searching. Finding.

What are your deepest longings?
What questions are you asking?
Where are you on your journey?

Perhaps you know quite a bit about God, but for some reason, He isn't as real to you as He is to other people you know. Do you want to get in touch with God, but you're not sure how to go about it?

Perhaps you have no interest in God, but you wonder if it matters what you believe.

Maybe you're disappointed with the way life has turned out. Even angry. Frustrated. Are you looking for real answers?

I have been there too. But I have found that God's Word provides answers for every need in life.

It is my prayer that you made the decision to believe what God says—rather than doubt Him. As you begin your new walk with God, you will experience mountaintop joys as well as difficult valleys along the way. This never changes.

Whether you encounter joy or pain, Jesus promised that the path will get brighter and brighter as you walk with Him. As you say yes to Him, He will do His work in you and through you.

Proverbs 4:18; James 4:8

I encourage you to read God's Word, the Bible, every day. Let His Word feed your spirit. Say to God, "You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation."

As you praise and thank Him, you will know more of His joy—and will enjoy the light of His presence.

Let Him be everything to you.

Psalm 89:26, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:28

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Psalm 89:26, 15; 1 Corinthians 15:28

Because I believe in You, I am a Christian, and I belong to You—and my deepest longing is filled.

I know that one day You will bring me safely to heaven. And I will see You face to face because You have put a new heart in me and a new spirit.

Thank You.

Lord, You are so good.

1 John 3:1, 2; Luke 1:53; 2 Timothy 4:18
Ezekiel 36:26; Psalm 25:7, 8

"God is not far away.

He is aware of all you are going through. He wants you to find your way to Him, to reach out and to trust Him. Acts 17:27

I would like to share some verses from the Bible that have been an encouragement to me—verses that I have put into a prayer.

May God use this prayer
to bring His Joy into your life too.

This prayer will help you to
Pray Through to God and begin
a personal relationship with Him today.

You might want to pray this prayer aloud.

Because I believe in You, I am a Christian, and I belong to You—and my deepest longing is filled.

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2

God in Heaven,

When I see
a glowing sunset,
or hold the hand of a child,
or see the beauty all around me,
I know You must be out there.

I wonder,
"Who are You?" and
"Do You care about me?"

Psalm 8:1, 4

Lord Jesus,

I love You,
and You love me,
and Your Father loves me.

John 14:21

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When I see
a glowing sunset,
or hold the hand of a child,
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Psalm 8:1, 4

3

Lord Jesus,

I love You,
and You love me,
and Your Father loves me.

John 14:21

20

Thank You

that the Good News of salvation

is for everyone.

You are able

to save all the families of the earth
who call on Your Name.

Open my eyes to see the great things You are doing. Lead me to tell others about You. Fill me with love and courage to say everything You want me to say.

Keep me aware of how short my time on earth is. I want to live wisely and well. I ask You to help me.

Luke 2:10, 11; Acts 3:25; 14:27

2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Psalm 89:47, 48; 90:12

Day after day

You display Your handiwork
in the skies.

At night the sky displays more of
Your splendor—and speaks without
a sound or a word.

The Bible says You know all about me.
You have looked deep inside me.

You know my thoughts
—even before I think them.

You know where I am,
and see everything I do.

You want to give me a future

filled with Hope.

Psalm 8:3; 19:1-2; 139:1-3, 17; Jeremiah 29:11

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4

But something stands like a wall between us. I don't know how to find You. And I don't know how to know You.

Have You hidden Your Truth from me because I thought I could come to You in my own way?

I ask You to soften my heart so I am able to hear You.

Help me to listen to You, and give me the ability to understand.

...You are the One
who came looking for me.

Isaiah 59:2; Job 23:3; Jeremiah 29:13
Matthew 11:25, 15; Luke 19:10

Now I am part of Your family.

Thank You for Your promise to supply all my needs. In every circumstance, I will give You thanks because You are with me.

Remind me when difficulties come that they are an opportunity for me to trust You and to depend on Your Word.

I ask You
to continue to reveal Yourself to me
as I read the Bible.

Teach me to love my brothers and sisters in Christ, and to love them with the same love that You have loved me.

Hebrews 2:11; Philippians 4:6, 7, 19
1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; Matthew 13:21
John 5:39; 1 John 4:7; John 15:12

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Hebrews 2:11; Philippians 4:6, 7, 19
1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; Matthew 13:21
John 5:39; 1 John 4:7; John 15:12

18

Jesus,

You also came to give me
abundant life here on earth.

When You went back to heaven,
You sent the Holy Spirit
to be my Helper.

Now He lives in me.

You promised He will never leave me.

He is Your power in me so I can believe every one of Your words. He will fill me with Your love so I can obey Your commands—and not follow the ways of the world anymore.

John 10:10; 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13
Hebrews 13:5; 2 Corinthians 5:14-16

You came into the world to be the light, but I loved darkness more than the light because I wanted to live my own way.

I've tried to find satisfaction in many things and have wandered far from You.

I admit that I've been working on a point system—
trying to offset the bad I do
with the good I do.

I thought my good works
were enough to please You.
But all my efforts to try to save myself
accomplish nothing.

John 3:19; Isaiah 53:6; Luke 15:13, 14
Matthew 5:20; John 6:63

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6

Jesus, You didn't come into the world for those who think they are already good enough.

You came for those who know
they are sinners.

My sins have cut me off from You—and have kept me from knowing You.

You want me to come into Your light and acknowledge my own sins instead of keeping track of the sins of others.

If I am not born from above by Your Spirit, I will never see You or enter heaven.

If I do not put my trust in You to save me from my sins, I am already judged for not believing in You, the Only Son of God.

Matthew 9:13; Isaiah 59:2; Matthew 7:1
John 3:3; John 3:18

Jesus, YOU ARE

the Resurrection and the Life.
Death could not hold You in the grave.

Because I believe in You, even though I die like everyone else, I will live again—because You have given me Eternal Life, and I will never perish.

This is the New Song You have put
in my heart.
I will sing thanks to You forever!

You don't want me to be anxious about what will happen to me after I die. There are many rooms in Your Father's house, and You are preparing a place for me.

When I have finished what You want me to do on this earth, I know I will go to be with You in heaven.

John 11:25-27; Psalm 40:3
John 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

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John 11:25-27; Psalm 40:3
John 14:1-3; 2 Timothy 4:7, 8

16

I will never be judged for my sins,

because I have already passed

from death

into Life.

_____ ▫ _____

You have told me these things
so I can know for sure that I have

Eternal Life.

John 5:24; 1 John 5:13

I didn't know that the
only work You want from me
is to believe in You.

Only Someone who had no sin

could pay for my sins.

Jesus, You are the Holy
Son of God.

You loved me so much that
You came from heaven to die for me.

If I believe in You,

I will not perish, but have

Everlasting Life.

_____ ▫ _____

John 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21
Luke 1:35; John 3:16

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John 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21
Luke 1:35; John 3:16

8

When You died on the cross
Your body was broken,
and Your blood was poured out
for my sin.
Your dead body was placed in a tomb.

After three days,
a great earthquake shook the ground.

An angel from heaven
rolled back the stone.
You were not in the tomb.

You were Risen!

Matthew 26:26-28; 27:35, 36
Matthew 27:57-60; 28:2-6

Now I begin a brand new life—
I am a new creation.

My old life
of trying to work for my salvation
is gone.

My new life
of depending on what
Jesus has done for me
has begun.

2 Corinthians 5:17

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2 Corinthians 5:17

14

And now You give me the power to be called a child of God. Now I have Eternal Life because all who have the Son have Eternal Life. Now Your righteousness covers me like a robe.

Your Holy Spirit
gives birth to spiritual life—
and I am born again!

Father in Heaven,
when You look at me now,
You see Jesus in me,
and You rejoice over me with singing.

John 1:12; 1 John 5:12; Isaiah 61:10
John 3:6-7; Zephaniah 3:17

This is Your Good News:

It doesn't matter where I was born,
or what my background is,
or what I have done,
You are giving me the privilege
of turning from my sins, and receiving

the *Gift*

of Eternal Life.

If I confess with my mouth that Jesus is
Lord, and believe in my heart
that God raised Him from the dead,
I will be saved.

Acts 11:15-18; Romans 10:8-10

And now You give me the power to be called a child of God. Now I have Eternal Life because all who have the Son have Eternal Life. Now Your righteousness covers me like a robe.

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Acts 11:15-18; Romans 10:8-10

10

Jesus,

I won't keep You out of my life
any longer.
I want to know You.

_____ ▫ _____

I lay down every argument
that has kept me from knowing You—
and every rebellious thought
that I have held against You.

I renounce the thought that
I can come to You in my own way—
or in any way that is not through You.

Acts 7:51; Luke 15:18-21
Ephesians 4:18, 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 10:5

You are the Way to the Father.
You are the Truth so You cannot lie.
And Eternal Life is found
only in You.

I believe You are the Son of God
and You died for my sins.

I am sorry for my sins,
and I turn from them.
I ask You to blot my sins out
and forgive me for every wrong.

I receive You
as my Savior and Lord.

Thank You for dying for my sins.

John 14:6; John 6:69; 1 John 1:9
Acts 3:19; John 1:12

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12