

LIVING AUTHENTIC CHRISTIANITY

How To Pray The New Testament Prayers

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What Are The New Testament Prayers?

The New Testament Prayers are simply prayers prayed by the early Church leaders for others, or sometimes as requests for prayer for themselves, that are recorded in the Bible. There are quite a few of them and they are powerful.

Why Pray The New Testament Prayers?

Praying Scripture will keep you rooted in God's Word as you pray. God's Word reveals His character and actions, teaches us truth, and what is right and wrong ([2 Timothy 3:16](#)). So, if you pray from the foundation of God's Word, you can have confidence that you are praying for things that agree with God's will, which is a key to getting results in prayer. ([John 15:7](#); [1 John 5:14-15](#))

Praying Scripture will help you take what you read and know of God's Word and turn it into conversation with Him. His Word will get planted deeper into your mind and heart as you do it. It will help you to have language to express your heart and to make your requests to God in prayer. It will help you to memorize Scripture. Praying Scripture will remind you not only to pray for the practical needs and circumstances in your life, but to pray for the growth of your spiritual life and relationship with God as well.

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Praying Scripture will remind you to pray for the things God wants to do in the world, not only the things you want Him to do in your own life. Praying Scripture helps you remember to pray for others. Praying Scripture helps keep you focused primarily on God's goodness and power impacting the circumstances you pray for, not primarily on being burdened by how great a need is. Needs are big and they are real, but our God is bigger! Praying Scripture helps us to pray with faith and hope.

How To Use The New Testament Prayers

Many trusted Bible teachers in years past and in the present have taught the power of praying the Scriptures and have highlighted the prayers in the New Testament, among others in the Bible, as a practical tool to approach doing so. In this resource, I'm sharing with you my compilation of these prayers and how to implement them into your prayer life.

For each prayer, I list the verse reference and the text of the prayer followed by some suggested themes you can use those Bible passages to pray for in your own life and for others. The themes are not meant to limit you in that you can only pray for those topics from those verses. Rather, they are observations from the biblical content of the prayer as well as from personal experience to help guide you as use these Scriptural prayers in your personal prayer life.

You can pray the biblical prayers verbatim or use them to help you form your own words and thoughts in prayer. You can even incorporate other verses in the Bible that relate to what you are praying about. You can pray through them on their own or pray them over specific topics on your prayer list. Be yourself with God, be honest and use God's Word as a launching pad into conversation with Him. Remember to use the New Testament prayers to pray for yourself, for others and the world around you!

*Scripture quotations are from the New Living Translation unless otherwise noted

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Ephesians 1:16-20

16 I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, **17** 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. **18** 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. **19** 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 **20** that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

- **Use to pray for:** spiritual growth and insight // getting to know God's character better // salvation for those who don't know Jesus

Ephesians 3:14-19

14 When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, **15** the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. **16** I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. **17** Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. **18** And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. **19** May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

- **Use to pray for:** spiritual growth // understanding and experience of God's love // spiritual strength

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Philippians 1:9-11

9 I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. **10** 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. **11** 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.

- **Use to pray for:** growth in love for God and others // growth in knowledge and understanding of God's Word and things pertaining to faith in Christ // strength to live a pure and blameless life // God to produce righteous character in your life

Colossians 1:9-12

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. **10** Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. **11** We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, **12** always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

- **Use to pray for:** direction, wisdom and understanding // God to help you to live in a way that honors and pleases Him and bears good fruit // growth in your faith and getting to know God better // God's strength to endure in faith and in any situations you may be facing // that you would be filled with joy and thankfulness to God

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Ephesians 6:19-20

19 And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike. **20** I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should.

Colossians 4:3-4

3 Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. **4** Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should.

- **Use to pray for:** opportunities to share the Gospel with people // God would give the right words to explain the message clearly and give you boldness to share about Jesus

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

11 So we keep on praying for you, asking our God to enable you to live a life worthy of his call. May he give you the power to accomplish all the good things your faith prompts you to do. **12** Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ.

- **Use to pray for:** God's strength to live a life that reflects your faith in Christ // God's power and wisdom to accomplish the good works your faith prompts you to do // that God would help you to live and serve in a way that brings honor to the name of Jesus

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2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we ask you to pray for us. Pray that the Lord's message will spread rapidly and be honored wherever it goes, just as when it came to you. **2** Pray, too, that we will be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not everyone is a believer. **3** But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. **4** And we are confident in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we commanded you. **5** May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ.

- **Use to pray for:** God's Word-whether it is read or it is proclaimed-to be effective in speaking to and reaching people, helping them come to faith in Jesus and grow in faith in Jesus // spiritual protection from the strategies of the devil and physical protection // spiritual strength // that God would help you understand His love and be an expression of His love to others // that God would give you patient endurance in your life of faith and in any situation you are facing

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. **2** Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. **3** This is good and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

- **Use to pray for:** salvation for those who don't yet know Jesus // government and other leaders // salvation, peace and godliness in your city, state or nation

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Romans 15:5-6

5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. **6** Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Use to pray for:** unity and harmony amongst Christians in our relationships with each other and as we worship God and make Him known

Romans 15:13

13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Use to pray for:** God to fill you with hope, peace and joy through the power of His Holy Spirit

Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:6 (NIV)

6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

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- This one isn't a prayer exactly, but is a verse about prayer and it covers all the bases. Pray for any worry or burden that's weighing you down. Any situations where you or someone else needs God to work. Any need you or someone else has. Tell God what you need. Bring the situations of life to Him in prayer and make your request known to Him. And, amidst your requests, offer thanksgiving. Thank Him for who He is and what He's done.

Example

Prayer focus: spiritual growth in my life

New Testament Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11

Prayer: God, help me to grow and overflow in love. Help me to love You with all my heart, mind, soul and strength, to love others, and to love myself by seeing myself the way You see me. Help me to grow in knowledge and understanding as I read Your Word. Teach me, help me to understand the things I'm having trouble understanding. Show me how to live out Your Word by applying it to my life. Give me grace and wisdom to live a life that is pure and pleasing to You. Jesus, work in my life to produce righteous character in me that reflects Your character. I want my life to bring praise and glory to You.

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