

Pray First

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PRAY FIRST

Dear Reader,

WHY PRAY:

Since the beginning of our church in 1991, we have set our hearts to be a people of prayer. Our rally cry has simply been, "Pray First." In every situation, whether good or bad, we try to pray before we act. We have learned that supernatural things will not happen in our lives unless we pray. Prayer moves the hand of God and it should be our fist response, not our last resort.

HOW TO PRAY:

Most people don't enjoy prayer because they have never been taught how to pray. Here's how this simple prayer guide can help you. Using several prayer models out of the Bible and having some guides to make prayer more personal, this booklet is designed to bring joy into your time with God. Keep in mind this is just a guide... prayer is a conversation with God. My hope is that you will experience the presence of God when you pray and that it will change your life

Prayer changes everything!

Pastor Vic

Pastor Victor Echavarria

LIFESTYLE PRAYER

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How do we make prayer a part of our everyday life? We can learn from three things that Jesus did...

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

(Mark 1:35)

A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. In order for prayer to work, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud.

A CERTAIN PLAN

Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. In order for prayer to work, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." Luke 11:1

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen." Matthew 6:9-13

01. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

"Our Father in Heaven"

You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father" Romans 8:15 NLT

God loves for us to call Him our Father. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for the relationship you have with Him.

02. WORSHIP HIS NAME

"Hallowed Be Your Name"

God's name is a place of protection—the righteous can run there and be safe. Proverbs 18:10 MSG

- What are His Names?
- Righteousness He makes me clean
- Sanctifier He has called me and set me apart
- Healer He heals all my diseases
- Banner of Victory He has defeated my enemy
- Shepherd He speaks to me and leads me
- Peace He is my peace in every storm
- Provider He supplies all of my needs

"Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven"

> He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. Luke 12:31 TLB

GOD'S PRIORITIES:

- Saving the Lost
- Guiding those in authority parental, spiritual, governmental, workplace
- His will for us

04. DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

"Give us this day our daily bread"

I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! Psalms 121:1-2 NLT

Ask God for what you want and need and then trust Him for the answer.

"Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors"

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any area that He brings to mind.

Forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. You can even forgive people in advance.

06. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"And do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one"

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:12

Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God's Word.

07. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY

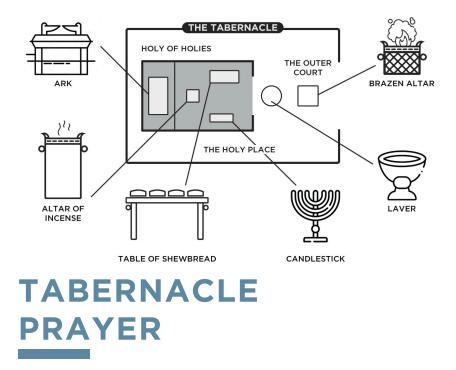
"For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever."

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you" (Jeremiah 32:17).

End your prayer time by reminding yourself of God's ability. Return to praise and make your faith declarations.

"Yours is the Kingdom" - all rule belongs to You "Yours is the Power" - all mightiness flows from You "Yours is the Glory" - Your victory shall be complete

TABERNACLE PRAYER



The Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God where He met His people. As they entered the Tabernacle, they passed through seven stations as a protocol to God's presence. Today, these same steps can help us to connect with God and lead us through important elements of prayer.

01. THE OUTER COURT

THANKSGIVING & PRAISE

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. Psalm 100:4

As the people of God entered the Tabernacle, they came in with thanksgiving on their lips. Thanking God for all the blessings in your life is a great way to begin. Every day, think of a fresh reason why you love and appreciate God.

02. THE BRAZEN ALTAR

THE CROSS OF JESUS

Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. Psalm 103:2-5

In the Old Testament, everyone who had committed sin had to bring animal sacrifices. Jesus paid for all your sins once and for all. You simply need to receive the benefits of what Jesus did for you.

Salvation - God forgives all my sin Healing - God heals all my diseases Redemption - God rescues me from every attack Transformation - God puts His love in me Provision - God provides everything I need

03. THE LAVER

CLEANSING AND PREPARING

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Romans 12:1

The next step in the Tabernacle was a bowl of water where people could wash. Checking your hearts and motives and then surrendering your life to God is an important part of daily prayer. Here are some ways to keep your heart right with God.

Repent from any known sin. Offer your body to God.

- Your tongue to speak good and not evil
- Your eyes to see God and the needs of others
- Your ears To be sensitive to His voice
- Your hands to do good to others
- Your feet to walk in God's ways
- Offer your mind to God

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

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

Ask God to give you the fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22- 23

04. THE CANDLESTICK

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD. Isaiah 11:2

The next piece of furniture in the Tabernacle was a seven branched golden candlestick. The fire represents the Holy Spirit. Every day you should invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your life.

- The Spirit of the Lord
- The Spirit of Wisdom
- The Spirit of Understanding
- The Spirit of Counsel
- The Spirit of Might
- The Spirit of Knowledge
- The Fear of the Lord

You should also ask God to give you spiritual gifts.

To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge, to another faith, to another gifts of healing, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:8-10

THE WORD OF GOD

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Joshua 1:8

A table with twelve loaves of bread represents the importance of reading God's Word for daily sustenance. With this in mind, here are ways to nourish your soul:

- Read God's Word
- Claim His many great promises
- Ask for fresh revelation of the Word
- Take time to read and meditate on the Word
- Get a Word for the day

06. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE

WORSHIP

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. Proverbs 18:10

A small altar of burning incense stood at the entrance to the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelt. This altar represents worship. The people of God literally entered God's presence worshipping the Names of God, including:

God is My Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6 God is My Sanctifier - Leviticus 20:7-8 God is My Healer - Exodus 15:26 God is My Provider - Genesis 22:14 God is My Banner of Victory - Exodus 17:15 God is My Peace - Judges 6:24 God is My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1 God is Always There - Ezekiel 48:35

INTERCESSION

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

The final place in the Tabernacle was the place where God's presence dwelt. It was there that the priest interceded on behalf of the people. In the New Testament, you and I are all called priests and instructed to intercede for others.

- Those in authority spiritual, civil, family, and workplace
- My Family
- My Church pastors, small group, members, and vision/mission
- My Community city, nation, and the world
- My Needs

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE DEVOTIONAL

PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE DEVOTIONAL

This is a great prayer outline mixed with Scripture readings. Simply walk through the outline while you look up the passages of Scripture.

01. THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD Mark 12:30

Think of a fresh reason to thank Him. Psalm 100:4, 118:24

Present your body in worship by: Romans 12:1; Psalm 63:3-4

- Kneeling before Him as your Lord
- Lifting your hands to Him as your Source
- Standing in praise before Him as your King
- Clapping your hands with rejoicing
- Dancing with joy as a child
- Bowing your head in humility

Sing a new song to Him. Psalm 96:1-2; Colossians 3:16

Invite Holy Spirit assisted praise. Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:15

02. CONFESSION AND CLEANSING

PRESENT YOUR HEART TO GOD Proverbs 4:23

Ask God to search your heart for: Psalm 139:23-24

- Sin receive cleansing and righteousness
- Selfishness receive holiness and sanctification
- Stress receive life and power
- Sickness receive healing and strength

Remember the danger of self-deception. Jeremiah 17:9; 1 John 1:6-10

Set a monitor on your mouth and heart. Psalm 19:14, 49:3

Ask God to help you keep His purposes and goals in view. Psalm 90:12; Philippians 3:13-14

3. ORDER AND OBEDIENCE

PRESENT YOUR DAY TO GOD Psalm 37:5

Present the day's details: Psalm 37:4-5, 31:14-15; Deuteronomy 33:25

- Choose the fear of the Lord.
- Commit your works to God.
- Indicate your dependence upon God. Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 131:1-3
- Request specific direction for actions and decisions. Psalm 25:4-5; Isaiah 30:21
- Choose to obey God's explicit instructions. Matthew 6:11, 7:7-8
- In the Word of God.
- By choosing to do His will.

THE JABEZ OF PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JABEZ

Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that You would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let Your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain." And God granted his request. 1 Chronicles 4:10

The Prayer of Jabez is a helpful model of a prayer we can pray every day.

01. BLESSING

Jabez begins his prayer by asking God for His blessing. We need more of God's blessing to be better equipped to make a difference for His Kingdom. We need more provision, more spiritual gifting, more wisdom, and greater understanding so that we can bless others with what God has given us. James 4:2-3 tells us, "You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures." God wants to bless us, but He is often waiting for us to ask with the right heart. We have a big God, and we can be bold in asking for His blessing. As James points out, God sees our heart, and we get His attention when we ask for blessing with the motivation to help others.

"Oh, that You would bless me..." 1 Chronicles 4:10 Ask God for His blessing. Recognize your need for His provision, and set your heart toward wanting more than you need so that you can be a blessing to others.

PRAYER:

"Father God, I pray that You would bless me with more than I need so that I can bless others. I pray for ore provision, that You would equip me to give generously to others and meet their practical needs in

Your Name

I ask You to give me greater spiritual gifting so that I can strengthen the Church and be more effective for the Kingdom of God. I pray for an abundance of wisdom and discernment so that I can point others to You and make decisions that honor You. I ask You to help me grow in understanding of Your truth and Your heart for people so I can do my part to bring Your Kingdom to earth. Help me keep Your generous blessings in perspective, so that I never become self-serving but stay focused on using what You've given me to serve other people."

02. INFLUENCE

Next, Jabez asks for more influence. As God's blessings increase in our lives, we ask for and experience greater opportunity to influence the world around us for Him. God has the power to bless us greatly, and He also has the power to open doors of opportunity for us to make a difference. We want to walk through doors that only He can open, and He responds when we specifically ask Him to give us more influence for His Name.

"Enlarge my territory..." 1 Chronicles 4:10

Pray for more influence. Knowing that God can make a way, trust in Him to open doors and lead you on the best path for your life and for His glory. Ask Him for boldness to take the steps He lays out for you.

PRAYER:

"God, make me effective in my sphere of influence, and open new doors for me to be able to impact and reach even more people for Your glory. Give me a heart to make a difference in the lives of people I have never reached out to before and boldness to walk in obedience to Your calling. Help me to be a good steward of the responsibility You've entrusted to me. I pray for greater territory to impact for Your glory."

03. PRESENCE

In order to have lasting influence, we need God's presence in our lives. Through His power at work within us, God can do more than we could ever ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). As we ask for blessing and influence, we also need to ask for His presence as Jabez did so that we are not operating out of our own strength but through the presence and the hand of our Almighty God.

"Let Your hand be with me..." 1 Chronicles 4:10

In humility, acknowledge your need for God's presence. Depend on Him and ask for more of Him in your life today.

PRAYER:

"Lord, I know that without You, I am nothing. I cannot do what You've called me to do on my own. I am desperate for Your presence in my life. I depend on You completely. I recognize that the same Spirit who raised Christ Jesus from the dead lives in me. Through the power of Your Spirit, I pray that You will help me succeed in the opportunities You've given me. Thank You for being with me. I would never want to face today without You."

04. PROTECTION

Finally, Jabez asks the Lord to protect him. If we are influencing the world for Jesus, we must understand the enemy will try to stop us. This leads us to pray that God will not only help us if the enemy attacks, but that He will protect us from the enemy attacking us in the first place. Jesus has already won the victory so we don't need to fear destruction. God promises to be with us and protect us, and because He is with us we have nothing to fear.

"Keep me from harm" 1 Chronicles 4:10

Trust God to protect you. Tell Him specific areas where you feel the need for His protection and ask Him to cover areas that you can't yet see.

PRAYER:

"God, as I walk out the purpose You have for my life, I pray that You will stop any and every attack of the enemy against me. Please protect my body, my mind, and my emotions. Don't let the enemy get a foothold in my life. I pray, too, that You will protect my family and community from harm. I know that the One who is in me is greater than the one who is in the world, so I have nothing to fear. Thank You for watching over me. I love You and I trust You."

WARFARE PRAYERS

WARFARE PRAYERS

Prayer is not only communion with God; it is confrontation with the enemy. These prayers are very helpful in spiritual warfare.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:11-18

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17

"Thank You, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You and I declare that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ and the place I have in Your kingdom. I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Cover me with Your holiness and purity-defend me from all assaults against my heart. Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Expose the lies I have believed, and show me the truths I need today. I choose to live for the Gospel in every moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Give me strength to walk daily with You. I believe that You are powerful against every lie and assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the traps of the enemy. Bring those Scriptures to mind today. Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day."

THE WEAPONS OF WARFARE

Based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

"Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Therefore I declare that no weapon formed against me prospers this day or any day to come in Jesus' name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). Therefore I declare that Satan cannot make trouble for me again, in this manner, as he did in the past in Jesus' name. I declare all of these prayers accomplished and brought to pass by trusting you through faith and expectation in the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I confess to You all of my sins this day, yesterday and every day past. I repent and renounce them, those known and unknown, those of omission and commission, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. I lay down at Your feet

all of the sins of the flesh, the tongue, and of the heart, and all unholy thoughts and actions. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your precious blood for me.

I stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from before me, above me, around me, and below me; from my home, workplace, church and it's ministries, children, and loved ones; from my works and labors, land, and my presence. I declare that he is not able to stand against me, and his works are taken captive and destroyed. No weapon formed against me will prosper, for the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against them. I declare all of these things accomplished by Your Word. Jesus, my Lord, I give You thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor and worship for Your righteousness and holiness given to me by Your Word on my behalf."

PROTECTION PRAYER

Based on 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:3-5; Romans 12:1-2

"Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I submit myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of the enemy in my life. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I pull down every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ. I pray and thank you for a sound mind, the mind of Christ.

Today and every day I ask for protection over my spouse; each of my children; our immediate family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances and myself. I also ask today for protection during all of our travels; for our provision, finances, possessions, health, safety, and welfare. I put all of these things under the covering of Your precious blood and declare that Satan cannot touch them, on this day or any day to come."

GENERAL CONFESSION PRAYER

Based on Romans 10:10; James 5:16; I John 1:7-9, 3:8

"Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. You are the Messiah, come in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil. You died on the cross for my sins and rose again the third day from the dead. I now confess all my sins and repent. I receive your forgiveness and ask you to cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, cleansing me, justifying me, and sanctifying me in Your blood."

FORGIVENESS PRAYER

Based on Matthew 6:14-15; Leviticus 19:18

"Lord, I have a confession to make. I have not loved, but have resented certain people and have unforgiveness in my heart. I call upon You, Lord, to help me forgive them. I do now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself in the name of Jesus Christ."

PRIDE PRAYER

Based on Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 26:12; 1 Timothy 3:6

"Father, I come to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know pride is an abomination to You. I renounce anything that would cause me to have pride in my heart in dealing with other people. I renounce these and turn away from them. I humble myself before You and come to You as a little child."

Study Proverbs 6:16-19 and remember that fasting is a means by which a person humbles himself before the Lord.

GENERATIONAL BONDAGE PRAYER

Based on Exodus 20:4-6, 34:7; Numbers 14:18

"In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I now renounce, break, and loose myself from all bondages or bonds of physical or mental illness upon me, my family or family line as the result of parents or any other ancestors. I thank You, Lord, for setting me free."

PERSONAL PRAYER TARGETS

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I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanks-giving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Pray for those in authority and those under your authority.

HOW TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO NEED GOD

01. PRAY THAT THE FATHER WOULD DRAW THEM TO JESUS

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. John 6:44

02. BIND THE SPIRIT THAT BLINDS THEIR MINDS

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2 Corinthians 4:4

03. LOOSE THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION (SONSHIP)

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father". Romans 8:15

04. PRAY THAT OTHER BELIEVERS WILL CROSS THEIR PATHS AND ENTER INTO POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matthew 9:38

05. LOOSE THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION ON THEM SO THEY MAY KNOW GOD BETTER

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. Ephesians 1:17



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