

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

James 5:16 “. . . pray for one another. . .”

In Colossians 1:9, St. Paul wrote to the Colossians that he never stopped praying for them. In 1 Timothy 2:1-2 St. Paul exhorted, “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” St. Paul encouraged the Ephesian Christians, “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 6:18)

Solomon discusses in Ecclesiastes 4 the importance of helping one another, “Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

When His disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He began the prayer with the words “Our Father.” In doing so, Jesus was teaching His followers the importance of corporate prayer. Prayer is God’s special gift to you and all His people to pray for all that weighs heavily upon your heart and also upon the hearts of your fellow Christians. God is attentive to your prayers, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:23) Not only does God invite and encourage you to pray but with His encouragement makes a promise, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16) And of course you have Peter’s words of encouragement, “Cast all your anxiety on Him because he cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)

Taking everything to God in prayer relieves you of your burdens, places them in His hands and trusts Him to take care of all that comes your way. The Psalmist wrote, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise— in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” (Psalm 56:3-4) “The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)

Jesus, your Good Shepherd, stands ready to help you and all for whom you pray.

Prayer: O Lord, as You invite me to pray, hear my prayers that I pray for others and also for myself. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Hear us, Father, when we pray, Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.
By Your Spirit's Word convey All that we through Christ inherit,
That as baptized heirs we may Truly pray.

When we know not what to say And our wounded souls are pleading,
May Your Spirit, night and day, Groan with in us interceding;
By His sighs, too deep for words, We are heard.

Jesus, advocate on high, Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
Through Your priestly blood we cry: Hear our prayers, though they may
falter; Place them on Your Father's throne As Your own.

By Your Spirit now attend To our prayers supplications,
As like incense they ascend To Your heav'nly habitations.
May their fragrance waft above, God of love.
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