



THE PRAYERS OF JESUS

Companion resource for
Wonderstruck: Awaken to the Nearness of God
book and Bible study

Be joyful always; *pray continually*; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

—1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Friends,

Not only does God give us a voice, but He invites us to use our voices with Him anytime, anywhere. Through prayer we are given access to approach the One who holds all things together—a breathtaking invitation, indeed.

God eagerly awaits every request, heart cry, desire, and expression of gratitude. No syllable, consonant, or vowel offered up in prayer escapes God's notice. Yet despite the opportunity to bend the ear of God, many of us struggle with how we should pray, what we should say, and what a vibrant prayer life really looks and feels like.

When asked how to pray, Jesus provided a specific prayer as a model known as The Lord's Prayer. But as I've plied the Gospels to better understand prayer, I've been taken back by the prayer life of Christ. The prayers of Jesus are marked by simplicity, brevity, and profundity. Only a handful of Jesus' prayers are recorded, and Jesus' teachings on prayer are limited, making every word all the more worth studying and savoring.

Whether your prayer life is vibrant and active or struggling and inactive, I'd like to challenge you to prayerfully consider and reflect on the following passages that reveal the prayers of Jesus.

- Print out this document.
- As you read, circle or star any verses that pop off the page to you. Place a question mark next to those that beckon you dive deeper into God's Word.
- Return to the question marked verses and dive deeper into the passages they come from to better understand the surrounding story.
- Reword these passages as a launching pad for your prayers and conversation with God.
- Ask God to increase your desire to pray each day.
- Ask God to take reveal anything He wants to add to your prayer life or remove in order to develop a stronger prayer life.
- Prepare to be astonished by the work God is doing in and all around you.

I'm still in the beginning stages of understanding prayer, plying its depths, and laying hold of God. But my hope and prayer is that these passages will challenge and inspire you to go deeper in your prayer life than you've ever been before.

Blessings,
Margaret



The Lord's Prayer

This, then, is how you should *pray*: “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. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.” —Matthew 6:9-13

When you *pray*, say: “Father hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.” —Luke 11:2-4

Jesus Teaching on Prayer

“And when you *pray*, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you *pray*, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you *pray*, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” —Matthew 6:5-8

Prayer of Praise

At that time *Jesus said*, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.” —Matthew 11:25-26



Prayers During the Raising of Lazarus

So they took away the stone. Then *Jesus looked up and said*, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” —John 11:41-42

Prayer in Gethsemane

“Abba, Father,” *Jesus said*, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” —Mark 14:36

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and *prayed*, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.” He went away a second time and *prayed*, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” —Matthew 26:39, 42

The High Priestly Prayer

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and *prayed*: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” —John 17:1-5



Jesus Prays for His Disciples

“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I *pray* for them. I am not *praying* for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you.” —John 17:6-11

“Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.” —John 17:11-12

“I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My *prayer* is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” —John 17:13-19



Jesus Prays for All Believers

“My prayer is not for them alone. I *pray* also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.” —John 17:20-21

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” —John 17:22-23

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.” —John 17:24

“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” —John 17:25-26

Prayers from the Cross

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” —Luke 23:34



About three in the afternoon *Jesus cried out* in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?”(which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). —Matthew 27:46

Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last. —Luke 23:46

The *prayer* of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

—James 5:16

