

# Scriptures on Prayer

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

John 14:13-14 Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it

Mark 9:29 And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

James 5:14-16 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

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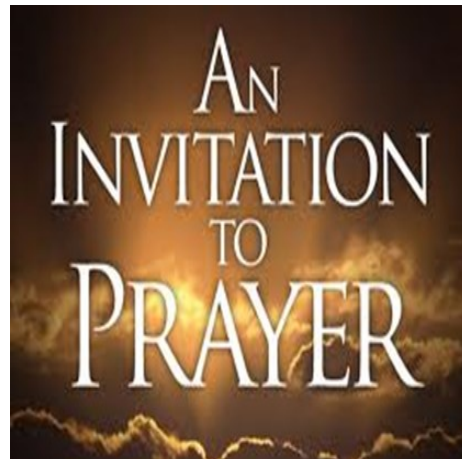
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## Prayers for Sunday Worship

And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Matthew 21:22



Inside you will find a collection of prayers to help you prepare your heart for the Sunday Worship Experience. We welcome you to use these prayers or develop your own prayers to pray each week on Saturday night or Sunday morning during the open altar call (10:45am-10:55am).

*Prayer is an effort of will. ~ Oswald*

### Preparing my Heart for the Sermon

"Speak, Lord, for Your Servant is Listening" Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. Incline my ear to your words, and let your speech come to me as dew upon the grass... If I hear your voice, let me not be condemned for hearing the word and not following it, for knowing it and not loving it, for believing it and not living it. Speak then, Lord, for your servant listens, for you have the words of eternal life. Speak to me to comfort my soul and to change my whole life; in turn, may it give you praise and honor, forever and ever. Amen. (based on 1 Samuel 3:1-14)

### Simple prayers for Worship

1. Lord, please help me to understand the meaning of the lyrics I sing and ensure they point to Christ.
2. Lord, please increase my love for the people I will lead and see in wor-

ship.

3. Lord, please give me wisdom to apply what I sing first to my own pursuit of truth, and call people to the same end.

4. Lord, please use the truths I sing to help me grasp and love the gospel more so that I might help our congregation do the same.

5. Lord, please help me enter into worship having submitted my life to the truths I sing and the truth of your word.

6. Lord, by your Spirit please help me to engage in worship with the necessary power and with appropriate affections of one who has been called out of darkness.

7. Lord, please use these choir, musicians, ushers, participants and myself to bring glory to your name, joy to your people, and salvation to the lost.



*Our prayer and God's mercy are like two buckets in a well; while one ascends, the other descends. ~ Arthur Hopkins*

**Prepare Me to Worship You Authentically**

Almighty God, we will soon gather as your people to worship you, I ask that you would help me to prepare to worship you authentically. Lord, I open my heart to you. Wherever I have distanced myself from you through willful sin, forgive and cleanse me through the shed blood of Jesus, your Son (1 John 1:9-10). Wherever I have distanced myself from you through spiritual laziness and prayerlessness, move me, grow me and reveal to me, to the splendor and majesty of who you are. Lord, Forbid that I would do anything less than worship you in spirit and in truth this Sunday (John 4:24). Help me to remember that in coming before you, I'm coming before the great King – the Creator of the universe; the one who appeared to the people of Israel at Sinai – and the mountain shook; the one who revealed himself in visions to Isaiah and John, and they fell on their faces, trembling at your indescribable glory; the one to whom the glorious creatures around your throne never cease to cry out, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" And as if all this weren't enough to inspire me to give you my unreserved praise, you are the one who sent His one and only Son to become one of us, die for us, overcome sin and the grave for us, and give us new hearts that we might be restored in your image. Bless our worship experience, In Jesus Name, Amen.

**Investing Myself in Every Moment of Worship**

Lord, as I prepare to come into your holy presence to worship you, help me to resist drifting thoughts and invest myself fully in every moment of worship. When I sing, let me sing with both heart and mind. When my heart and mind are not in synch with the words I am singing, help them to catch up. When my spirit doesn't feel like praising you, help me to offer you the sacrifice of praise, trusting that you will inhabit and transform me as your praise is on my lips. When I hear your Word proclaimed, may my ears and heart be open, and may my feet be swift to respond to your bidding.

I surrender to you my personal preferences, complaints, criticisms or critical attitudes about the worship experience and surrender myself to you. Grow me to the place where I realize that Worship is not about me, but it is all about you, Jesus, so be my focus – be our focus, this Sunday and every day of the week – so that our worship of you may be genuine. Amen.

**When I'm Tempted to Skip Church**

Today, I've entertained the thought of not going to church, Lord. My reasons, if I'm honest, are... But you remind me that in missing church, I miss out on you. In missing worship, I drift further away from you, rather than drawing nearer. In missing worship, I miss being in the place where your people are, where your praises are sung, and where your Word is proclaimed. Right now, church might be where I least want to be, but it's where I most need to be. I need to be in worship more than I need a "little break." I need to be in worship more than I need "time to do my own thing." I need to be in worship more than I need the extra sleep. I need to be in worship more

than I need to stay away and nurse my wounded soul.

Perhaps in worship this Sunday, I'll have a turnaround, not unlike the embittered psalmist who was about to forsake his faith. His troubles were "oppressive" to him – until he entered the sanctuary of God (see Psalm 73: 16). He went into the place of worship deeply troubled, but he went, if for no other reason than for the sheer habit or discipline of it. But he left the place of worship with a transformed perspective, saying, "As for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the sovereign Lord my refuge, I will tell of all your deeds." (Psalm 73:28)

So I'm choosing to go to church today. And Lord... if you please... I could really use a turnaround day like that psalmist had. Thanks for getting me on my way. Amen.

**A Prayer for Those Ministering on Sunday**

Dear God, I want to lift up my pastor, the preachers, the musicians, the choir, the ushers, the stewardess and all of those who will lead us or participate in the worship experience this Sunday. For those in music ministry, help them to sing and play with joy in their hearts, as unto you, and not as unto people. Empower them by your Spirit to prompt us to look up to you, and to "make your praise glorious" (Psalm 66:2). May our worship be such that those in our midst who do not yet know Jesus may be moved to declare, "God is really among you!" (1 Corinthians 14:25).

I pray for all those involved in the sight and sound (video/audio) ministry. Help them to serve you with heart and soul, motivated and energized by love for you and passion for your church. Enable them to be "invisible" in their technical ministry, enlisting their technical skills so that all eyes and ears will be on

you, and you alone, dear Lord.

I pray for the pastor or preacher who is proclaiming the word of God today. Work in and through him/her, speaking straight into our hearts with nothing less than the convicting, motivating, and life-transforming power of your Holy Spirit. Help me, and help all of us, Lord, to be not only hearers of your Word, but doers as well (James 1:22-25).

I pray also for the greeters, ushers, missionaries and stewardesses, Lord, asking that your hand will be with them to serve the congregation and our guests, welcoming others as Christ has first welcomed us (Romans 15:7), giving us the atmosphere in which meaningful relational connections can be made for Christ. I pray also that the whole congregation – me included! – will see ourselves as hosts, and demonstrate the warm hospitality of Jesus to every newcomer and stranger who comes to our worship service this morning.

Last, but certainly not least, I pray for the Children's Ministry workers. Bless them, Lord, and give them fun and joy as they worship you through serving our young people. Let them bear much fruit for your glory.

Help me to think of ways and words by which I can show my appreciation and encouragement to these, your servants, who do so much to enable our congregation to engage you in worship. In Jesus' name, Amen.