

A Guide to Prayers in Scripture

How to use this guide. This edition is designed for Mosaic worship and prayer gatherings. It includes the Psalms from the Old Testament and New Testament passages that can function as spoken prayers. The passages remain organized by their primary emphasis; some fit more than one category, so overlap is intentional.

1. PRAISE & ADORATION

Psalm 8 — David praises God's majesty and His care for humanity.

Focus: Wonder at creation and the dignity God gives human beings.

Psalm 19:1-14 — Praise arising from creation and God's revealed word.

Focus: God's glory, the perfection of His instruction, and a life pleasing to Him.

Psalm 103 — David calls his soul to bless the LORD.

Focus: Forgiveness, healing, compassion, covenant love, and God's fatherly mercy.

Psalm 145 — A sustained prayer of praise.

Focus: God's greatness, goodness, compassion, kingdom, faithfulness, and care.

Luke 1:46-55 — Mary's Magnificat.

Focus: God's holiness, mercy, reversal of human pride, and faithfulness to His promises.

Luke 1:68-79 — Zechariah blesses God.

Focus: Redemption, covenant faithfulness, salvation, forgiveness, and the coming Messiah.

Matthew 11:25-26 — Jesus praises the Father.

Focus: The Father's sovereign wisdom in revealing truth.

Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14 — Heavenly worship around God's throne and the Lamb.

Focus: God as Creator and Christ as the worthy Redeemer.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 — Paul blesses the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Focus: God comforts us in affliction so that we can comfort others.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16 — Paul gives thanks for God's triumph in Christ.

Focus: The knowledge of Christ spreading through His people like a fragrance.

Galatians 1:3-5 — Paul blesses God for grace and peace through Christ's self-giving rescue.

Focus: Christ's deliverance from the present evil age and glory to God.

Ephesians 1:3-14 — Paul blesses God for every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Focus: Election, adoption, redemption, forgiveness, inheritance, and the sealing of the Spirit.

1 Timothy 1:12-17 — Paul thanks Christ for mercy and calling, ending in praise.

Focus: Grace toward sinners and glory to the eternal King.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 — Paul erupts in praise of the blessed and only Sovereign.

Focus: God's kingship, immortality, unapproachable light, honor, and eternal dominion.

2. THANKSGIVING

Psalm 30 — Thanksgiving for deliverance.

Focus: God turns mourning into dancing and restores the one who cries to Him.

Psalm 92 — A song for the Sabbath.

Focus: Giving thanks for God's steadfast love, faithfulness, works, and justice.

Psalm 107 — A communal thanksgiving.

Focus: Repeated gratitude for God's steadfast love and rescue in many kinds of distress.

John 11:41-42 — Jesus thanks the Father before raising Lazarus.

Focus: Confidence that the Father hears and the sign will strengthen faith.

Romans 1:8-10 — Paul thanks God for the Roman believers and remembers them continually in prayer.

Focus: Gratitude for their widely known faith and desire for fellowship.

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 — Paul gives thanks for God's grace to the Corinthians.

Focus: Spiritual gifts, Christ's sustaining work, and God's faithfulness.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 — Paul continually thanks God for the Thessalonian church.

Focus: Work of faith, labor of love, and steadfast hope in Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 — Paul thanks God for His saving work in the believers.

Focus: Sanctification by the Spirit, belief in the truth, and sharing Christ's glory.

2 Timothy 1:3-5 — Paul thanks God while continually remembering Timothy in prayer.

Focus: Sincere faith, spiritual heritage, and faithful remembrance.

Philemon 4-6 — Paul thanks God for Philemon and prays for the effectiveness of his faith.

Focus: Love for the saints and deeper knowledge of every good thing in Christ.

3. CONFESSION & REPENTANCE

Psalm 32 — David reflects prayerfully on confession and forgiveness.

Focus: The burden of hidden sin and the joy of being forgiven.

Psalm 51 — David's classic prayer of repentance.

Focus: Mercy, cleansing, a clean heart, restored joy, and renewed obedience.

Luke 23:40-43 — The criminal beside Jesus turns to Him in faith.

Focus: Recognition of guilt and appeal to Christ's saving mercy.

4. LAMENT & GRIEF

Psalm 13 — David asks, 'How long?'

Focus: Feeling forgotten, asking for help, and moving toward trust.

Psalm 22 — A lament that begins in abandonment and moves toward praise.

Focus: Suffering, apparent divine absence, deliverance, and worldwide worship.

Psalm 42-43 — The psalmist speaks to God and to his own downcast soul.

Focus: Spiritual dryness, longing for God, and hope amid discouragement.

Psalm 77 — A prayer in the day of trouble.

Focus: Distress, hard questions, and remembering God's mighty acts.

Psalm 88 — One of Scripture's darkest laments.

Focus: Persistent prayer when darkness and isolation remain unresolved.

Matthew 26:36-44 — Jesus prays in Gethsemane.

Focus: Deep anguish, honest desire, and complete submission to the Father's will.

5. HELP, PROTECTION & DELIVERANCE

Psalm 3 — David prays while fleeing Absalom.

Focus: Protection, courage, sleep, and confidence amid enemies.

Psalm 27 — A prayer of confidence and seeking.

Focus: Fearlessness, God's presence, guidance, and patient trust.

Psalm 46 — A communal confession of trust.

Focus: God as refuge and strength amid upheaval.

Psalm 91 — A prayerful declaration of trust in God's protection.

Focus: Refuge, danger, deliverance, and God's presence in trouble.

Acts 4:24-31 — The church prays after threats from authorities.

Focus: God's sovereignty, boldness, and power to continue witness.

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 — Paul repeatedly asks the Lord to remove his thorn.

Focus: Dependence on Christ's sufficient grace and power made perfect in weakness.

6. WISDOM, GUIDANCE & DISCERNMENT

Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10 — David asks God to teach him His ways.

Focus: Guidance, truth, humility, and covenant paths.

Psalm 119:18, 33-40, 66 — Repeated requests for understanding God's word.

Focus: Illumination, obedience, discernment, and transformed desires.

7. INTERCESSION FOR OTHERS

John 17 — Jesus' high-priestly prayer.

Focus: Glory, protection, sanctification, unity, mission, and future believers.

2 Corinthians 13:7-9 — Paul prays that the Corinthians do what is right and become mature.

Focus: Integrity, restoration, and spiritual maturity.

1 Timothy 2:1-2 — Paul calls for petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings for all people.

Focus: Prayer for rulers and others so believers may live peaceful and godly lives.

2 Timothy 1:16-18 — Paul asks the Lord to show mercy to Onesiphorus and his household.

Focus: Mercy for one who faithfully refreshed and served Paul.

8. SPIRITUAL GROWTH & FORMATION

Psalms 19:12-14 — David asks for cleansing and acceptable speech and meditation.

Focus: Hidden faults, presumptuous sins, words, thoughts, and holiness.

Psalms 139:23-24 — David invites God's searching examination.

Focus: Self-awareness, exposure of harmful ways, and guidance in God's way.

Hebrews 13:20-21 — A benediction asking God to equip His people.

Focus: Equipping for God's will and Christlike work within believers.

Romans 15:5-6 — Paul prays that God give the church Christlike harmony.

Focus: Unity of mind and voice that glorifies the God and Father of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:15-23 — Paul prays for believers to know God more deeply.

Focus: Wisdom, revelation, hope, inheritance, and resurrection power.

Ephesians 3:14-21 — Paul bows before the Father for the church.

Focus: Inner strength, Christ's indwelling, rooted love, fullness, and God's immeasurable power.

Philippians 1:3-11 — Paul gives thanks for gospel partnership and prays for maturing love.

Focus: Discernment, purity, fruit of righteousness, and confidence in God's completing work.

Colossians 1:3-14 — Paul gives thanks and prays for a life worthy of the Lord.

Focus: Knowledge of God's will, wisdom, fruitfulness, endurance, joy, gratitude, and redemption.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 — Paul gives thanks and prays for renewed fellowship, increasing love, and holiness.

Focus: Love abounding toward others and hearts established blameless at Christ's coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 — Paul prays for complete sanctification.

Focus: Whole-person holiness grounded in the faithfulness of the God of peace.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 — Paul prays that Christ and the Father encourage and strengthen believers.

Focus: Eternal encouragement, good hope, and stability in every good work and word.

9. MISSION, WITNESS & THE NATIONS

Psalms 67 — A prayer for blessing with a global purpose.

Focus: God's way and saving power becoming known among all nations.

Matthew 6:9-10 — Jesus teaches His disciples to pray.

Focus: God's name honored, His kingdom coming, and His will being done.

John 17:20-23 — Jesus prays for the unity of future believers.

Focus: Visible unity connected to the world's belief and knowledge of Christ.

Acts 4:29-31 — The early church asks for boldness.

Focus: Courageous proclamation under pressure.

Romans 15:30-33 — Paul asks the church to strive with him in prayer for his ministry.

Focus: Deliverance from opposition, acceptable service, joyful fellowship, and God's peace.

Ephesians 6:18-20 — Paul calls for sustained intercession and asks for boldness in proclaiming the gospel.

Focus: Alert prayer for all believers and fearless clarity in gospel witness.

Colossians 4:2-4 — Paul calls for steadfast prayer and asks for an open door for the message.

Focus: Watchful thanksgiving, gospel opportunity, and clear proclamation of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 — Paul asks prayer for the Lord's message and for gospel workers.

Focus: Rapid spread and honor of the word, with deliverance from wicked people.

10. LEADERSHIP & COMMISSIONING

Acts 1:24-25 — Prayer before selecting an apostolic replacement.

Focus: God's choice and knowledge of the heart.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 — Paul prays that believers fulfill God's calling by His power.

Focus: Worthiness of calling, good purposes, works of faith, and the glory of Christ.

11. HEALING & RESTORATION

Psalms 6 — David pleads for mercy amid weakness and anguish.

Focus: Healing, mercy, emotional distress, and deliverance.

Psalms 41:1-4 — Prayer associated with sickness and mercy.

Focus: Healing, confession, and God's sustaining care.

Psalms 147:1-3 — Praise to the God who restores His people.

Focus: Healing the brokenhearted and binding wounds.

12. JUSTICE & VINDICATION

Psalms 10 — A plea concerning the wicked who oppress the vulnerable.

Focus: Justice for the afflicted and the end of oppression.

Psalms 35 — David asks God to contend with those who contend with him.

Focus: Vindication and protection from malicious enemies.

Psalms 82 — A prayer for God to judge the earth.

Focus: Justice for the weak, fatherless, afflicted, and needy.

Psalms 94 — An appeal to the God of vengeance and justice.

Focus: Accountability for arrogant oppressors and comfort for God's people.

Revelation 6:9-11 — The martyrs ask how long until God judges.

Focus: Holy longing for final justice.

13. PROVISION & DAILY NEEDS

Matthew 6:9-13 — The Lord's Prayer.

Focus: Daily bread, forgiveness, protection from temptation and evil, and kingdom priorities.

14. DEDICATION, SURRENDER & CONSECRATION

Psalms 40:6-8 — The worshiper delights to do God's will.

Focus: Obedience and inward surrender rather than empty ritual.

Matthew 26:39, 42 — Jesus submits to the Father's will in Gethsemane.

Focus: Costly surrender when obedience involves suffering.

15. BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Psalms 20 — A communal prayer for the king.

Focus: Help, remembrance, fulfilled plans, and confidence in God's saving power.

Hebrews 13:20-21 — A rich pastoral benediction.

Focus: Peace, resurrection, covenant, equipping, and God's work within His people.

Jude 24-25 — A doxology to the God who keeps His people.

Focus: God's preserving power, glory, majesty, dominion, and authority.

Ephesians 6:23-24 — Paul closes with a blessing of peace, love, faith, and grace.

Focus: God's peace and grace for all who love Christ with incorruptible love.

16. KINGDOM, RETURN & CONSUMMATION

Psalms 72:1-19 — A royal prayer with expansive kingdom hope.

Focus: Righteous rule, justice for the poor, flourishing, and worldwide blessing.

Matthew 6:9-10 — The Lord's Prayer begins with kingdom priorities.

Focus: God's name, kingdom, and will on earth.

17. USES IN MINISTRY

- Commissioning leaders: Acts 1:24-25; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12; Hebrews 13:20-21.
- Praying for a church staff or ministry team: John 17:20-23; Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 1:9-11.
- Praying for outreach and cross-cultural ministry: Psalms 67; Matthew 6:9-10; John 17:20-23; Acts 4:29-31.
- Praying during conflict: Psalms 27; Psalms 46; Romans 15:5-6; John 17:20-23.
- Praying for someone suffering: Psalms 13; Psalms 42-43; Psalms 88; Matthew 26:36-44.
- Praying in repentance: Psalms 32; Psalms 51; Luke 23:40-43.
- Praying for wisdom in leadership: Psalms 25; Acts 1:24-25; Philippians 1:9-11.
- Praying for spiritual maturity: Psalms 139:23-24; Ephesians 1:15-23; Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9-12.