

# A Prayer for Peace

Philippians 4:6

**Philippians 4:6–7** — **6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; **7** and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

## THE GOAL: MINDS & HEARTS GUARDED BY PEACE

- ❖ What sorts of worries and anxieties open my heart & mind to temptation?
- ❖ What difference would it make to have peace in these areas?

## THE PRAYER: REQUESTS + THANKSGIVING – ANXIETY = PEACE

### Be Anxious for Nothing

- ❖ What am I anxious about?

### Prayer, Supplication, & Requests

- ❖ **Prayer:** Have I told God how I *honestly* feel about these issues?
- ❖ **Supplication:** Have I asked for his help *fervently*?
- ❖ **Requests:** Have I *specifically* made my requests known to God?

### Thanksgiving

- ❖ Am I thankful for God's listening ear?



# *A Prayer for Evangelism*

*Ephesians 6:19-20 / Colossians 4:3-4*

**Colossians 4:3-4 — 3** At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains, **4** so that I may make it known as I should.

**Ephesians 6:19-20 — 19** Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. **20** For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.

THE GOAL: THE GOSPEL PREACHED

THE PRAYER: THE GOSPEL PREACHED

❖ **Pray for:** Opened Doors

*“... pray also for us that God may open a door.”*

❖ **Pray for:** Opened Mind

*“... Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me ...”*

❖ **Pray for:** Opened Mouth

*“... Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should.”*

❖ **Pray for:** Opened Ears

*“... pray also for us ... to speak the mystery of Christ ... that I may make it known as I should.”*

## GROUP PRAYER

❖ Take time to mention some people we could pray for who are in an evangelistic ministry.

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |
| • _____ | • _____ |

❖ What are some closed doors these ministers may have?

- *Pray for doors to be opened!*

❖ What are some barriers to hearing God's voice in their personal lives?

- *Pray that the message may be given to them!*

❖ Why might it be scary for these people to preach the gospel?

- *Pray for their boldness!*

❖ Why might it be difficult for people to understand the message preached?

- *Pray for them to speak the mystery clearly!*

**End by singing:** "It Only Takes a Spark"

# A Prayer for Growth

## THE GOAL

This is a prayer to pray for someone else's spiritual growth.

## THE PRAYER

In a position of humility, recognize you are both children of God

**Ephesians 3:14** For this reason I kneel before the Father **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

- ❖ This is not the time play "Holier than Thou". You are BOTH in need of grace and you are BOTH children of God!

Desire their best spiritual state

**16** I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, **17** and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, **19** and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Specifically, pray for:

1. **Spiritual strength (v16)** This strength will enable them to ...
2. **Trustingly walk with Jesus (v17)** This trust will give them ...
3. **Assurance of God's love (v17)** This assurance will lead to a ...
4. **Growing knowledge of God's love (vv18-19)** This knowledge will become ...
5. **A deep experience of God (v19)** This is what spiritual growth is REALLY about!

Recognize the power of God to do this

**20** Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us—**21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Recognize that God can bring spiritual growth to this person in ways that are better and more extensive than you asked in prayer, and even greater than you could POSSIBLY IMAGINE!

## GROUP PRAYER TIME

1. Write your name and phone number on a piece of paper. Trade with another person and ask how they can be SPIRITUALLY prayed for. Write that information below:
2. Following the guide on the reverse side of this paper, pray for the person silently. Write notes about what you prayed below so that you can watch for God's answer:
3. Later this week, call the person and ask how God is working in their life. Compare to the notes of your prayer. Write any praises below!

## SING: OH, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME

- ❖ Oh, how He loves you and me, Oh how He loves you and me.  
He gave his life, what more could he give?  
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.
- ❖ Jesus to Calvary did go, His love for sinners to show.  
What He did there brought hope from despair.  
Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how he loves me; Oh, how he loves you and me.

# *A Prayer of Obedience*

## THE GOAL

The goal of this prayer is become fully obedient to a difficult leading of God.

## THE PRAYER JESUS PRAYED

We NEED to pray when the call is difficult ...

**Mark 14:32-42** — **32** Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” **33** He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. **34** He said to them, “I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.”

- ❖ God’s call to difficult obedience may leave us:
  - Deeply distressed
  - Troubled
  - Deeply grieved to the point of death (I would rather die than ...)
- ❖ Jesus prepared for this kind of obedience by praying.

The prayer that Jesus prayed:

**35** He went a little farther, fell to the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, “Abba, Father! All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Nevertheless, not what I will, but what you will.” g

- ❖ Note that Jesus:
  - Approached God as Abba (Daddy). God was His safe place, not a situation.
  - Confessed that God was in control of the situation and could change it
  - Expressed His own discomfort in approaching this situation
  - Abandoned His own will, His own desires
  - Embraced God’s will, His desires

## What happens when we do not pray when we're tempted ...

**37** Then he came and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Couldn't you stay awake one hour? **38** Stay awake and pray so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

- ❖ We will fall into temptation unless ...
  - We stay awake in prayer (alert, sober minded)
  - We realize that just because our spirit is willing doesn't mean our body is ready to follow!

## Repeated, intense prayer until we are ready

**39** Once again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. **40** And again he came and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open. They did not know what to say to him. **41** Then he came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. See, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Get up; let's go. See, my betrayer is near."

- ❖ Jesus prayed:
  - 3 Times (We may need to brace ourselves again and again for obeying)
  - Until He sweated drops of blood (**Luke 22:44 — 44** Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. )
  - Until He received God's strength and then he prayed even more! (**Luke 22:43–44 — 43** Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, strengthening him. **44** Being in anguish, he prayed more fervently)

## MY PRAYER ...

- ❖ Is there a difficult step of obedience God is calling me to take? Write it below and take time to pray as Jesus prayed.

## TAKE MY LIFE, LEAD ME LORD

Take my life, lead me Lord!	Take my life, teach me Lord!	Here am I, send me Lord!
Take my life, lead me Lord!	Take my life, teach me Lord!	Here am I, send me Lord!
Make my life useful to Thee!	Make my life useful to Thee!	Make my life useful to Thee!
(2x)	(2x)	(2x)

# *A Prayer in Weakness*

## THE GOAL

“... to hold fast to our confession.” (Heb 4:14b), particularly in times of weakness.

## THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

*HEBREWS 3:14-4:13*

### 1. EGYPT:

- God freed the Hebrews from Egypt and led them into the wilderness
- The goal was to enter God’s rest, “The Promised Land”

### 2. THE WILDERNESS:

- The Hebrews made a commitment to trust and obey God
- God gave the Hebrews His words to test their trust in Him
- When times became tough, the Hebrews stopped trusting and rebelled

### 3. ENTERING GOD’S REST

- Because the people did not trust, they were not allowed into God’s rest
- God gave them a system of priests, sacrifices, and gifts to return to a trusting relationship with Him

## REFLECTION

What “Egypt” has God freed me from? What “rest” am I heading towards?

What commitment have I made to follow God? What words has He given?

What situations cause me to break trust in God and, thus, rebel against Him?

Am I ready to create a strategy to trust God even when I am weak?

Yes     No     I’ll Try

## THE PRAYER

**Hebrews 4:14–16** — **14** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. **16** Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need.

SO, in times of need:

Remember you are on a journey ...

- Remember where God freed you from
- Remember where you are headed
- Remember your original commitment to follow and hold on TIGHT!

Remember you have help! Go to Jesus who

- ... has been through the same trials
- ... knows how to beat those trials
- ... gives mercy when we fail those trials
- ... gives grace to face those trials

## THE S.O.S. PRAYER

This a prayer to pray in times of weakness, under stress, and under attack. As such we need to:

- **Prepare:** Take time to develop a strategy, perhaps even memorizing these steps. Although we may feel prepared now, it is difficult in the moment to remember these steps and execute them. To be ready:
- **Resolve:** Resolve to approach God with boldness when you are weak. Know in advance that He accepts you and has plentiful mercy and grace. Decide in advance that you will not hesitate to pray in times of need.

## I HAVE DECIDED

1. I have decided to follow Jesus (3x) ... no turning back, no turning back
2. Though no go with me, I still will follow (3x) ... no turning back, no turning back
3. The world behind me, the cross before me (3x) ... no turning back, no turning back