

*"Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray."*

Psalm 5:2

## A YEAR OF PRAYER

### OVERVIEW

The Scriptures teach clearly that every Christian should pray. In fact, prayer is to be a part of each day in the life of a child of God. Yet, often, prayer is not emphasized or given focus in one's daily life.

This system will seek to encourage daily prayer, but also focused prayer. It is not meant to take away from or to replace one's current routine in prayer. It is only meant to supplement and to encourage focus in one's prayers.

In order to accomplish this, one must set aside time in each day to give close attention to prayer. The suggestions on these pages follow the pattern outlined by Jesus in the model prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). They incorporate the four kinds of prayer taught in Scripture – praise, intercession, petition, and thanksgiving. The things on each handout should be prayed for every day of the week. This will help to leave a lasting impression of the truth learned. Furthermore, it will encourage each disciple to focus his mind on things truly and eternally important.

#### **PRAYER OF PRAISE**

**(Matthew 6:9)**

---

Truly, God is worthy of our praise (Psalm 22:3; 33:1)! Each week, this section will focus on a specific attribute or characteristic of God. In daily prayer, one should focus on thanking and praising God for His nature – with emphasis upon the specific character trait described. This will allow one to spend a year learning better the God of the universe.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH**

**(Matthew 6:10a)**

---

Jesus instructed his disciples to pray about the kingdom (cf. Luke 11:1-2). Specifically, they were to pray for the kingdom to come. In answer to their prayers and according to the plan of God, the kingdom did come – it was established on the Day of Pentecost (cf. Mark 9:1; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 47). The kingdom of Christ is the church, purchased with His blood (Acts 20:28).

Thus, while Christians no longer pray for the kingdom to come into existence, they must still pray for the Lord's church.

Each week, this section will focus on an area for which the church needs prayers. As members of the church, each Christian should pray for the church. In daily prayer, one will focus on a specific need of the church. Thus, in a year's time, one will have a better understanding and deeper appreciation for the Lord's church. And, as God hears and answers prayer, the church may be stronger than ever before.

*"Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray."*  
Psalm 5:2

---

**PRAYER FOR OTHERS****(Matthew 6:10b)**

---

It is a great privilege to be able to approach the throne of God on behalf others – friends, neighbors, family members, and brethren in Christ (1 Tim. 2:1-4). This section will focus on praying for the needs of others. One will be reminded to pray for those who are mentioned weekly in the bulletin or worship services and for those who remain on the sick-list. There will be opportunities to pray for those who are serving in the military or as first-responders – those who put their lives on the line to serve others. Most importantly, one will be encouraged to pray for those with spiritual needs.

---

**PRAYER FOR PHYSICAL NEEDS****(Matthew 6:10b-11)**

---

This section will be very basic and recurring. In reality, there are very few physical necessities in this life – food, clothing, and contentment (cf. 1 Tim. 6:8). Each week, this section will remind the Christian of those basic needs and the desire of God for His children to pray to Him concerning those things. It will also be the time in daily prayer to ask for things that one desires of God. Always, one's prayer should be, "Thy will be done."

---

**PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS****(Matthew 6:12)**

---

One of the great blessings of being a Christian is the privilege of prayer for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:22). Each week, this section will focus on the teaching of Scripture concerning the forgiveness of God. At the end of the year, one should have a deeper appreciation of and gratitude for the mercy and grace of God.

---

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL NEEDS****(Matthew 6:13a)**

---

Each week, this section will focus on a specific spiritual need in the life of each Christian. In daily prayer, one will ask God for help, growth, strength, and maturity in the characteristics of a child of God. This will allow one to examine himself in the light of Scripture. It will also help the Christian to involve God in the process of his growth in faith.

---

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING****(Matthew 6:13b)**

---

Each prayer should include gratitude to God for His many blessings – both physical and spiritual. Each week, this section will highlight one thing for which all Christians should be thankful. In a year's time, one will be reminded of the many ways in which God shows His goodness in each life. Thus, one will learn to count his many blessings – and to appreciate them as gifts from God.