

Pray ye for one another

As believers, we are called to look *outward*, **carrying each other's burdens** and **lifting one another up** before the Throne of Grace. It is easy to become consumed *by our own needs*, but true spiritual strength, maturity, and unity are found when *we focus on praying for our brothers and sisters* in Christ.

May these Scriptures inspire you to pray faithfully for others, trusting that God works powerfully through our combined intercessions

- **Job 42:10** And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, *when he prayed for* his friends:
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9** Two are **better than one**; because *they* have a good reward for *their* labour.
- **Matthew 6:9-13** After this manner therefore pray *you*: “**Our** Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be *Thy* name. *Thy* kingdom come. *Thy* will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give **us** this day **our** daily bread. And forgive **us** our debts, as **we** forgive our debtors. And lead **us** not into temptation, but deliver **us** from evil: For *Thine* is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.”
- **Matthew 18:19** Again I say unto you, that if **two** of you shall *agree* on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done **for them** of my Father which is in heaven.
- **Luke 22:32** But I have prayed **for you**, that **your** faith fail not: and when **you** are converted, strengthen **your** brethren.
- **Acts 1:14** These **all** continued with **one accord** *in prayer and supplication*, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.
- **Acts 2:42** And **they** continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- **Acts 12:5** Peter therefore was kept in prison: but **prayer was made without ceasing** of the church unto God for him.
- **Romans 15:2** Let every one of us **please his neighbour** for **his good** to edification.
- **Romans 15:30** Now I beseech you, **brethren**, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that **you strive together with me** in your prayers to God for me;
- **2 Corinthians 1:11** You also **helping together** by prayer for **us**, that for the gift bestowed upon **us** by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on **our** behalf.
- **Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with **all** prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication **for all** saints;
- **Galatians 6:2** Bear **you one another's** burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- **Colossians 1:9** For this cause **we also**, since the day **we heard** it, do not cease to **pray for you**, and to desire **that you** might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- **Colossians 4:3** Withal praying also **for us**, that God would open **unto us** a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:
- **1 Thessalonians 5:11** Wherefore comfort **yourselves together**, and **edify one another**, even as also **you** do.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:25** Brethren, **pray for us**.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:1** Finally, brethren, **pray for us**, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is **with you**:

- **1 Timothy 2:1-2** I exhort therefore, that, **first of all**, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, **be made for all men**; For kings, and for all that are in authority; **that we** may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.
- **Hebrews 10:24-25** And let us **consider one another** to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but **exhorting one another**: and so much the more, **as you** see the day approaching.
- **Hebrews 13:18** - Pray **for us**. **We** are sure that **we** have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. (*Hebrews 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.*)
- **James 5:13-14** Is any among you afflicted? *Let him pray*. Is any merry? *Let him sing psalms*. Is any sick among you? *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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another**, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Verses to Encourage Praying for One Another

Ephesians 6:18 "...pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."

- Paul tells believers to treat prayer like a soldier standing guard. You aren't just watching your own back; you are keeping watch and praying for the survival of the entire line.

Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."

- While it doesn't use the word "prayer" explicitly, early church commentary always linked burden-bearing to intercession. It means stepping under the heavy weight someone else is carrying and helping them lift it.

Colossians 4:12 "Epaphras... greets you, always struggling fervently for you in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured..."

- This is a beautiful picture of what church prayer should look like. Epaphras wasn't praying for his own comfort; he was "wrestling" in prayer specifically for the spiritual maturity and strength of others.

1 Timothy 2:1 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."

- Paul puts communal and outward prayer as priority number one ("First of all") for church gatherings.

A Thought on Changing

Instead of asking a friend, "How can I pray for you?" (which sometimes just prompts a physical checklist or a smorgasbord of ideas none of which may be the real issue), try asking: **"What burden are you carrying this week that I can help lift in prayer?"**

Hindering Prayers

James 4:3 You ask, *and receive not*, because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts.

James 5:6 (*inferred backwards*) The prayer of a righteous person. (*you must believe you are righteous*).

1 Peter 2:13-17 *Submit* yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. *For so is the will of God*, that with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. *Honour* all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. *Honour the king*.

In Vs 17 the apostle Peter gave four directives, which are brief in expression but broad in implication.

1. "honor" (esteem, respect) all men, whether they deserve it or not;
2. "love" (agapate, love much) the "brotherhood, (i.e the Christian fraternity);
3. "fear" (phobeisthe, be in awe, revere) God;
4. "honor" (esteem, respect) the "king," (notice not a capital K), the sovereign.

1 Peter 3:1-2 Likewise, you wives, *be in subjection* to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

1 Peter 3:7 Likewise, you husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; *that your prayers be not hindered*.

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have *fervent love among yourselves*: for love shall cover the multitude of sins.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, *and that He is a rewarder* of them that diligently seek Him.