

Praying for the church

Praying New Testament prayers

It is the clear command of scripture that we should pray for God's people. As we pray for the church – whether your local congregation, the church in your area, or the church in your nation – it is important to know what to pray and how to pray. While there are many aspects of church life to pray about, it is a great help to use the prayers that the apostles prayed for the church in the New Testament.

How do we pray the prayers of the apostles?

Simply read the appropriate verse(s) and turn it into your prayer, first for your own life, then for the church. In the weekly pattern the heart of each prayer is highlighted in bold.

As we pray these prayers there are some key points to note:

- Recognise the power of agreement – many believers praying the same prayer for the church
- Praying scripture means God agrees and will answer
- You always know something to pray
- God will lead you to pray other specific points for the church too
- Get to know these verses well – they will begin to 'live' in you
- Don't fear repetition – Paul kept asking (Eph. 1:15-17)
- Give thanks to God as you see answers to prayer

A weekly pattern for praying for the church:

Sunday: Ephesians 6:19-20

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so **that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel**, for which I am an ambassador in chains. **Pray that I may declare it fearlessly**, as I should.”

Monday: Ephesians 1:17-19

“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may **give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better**. I pray also **that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened** in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.”

Tuesday: Ephesians 3:16-19

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he **may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being**, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, **may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge**--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”

Wednesday: Romans 15:5-6

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement **give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus**, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:23

“May God himself, the God of peace, **sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless** at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Friday: Acts 4:29-30

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and **enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders** through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”

Saturday: 2 Corinthians 13:14

“May the **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all**.”

Some alternative prayers:

Colossians 4:2-4; Colossians 1:9-12; Philippians 1:9-11;
1 Thess. 3:9-13; 2 Thess. 1:11-12; 2 Thess. 3:1-5; Romans 15:13.