

How to Pray Using Scripture as Your Guide

In the book of James we read, “*the prayers of the righteous accomplish much*” (James 5:16b). One of the keys to a powerful prayer life is to pray Scripture and claim God’s promises. Referencing key verses and Bible stories can make your prayer life more dynamic. Here are ten examples, arranged by theme or topic.

Theme: God Comforts

Prayer: “Father, You are the God of all comfort, and You have given Your people the Holy Spirit Who is, ‘The Comforter.’ And so I ask You now for a comfort that only You can give. I am thankful You have revealed Yourself in Scripture as the “*God of all comfort.*” O’ Lord, I am unsettled in my spirit. The worries of life weigh heavy on my heart. O’ God of all comfort, please comfort my soul.” (see 2 Cor. 1:3; Isa. 51:12).

Theme: God Grants New Beginnings

Prayer: “Father please renew and forgive me and help me start fresh and new. You are the God Who *forgives and forgets*. You are the God of the *New Creation*. In Christ I am *born again* and the *old man is dead and crucified with Christ*. Lord help me live a new life, to have a new start, and to have the strength and wisdom to glorify You in all I do.” (see 1 John 1:9; Psalm 103:3, 12; 2 Cor. 5:17; John 3:3; Gal. 2:20, Psalm 51).

Theme: God Offers Grace

Prayer: “O heavenly Father, I am very thankful that mercy and grace can be found in You. I try but so often I fall short. I thank You for Your grace – I need Your grace. So, in accordance with Your word I - Your child - *boldly approach the throne of grace* – O’ what a title for your throne! How wonderful that Your very throne exudes just what I need - and what I don’t deserve. Your love knows no bounds. Thank you! Lord, in obedience to Your Word, I now *boldly approach the throne of grace and seek help and mercy in my time of need*. In obedience to Your word, I give You my need and ask for grace, mercy, and help. Thank You, Lord. I will watch for You to work and give You the glory.” (see John 1:12; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:5, 8).

Theme: God Provides

Prayer: “Father, in Your Word I see that the ability to provide is not just something You can do, it’s a title, Your very NAME. So, Holy Father, great *Jehovah Jireh*, please hear my prayer – my cry. This is my need_____. O’ Lord, I know *You can do all things* and, as Scripture notes, *You own the cattle on a thousand hills*. Please Lord, hear my petition and provide for Your *child*. I trust You to do what is best when it is best. I will continue to pray and look for You to provide. *Jehovah Jireh*, as You work in my life, I will give You the glory.” (Gen. 22:14; Matt. 19:26; John 1:2; 1 Thess. 5:16; Jn. 5:17).

Theme: God Offers Peace

Prayer: “Jesus, my heart is anxious – I need the kind of peace that only You can give. Jesus, *Prince of Peace*, please save me from Satan’s attack and attempts to steal the joy and *abundant life* You promise. *Prince of Peace*, help me to focus on how wonderful it is to be at *peace with God*. Help me to find in You – in loving and serving You – the *peace that surpasses all understanding*. You are my Lord and King. Help my soul to be quieted as I *put my trust in You*.” (see Isa. 9:6b; 1 Peter 5:8, Prov. 3:5-6; John 10:10; Rom. 5:1-2; Phil. 4:6-7; Psalm 18:2-3).

Theme: God is Able

Prayer: “O’ Lord, my need is great. I ask for forgiveness for my sins, and I ask You to help me believe that You have a plan and are in control of all things – including my life. Help me to trust You and believe that You are able to meet my need and more. Thank You for Your Word which reminds me that *You are able to do exceedingly more than I can imagine or hope for*. Lord, I believe You are good, and You are able. Still, sometimes doubt creeps in – *Lord, help me in my unbelief*, to trust in You, and to always believe that You are at work even now to accomplish Your perfect will in my life.” (see 1 John 1:9; Col. 1:15-17; Eph. 3:20; Mark 9:24; John 5:17).

Theme: God Wants His People to Seek Him and Ask

Prayer: “Lord, I do not understand why or how the God who created and oversees *all of creation* would be *aware of me* – and *care for me* – my needs – my worries – what is happening in my life. But Lord, I am so grateful that You do. I am grateful Your Word invites me to *make my every request known to You*. I am grateful You tell me to *seek, ask, and knock*. I am grateful that the prayers of Your people rise up to heaven as incense before You. I do not understand how or why these things are true, but in obedience to Your Word I will now share both words of praise, and humbly share my requests. I know You love me. O’ Lord, I love You.” (see Col. 1:15-17, Psa. 8:4a; Phil. 4:6; 1 Pet. 5:7; Matt. 7:7-8; Rev. 5:8; Rom 5:8).

Theme: God is Approachable

Prayer: “O’ Lord. As I pray today, I humbly recognize, as best I can, who You are. You are the *only God*, the *Mighty God*, the *Lord of lords and King of kings*, the great *I AM*. These glorious titles, as lofty as they are in my language, fall so far short of describing Your awesome nature and infinite power. Thank You Lord for letting one like me, pray to You. Thank You for loving me, coming for me, dying for me; and for not only revealing Yourself to me as the *mighty God*, but also as *friend*, the *Good Shepherd*, *Advocate*, *Helper*, *Redeemer*, and *Father*. I love You Lord. Thank You for revealing Yourself to Your people in such loving and gracious ways. Help me to strengthen my walk with You – my faith in You. And help me to live for You, *a life worthy of my calling*.” (see Isa. 44:6; Isa. 9:6; Exod. 3:13-14; John 3:16; John 15:9a; John 15:14; John 10:11; 1 John 2:1; John 15:26; Isa. 43:1; Matthew 6:9; Col. 1:10).

Theme: God Protects

Prayer: “Today, O’ God, I pray for protection. The enemy *prowls about* and trials abound. I am concerned for my _____ [job – family – home – marriage]. I Pray for Your protection and divine intercession and covering. I thank You Lord for Your Word which communicates Your *deep love* for Your people and Your desire to *help* Your people. In my weariness I am so grateful that You are a *shield*, a *defender*, a *rear guard*, and the *anchor of my hope*. Help me Lord, *to see Your working*, sense Your *hand of favor*, and be blessed by Your protective hand. O’ Lord, I *put my trust in You*.” (see 1 Peter 5:8; Psa. 46:1; Isa. 12:2; 1 John 4:8, 16; John 15:26; Psa. 18:30; Psa. 5:11; Isa. 52:12b; Heb. 6:14; Neh. 2:8, 18).

Theme: God Can Make a Way

Prayer: “Dear Father, I come before You today knowing that in Your name, *all things are possible*. Dear Father, I know You *love me* and will *never leave or forsake me*. Thank You for these promises and mercies O’ Father. They give me hope and confidence that You will help with my great need – Lord I need You to make a way for me. I need [state your need]. My need is too great for me. You are my only hope. With *confidence* I give my need to You, for I remember that You made a way for Moses *through the Red Sea*, You made a way for Joshua to *cross the river Jordan*, You made a way for *Abraham and Sarah to have a child*, You made a way for *David to have victory over Goliath*. Lord, You can always make a way – You are the waymaker. O’ Lord, by Your power, mercy, and grace, please make a way for [restate your need]. Thank You Lord.” (see Phil. 4:13; Matt. 19:26; John 3:16; Heb. 13:5-6; James 1:6; Isa. 43:16; Josh. 3; Gen. 21; 1 Sam. 17).