

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

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Whom Are You Praying For?

Every believer should have the names of one to three lost persons for whom they are praying for on a regular basis. These might be family members, co-workers, neighbors, class mates, or friends. If you are not able to identify one to three lost persons for whom you can be praying for, then your first prayer is to ask the Lord to give you the names of one to three lost persons for whom you can pray.

How Then Shall We Pray?

The following prayers for the lost were provided by Neil Cole in his book, *Ordinary Hero*. Where **N** is used, it stands for the name of the lost person for whom you are praying.

- I pray, Lord, that you draw **N** to yourself (John 6.44)
- I pray that **N** will seek to know you (Acts 17.27)
- I pray that **N** will hear and believe the Word of God (1 Thessalonians 2.13)
- I ask you to prevent Satan from blinding **N** to the truth (2 Corinthians 4.4 and 2 Timothy 2.25-26)
- Holy Spirit, I ask you to convict **N** of his/her sin and his/her need for Christ's redemption (John 16.7-11)
- I ask you to send someone who will share the gospel with **N** (Matthew 9.37-38)
- I also ask that you give me the opportunity, the courage, and the right words to share the truth with **N** (Ephesians 6.19-20 and Colossians 4.3-6)
- Lord, I pray that **N** will turn from his/her sin (Acts 17.30-31 and 1 Thessalonians 1.9-10)
- Lord, I pray that **N** would put all of his/her trust in Christ (John 1.12 and John 5.24)
- Lord, I pray that **N** will confess Christ as Lord of his/her life, that his/her faith would take root and grow, and that he/she would bear much fruit for your glory (Luke 8.15, Romans 10.9-10, and Colossians 2.6-7)

Scriptures to Use In Praying for the Lost

John 6.44

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.

Acts 17.27

that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

1 Thessalonians 2.13

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

2 Corinthians 4.4-6

In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2.25-26

God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶and they may escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

John 16.7-11

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

Matthew 9.37-38

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Ephesians 6.19-20

and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4.3-6

At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—⁴that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Acts 17.30-31

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

1 Thessalonians 1.9-10

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

John 1.12-13

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 5.24

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Luke 8.15

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

Romans 10.9-10

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Colossians 2.6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.