

# PrayerCONNECT

Connecting to the Heart of Christ through Prayer

The Roles of  
FATHER, SON, AND  
HOLY SPIRIT



DIVINE PRAYER  
PARTNERS

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# PrayerCONNECT

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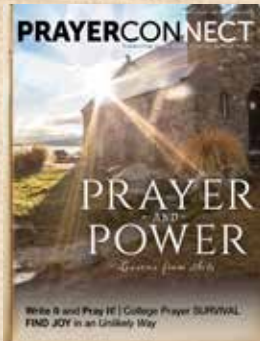


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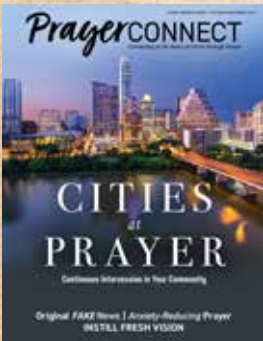
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### Article Submissions

We are looking for general articles, ideas, and news stories on what God is doing as a result of prayer. We are primarily looking for newly written pieces that have not appeared in other publications. Writer's guidelines are available by emailing Carol Madison at [editor@prayerconnect.net](mailto:editor@prayerconnect.net). For news stories, we recommend emailing first to see if we have an interest in reporting on the event or item you wish to write about. Send your submissions to:

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### Need a Speaker for Your Prayer Conference or Event?

There are a number of gifted speakers associated with PRAYER CONNECT. Jonathan Graf regularly ministers in churches of varying sizes. Carol Madison is also available to minister in the area of prayer for revival and community transformation, and mentoring the next generation in prayer. The Church Prayer Leaders Network also has many speakers associated with its ministries. You can find contact information at the respective emails or websites.

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The mission of **PRAYER CONNECT** is

1. To encourage and equip believers toward a deeper walk with Jesus Christ through prayer—our experiential connection to God.
2. To resource prayer leaders and pastors with tools to help them motivate, disciple, and mobilize believers in churches to be a part of an army that seeks to pray the purposes of God for churches, communities, and the nations.
3. To be a unifying force between prayer ministries, community transformation groups, and churches.

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## Previously in



Our nation remains in turmoil, tension, and division. In the midst of such toxicity, the Church can be viewed as irrelevant. But we have roles as intercessors and conveyors of hope and truth! This issue examines desperate, discerning prayer. You can order at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org).

### A Gift for Pastors

Love pastors! They are the key to growing churches deeper in prayer. A good lay prayer leader can have significant influence, but the pastor is crucial to any church's prayer life.

A good prayer leader can help plan a prayer strategy for his or her church. She or he can play a huge role in equipping, encouraging, and implementing increased prayer. But the lead pastor is still the key. In my 23 years of prayer ministry, I have watched many churches "take off" as they increased their prayer emphasis. In each case, something happened in the heart of the pastor regarding prayer, and he or she started championing its emphasis.

All pastors pray. And most recognize that prayer is vital to the work of the Spirit in their church. But making prayer happen in the lives of their parishioners and church life is daunting—especially given all the areas of ministry a pastor needs to oversee.

So prayer can take a backseat in everything that needs to be done.

### A Plan to Help Pastors

In September of 2019, the Lord started stirring an idea in me, a strategy to encourage and equip pastors to be prayer champions. This plan involved raising funds to "gift" a packet of key resources that would inspire and equip pastors. I was especially interested in giving these gifts either to pastors in a specific location or pastors of smaller churches who did not have money in their budgets to purchase resources.

But other work kept me busy, so I put the idea on a back burner. That is, until December 31 when a married couple, ministry donors, phoned me and said the Lord had been moving their hearts to gift pastors in their region and beyond with a packet of prayer resources—and they named the exact resources I was considering! Needless to say, I took notice.

After more prayer and further discussion, the Pastors Prayer Resource Pack was born. We sent the first 30 packets to a region of small-town Arkansas. The packets contained copies of *City of Prayer*, *Forgotten Power*, *Restored Power*, and the "Pray for All the Saints" issue of *Prayer Connect* magazine. In addition, we included a letter from the anonymous donor and one from me, telling why we want to encourage and equip them.

Our vision is to see thousands of pastors reached with a Pastors Prayer Resource Pack. And you can help! Are there specific pastors God is moving you to reach? We can work with you to get the packets to those pastors you want to encourage. You may donate \$40 per pastor, or your donation of any size toward the fund will help.

To give, go online to [prayerleader.com/donate](http://prayerleader.com/donate) and select Pastors Resource Project. Or send a check made out to Church Prayer Leaders Network, to CPLN, P.O. Box 10667, Terre Haute, IN 47801. If you want to fund specific pastors, include a list of names and addresses.

Partner with us to help pastors—the key leaders—in the development of praying churches.

—Jonathan Graf





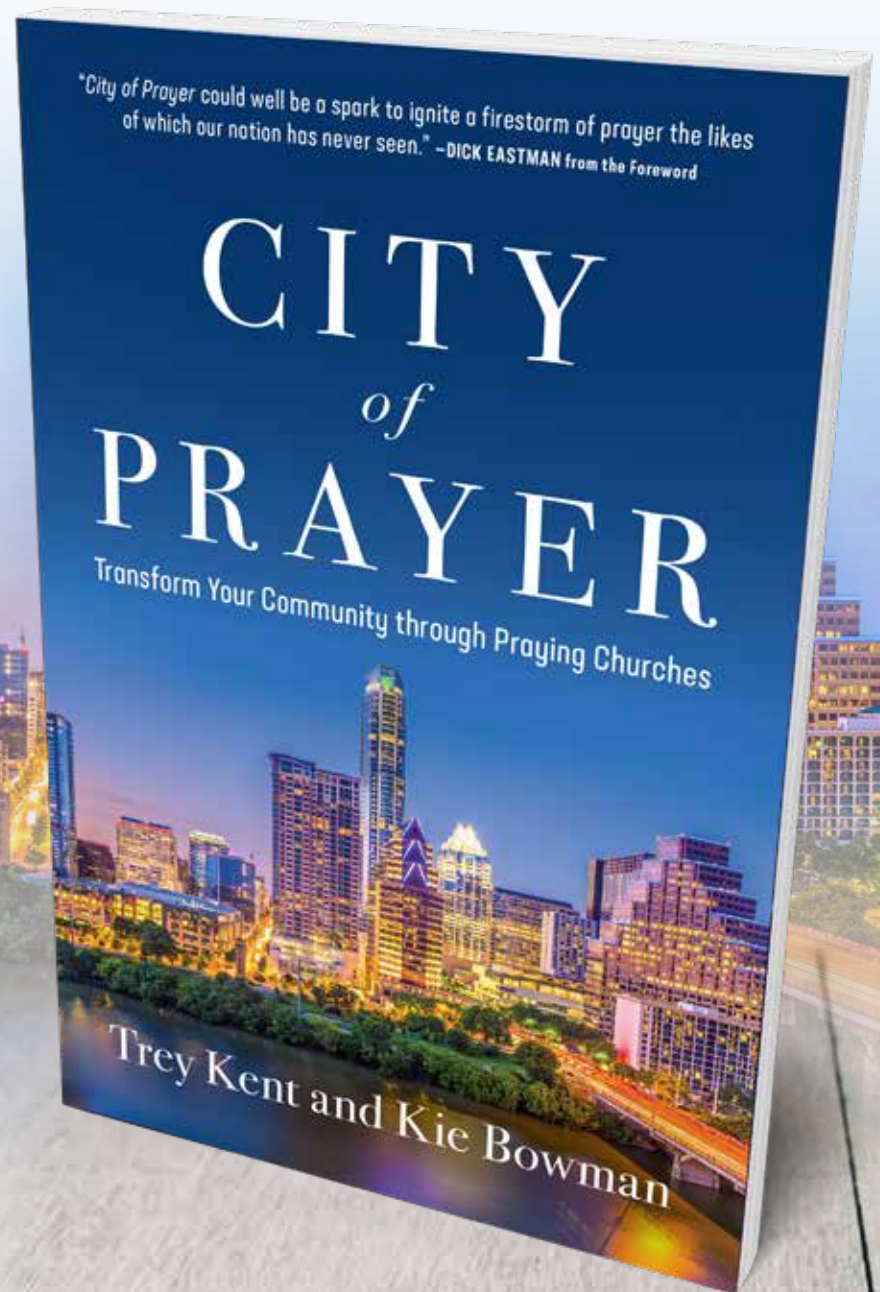
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# Imagine a Move of God in Your City!

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*City of Prayer* shares such a story and shows in a clear, simple way, how this can happen in any city. In your city!

*City of Prayer* needs to be in the hands of every pastor, prayer leader, and believer who desire to see their city transformed.



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Order through [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org) or any place you get your Christian books. Multiple copy discounts are available at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org).

## Surge in Prayer Movement During Crisis

The prayer movement escalated over critical months during the COVID-19 closures of churches and other ministries. Pastors and church leaders joined businesses and other organizations in devising meaningful ways to stay connected in intercession, including livestream services, prayer calls, and small-group online gatherings.

People who would not otherwise have attended a prayer meeting found themselves eagerly engaging in prayer from home. One pastor said, "In the past we could never get this many people to gather together in the church building for prayer!"

David Butts, chairman of America's National Prayer Committee, knew that prayer was at the cutting edge of what God was doing, when, as he describes it, "I found myself on nine prayer calls in one day on a variety of social media platforms."

The urgency of the hour and the crying out for revival intensified in the Church during the national crisis. "Social distancing" inspired increased participation in already established prayer calls, using new conference calling lines, Facebook Live, Zoom, and other online venues.

- Intercessors for America (IFA) added several prayer calls each month beyond their monthly First Friday call. Dave Kubal, president of IFA, says their prayer call participation averaged 60,000 people on a call, compared to 10,000 in previous months. Their calls included interviews with government leaders tasked with navigating COVID-19.
- One Cry, an organization devoted to calling the church to pray for spiritual awakening, ramped up their once-a-week prayer call to three days a week during the virus crisis.

- Unite 714 was birthed as a strategic way to unite and activate the worldwide Church to pray for both the eradication of the coronavirus and spiritual awakening.
- America Prays held 21 days of fasting and prayer during March and April, using Facebook Live each night to pray for the crisis to end and for the increase of the Church.
- The National Day of Prayer broadcast reached 445,000 on Facebook, and a potential of hundreds of millions on worldwide television, and hundreds of thousands on radio.

Many churches also reported increased participation in virtual prayer meetings as they unified in prayer for peace and healing.

**-KIM BUTTS** is cofounder of Harvest Prayer Ministries ([harvestprayer.com](http://harvestprayer.com)).

## Unified Fasting and Repentance in Tennessee

Churches across the state of Tennessee experienced what some described as "waves of repentance and revival" during a time of unified prayer and fasting in January and February.

A 30-day prayer and fasting initiative called Awaken Tennessee involved more than 1,000 churches in ten major cities or counties. In Nashville, more than 600 churches participated in unified prayer.

John Butler, pastor of East Rogersville Baptist Church in Rogersville, TN, says that for many years he has been a student of revival, and he prayed fervently for it.

"I think for us this really is a Word-driven and prayer-focused time of

revival," Butler says. "When you look back at the first, second, and even third Great Awakenings, you see this word *excesses*, strange things happening. We're not seeing any of that.

"What we're seeing is [that] God's presence is in this place, and people are convicted of sin. They repent. If they've got a relationship with Jesus, they repent, and He cleanses them. If they don't have a relationship with Jesus . . . they're born into the Kingdom."

According to The Christian Broadcasting Network, the call across the state to fast and pray began in 2019 when Pastor Dave Clayton of Nashville's Ethos Church led 400 churches to unite



and pray for every resident of the city. Other pastors, of various denominations throughout the state, replicated the initiative in their communities.

Sheldon Livesay, East Tennessee coordinator for Awaken Tennessee, says that "there has been a 50-year history of intense prayer across our region."

—Adapted from The Christian Post ([christianpost.com](http://christianpost.com)).

## President to Pastors: Pray for Strength

On a Family Research Council (FRC) phone call during the height of the White House administration's daily battle with COVID-19, 700 pastors expected to hear from Vice President Mike Pence when suddenly President Donald Trump joined the call.

"When I told the president I was going to be speaking to all of you," Pence explained, "[he was] in the midst of an extraordinarily busy day. [But] he looked at me and said, 'I have to find time. I need to find time.'" Pence says that "the prayers of the people on this call mean [everything] to him."

Speaking to the pastors—the hundreds on the call and the 15,000 who heard it later—the president said, "I want to thank you for praying for our country and for those who are sick. You do such an incredible job. You're very inspirational people. And I'm with you all the

way. You know that you see what we've done for right to life and all of the things that we've been working so hard [for] together. I've been working with many of the people on the call. Many, many of the people. We've had tremendous support. . . We are going to get over this [crisis]."

Before the president left the call, Tony Perkins, president of FRC, asked President Trump what he'd most like people to be praying for. "The health of the country," President Trump replied, "the strength of our country."

When the vice president returned to the phone, he told the pastors, "You know, the president has said many times that we're going to bring the full resources of our federal government to bear on this. But by all of you being here today, and by the energies and ministries



that you have [used to respond] to the coronavirus in your communities, you're really putting hands and feet on your faith. And you are demonstrating what the president today called 'the greatness of American character.'"

Dr. Ben Carson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, also on the call, reminded the pastors that this virus came during a time of economic growth and blessing. "God is merciful," he said. "And we will get through this." Carson said that maybe this is an opportunity for the Lord to show His power in a way that will "help us return to Him." In the meantime, he assured his listeners, "God still has His hand on this nation. And He has His hand on all of us."

—Adapted from Tony Perkins' report in *Washington Update* ([frc.org](http://frc.org)).

## Bible Sales Rise as People Turn to God's Word

In this "Year of the Bible," many believers started the year fasting and praying for Scripture engagement to increase around the world. And Christian publishers are reporting that sales of the Holy Bible began to escalate as more people searched for hope and encouragement during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jim Jewell, communications director for Tyndale Bibles, told CBN News, "We've seen an increase in Bible sales during this time of crisis. On Facebook, where Bible verse memes are posted, [the] post engagement was triple what it was last March and up 72 percent [in the last] month."

Jewell continues, "Comparing this



March to last March, sales of our Life Application Study Bible were up 44 percent and sales of the Immerse Bible used for group study are up

60 percent."

In addition, LifeWay Christian Resources reported an increase in Bible sales of 62 percent in the last week of March compared to the previous year.

According to Fox News, Alabaster Co., a small company in Los Angeles, CA, that sells artfully illustrated single books of the Bible, saw its sales increase by 143 percent compared to last year. Brian Chung, co-founder of Alabaster Co., says, "We believe people are buying Bibles because there's a longing to

connect with God, find meaning, and experience peace."

—Adapted from CBN News ([cbn.com](http://cbn.com)).



### Prayer Calendar

**Together 2020**  
**Saturday, September 5**  
[togethergeneration.com](http://togethergeneration.com)

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**See You at the Pole**  
**Wednesday, September 23**  
[syatp.com](http://syatp.com)

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**Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem**  
**Sunday, October 4**  
[daytopray.com](http://daytopray.com)



# *Divine Prayer Partners*

**W**hen I announced my news to family and friends one Easter Sunday, I was puzzled by their response. As a six-year-old, I heard the story of the resurrection in my Sunday school class that morning, and for the first time the invitation to accept Jesus as Savior made sense to me. I eagerly raised my hand and told my teacher that, yes, I wanted to embrace the resurrected Jesus and His wonderful gift.

When everyone gathered in our home later for Easter dinner, I told my joyous news: “Mrs. Gillson saved me today.”

I was confused by the laughter. I was not expecting hilarity over the significant faith moment in my life. And—to be fair—they *did* rejoice after the snickers quieted down.

It was probably years before I understood why everyone was so amused. I knew the decision I made was real and true, but I didn’t get the terminology right. I was certain of my newfound salvation through Jesus; I just didn’t know how to say, “Mrs. Gillson led me to Christ.”

I unknowingly assigned her a misplaced role in my faith journey. Gratefully, my innocent declaration did not change the reality and power of my true salvation in Christ alone that day.

## IDENTIFYING ROLES

We know from Scripture that each member of the Trinity plays a unique role in

relation to the other, including each one’s role in prayer. It’s not unusual to mix and match ways to pray that include addressing all of the Trinity.

Perhaps you are like me: I start out my prayer addressed to my Heavenly Father. Then at some point I switch to addressing Jesus with concerns for healing or restoration. Then I end by asking for the Spirit’s power to be at work in all things. When I’m finished, I’ve managed to address all three members of the Trinity, but I’m not sure I’m on track with their assigned roles. It’s not that I’m trying to invoke trinitarian theology—I just picture different members of the Trinity when I pray. And then I trust it all gets sorted out in the heavenly realms!

However, a deeper understanding of the Trinity’s Divine Partnership with each other—and with us—will bring a richer prayer relationship. This issue of *Prayer Connect* explores that supernatural and eternal relationship—and includes ways we, as believers, are welcomed into

this amazing partnership of prayer!

Dr. Mark Bird describes the unique roles of each member of the Trinity in salvation, and shows ways those roles translate to prayer. Although all of our prayers are ultimately directed to the Father (through Jesus and the Holy Spirit), Dr. Bird assures us that prayers addressed to other members of the Trinity are not discounted by this spectacular three-in-one mystery!

Alvin VanderGriend—describing the interrelated prayer activities of the Father, the Lord Jesus, and the Holy Spirit—discusses ways the believer intersects with that “cycle of prayer.” He highlights the role we play as active participants. In this issue we also include examples of trinitarian prayers that demonstrate the power of praying with full involvement of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## ENCOURAGING PARTNERSHIP

Perhaps you’ve never explored the unique roles of the Trinity in prayer. We hope this issue encourages you to recognize the joy and privilege of participating in this Divine Partnership. Your prayers, initiated by the Godhead, are destined to advance the Kingdom! **PC**

**CAROL MADISON** is editor of *Prayer Connect* and author of *Prayer That’s Caught and Taught* ([prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org)).

The Roles of  
FATHER, SON, AND  
HOLY SPIRIT





# *Prayer and the Trinity*

**D**uring a weekend seminar on the cults, I took a few students on a Sunday field trip to a nearby Kingdom Hall. That morning, a Jehovah's Witness leader gave the Bible lesson on prayer. One of his major points was that "Jehovah has not delegated prayer to the angels or to Jesus. Jehovah has reserved prayer only for himself."

After the service, I asked the leader to explain why we should only pray to the Father and not to Jesus. He said it was because "Jesus is not Almighty God, and only God is to be worshiped."

Of course, traditional Bible-believing Christians reject that reason for not praying to Jesus. But I have heard some evangelicals, though rightly affirming that Jesus is divine, express reluctance to address Him in prayer. I've had students suggest to me that when Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father, which art in heaven," He meant that only the Father should be addressed in prayer. Yet they would also recognize that all three members of the Trinity are worthy of worship.

This confusion could be cleared up by taking a good look at the role that each member of the Trinity plays in prayer. We should first understand how the Persons in the Godhead relate to one another.

**BY DR. MARK BIRD**

## THE COMMUNION OF THE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY

**W**hen we pray, we enter the communion that the members of the Trinity have had for all eternity with one another. The communion of the Father and Son (in the Spirit) is characterized by several traits: self-giving love, gratitude, cooperation, submission and delegation, intimacy and honesty, honoring one another, finding pleasure in one another, and expressing concern for others outside the fellowship of the Trinity. God models all these positive expressions for us.

The members of the Trinity do not want to keep the joy of their relationship to themselves. They want us to join the Trinity's communion and to live in unity with each other. The Son prayed that the believers "may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). This can only happen through the Holy Spirit (1 John 4:13).

## DIFFERING ROLES IN THE GODHEAD

While we understand that Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit are one in nature and inseparable in all their operations, we also understand from Scripture that there are key distinctions in the way they relate to one another and to us. The theological backdrop of prayer is the following: Each member of the Trinity has a distinct part to play in our salvation. The Father initiates our salvation, the Son accomplishes our salvation, and the Spirit applies our salvation.

It is the Father who sent the Son into the world to become the Savior. The Son is the express image of the Father. The Son willingly submitted to the will of the Father to become incarnate, and then the Spirit (who proceeds from the Father through the Son) came to abide fully in believers.

Just as the members of the Trinity have distinct (though not separated) roles in salvation, they also have distinct (yet overlapping) roles in prayer. As salvation comes down to us from the Father through Christ in the Spirit, our prayers go up to the Father through Christ in the Spirit.

## THE ROLE OF THE FATHER

The New Testament reveals God the Father as the primary recipient and answerer of human prayer: "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matt. 7:11; see also Matt. 6:6, 9; 18:19).

The Father is also the primary recipient of the intercession of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## ROLE OF THE SON

Jesus is the mediator between us and God the Father (1 Tim. 2:5–6; John 14:6). As mediator, Christ is our advocate, and He intercedes for us (1 John 2:1; Heb. 7:25). Jesus is our High Priest who made propitiation for our sins, rose from the dead, and now intercedes for us

**Almighty God, heavenly Father,  
You awakened your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, from death. From the confines of the grave you have made a new humanity; from the darkness of death you have brought new life to light. For this we thank you. For this we praise you. Glory to you in all eternity!**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
You swallowed up death in victory and gave that victory to us wretched ones, to us who have failed. We glorify you and pray: lead us out of the confines, out of the prisons of our daily lives, and take us into your realm of freedom. Make us free, here and now and always.**

**God, Holy Spirit,  
Make wide the world's gates, lift up its doors, so that this world might be touched and renewed by your power. Open also our own hearts, our minds, and our understanding that we can mutually discover one another, understand one another, learn love and respect.**

*– Eberhard Jungel*



Now, to God the Father, who first loved us, and made us accepted in the Beloved; to God the Son, who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood; to God the Holy Ghost, who sheddeth the love of God abroad in our hearts, be all love and all glory in time and to all eternity.  
Amen.

—John Wesley

at the right hand of the Father. This is a present-tense work.

Jesus invites us to ask in His name to receive from the Father and glorify Him: “I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it” (John 14:13-14). We can address both Jesus and His Father in prayer when we come in His authority. And He promised that He (and the Father) will answer.

Once I wrote a note to my daughters to motivate them to clean their room:

*Girls, I will take you out for ice cream if you completely clean under your bed. When you are done, bring this note and pictures on a camera to prove your work, and we will go out within two days of the cleaning. Dad*

This note was a promissory note with my signature. When one of the girls came to present the note to me, she was coming in my name—my authority. The girls had every right to expect that I would take them out for ice cream when they brought back the note with my promise and my name on it.

Jesus gave us some promises as a divine Person with the authority to make much greater promises than I could make. We come to Him or to the Father in His authority. He has given us the “promissory note” with His “signature” so that we can be assured of the answer to our prayers.

## THE ROLE OF THE SPIRIT

The Spirit is revealed in the New Testament as an intercessor. The apostle Paul explained the way the Spirit prays for us:

The Spirit helps us in our weakness.

We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God (Rom. 8:26–27).

The Holy Spirit empowers us, enabling us to pray as we ought (see also Eph. 3:16, 6:18; Jude 1:20). But He’s not only helping us say the right words in the right way. He also takes the initiative, adding to our prayers by asking that God’s will be done in and for us, in

ways that we are not even aware of.

A chaplain friend of mine has learned to listen for the heart cry of his hospital patients, and then to pray the prayers they have difficulty praying for themselves because of their weakened mental concentration. He doesn’t make demands on God but takes to the Father the requests he believes come from the hearts of the patients.

Likewise, the Spirit, out of intimate knowledge of both God and each of us, is taking our needs to the Father, expressing our requests better than we ever could. The Spirit’s unutterable groans are more efficacious than any

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number of requests we might utter on our own, no matter how eloquent we may sound.

The Spirit is not only interceding for us. He is also involved in answering those prayers as granted by the Father. The Spirit's power is at work as He moves

on hearts or heals sick bodies. The Spirit may give directives to us in response to prayer (Acts 13:2). As Christians, we experience His "promptings" and "checks." I believe the Spirit's desire to glorify the Son motivates Him to help us become more like Christ and to minister to others (John 16:7-14).

My oldest brother Dave had a unique experience that shows the Spirit's desire to exalt the Son as well as to answer prayer. For years, Dave struggled with alcohol and had problems in his marriage. He was far from God. But one morning, as he drove to work, he suddenly heard an audible voice (from the vacant passenger side of the car), saying, "Jesus loves you."

My brother responded to the voice of the Holy Spirit. "Lord, save me!" he cried. Dave was instantly converted, and when he got home that night, he poured out all his alcohol, gathered his family

God For Us, we call You Father,  
God Alongside Us, we call You Jesus,  
God Within Us, we call You Holy Spirit.

You are the Eternal Mystery  
That enables, enfolds, and enlivens all things,  
Even us, and even me.  
Every name falls short of your Goodness and Greatness.  
We can only see who You are in what is.  
We ask for such perfect seeing.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. Amen.

—Richard Rohr

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around him at the kitchen table, and told them life was going to be different. Since then, Dave has lived a transformed life. He is a testimony to answered prayer and to the awakening and regenerating power of the Spirit, who has come not just to convict people of their sin, but also to connect them to the Savior.

## NO WRONG WAY!

Though we have the privilege to pray to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, there is a sense in which all our prayers are ultimately directed to the Father, who is the Head of the Trinity (1 Cor. 11:3). We need to remember that the members of the Trinity are one. When we pray to one member of the Trinity, the others hear our prayer as well, and respond in a way consistent with their Person.

Because prayers directed to the

Father are so common in the New Testament, it is certainly appropriate to address the Father on a regular basis, maybe more than we address the other Persons. But I am confident that God is not counting our prayers to each member of the Trinity to make sure we have prayed to each in proper proportion.

The Persons of the Trinity love to glorify one another, so whether we pray to

the Spirit in the name of Christ, for the Father's glory, or pray to the Father in the name of Christ for the Spirit's glory, God will be honored either way. **PC**



**DR. MARK BIRD** is professor of Systematic and Practical Theology at God's Bible School and College in Cincinnati, OH.

Through the dark hours of this night  
protect and surround us,  
Father, Son and Spirit, Three.  
Forgive the ill that we have done.  
Forgive the pride that we have shown.  
Forgive the words that have caused harm  
that we might sleep peaceably,  
and rise refreshed to do your will.  
Through the dark hours of this night  
protect and surround us,  
Father, Son and Spirit, Three.

—Celtic blessing

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# *Partnering with the Trinity in Prayer*

**P**artnerships are important. A partner is a person who joins with another person(s) in a shared activity. Together, they accomplish more than they would apart.

In the Old Testament, when Israel faced a serious military threat (Exodus 17), Joshua and the army went out to fight. But Moses went up on a hillside to pray. When his praying hands were up, Israel was winning. But when they were down, the enemy had the battle success.

Why, we may ask, would God allow His people to suffer defeat during moments of no prayer? The answer is that God was teaching His people that He chooses to move in response to prayer and that He will not move without it.

Though God is Almighty, all-wise, and fully able to work without us, He chooses to work through our prayers. He calls us into a working partnership with the Trinity. We co-labor with Him to accomplish His purposes. Amazing things happen when we pray that won't happen if we don't pray!

Partnering with the Trinity means joining with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's purposes on earth. That's an awesome arrangement, considering the magnificent God we are partnering with—and what we are accomplishing! One of the most important ways we partner with our triune God is in prayer.

But just how does this work?

**BY ALVIN VANDERGRIEND**

## CYCLE OF PRAYER

In his book *The Arena of Prayer*, Ben Jennings uses the diagram here to depict the believer's interrelated prayer activity with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>



*Our heavenly Father*, Jennings suggests, is where the cycle of prayer starts. The Father initiates what He wants us

to pray: "From him [God] . . . are all things" (Rom. 11:36). Paul says that "the Spirit searches . . . the deep things of God" and "no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God" (1 Cor. 2:10–11).

The *Holy Spirit* transmits the prayer longings of the Father to believers.

*Believers*, aided by the Spirit, become active participants in the cycle, praying what the Holy Spirit births in our hearts.

*Jesus Christ* hears our Spirit-birthing prayers and, as our ever-living Intercessor, conveys them to the Father, who in turn hears and answers them in accordance with His promise.

## OUR ACTIVE ROLE

Believers partner effectively in prayer with the Trinity by being active participants.

1. *Pray with a clean heart.* One of the worst things about sin is that it obstructs prayer. If we cherish sin in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us (Ps. 66:18). The first requirement of true prayer, then, is to confess anything in our hearts that is not of God and to receive His forgiveness. We can then go to God with clean hearts and be sure He hears us.

2. *Pray in the Spirit* (Eph. 6:18). The Spirit makes prayer possible. He reveals God's glory and grace to us so that our prayers will be filled with praise and thanks. He reveals God's will and promises to us so that our petitions and intercession will be on target. He reveals our sin to us so our confession will be deeply contrite. Spirit-filled believers will be effective pray-ers.

3. *Pray "in Jesus' name."* This means to pray as authorized by the Son for things that are in accord with the Father's will. The Father, discerning that the requests we bring before Him have been authorized by His Son, hears and answers us. Such requests and their answers will always glorify the Father and advance His Kingdom.

4. *Pray with expectant faith.* Praying

Good morning heavenly Father,  
good morning Lord Jesus,  
good morning Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I worship you as the creator and sustainer of the universe.

Lord Jesus, I worship you, Savior and Lord of the world.

Holy Spirit, I worship you, sanctifier of the people of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, I pray that I may live this day in your presence and please you more and more.

Lord Jesus, I pray that this day I may take up my cross and follow you.

Holy Spirit, I pray that this day you will fill me with yourself and cause your fruit to ripen in my life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, three persons in one God, have mercy upon me. Amen.

—John Stott



We thank you, dear heavenly Father,  
That every morning your grace comes fresh and new. Today also you quicken us with your  
inexhaustible power of life. Eternal God, we sing your praise now and forever.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You are the spring that stills our thirst for life. We thank you with our hearts and mouths and hands.

God, Holy Spirit, come,  
Open our hearts, open our mouths, open our hands, that we might magnify God's name with our  
thoughts, our words, and our courageous acts, singing a new song before all the world!

—Eberhard Jungel

in faith means being certain God hears our prayers and is pleased to respond when we ask, “in Jesus’ name.” By faith, we know that God will always answer in ways that are right and good.

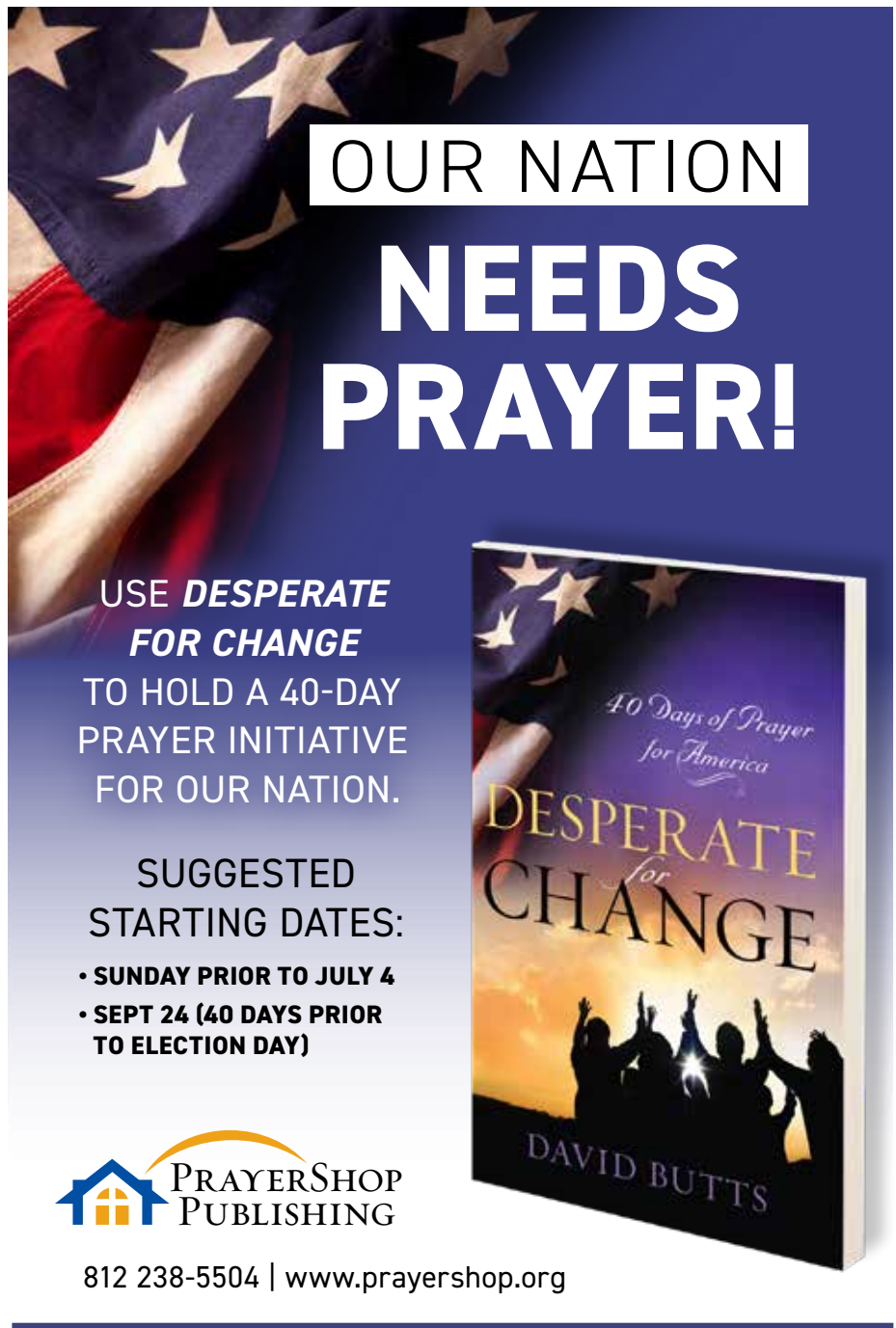
## OUR HANDS LIFTED UP

When God first taught me this important partnership principle of prayer, it had a simple but pointed application for me. It was as if God said, “Alvin, when your children go to school each morning, they are heading into battle. If you as a parent keep your hands uplifted, they will be winning. But, if your praying hands come down, they will be losing.” I have never forgotten that lesson.

Since that time, I have understood that as church leaders and faithful Christians “lift up holy hands in prayer” (1 Tim. 2:8), the church grows strong and is able to break down the gates of hell. When believers in neighborhoods and workplaces lift up praying hands over those around them, the powers of darkness are pushed back.

The most common testimony of churches whose people pray over neighborhoods is that of transformation. They speak of crack houses closing, crime rates falling, marriages being restored, families coming back together, and people converting to faith in Jesus. What’s happening as God’s people pray over their neighborhoods is the same thing that happened as Moses prayed over the battlefield. The forces of evil go into retreat.

What we need most for solving the



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Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth:  
Set up your kingdom in our midst.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God:  
Have mercy on us sinners.  
Holy Spirit, Breath of the Living God:  
Renew us and all the world.

– N.T. Wright

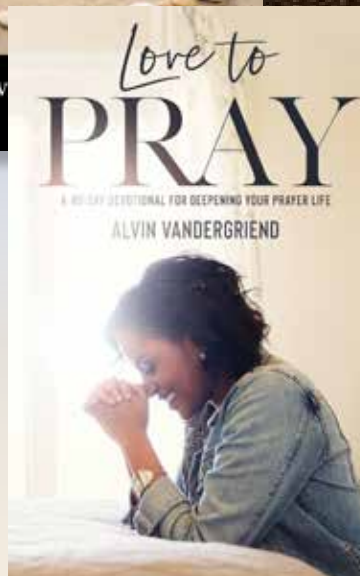
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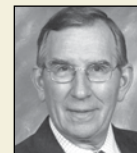


problems in our society is not more  
money, more education, more ideas,  
books, or strategies. Our prime need is  
hands lifted up in prayer. An author,  
who wished to remain anonymous, wrote  
in his book *The Kneeling Christian*: “We  
can accomplish far more by our prayers  
than by our work. Prayer . . . can do  
anything God can do! When we pray,  
God works.”

Where are your hands right now?  
Are you partnering with the Triune God  
through prayer?

Partnering with the Trinity in prayer  
is co-laboring with the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit to accomplish God’s  
will on earth. What a wonderful privi-  
lege and awesome responsibility! **PC**

<sup>1</sup>Ben Jennings, *The Arena of Prayer* (Peachtree  
City: Campus Crusade for Christ, 1999), p. 32.



**ALVIN VANDERGRIEND** is the  
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He is the author of several

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God’s Heart* ([prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org)).

### FOR FURTHER READING

Check out some additional articles  
on blogs and websites related to  
“Divine Prayer Partners: The Roles  
of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit” at  
[prayerleader.com/issue-41-extras](http://prayerleader.com/issue-41-extras).

- “The Entire Role of the Trinity  
in Our Prayers,” by Ron Potter
- “The Trinity and Christian  
Prayer,” by Sam Allberry
- “The Role of the Trinity in  
Prayer,” by Barry G. Carpenter



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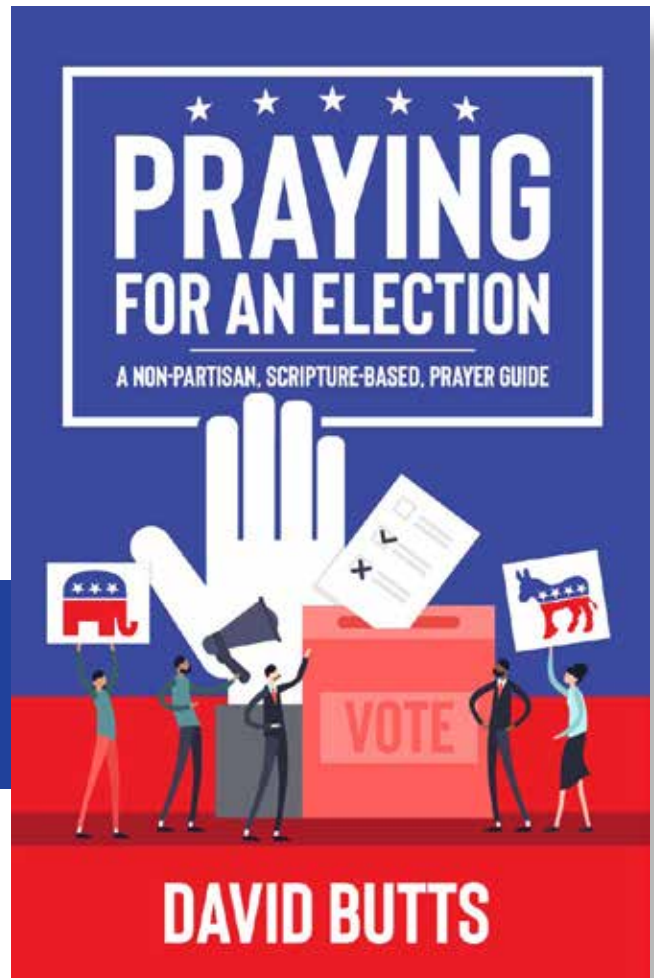
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# A NATION UNDER SIEGE

## Scripture Prayers for Uncertain Times

Our nation has experienced stay-at-home orders, lockdowns of businesses, ministry pauses in churches, economic decline, and an enormous strain on our medical community. We have also witnessed cities explode with racial tension, destruction, and cries for justice. We can resonate with how the Lord instructed the Israelites before they crossed the Jordan River:

“When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. *Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before*” (Josh. 3:3–4, italics added).

Most of us have not experienced this

level of pandemic and unrest before. We need to keep our eyes on the Lord as we navigate the unknown!

Are there more peak incidences of COVID-19 still to come? Will struggles for justice and reconciliation continue across our nation? These prayers are written as a biblical grounding for how to continue calling upon God for healing and deliverance.

### Push Back the Fear and Anxiety

Heavenly Father, I come before You as Your child, lifting my heart before You with gratitude that You know me completely and are near to those who call on You. You are near to *me*. I acknowledge and take to heart this day, Father, that You are God in heaven above and on earth. There is no other.

And yet I confess that I have lived with other gods before me, independent of You. My eyes have not been fixed on Jesus.

- I’ve sought out worldly wisdom and have neglected Your Word.
- I’ve boasted in—put confidence in—my own personal strength and abilities without thought of You as the Source of all that I am and all that I have.
- I’ve trusted in relationships for emotional security and bank accounts for financial security. My heart has not been steadfast because I have not trusted in You.
- I’ve been more concerned with personal comfort than the heart-condition of those around me.

From these things and all else that does not bring glory to Your Name, deliver me, I pray. (*Pause and pray further as led by the Holy Spirit.*)

According to Your never-failing love and immeasurable compassion expressed through Jesus Christ, wash me and make me clean. Renew in my heart this day a steadfast spirit, a fresh determination fueled by the Holy Spirit to live for the glory of Your Name!

In the midst of global uncertainty, fear, and panic, I ask, Father, for fresh faith to rise up in my heart, for You to rule and reign over all! I choose to turn from fear and unbelief and to put my hope in You.

- You who created all things out of nothing;

- You who parts seas and quiets storms;
- You who provides food in the wilderness;
- You who will never leave me or forsake me;
- You who surrounds me with favor like a shield;
- You who are my helper, I will not be afraid!

This day, Father, I ask that disease and unrest be pushed back in the nations of the earth and Your healing power revealed in those who suffer, making Jesus known.

I ask that You awaken the hearts of Your people from the smallest village to largest city to be salt and light and the very aroma of Christ!

I ask that You strengthen Your Church in *my* city. Strengthen us with faith and joy in the Holy Spirit! May all fear and anxiety be banished and acts of grace, mercy, and kindness released.

Revive Your Church, I pray—and begin with *me*. (*Pause and pray further as led by the Holy Spirit.*)

May Your purposes alone be accomplished on earth, in my nation, Lord—for the world and all who live in it belong to You. I make this declaration, Father, in agreement with Your Word, that *Yours* is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor. You are exalted as head over all! May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done this day, on earth as it is in heaven.

By faith in the Mighty Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

Psalm 145:18; Deuteronomy 4:39; Hebrews 12:2; Psalm 51:1-2, 10; Philippians 2:3; Genesis 1; Psalm 78:13; Matthew 8:26; Exodus 16:4; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 5:12; Hebrews 13:6; Psalm 24:1; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Matthew 6:10



## Amid COVID, Break Down Walls of Gospel-Resistance

You have my attention, Lord, and I thank You for the decluttering of my heart that is taking place as I wait on You. Thank You for the shaking of my soul and the change that I sense emerging because of this COVID-19 event.

As all things around me shift, how grateful I am that You never change. You are the same yesterday, today, forever! You have not been taken by surprise; You haven't cloistered Yourself away. You are my ever-present help in this troubled time! My hope is in You—the Maker of heaven and earth! *(Pause and continue to thank God for who He is. Reaffirm your trust in Him.)*

Today, Lord, through prayer, it is my desire to participate with Your Kingdom purposes at work in the world. I ask that in the midst of uncertainty and fear in the nations of the earth, You cause people everywhere to hear Your majestic voice. May the hearts of men and women look to You at this time. May Jesus be revealed and made known and COVID-19 used to break down walls of gospel-resistance!

Strengthen Your Church around the globe to walk by faith in such a way that the world cannot deny the love of Christ. Awaken the hearts of Your people to pray for friends,

family, and neighborhoods, and to cry out for our cities and nations. Take us into wrestling prayer until we see Your Church revived and a great harvest come in!

Revive us, Lord! Revive *me!* Give me, I pray, and give Your Church, a hunger for souls—a desire for spiritual harvest in the nations of the earth that compels us to pray and not give up.

O, God, remember mercy this day, for many are without hope and without any knowledge of You. I ask for the pushing back of COVID-19 on the face of the earth in such a way that it is evident to all that You, the One True God, have intervened and Your Name alone glorified! *(Pause and continue to pray further as led by the Holy Spirit.)*

I ask this all in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ. Amen. **PC**

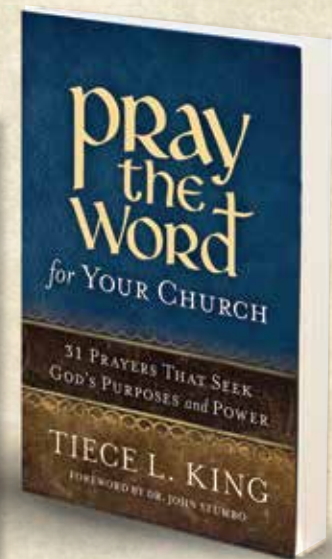
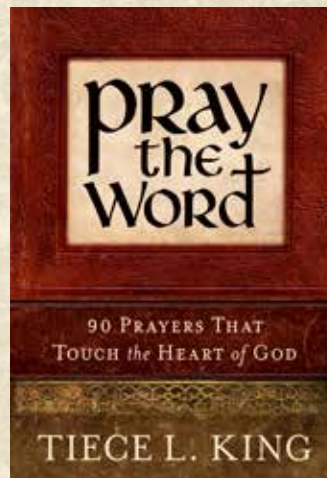
Isaiah 30:15; Psalm 55:19; Hebrews 13:8; Psalm 46:1; Psalm 124:8; Isaiah 30:30; Isaiah 57:14; Matthew 5:16; Habakkuk 3:1-2; Luke 18:1; Psalm 25:6; Ephesians 2:12

**TIECE KING** is author of the *Pray the Word* series, available at [prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org). These prayers are provided by the Church Prayer Leaders Network ([prayerleader.com](http://prayerleader.com)).

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Prayers  
with  
Privilege  
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Authority



By Paul Covert

# GOING BEHIND THE COUNTER

**W**hen I was in college, my parents owned a jewelry store. They worked six days a week, so if I wanted to see them, I had to drive to the store. A typical visit would include greeting the salesperson (my aunt, who worked part time), then going behind the counter to the break room. You guessed it! I was a college student, always hungry, and in search of snacks. Then if I got bored, I would open the showcases and try on the watches.

Can you imagine my doing that at the Jared store in the mall? They would lock me up! But I was entitled to go behind the counter because I was the owner's son.

Similarly, believers in Christ, children of the heavenly Father, have special benefits we can enjoy and appropriate for ourselves.

## Authority Roles

According to Scripture, we have several roles, responsibilities, and authorities in prayer. As I've begun experimenting with these types of God-given authority, it has been like pouring rocket fuel on my prayers.



Here are some of the roles God has established for us:

- Children of the King—invited to “go behind the counter.”
- Husbands and wives—significant prayer roles in a marriage covenant.
- Parents—entrusted with a God-given authority in prayer for their children.
- Spiritual fathers and mothers—for those we have invested in and those we cover with our prayers.
- Watchmen on the wall—for our churches and community.
- Warriors against evil—those elements that threaten the Kingdom.

## Royalty Authority

**N**otice what Scripture says about the authority of a child of God: “Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the *children of God*. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your *adoption to sonship*. And by him we cry, *‘Abba, Father’*” (Rom. 8:14–15, emphasis added).

If we are indeed princes and princesses of the King, then why not pray from that position? And what does it mean to pray from the position of a child of God?

I learned more about this in the Peoria, IL, airport. I had been speaking at a conference and was headed back to Phoenix. The weather was atrocious, and the plane was clearly overbooked. We all knew this was the last plane out for the day and some of us would not get on board.

my tension level was rising: *What if I am bumped from the plane? Where will I spend the night? I don’t have a car—how will I get to a hotel? What about the events I have to address tomorrow?*

In the midst of spinning out of control, I noticed a beautiful little girl, three or four years old, skipping around at our gate. Her father followed closely as she smiled and garnered attention from every waiting passenger. The darling girl was free to move about in the terminal. Unlike the rest of us, she did not have a single care in the world.

At that moment, God reminded me that He is my Father. He cares more for me than any earthly father could. I did not need to worry or fear. His words were like a holy 2x4 in my mind. He told me again that He views me as a prince in His Kingdom—and I am precious to Him.

I bowed my head and prayed as the son of a King and asked for His help in the situation. Amazing peace came. I mean, *amazing!*

My circumstances remained the same. But when I took my rightful position as a child of God, my prayer was much stronger and filled with more faith. My heart was at peace.

## Relationship Authority

**A**nother role I am learning to pray in is the role and authority of relationships—especially as a husband. Matthew makes clear the importance of marriage and the special position both husband and wife enjoy: “A man will leave his father and

mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. . . . So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate” (19:5–6).

Because of the marriage covenant between my wife and me, I believe I can pray better for her than any other person on earth. So when I pray for her, I consciously pray, “Father, as this woman’s husband and because of the marriage covenant we are joined in, I come to You in that authority asking You to\_\_\_\_\_.” She often does the same for me.

We have prayed in this manner while battling cancer, optic nerve issues, and a number of other struggles. It may sound too simple to make a difference. But we have been amazed at the ways God answers prayer when we intercede for each other this way.

We can apply this same kind of insightful, authoritative praying to intercession for our children—those in our own family and those we have mentored spiritually.

## Watchman and Warrior Authority

**I** have noticed that when I assume the role of a watchman and a warrior in the Kingdom, I pray with more faith. Matthew 6:10 points out the authoritative role of a believer in Kingdom praying: “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

We receive more insight into praying as a warrior from 2 Corinthians 10:3–6:

Though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.



That's the kind of intercession that goes to battle on behalf of others!

Sadly, most intercession in a typical prayer meeting is for health and finances. Although these are important and helpful, they're defensive prayers. With Kingdom/warrior prayers we go on the offense to right the wrongs that are fighting against God's Kingdom.

I have been stepping into a warrior prayer position for the American Church for some time. The truth is we have almost lost prayer in many of our churches. I am begging God to draw the American Church back to prayer for revival. Praying in the role of a warrior energizes my prayers.

I pray God also will raise up warriors and watchmen to pray front-line prayers regarding abortion, immigration complexities, rampant pornography, desperate needs of all kinds in our communities, and the mobilizing of churches to spread the gospel. We need warriors who understand the importance of the Kingdom and accept the responsibility and role to pray, "Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven."

## Get in the Action!

Can you image having front row seats at a professional football game? Imagine the fun of tailgating before the game, grilling steaks and all the fixings. Now imagine that when the game starts, you decide to listen to the game on the radio instead of going inside to watch all the action.

Crazy, right? Well, not taking advantage of the roles and authority God has given us for prayer is also foolish. I draw strength from verses such as Deuteronomy 20:1: "When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, do not be afraid of them, because the Lord your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you."

I know that verse was originally

intended for the Hebrews headed to the Promised Land. But I have to believe that when we pray Kingdom prayers, God will do the fighting for us as well. Tap into the power He has made available to you by praying according to the roles He has given you. *Expect* more victories to be won.

Give it a try! Pray with confident

authority—and add a little rocket fuel to your intercession! ☞



**PAUL COVERT** is pastor of prayer development at Pure Heart Church in Glendale, AZ. He is the author of *Threshold: Transformational Prayer; Transformational Prayer Leadership*. He specializes in helping churches develop prayer ministries.

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## A Different Kind of Prayer Journal

Reading through the last nine years of entries in my *Answers to Prayer* journal boosted my faith greatly. This is not a typical prayer journal. I only record answers to prayer and not the requests themselves.

I have friends who keep extensive prayer notebooks with detailed prayer requests, dates, and answers. But I am so compulsive that I used a lot of my quiet time trying to keep the notebook organized, looking back at the details. By simply keeping an *Answers to Prayer* journal, I can more quickly look back and see how God has responded to my prayers and directed my life.

My recent reading through this journal lifted my faith as I recalled how God

gave me a word on what to speak at a women's conference in Africa when I had no idea what I should share. Other entries recorded times I sought God for direction, and He clearly spoke to me in His quiet voice.

I received comfort as I read about many people who were healed after I prayed fervently for them. On the other hand, after many prayers and declarations of healing for my husband, he entered heaven at the age of 86. And I recorded Job 14:5 as God's comforting answer to me: "A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot



exceed." I also noted an answer for one of my children that was 15 years in coming as well as an instant answer while praying with my prayer partner on the phone. Reading the accounts of answered prayer was like an overview of my spiritual life for nine years. I was so thankful I had written down all the answers in such a simple way.

You may enjoy a more detailed journal. But if keeping up with all the details and dates is challenging, you might start an *Answers to Prayer* journal to encourage your prayer life.

**PEGGY PARK** is an author and speaker. Her website is [parkpraisepublications.com](http://parkpraisepublications.com).

## Leveraging Social Media for the Persecuted

We often forget about a segment in society that doesn't have the religious freedom many of us enjoy—the persecuted Church. The apostle Paul reminded us to remember those in jail and harassed for the gospel (Eph. 6:18–20). The battle for the free expression of the gospel is increasing, but prayer can bring hope for these dear Christians.

I have prayed for this segment of the Church for many years through information received from Open Doors. Then I recently discovered my ancestors were Huguenots—persecuted Christians during the 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> centuries—who were driven from France for their beliefs. Knowing my ancestry has given me a greater burden to pray for the persecuted segment of the Church. I am

rekindled in spirit to lay before God the tribulations of these precious children of God.

Social media is an effective way to stir up intercession for the plight of these fellow believers (taking care to protect identity). Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and other social media platforms are a fertile arena for increasing awareness of the persecuted. Through the far-reaching means of social interaction, we can keep these persecuted believers in front of a vast network of friends.

One way to heighten awareness is to post needs and specific prayer requests on your page or accounts. As you speak up about the persecuted and draw awareness, encourage people to engage with you. Write out a prayer that others can pray. Start a group within a social

media platform to post both requests and prayers.

Open Doors maintains a list of the prayer needs of the persecuted in 50 countries. You can use content from the Open Doors USA Facebook page by sharing their posts or adding your own requests. Then search other sites for content and photos to add. As these posts appear in your friends' newsfeeds or other platforms, you will raise awareness and stir up prayer for those who are oppressed.

Let's use every tool and means possible to call the Church to pray for fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

**JAMES HOWARD** has a heart for the persecuted and has prayed for them for years. He has a pastoral diploma and writes books, articles, and Christian poetry.



## Celebrating Grandparents Day with Prayer

Grandparents are rock stars in the eyes of their grandchildren! Several years ago, I led a prayer time for children after our Daily Vacation Bible School. We invited children to come to the front of the church to receive prayer—and you might guess their number-one request: Grandparents!

Most children have a special bond with their grandparents. A friend of mine says she was in college before she realized her grandma was considerably overweight. My friend had never noticed! That's the unconditional love and perspective that grandchildren have for these special adults in their lives.

And often, grandparents are the most faithful intercessors for their grandchildren. Their love is fierce, and their prayers are heartfelt for the next generation.

### A Special Day

National Grandparents Day is the first Sunday after Labor Day, so this year it falls on September 13. If you want to tap into the prayer fervency of grandparents (and encourage them in their special prayer assignment), host a Grandparents Prayer Night.

At my church, we invited grandparents to gather on that Sunday evening for light refreshments and a time of prayer. We told them to bring photos of their grandchildren to share with the group. We laughed as some brought large, framed photos straight off their living room walls. They proudly arrived with their treasured pictures tucked under their arms.

Sitting in small groups around tables, they showed their pictures and bragged on their grandkids. Then we encouraged them to write down the



names of each grandchild along with a word that reminded them of a way to pray for that child—words like joy, strength, confidence, protection. Then we began a prayer time to pray that word and a blessing over each grandchild. Some people had too many grandchildren to pray through their whole list that night, but they went home with a new prayer tool. We also provided key Scripture passages they could pray for their grandchildren.

We then invited people to share around their table a particular burden they had for one or more grandchildren—something causing the grandparents grief or fear. After some interaction, we began a time to help “carry the burden” by praying for each other's grandchildren. There were many tears and hugs as people opened up about painful and desperate situations.

Most of the grandparents told us they didn't care if their families celebrated them that day (as usually happens on Mother's Day or Father's Day). They were thrilled to join other grandparents in interceding for their dearly loved ones. That's because grandparents are rock stars!

**CAROL MADISON**, the author of *Prayer That's Caught and Taught: Mentoring the Next Generation* ([prayershop.org](http://prayershop.org)), directs the prayer ministries at Hillside Church of Bloomington, MN.

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## 5 Powerful Prayers for Guidance When Life Feels Confusing | By Stephen Altrogge

Life can be confusing sometimes. Often, actually. I'm so grateful that God invites us to lift to Him our prayers for guidance.

We need the Lord's direction in so many situations: *Should I take this job? Should I marry this person? Should I move to this place? Should I attend this church?* The list goes on and on.

The good news is that God has promised to answer our prayers for guidance. In Psalm 32:8, He promises, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye on you."

The challenge is that we don't always know *how* to pray for guidance. Sometimes all we can say is, "Lord, please help me know what to do."

### So Much More

Although there's nothing wrong with that, I believe God has more for us. Here are five prayers for guidance we can pray when life is confusing.

**1. A Prayer for Guidance and Trust.** Lord, I may not know what to do, but I trust that You have a good, sweet, sovereign plan for my life (Jer. 29:11). Even though I may not know the way to go, You do—and I trust You to lead me every step of the way.

Your Word says that You are my Shepherd. I trust You to lead me beside still waters and bring me to green pastures. You won't leave me or forsake me. You'll never abandon me (Ps. 23:1–3; Heb. 13:5).

I refuse to trust in my own wisdom and my own discernment. Instead, I place all my trust and hope in You. I

place all my confidence in You (Prov. 3:5–6). I fully trust that You will guide me to the good place You have for me.

**2. A Prayer for Guidance and Wisdom.** Lord, now more than ever, I need Your wisdom (James 1:5). I don't know the best path to choose—so many options. Please give me the wisdom and clarity of thought only You can provide.

You have promised that You will direct me (Prov. 3:6). So please give me wisdom and guidance to carefully weigh all the circumstances and make the right choices (Ps. 25:12). I absolutely trust You to make the way clear.

**3. A Prayer for Guidance and Submission.** Father, as I consider the future and my need for guidance, I submit myself completely to You (Ps. 37:5). I may have plans, but ultimately You are the One who establishes plans (Prov. 16:9). I may envision doing certain things, but You are the only One who can bring those things to pass.

I know that all the plans You have for me are for my good and Your glory. I joyfully place my plans before You, trusting that You will bring to pass that which is good—and gently turn me aside from that which is not.

**4. A Prayer for Guidance and Peace.** Father, I confess I am tempted to be afraid when life is uncertain. When I feel confused, I often try to figure out everything myself. Then fear strikes. Only You know the future.

I ask for Your divine peace as I seek Your guidance. You promise to keep us in perfect peace when our minds are fixed on you (Isa. 26:3). So I fix my mind on Your faithfulness, goodness,

and trustworthiness.

Right now I place all my hope and trust in You. That's where I find Your peace. Please help me always trust in who You are. Keep reminding me of Your utter faithfulness. I can't manufacture divine peace. Only You can give it to me.

**5. A Prayer for Guidance and Strength.** Father, as I confront an uncertain future, I need Your strength to keep going forward. Give me strength to trust You and not be afraid, even when I can't figure out how everything will pan out (Josh. 1:9).

Please sustain me through this trial of uncertainty. I thank You that when I am weak, You are strong. When I'm fragile, You are invincible (2 Cor. 13:9). I'm counting on You for supernatural strength to keep pressing into You and pressing forward in my circumstances (Phil. 3:13–14).

### God Will Guide Us

The good news is that we have a Good Shepherd who leads us to green pastures and still waters. Yes, sometimes we will walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Sometimes the way ahead will be unclear, shrouded in darkness.

But no matter the situation, we can be certain that God is guiding us. We can lift up these prayers for guidance in confidence, knowing that God will indeed answer them. 🙏



**STEPHEN ALTROGGE** blogs at The Blazing Center ([theblazingcenter.com](http://theblazingcenter.com)). You can follow him on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms.



## Effective, Remote Intercession | By Heather Roberts

**T**he COVID-19 crisis united intercessors on a global scale, opposing one deadly foe. As statistic after statistic flashed across television screens for months, our hearts hurt with the stark reality that these statistics had real human souls attached to them. Loved ones suffered and survived—or suffered and died.

Through the pandemic, God has stretched His Church in new ways. Today's technology allows us to connect without the restriction of physical contact. It illustrates perfectly God's promise that He knows and provides for what's coming next: "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged" (Deut. 31:8).

Sometimes we don't know what we need—or stop to think creatively—until desperation arises. We did not know that COVID-19 would force us into isolation, but the Lord did. Prayer groups have united across the world on phone lines and Internet connections in unprecedented numbers.

This crisis has taught us new tools for intercession. We can now expand these resources to sustain the momentum for a growing prayer movement.

### Virtual Connection with a Plan

With or without a pandemic, remote networking can help deepen prayer connections.

- The physically frail or homebound can take part safely in corporate prayer.
- Participants can enter and leave as their lives dictate—and with less interruption. If they can only pray with others for 20 minutes, they waste no time in a commute.

- Location is not a factor. Those praying together don't need a meeting area—and don't even need to live in the same community or nation.

The lack of physical presence creates a different prayer atmosphere, but it can also add new dynamics. Some may find themselves increasingly bold in their prayers. Others may feel they can quietly pray in agreement and enjoy the fellowship of other pray-ers.

As a prayer leader, you can create a comfortable format for interaction while also allowing for the Holy Spirit to move. Planning ahead helps with the flow of prayer. I'll use my local church's mission team as an example for organizing and motivating a virtual prayer connection team:

- Establish a specific date, time, and frequency of the meeting. Routines help people reserve time on their calendars.
- Establish roles within the group. For instance, a lead intercessor can open the group and invite prayer around points of concern. Another team member can be the contact person responsible for interacting with missionaries or the missions team for the most current information. Someone with an administrative gift can summarize key requests and answers to send out for continued prayer.

### Helpful Technology

Several technology options are available for your remote intercessory group. Find one that fits the demographics and comfort of your group. Some examples:

- Free phone conference call (audio only) information can be found with a quick Internet search. Set up an

account, obtain a number and code, and distribute to participants.

- Zoom is an online service that allows for video and audio. Set up an account and obtain a zoom room with a code. You can send the invite to the virtual location via email or text. Participants (up to 100) will need a device (smart phone or computer) with a built-in camera. Zoom also allows an audio-only option, but those participants will need a special call-in number and code.
- Facebook messenger group video chats can accommodate up to 50 intercessors. Each will need a device with a built-in camera. If participants do not have a Facebook account, they will need to download the Facebook messenger app and select the not-on-Facebook option.
- Skype is another online service that allows for video and audio. Participants (up to 50) will need a device with a built-in camera and will need to download the app or software.
- Google Duo group chat can accommodate 12 participants. Create the group chat, then call participants at the designated time. Google Duo allows for both Android and Apple users to work together. Participants need to download the free Google Duo app onto their phones.

As prayer leaders, let's use technology with our prayers to expand and fortify the Kingdom of God. 🙏



**HEATHER ROBERTS** hosts national prayer calls and blogs at *tostrongthenamotherheart.wordpress.com*.

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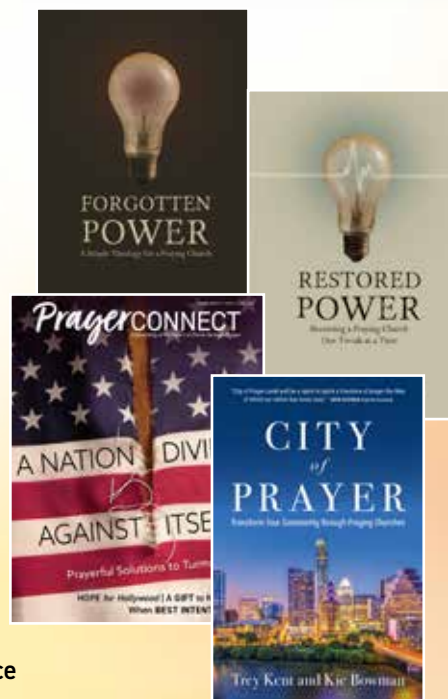
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Each pack includes 4 key prayer resources that can equip and encourage pastors to become champions of prayer in their churches. The packs include:

- **City of Prayer:** Transform Your Community through Praying Churches
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- A copy of **Prayer Connect magazine**, and a coupon for a free one-year subscription

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