



SHAWNA
marie
BRYANT
Bible Teacher and Author

Praying Scripture

Whenever we pray God's Word, we pray according to His will. 1 John 5:14-15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." (NIV) Many Bible passages can be turned into mighty prayers. A few of my favorites are presented below, adapted so you can personalize them.

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Spiritual Growth

Just as _____ accepted Christ Jesus as (his/her) Lord, help _____ to continue to live in obedience to Him. Help _____'s roots grow down into You and help (him/her) draw up nourishment from You, so _____ will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth (he/she) was taught. Help _____'s life overflow with thanksgiving for all You have done. Don't let anyone lead _____ astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. (Col 2:6-8)

Spiritual Wisdom

I pray for _____, asking You, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give _____ spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that _____ might grow in (his/her) knowledge of You. I pray that _____'s heart will be flooded with light so that _____ can understand the wonderful future You have promised to those You called. I want _____ to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance You have given to Your people. I pray that _____ will begin to understand the incredible greatness of Your power for (him/her) as _____ believes You. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at Your right hand in the heavenly realms. (Eph 1:17-20)

Godly Living

Father, I ask You to give _____ a complete understanding of what You want to do in (his/her) life, and I ask You to make _____ wise with spiritual wisdom. Then the way _____ lives will always honor and please You, and _____ will continually do good, kind things for others. All the while, _____ will learn to know You better and better. I also pray that _____ will be strengthened with Your glorious power so that _____ will have all the patience and endurance _____ needs. May _____ be filled with joy, always thanking You, who has enabled _____ to share the inheritance that belongs to Your holy people, who live in the light. (Col 1:9-12)

Intimacy with God

When I think of the wisdom and scope of Your plan, I fall to my knees and pray to You, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from Your glorious, unlimited resources You will give _____ mighty inner strength through Your Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in _____'s heart as _____ trusts in You. May _____'s roots go down deep into the soil of Your marvelous love. And may _____ have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep Your love really is. May _____ experience the love of Christ, though it is so great _____ will never fully understand it. Then _____ will be filled with the fullness of life and power that comes from You. (Eph 3:14-19)

Freedom from Legalism

Christ has really set _____ free. Now help _____ to stay free, and don't let _____ get tied up again in slavery to the law. If _____ is counting on circumcision [which stands for obeying the letter of the law] to make (him/herself) right with You, then Christ cannot help. So, if _____ tries to make (him/herself) right with You by keeping the law, _____ will be cut off from Christ! Don't let _____ fall away from Your grace. Help _____ to live by the Spirit and eagerly wait to receive everything promised to us who are right with You through faith. Help _____ to understand that it makes no difference to You whether we are circumcised or not circumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love. (Gal 5:1-6)

CLAIMING PROMISES

The Bible is filled with promises. It also contains examples of God's people reminding Him of those promises when they cry out to Him in prayer. God gave us His promises for a reason. He wants us to know and trust them. Quite often when I'm meditating on His Word, God leads me to the very promise I need. Over the years I've offered up many "promise prayers" made up of Scriptures that spoke to me. I've prayed all but one of the promises presented below fervently. God led me to write the prayer for a husband's salvation for a friend in need. I gladly share all of these "promise prayers" with you.

When in financial need:

God, You have promised to generously provide all I need so that I will always have everything I need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Cor 9:8) You have also said that You will meet all my needs according to Your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4:19) I'm asking you to be faithful to these promises and meet this financial need.

When lacking godly character traits:

God, you have promised that when the Holy Spirit controls my life, He will produce love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I surrender control to You and ask You to manifest these qualities in my life. (Gal 5:22-23)

When child not walking with God:

Dear Heavenly Father, You promised to draw near to all who call on You in truth. (Ps 145:18) I love You, Lord, and I'm calling on You now. I believe You are near even though I can't see You. You promised believing without seeing causes your followers to be filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. (1 Peter 1:8) Fill me with this joy. Help me believe that the testing of my faith develops perseverance, and that perseverance must finish its work so that I may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:3-4) Lord, I trust You to complete the work You have begun in me, just as you have promised. (Phil 1:6) Help me believe You will also complete the work You have begun in my son/daughter, because You are faithful to keep Your promises. God, You said that people are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work. (Rom 4:5) You said Christ chose us to be holy and without fault in His eyes. (Eph 1:4) Because I have faith in You, I know that I am righteous and blameless in Your sight. God, You also said the righteous man leads a blameless life and his children are blessed after him. (Prov. 20:7) Father, I don't see blessing in my child's life. I ask You to keep your promise to me and bless my child. I ask You to keep Your promise to work in him/her, giving him/her the desire to obey You and the power to do what pleases You. (Phil 2:13) Help me to be joyful always in spite of the pain my child is causing me, to pray continually for my child, and to give You thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thess 5:16-18) I am thankful not just because it's Your will for me in Christ Jesus, but also because I believe You can redeem this period of rebellion and use it for Your glory. It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since I have that same spirit of faith, I also believe and therefore speak. (2 Cor 4:13) In Jesus' name I pray this prayer of faith. AMEN!

When hurting:

God, You have promised to be close to the brokenhearted and to save those who are crushed in spirit. I am hurting. Please draw near to me. Let me feel Your presence close beside me. (Ps 34:18)

When husband needs salvation:

Father, Your Word urges me to pray for all people. You said that as I make my request I should plead for Your mercy upon them, and give thanks. You said I should pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity. You said this is good and pleases You, for You want everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. (1 Tim 2:1-4) Father, my husband is in authority over me, and so I pray according to Your will, pleading for mercy on his behalf so You will bring peace and quietness, godliness and dignity into my home. You said in Your Word that You do not want anyone to perish, so You are giving more time for everyone to repent. (2 Pe 3:9) Father, thank You for giving my husband the time He needs to repent and trust in You for his salvation, and thank you that as I wait on You, You will renew my strength. I will fly high on wings like eagles. I will run and not grow weary. I will walk and not faint. (Is 40:31)