

EMERGENCY PRAYERS FOR TODAY

Deborah Smith Pegues



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*This book of prayers for crises is dedicated to
all the faithful intercessors who stand in
the gap for the needs of their families, friends,
country, churches, coworkers, and all others
in their circles of concern.*

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Praying the Word of God

Prayer is perhaps the most talked about, written about, and least practiced spiritual discipline. The lyrics from Irishman Joseph M. Scriven's popular hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," are a vivid reminder of its importance.

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Prayer is the oxygen of our spirit; our survival depends upon it. We must always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1). In order to be equipped for an enemy attack, we must do as the psalmist declared, "Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice" (Psalm 55:17 KJV).

Nothing drives us to the throne room of God like trouble. Further, nothing develops our spiritual muscles like the exercise of faith during the crises of our lives. Notwithstanding, my greatest concern in writing this book is some readers may consider it a license to pray only during such times. Let me say at the outset, this book of scripturally based emergency prayers is not meant to be an escape hatch during a crisis for those who do not have an existing relationship with the Lord. When you fail to regularly protect yourself with the umbrella of prayer, you will surely get soaked with the inevitable rain of trouble. In his suffering Job lamented, "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (Job 14:1).

The goal of this book is to provide a tool that will show God's children how to declare the Scriptures in the form of a prayer in times of trial, testing, temptation, or distress. Praying His Word assures us we are praying His will. He is on constant watch over His Word to perform it (Jeremiah 1:12).

Let me caution you not to be appalled at and question the appropriateness of my including certain prayers that deal with blatant or even detestable sins. Know that God's children are still human and often fall into the same temptations as those who walk in darkness. Prayer is our defense as well as the route back to God's straight and narrow path.

In the interest of time and space, I have started each prayer at the *petition* stage. However, we must remember that if an earthly father wants to be praised and appreciated before being bombarded with a request, how much more should we honor our heavenly Father in this way? Therefore, in each instance of prayer, be sure to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name (Psalm 100:4). An opening phrase as simple as "Lord, I thank You for the privilege of coming boldly before Your throne to obtain mercy in this time of need" is sufficient in a crisis. Why? Because during your noncrisis devotional time, you have worshipped Him for His omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence.

While I encourage you to review this book often and memorize selected prayers that focus on your particular crisis, I will caution you to resist the temptation to reduce your prayer to a rote exercise. I strongly suggest you take the time to look up each biblical reference given in the prayer

and meditate on the related passage. Feel free to modify these prayers to apply to various individuals and circumstances on behalf of others when the issue is not one you are personally experiencing. Most of all, when you approach your heavenly Father, always expect a positive result to your prayers. Come believing. Know that “without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who *diligently* seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6, emphasis added).

I challenge you to come up higher in your faith and to stop operating at “see level”—believing only what you can see. Yes, you know that God *can* answer your prayers; believe that He *will*. Take courage and strength from the words of David: “In my distress I prayed to the LORD, and the LORD answered me and set me free” (Psalm 118:5 NLT).

■ Part 1

Prayers for Spiritual Crises

I Want to Be Saved Now



Father, this is a spiritual emergency for I need salvation. I acknowledge I have sinned and come short of Your glory (Romans 3:23). Thank You so much for demonstrating Your love to me in that while I was still a sinner, Christ died for me (Romans 5:8). Your Word says that Jesus is the only door to the Father and I must come to You through Him alone (John 10:9).

I repent of all my sins. Please forgive me, Lord, and come into my life now. I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. According to Your Word, I am now saved (Romans 10:9-10). Fill me with Your Holy Spirit for it is He who works in me both to will and to do what pleases You (Philippians 2:13).

Give me a hunger and a thirst for righteousness, and a passion for prayer and Your Word. I also ask that You help me be faithful in my church attendance and readily share my faith with others.

Thank You, Father, for adopting me into Your family (Romans 8:15). In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I'm Too Busy to Pray



Lord, I'm ready to conquer my prayerlessness. I want my time with You to be my top priority—not just in word but in deed. There are activities I have put before You and in so doing, decided that they are more important. I know that I'm responsible for every activity I have put on my too-busy schedule.

I am not allowing You the time to develop in me the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

I know that apart from You I can do nothing (John 15:5). Trying to run my life in my own strength is more than I can bear. I want to commit now to a regular prayer time with You because prayer is as important to my spirit as oxygen is to my body. Father, help me to start each morning with just _____ minutes of waiting quietly before You—absorbing Your love, Your wisdom, and Your enabling power for the day. Teach me to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17) by being conscious of Your presence throughout the day. Thank You in advance for a dynamic prayer life that will bring glory to You. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I Do Not Read My Bible



Father, please forgive me for my disobedience in not studying Your Word on a regular basis. I know that by not reading my Bible, I make myself defenseless against Satan because Your Word is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). I realize that I could have avoided a lot of my past anxieties, problems, and sins if I had hidden Your Word in my heart and not been so ignorant of Your promises (Psalm 119:11).

Father, I want to be prosperous and have good success. You cautioned that the key to fulfilling this desire is to meditate on Your Word day and night and do all that is written in it (Joshua 1:8). I ask You to please give me a hunger and thirst for Your truth. Help me comprehend the practical application of Your commands and precepts. I know that my intellect is insufficient because spiritual things can only be discerned by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

Thank You, Father, that even now You are giving me the desire to know You through Your Word. With Your help I will read a passage of Scripture on a daily basis and apply it to my life. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Help Me to Fast



Lord, I really desire to fast on a regular basis because exercising this spiritual discipline has many benefits. I have tried and failed many times. My spirit is indeed willing, but my flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41).

I want to sharpen my spiritual sensitivity so I may hear Your voice more clearly and become an effective intercessor for my family, my friends, nations, and all in my circle of concern. You have declared that Your chosen fast will loose the bonds of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens, free the oppressed, and break every yoke of bondage (Isaiah 58:6). I understand that some problems, conditions, and situations will only be eliminated by prayer *and* fasting (Matthew 17:21).

Help me not to fast to be seen or exalted by others because Jesus warned that it would be my only reward. I want to fast Your way, in secret, so You will reward me openly (Matthew 6:16-18).

Lord, help me to start where I am right now in my ability to abstain from food—whether it is fasting until a certain hour of the day, eating one meal a day, abstaining from specific foods for a period of time as Daniel did (Daniel 10:3), or a total fast (except for water) for one to several days. Direct my steps, O Lord, and bring me to full maturity in this area. I will give You all the glory for every miracle and every answered prayer. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I'm Angry with God



Father, Satan is trying to capture my reasoning, weaken my spirit, and turn me against You (Job 15:12-13). Yes, I am angry because You have allowed this situation to happen. You had the power to orchestrate a different outcome in this matter, but You chose not to do so. Notwithstanding, Your Word says that all things work together for my good because I love You and I am called according to Your purpose (Romans 8:28). I suppose my anger is evidence that I do not trust Your wisdom and Your sovereign plan for my life. Forgive me for trying to bring You down to my level of thinking.

How great are Your riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for me to understand Your decisions and Your methods! (Romans 11:33-35 TLB). Deliver me from carnally minded thinking because when the Holy Spirit controls my mind, there is life, peace, and grace to accept Your decisions (Romans 8:6).

I receive Your grace to let go of my anger. I repent of my mistrust. I submit totally to Your sovereign plan. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I Want to Know Why I'm Here



Father, I'm tired of wandering aimlessly through life pursuing no real purpose. This brings no glory to You. You have created all things, and for Your pleasure I was created (Revelation 4:11). You very deliberately formed me in my mother's womb to serve Your purpose in a unique capacity (Isaiah 49:5). I need Your help to make the path to my destiny clear. I want to stop ignoring or minimizing the gifts and talents You have invested in me and acting as if they are of no significance.

I believe my purpose is fulfilled in service to others so please reveal to me, in a very clear way, how I can serve mankind with everything You have given to me.

I want to do only those things You have destined for me to do and not be distracted by busywork, wrong priorities, or the desires and demands of others. At the end of my life, I want to be able to say like Jesus, "I brought glory to You here on earth by doing everything You told me to" (John 17:4 TLB). In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I Have to Make a Decision Now



Father, I need Your guidance and Your wisdom to make the right choice in this very important matter. Your Word says that if I resist being wise in my own eyes, lean not to my own understanding, and acknowledge You in all my ways, You will direct my paths (Proverbs 3:5-7). You promised to instruct me, teach me in the way I should go, and guide me with Your eye (Psalm 32:8).

I want to pursue Your perfect plan for my life. Help me understand that although there may be many plans in my heart, it is Your purpose that will prevail (Proverbs 19:21). Therefore, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, I submit all of my thoughts and desires to You now.

Lord, I do not want to make this decision in isolation. Please send godly people across my path who will give me wise input because Your Word says that in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 11:14). Help me hear instruction, be wise, and refuse it not (Proverbs 8:33).

For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake lead me and guide me (Psalm 31:3). In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I'm Filled with Pride



Lord, I'm in a spiritual crisis because I have allowed pride to enter my heart. Because of my hard work and man's accolades, I find myself taking personal credit for what You have allowed me to acquire or accomplish. But who makes me different from anyone else? What do I have that I did not receive? And if I did receive it, why do I act as though I did not? (1 Corinthians 4:6-7).

Help me, Lord. I know that pride will prevent me from having a close relationship with You because You resist the proud, but give grace to the humble (James 4:6).

Help me to walk in humility. Your Word says that pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall (Proverbs 16:18). I know that pride will bring me low, but those who are humble in spirit will retain honor (Proverbs 29:23).

I am sorry, Lord. I humble myself now. I resist the spirit of pride and command it to flee according to Your Word (James 4:7). In my heart and before men, I will give You all the glory from this day forward. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

I'm Robbing God



Father, I come before You today, asking forgiveness for robbing You of Your tithes and offerings (Malachi 3:8; Matthew 23:23). I know that all of the money You have allowed me to earn belongs to You and I must pay a required portion back to You. I repent now for being a poor and disobedient steward of Your resources.

I understand that if I obey You by paying my tithes, You will rebuke Satan when he comes to devour my blessings (Malachi 3:11). In addition, You promise to open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings so great that I will not have enough room to take them in (Malachi 3:10).

Lord, help me reject the spirit of fear that keeps me from bringing my entire tithe, ten percent of my income, to the church so the needs of the ministry will be met (Malachi 3:10). I know that You love a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). Cause me, therefore, to willingly, cheerfully, and faithfully bring my tithes and offerings. I know that my obedience will insure me against lack. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Lying Seems the Only Way Out



Father, I'm in a situation where telling a lie seems to be the best solution to the problem. Even though I have reached this conclusion based upon my natural reasoning, I'm coming to You because Your Word says that You detest lying lips, but You delight in those who are truthful (Proverbs 12:22). Father, I want my actions to delight You; I do not want to engage in any behavior You hate. I want to walk as an upright person guided by integrity (Proverbs 11:3).

Your Word says that truth stands the test of time, and lies are soon exposed (Proverbs 12:19). Give me the courage now to put away all lying and deceitfulness and tell the truth (Ephesians 4:25).

I leave the consequences of telling the truth to You, knowing You will work everything out for my good (Romans 8:28). I know that this will be far better than the consequences of lying because Your Word says that he who works deceit shall not dwell within Your house; he who tells lies shall not continue in Your presence (Psalm 101:7). Give me the courage to speak the truth now. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

My Loved One Needs Salvation



Father, my heart is burdened for _____ because he/she has not accepted Jesus as his/her personal Savior. He/she is trying to live on this earth without a relationship with You. I can't stand the thought of him/her spending eternity in hell. I know that You have been long-suffering toward him/her because You are not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Notwithstanding, You said that even though all souls belong to You, the soul that practices sin shall die (Ezekiel 18:20) and be eternally separated from You.

O Lord, please send someone across _____'s path to minister salvation to him/her. You said that no man can come to Jesus unless You draw him (John 6:44). Prepare his/her heart now; do not let him/her resist the courting by Your Spirit.

I take authority over the stronghold of sin captivating _____'s mind. Let him/her find no comfort, joy, or fulfillment in his/her life of rebellion.

Help me to let my light shine before him/her so he/she will see the joy, peace, and other benefits of salvation. I pray You fill _____ with the knowledge of Your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and he/she may live a life worthy of You and may please You in every way—bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of You (Colossians 1:9-10). In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

