

Subject: *Praying for Lost Souls, Part 2*

Scripture: *Romans 10:1-10*

The disciples asked Jesus, "Teach us to pray." They never asked Him, "Teach us to preach or teach," but they did ask Him to teach them to pray, and He did teach them. He gave them the model prayer known as the Lord's Prayer. As the New Testament was inspired and recorded He left us more instruction about prayer, especially how to pray for the lost. Nothing is outside the reach of prayer except that which is outside the will of God. Prayer can do anything that God can do, and God can do anything.

1. Ask God to bring conviction of personal sin

John 16:7-8 ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. No one is ever saved without realizing he is a lost sinner in need of a Savior. This is something only God can do.

2. Ask God to make their hearts receptive to God's Word

Matthew 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Only God can prepare hearts and make them ready to hear and obey. Otherwise we are planting seed on hard ground, shallow ground, or ground infested with weeds. Lydia was Paul's first convert in the continent of Europe and the Bible says in Acts 16:14, the Lord opened her heart. *1 Thessalonians 2:13* For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. Paul thanked God because He had prepared their hearts to receive.

3. Ask God to tear down barriers in their minds

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴ (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵ Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. Lost people do what they do because they think like they think. Paul knew that the Jews were thinking wrong about salvation (Rom. 10:2-8). Only God can destroy pride, philosophy, and foolish thinking that keeps a person from trusting and obeying Christ.

4. Ask God to set them free from Satan's bondage

2 Timothy 2:24-26 ²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, ²⁵ In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; ²⁶ And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

5. Ask God to open their spiritual eyes to see the glory of Christ

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. They need to see who Jesus is and what He has done. He is the Son of God

and the one and only Lord and Savior. *Matthew 16:16-17*¹⁶ *And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*¹⁷ *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.* Salvation involves a revelation of Christ.

6. Ask God to give them real faith, repentance, and new life

Acts 11:18 *When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.* Faith, repentance, and eternal life from above are all gifts from God. *John 1:11-13*¹¹ *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*¹² *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*¹³ *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

7. Ask God to make them fruitful disciples of Christ

John 15:8 *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.* Where there is spiritual life there is spiritual fruit (“fruit of the Spirit,” Gal. 5:22-23). The Lord gave us a commission to go and make disciples. The goal is not decisions but disciples, men, women, boys, and girls who follow Christ and serve Him. *John 10:27* *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

8. Ask God to send others to witness to them

Matthew 9:38 *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.* Jesus told His disciples to pray this way, and they became an answer to their own prayers. At first they prayed and then they went out to minister. Prayer is the most effective recruiting tool we have.

9. Ask God for personal boldness to witness to them

Acts 4:29 *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.* Boldness is being frank or speaking the truth. It is simply the freedom to say what needs to be said. Some of the things we pray for only God can do and some things He expects us to do along with Him. Some things we can't do without Him and some things He won't do without us.

Take My Life and Let It Be

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee;
Take my will and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne, it shall be Thy royal throne.*

A Personal Prayer Plan:

1. Have a definite time to pray for the lost
2. Keep a list of lost people you are praying for
3. Ask God to work in their lives

4. Expect God to seek and save the lost
5. Thank God even when you don't see the harvest
6. Claim God's promises

Precious Promises for Prayer Warriors:

Psalms 126:6 *He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

1 Timothy 2:1-5¹ *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*² *For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*³ *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior;*⁴ *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*⁵ *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

2 Thessalonians 3:1 *Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you.*

2 Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

1 John 5:14-15¹⁴ *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:*¹⁵ *And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*