

A 21st CENTURY PRAYER
(A Corporate Version)
by John Knapp II

Following a pattern helps keep our thinking and doing in balance, and helps us avoid focusing on only a few matters at the expense of others.

If you pray with this model, or with one that you modify or create to suit your own needs, remember that saying words in a form is only a beginning to talking with God.

- 1 O God, our Father,
through the power of your Holy Spirit
- 2 May we love you as we should:
- 3 May we seek you daily for what we must know.
- 4 May we understand your Word
- 5 And may Truth be our guide
with the help of,
and in spite of,
the several traditions that
bear your name.
- 6 May we share your love with those around us.
- 7 May we actively serve in your Church
wherever we live.
- 8 May we properly obey authority
wherever we go.
- 9 May our eyes open
only to what we should see;
- 10 May our ears open
only to what we should hear;
- 11 May our lips open
only to what we should say,
to what we should eat and drink.
- 12 May we dwell upon what is true,
pure, right, holy,
and proper.
- 13 May we not lie to ourselves.
- 14 May we see any sin that hides in us.
- 15 May we confess, turn from,
and be forgiven of
any sin in our lives.
- 16 May we not cause anyone to stumble;
- 17 And if we sin against others,
may we stop
to ask their forgiveness.
- 18 May we also be quick to forgive others
as you have forgiven us.
- 19 May we live to please your Spirit.
- 20 May we be bold at the right time
and quiet at the right time;
- 21 May we run when we should run,
walk when we should walk,
wait when we should wait;
- 22 May we follow the paths
you have pressed under our feet.
- 23 May we obey you in all things.

- 24 Thank you for all you have given us:
- 25 May we accept and use those special gifts
you have given us;
- 26 And may we give wisely and generously
to those in need.
- 27 May we not be dulled
by the false brightness around us;
- 28 May your light shine in us
the remaining minutes of our lives.
- 29 May your kingdom come
and your will in everything
be done.
- 30 And may our lives forever rest in your hands.
- 31 May we be part of all you desire,
- 32 And may we desire what you want
every day.
- 33 In Jesus' name,
- 34 Amen.

NOTES (for both sides)

- 1 Mt. 6:9; Jn. 16:13
2 Mt. 22:37-38, I Jn. 5:3
3 Acts 17:11; Josh. 1:8
4 II Tim. 2:15; Ps. 119:105, 27, 125
5 The concerns expressed in I Cor. 1:10-17 still exist. Sincere people in Christ's Church, have differed on many things—about how the Church should be run, about how to worship, how to serve, how to live, etc.—which unfortunately has led to divisions; nonetheless, we are one family and we must continue to seek out Truth and act out our faith. Eph. 6:14; II Pet. 3:15-16; 2:1-3; but also see Jude 17-19.
6 Mt. 22:39 & 28:19-20; Jas. 2:8
7 Heb. 10:25; Eph. 5:19; II Th. 3:11-13
8 Tit. 3:1-2; Rm. 13:1; I Pet. 2:13-17; Eph. 6:1-8; but consider Acts 5:27-29.
9 Note that while "fleeing evil" and not doing bad things is Scriptural (see #13 and Ps. 119:37) and is implied in this prayer, the focus here is being open to what is good and desirable. Jn. 4:35b; II Cor. 4:18; I Sam. 16:7b. Ps. 101:3
10 Jn. 8:47; Rm. 10:17; Mt. 11:15; II Tim. 4:3-4; Ps. 85:8
11 Eph. 4:29; Ps. 51:15; Jas. 3:1-12; Dt. 23:23
I Cor. 10:31; I Cor. 6:19; I Cor. 3:16-17; Ps. 141:3
12 Phil. 4:8
13 I Cor. 3:18; Jer. 17:9; Jas. 1:27
14 Heb. 4:13; Ps. 19:12 & 101:4
15 Ps. 38:18; I Jn. 1:9
16 I Cor. 8:9; I Cor. 10:32-33; III Cor. 6:3
17 Jas. 5:16; Mt. 5:23-24; Num. 5:5-7
18 Col. 3:13; Mt. 6:12, 14; Eph. 4:32
19 Gal. 6:8-10; Eph. 5:18
20 Acts 4:29; Prov. 28:1; Ps. 138:3; Ecc. 3:7; Hab. 2:1; Zeph. 1:7
21 Heb. 12:1; Isa. 40:31; Ps. 40:1 & 37:7 & 46:10; Dan. 10:1-13
22 Ps. 23:3; Prov. 3:6; Ps. 119:133 & 128
23 II Jn. 6; Jn. 14:23; Mt. 28:20
24 Ps. 100:4; II Cor. 9:15; I Th. 5:18; Ps. 136:26
25 Rm. 12:6-8; I Pet. 4:10; I Cor. 12 & 14
26 I Tim. 6:18; I Jn. 3:17; Prov. 22:9; Ps. 112:5; Mt. 6:3-4; but also consider II Th. 3:10.
27 II Cor. 11:14; Mt. 7:13
28 Mt. 5:16; I Jn 1:7; Ps. 103:15-16
29 Mt. 6:10
30 I Th. 4:16-17; Ps. 91:1 & 23:6
31 Jas. 4:13-15; Rm. 12:1-2
32 Ps. 40:8; 145:1-2 & 96:2
33 Jn. 16:24; Col. 3:17 This completes acknowledgment of the Trinity (see #1 above).
34 Means "so be it," a word of confirmation as in binding an oath. Ps. 41:13; Jude 25; II Pet. 3:18

(personal version on other side)

108 texts
from
36 diff.
books of
the
Bible.
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