

A 21st CENTURY PRAYER

(A Personal 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, my Father,
through the power of your Holy Spirit

2 May I love you as I should:

3 May I seek you daily for what I must know.

4 May I understand your Word

5 And may Truth be my guide
with the help of,
and in spite of,
the several traditions that
bear your name.

6 May I share your love with those around me.

7 May I actively serve in your Church
wherever I live.

8 May I properly obey authority
wherever I go.

9 May my eyes open
only to what I should see;

10 May my ears open
only to what I should hear;

11 May my lips open
only to what I should say,
to what I should eat and drink.

12 May I dwell upon what is true,
pure, right, holy,
and proper.

13 May I not lie to myself.

14 May I see any sin that hides in me.

15 May I confess, turn from,
and be forgiven of
any sin in my life.

16 May I not cause anyone to stumble;

17 And if I sin against others,
may I stop
to ask their forgiveness.

18 May I also be quick to forgive others
as you have forgiven me.

19 May I live to please your Spirit.

20 May I be bold at the right time
and quiet at the right time;

21 May I run when I should run,
walk when I should walk,
wait when I should wait;

22 May I follow the path
you have pressed under my feet.

23 May I obey you in all things.

24 Thank you for all you have given me:

25 May I accept and use those special gifts
you have given me;

26 And may I give wisely and generously
to those in need.

27 May I not be dulled
by the false brightness around me;

28 May your light shine in me
the remaining minutes of my life.

29 May your kingdom come
and your will in everything
be done.

30 And may my life forever rest in your hands.

31 May I be part of all you desire,

32 And may I desire what you want
every day.

33 In Jesus' name,

34 Amen.

About This Prayer

This prayer, I believe, rests upon Scripture, including the direct commands (e.g. Jas. 1:27), the biblical examples (e.g. David's psalms), and the metaphors (e.g. Heb. 12:1) listed on the back side of this sheet, as well as upon my own personal observations.

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Note that a corporate version of this prayer (for groups) and notes for each of the 34 segments appear on the other side of this sheet.