

A 21<sup>st</sup> 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.*

- 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 or 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 path  
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 This Prayer**  
(for both Personal and Corporate Versions)

- 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; Psa. 119:105
- 5 The concerns expressed in I Cor. 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; II 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 & Psa. 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. 16:17b
- 10 Jn. 8:47; Rm. 10:17; Mt. 11:15; II Tim. 4:3-4
- 11 Eph. 4:29; Psa. 51:15; Jas. 3:1-12; Dt. 23:23  
I Cor. 10:31; I Cor. 6:19; I Cor. 3:16-17
- 12 Phil. 4:8
- 13 I Cor. 3:18; Jer. 17:9; Jas. 1:27
- 14 Heb. 4:13; Psa. 19:12 & 101:4
- 15 Psa. 38:18; I Jn. 1:9
- 16 I Cor. 8:9; I Cor. 10:32-33
- 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; Psa. 138:3;  
Ecc. 3:7; Hab. 2:1; Zeph. 1:7
- 21 Heb. 12:1; Isa. 40:31; Psa. 40:1 &  
37:7 & 46:10; Dan. 10:1-13
- 22 Psa. 23:3; Prov. 3:6; Psa. 119:128,133
- 23 II Jn. 6; Jn. 14:23; Mt. 28:20
- 24 Psa. 100:4; II Cor. 9:15; I Th. 5:18

- 25 Rom. 12:6-8; I Pet. 4:10; I Cor. 14 & 14  
26 I Tim. 6:18; I Jn. 3:17; Prov. 22:9;  
Psa. 112:5; Mt. 6:3-4; but also  
Consider II Th. 3:10.  
27 II Cor. 11:14; Mt. 7:13  
28 Mt. 5:18; I Jn. 1:7; Psa. 103:15-16  
29 Mt. 6:10  
30 I Th. 4:16-17; Psa. 91:1 & 23:6  
31 Jas. 4:13-15; Rm. 12:1-2  
32 Psa. 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 confirma-  
tion as in a binding oath.  
Psa. 41:13; Jude 25; II Pet. 3:18

## **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 metaphors (e.g. Heb. 12:1).*

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

[Note that this can, and may, easily be copied, resized, and cut, trimmed, and folded so that it can easily be carried in a Bible or any other book.]