

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.*

- 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 or 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.

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).

Now in its 8th revision (as of Oct. 29, 2019), these words, phrases and notes may be used, copied, redone, and/or distributed not-for-profit without permission. If this is modified or copied in a significantly different form, the author requests that his name be removed from this sheet.

If you, privately, or corporately, 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.]