



PRAYER GUIDE

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WHY SHOULD I PRAY?

- We know the real battle is unseen (Ephesians 6:12-18) and our greatest weapon is prayer.
- Paul continually reminds the Church throughout the whole New Testament to pray for him, and the others who were being persecuted (2 Thessalonians 3:1-5; Colossians 4:3, 18).
- Prayer allows us to join with God in obedient desire to see His will done here on earth as it is in heaven.

HOW DO I PRAY?

- Worship- Pray with your eyes on God, the King of Kings, without looking at a specific circumstance. It is easy to let the statistics of persecution be overwhelming, or to feel defeated even before praying. But when you start your prayer from the place of exultation of God, then you will be more aware that we are fighting from victory, and not just for it.
- With hope- Because of the good news, we pray for worship and into hope.
- Ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit - It is easy to pray for what we think must be prayed for, but be sure to also listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying.

WHAT SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

- Pray Scripture:

2 THESSALONIANS 3: 1-5 ¹ As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. ² And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith. ³ But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. ⁴ We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. ⁵ May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance.

ACTS 4:29-31 ²⁹ Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your Word with great boldness. ³⁰ Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." ³¹ After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Philippians 1:9-10 ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in

knowledge and depth of insight,¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

- Pray for strength and endurance for those being persecuted. Pray for faith and provision for their every need. Pray for protection, especially for those in leadership, and for their families. Even more, pray for Jesus to be constantly glorified in every situation as the Church is under pressure.

WHO SHOULD I PRAY FOR?

- Make it personal- Who do you know that knows someone being persecuted? Pray for them. What have you read recently that suggests hardship for believers? Pray about it. What missionaries or mission organizations do you know? Pray for their work.
- People from the film- Pray for the people in Love Costs Every Thing who shared their stories and hardships. Use the Prayer Cards (available for download at www.lovecostseverything.com) to remind yourself to pray for each of them.
- Pray for the persecutors- The hardest of hearts, so that like Saul, they would become heroes of the faith and have their names changed forever (Paul). That they would be written in the book of life, and change the tide.
- Yourself- How did watching the film challenge your own faith? How might you ever be affected by persecution? Pray for boldness and strength for yourself.

WAYS TO KEEP PRAYING:

- Prayer Room- Organize and set aside one week and a space in your church to direct people to pray about persecution using prayer stations. (www.24-7prayer.com/prayer or email dana.hernandez@24-7prayer.us for more info)
- Subscribe to Voice of the Martyrs and each month you can read about what is going on around the world. Commit to praying about those events and the people affected by them.
- Get a map- Mark the regions that God has placed on your heart to pray about.
- Set an alarm to pray daily for the church- Set your phone to go off at 8am every day. Every time you hear it, pray for your persecuted brothers and sisters.