

The
SECRET PLACE
of
PRAYER

HE THAT DWELLETH IN THE
SECRET PLACE
OF THE MOST HIGH SHALL ABIDE
UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY.

Psalm 91:1

How to use THE SECRET PLACE Prayer Guide

1. Find a quiet place where you can pray out loud.
2. Use the Secret Place Guide along with your Bible. As you pray and work through this exercise, remember you are in the presence of God.
3. Read all Scriptures, answer the questions, and follow the suggestions.
4. It will take about one hour to pray through this guide.
5. DON'T RUSH! It is worth the time and effort to be thorough.

Biblical prayer is...

- God-focused
- Follows the Spirit
- Fervent
- Fueled by the Word
- Faith-filled

Begin by reading the Model Prayer from Luke 11:1-4...

- Our Father (recognition of God)
- Hallowed be Your name (worship of God)
- Your kingdom come (expansion of God's kingdom)
- Your will be done, as in heaven, so on Earth (implementation of God's will)
- Give us day by day our daily bread (asking of God)
- Forgive us our sins (confession to God)
- For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us (forgiveness of others)
- Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil (deliverance from the enemy)

1. Begin with a FOCUS ON GOD

Never begin your prayer with a "shopping list" of human requests.

Quiet your heart—"Be still, and know that I am God" (PS. 46:10).

The first three petitions in the Model Prayer are Godward. Start now by focusing vertically on God's concerns.

Hallowed be your name.

David said, "I have set the LORD always before me" (Ps. 16:8).

Begin by verbally hallowing His name...

- Recognize His name
- Magnify the Lord OUT LOUD in prayer
 - Adore Him
 - Bless Him
- Reverence His name
- Praise Him

Your kingdom come

Pray about Christ's Lordship in...

- Your life
- Your family
- Your home
- Your ministry

Your will be done

- Is there any part of God's revealed will with which I am not complying?
 - For instance: Am I giving thanks in all things? (1 Thes. 5:18)
 - Am I filled with the Spirit right now? (Eph. 5:18)
- Pray for God's will on earth, right here and right now!

2. Let your prayer be FUELED BY THE WORD

Here I am alone with God in the Secret Place.

As you read the Word, let it read you!

Pray over verses and messages that have spoken to you.

Jesus taught us to pray...

Forgive us our sins

Pray through these questions. Be totally honest as you take responsibility for your wrongs...

- Am I sinning the sin of prayerlessness?
- Have I neglected the Word of God?
- Have I forgiven everyone?
- Is all resentment out of my heart?
- Am I impatient?
- Am I irritable?
- Am I offended easily?
- Do I get angry?
- Do I bear grudges?
- Am I dishonest with others?
- Is my home a testimony for Jesus?
- Are my thoughts PURE?
- Am I covetous?
- Am I too concerned about THINGS?
- Do I fret?
- Do I murmur and complain?
- Do I deny myself daily to follow Jesus?
- Have I paid all my debts to others?
- Am I willing to ask forgiveness from those I have wronged?
- Am I willing and ready to forgive any wrong against me or against my family?
- Am I willing—here and now—to ask God to help me put these grudges out of my heart? (Matthew 6:12-15 and 18:21-35; Luke 6:27-37)
- Have I, in any way, been dishonest with God?
- Have I been dishonest with my church?
- Do I try to leave a wrong impression if I can do it without really telling a lie?
- Is there anything in my life that I would be unwilling to give up for Christ?
- Have I wronged anyone and failed to make restitution?
- Is the reputation of another safe in my hands?
- Have I been a tale-bearer or a gossip?
- Have I hurt someone—or my church—by needless talk about someone's faults? Even if it was true—did I glorify my Lord by telling it?
- Is my mind HONEST and CLEAN in the sight of God?
- Am I faithful to my wedding vows—in DEED? In THOUGHT?
- Do I have any SECRET SIN that I excuse, but should forsake?

- Have I forgiven those who have talked about me? Those who have talked about my loved ones?
- Do I have a right attitude toward my fellow church members?
- Do I have a right attitude toward leaders in the church?
- Have I honestly tried to be a good witness for Christ today?
- Have I worried or been over-anxious about things over which I have no control?
- Am I guilty of the sin of unbelief?

Spend time now thanking God for His forgiveness.

Revel in His mercy.

Rejoice in His favor.

3. All prayer must FOLLOW THE SPIRIT

“Prayer is an impossible task apart from the Holy Ghost.”—Samuel Chadwick

There must be:

1. Cleansing... then filling
2. Preparing... then interceding
3. Yielding... then receiving
4. Asking... then praising
5. Empowering... then witnessing

The Holy Spirit is the missing Person in prayer.

- Ask for a fresh filling of the Spirit (Read Ephesians 5:18).
- Thank Him for filling you NOW. Being filled is a matter of “faith.” It is not dependent upon feelings. So disregard your emotions and dare to BELIEVE God. Choose to THANK God for filling you.
- Ask Him to lead you as you pray.

“For we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26).

Spend some moments listening to His voice and His direction as you continue in prayer.

- Enter into the burdens of the Spirit. Allow His “groanings” to become personal to you.
- Pray over these burdens.
- Respond to His promptings.

4. FERVENTLY INTERCEDE

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much (read James 5:16).

The word “fervent” means “boiling over.” Be zealous as you intercede. Intercession is praying for someone else as if they were you. Pour out your concerns and burdens in believing prayer.

Pray now for...

Daily bread

- Talk with God about your needs.
- Talk with God about the needs of others.

Forgive us our sins

Read: Proverbs 28:13; I John 1:8-9; Psalm 51:1-16

Three kinds of sins which we must confess:

1. Private—sins against God alone, must be confessed to God alone.
2. Personal—sins against others. AS GOD LEADS, you will need to confess to the person you have wronged. You must make an effort to restore disturbed fellowship.
3. Public—sins against the church, the body of Christ, require a public confession.

For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us

- Forgiveness is releasing a debt.
- Forgiveness is giving up my right to hurt others for hurting me.
- Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling.
- Spend time now releasing others for any remaining wrongs you have not dealt with.

Lead us not into temptation

- Pray preventative prayers. Ask God for protection from evil.
- Read Ps. 19:13. Ask God to keep you from intentionally sinning.

Deliverance from evil

- We need deliverance from sin and the Evil One.
- Christ has triumphed over the forces of evil. Read 1 John 4:4, Colossians 2:15, 1 Corinthians 15:57.
- Appropriately celebrate the victory you have in Christ.
- Cry out to God in believing prayer.

5. Effective prayer is FULL OF FAITH

It takes great faith to ask for God's desires to be manifested on earth.

Unbelief always considers it too soon or too late for God to work, but faith expects God to work NOW!

Faith is confidence in God. Unbelief is confidence in something other than God.

Thanking God is the first step of faith. After you ask God for things, immediately launch into THANKSGIVING for the things you just asked of Him.

Pray prayers of faith, not prayers of doubt.

Now is the time to ask IN FAITH. Which aspects in the Model Prayer are needed most now in...

- Your Life?
- Your Family?
- Your Friends?
- Your Ministry?
- Your Church?

Close this time by thanking God for access and the privilege of entering into the SECRET PLACE.



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