

Prayer Guide

Nothing draws a Christian to prayer like uncertainty and national emergencies. Here at Faith Church, we are experiencing a heightened need for God and thus for prayer. But how should we pray? What or who should we be praying for? Begin by praying in concentric circles of both physical need and spiritual need.

Physical

1. Your family

God is a loving Father who loves to hear your cares and concerns. He encourages us to come to him with our requests, the good things we deeply desire. Even earthly fathers give their children bread and fish instead of snakes and scorpions. How much more does God want us to approach him with our needs? Ask him for life in his Spirit. (Luke 11:9-13) Pray for your loved ones both near and far, for health and safety, for wisdom and freedom from fear.

2. Our church

The Lord has knitted us together as a body of believers and calls us to love one another. Love your brothers and sisters in Christ by continually praying for them. Ask the Lord to mercifully spare us from this sickness. Specifically ask Him to protect the elderly in our congregation from getting the virus. In the passage that was going to be preached today, Paul describes the local church as a body whose members necessarily care for one another. God asks us “to have the same concern for each other.” Paul continues, “So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:25-26)

3. Our community, government, and health workers

Consider Paul’s words to Timothy and see how fitting they are for us today.

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Pray for our leaders as they make difficult decisions. Pray that the Lord would give us a spirit of humility and discernment as we submit to them.

Spiritual

1. Our Church

May God bring us comfort, knit us together, and draw us closer to himself. Having faced suffering for the gospel, Paul talks about how he prays for the Corinthian church.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort. He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any kind of affliction, through the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)

Pray for an increase of faith for our church and an abundance of love for God and others.

2. The advance of the gospel

We want our neighbors to be healthy *and* we want them to be eternally safe in the loving hands of our Father. Look at back at the 1 Timothy passage; God desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. May we be faithful to show gospel-motivated love in our neighborhoods. May the other churches in our city also shine as beacons of clear gospel light. May the Lord graciously call many to himself in this difficult time.