

How to Pray For The Lost



A Five Part Series

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We all have family, friends and co-workers that we love and care about. Some of them have never accepted Christ and others have simply abandoned their faith in God. Some of those relationships are strained and uncomfortable. There are a few that are filled with disappointment, hurt and pain.

You have prayed for them but it seems that there has been little or no result. You may be asking yourself “what am I missing?” Over the next five weeks we will attempt to answer that question by teaching you how to blend the power of prayer and the power of the scriptures together.

Part 1 = Looking At The Heart



The Heart Of The Shepherd

HE CARES ABOUT THE ONE

Matthew 18:12-13 (NIV) “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the **one** that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off.

THERE IS GREAT REJOICING IN HEAVEN OVER THE ONE

Luke 15:4 (NIV) “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

HE CAME TO SAVE THE ONE

Luke 19:10 (NIV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”



The Heart of a Wondering Sheep

WE HAVE ALL SINNED

Isaiah 53:6 (NLT) All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.

SIN HARDENS OUR HEART

Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV) See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. ¹³But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

SOME ONE REACHED OUT AND SAVED US FROM DEATH

James 5:19 (NIV) My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, ²⁰remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.

The lost sheep is an emblem of a heedless, thoughtless sinner: one who follows the corrupt

dictates of his own heart, without ever reflecting upon his conduct, or considering what will be the issue of his unholy course of life. No creature strays more easily than a sheep; none is more heedless; and none so incapable of finding its way back to the flock, when once gone astray: it will bleat for the flock, and still run on in an opposite direction to the place where the flock is: this I have often noticed. No creature is more defenseless than a sheep, and more exposed to be devoured by dogs and wild beasts. Even the fowls of the air seek their destruction. I have known ravens often attempt to destroy lambs by picking out their eyes, in which, when they have succeeded, as the creature does not see whither it is going, it soon falls an easy prey to its destroyer. Satan is ever going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; in order to succeed, he blinds the understanding of sinners, and then finds it an easy matter to tumble them into the pit of perdition. Who but a Pharisee or a devil would find fault with the shepherd who endeavors to rescue his sheep from so much danger and ruin! —Adam Clark’s Commentary on the New Testament

The heart of the believer



OUR HEARTS DESIRE IS THEIR SALVATION

Romans 10:1 (NIV) Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

PLEAD FOR GOD’S CONTINUED MERCY AND KINDNESS

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God’s mercy upon them, and give thanks.

BE KIND, TOLERANT AND PATIENT

Romans 2:4 (NIV) Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?

The Woman caught in adultery:



John 8:3-12 (NIV) The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹“No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.” ¹²When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

Part 2 = Praying for the lost



IT IS THE FATHER'S WILL THAT EVERYONE BELIEVES

2 Peter 3:9 (NASB) The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for **all** to come to repentance.

John 6:40 (NIV) For my Father's will is that **everyone** who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

JESUS CAME TO SAVE THE LOST

Luke 19:10 (NIV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

PAUL URGES US TO PRAY FOR THE LOST

1 Timothy 2:1 (NLT) I urge you, first of all, to pray for **all people**. As you make your requests, **plead for God's mercy** upon them, and give thanks.

"The *soul-winner* must be a master of the art of prayer. You cannot bring souls to God if you go not to God yourself. You must get your battle-axe, and your weapons of war, from the armory of sacred communication with Christ. If you are much alone with Jesus, you will catch His Spirit; you will be fired with the flame that burned in His breast, and consumed His life. You will weep with the tears that fell upon Jerusalem when He saw it perishing; and if you cannot speak so eloquently as He did, yet shall there be about what you say somewhat of the same power which in Him thrilled the hearts and awoke the consciences of men. My dear hearers, especially you members of the church, I am always so anxious lest any of you should begin to lie upon your oars, and take things easy in the matters of God's kingdom. There are some of you—I bless you, and I bless God at the remembrance of you—who are in season, and out of season, in earnest for winning souls, and you are the truly wise; but I fear there are others whose hands are slack, who are satisfied to let me preach, but do not themselves preach; who take these seats, and occupy these pews, and hope the cause goes well, but that is all they do." —*The Soul Winner* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989], 246–47

PRAY THAT THEY ARE DRAWN

John 6:44 (NIV) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me **draws** him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 12:32 (NIV) But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will **draw** all men to myself."

"Jesus attributes the initiation of the salvation experience not to man (cf. John 1:12, 13), but to the drawing power of God. Human response (v. 37) is always dependent upon God's initiative. Theologians call it "*prevenient grace*," the grace which provides revelation and conviction, and directs a man to repentance and faith." —Believers Study Bible

PRAY FOR A WITNESS TO BE SENT

Romans 10:14-15 (NIV) How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
¹⁵And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"



THE WITNESS OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

John 4:29-30, 39 (NIV) “**Come, see** a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”³⁰They came out of the town and made their way toward him. . .³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I ever did.”

THE WITNESS OF ANDREW

John 1:41-42 (NIV) The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).⁴²And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

Notice the two things that Andrew did. He went and told him, we have found the Messiah. But that was not enough! He then brought him to Jesus.

John 1:41-42 (NIV) The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and **tell him**, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).⁴²And he **brought him** to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter).

PRAY FOR DREAMS AND VISIONS

Job 33:14-17 (NLT) But God speaks again and again, though people do not recognize it.¹⁵He speaks in **dreams**, in **visions** of the night when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in bed.¹⁶He whispers in their ear and terrifies them with his warning.¹⁷He causes them to change their minds; he keeps them from pride.

Here are five examples of how God gave dreams to the unsaved to extend mercy, make provision for the future, made His presence know, and draw people unto Himself.

ABIMELECH'S DREAM

Genesis 20:3-6 (NIV) But God came to Abimelech in a **dream** one night and said to him, “You are as good as dead because of the woman you have taken; she is a married woman.”⁴Now Abimelech had not gone near her, so he said, “Lord, will you destroy an innocent nation?”⁵Did he not say to me, ‘She is my sister,’ and didn’t she also say, ‘He is my brother’? I have done this with a clear conscience and clean hands.”⁶Then God said to him in the **dream**, “Yes, I know you did this with a clear conscience, and so I have kept you from sinning against me. That is why I did not let you touch her.”

PHARAOH'S DREAM

Genesis 41:17-33 (NIV) Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “In my dream I was standing on the bank of the Nile,¹⁸ when out of the river there came up seven cows, fat and sleek, and they grazed among the reeds.¹⁹ After them, seven other cows came up—scrawny and very ugly and lean. I had never seen such ugly cows in all the land of Egypt.²⁰ The lean, ugly cows ate up the seven fat cows that came up first.²¹ But even after they ate them, no one could tell that they had done so; they looked just as ugly as before. Then I woke up.²² “In my dreams I also saw seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk.²³ After them, seven other heads sprouted—withered and thin and scorched by the east wind.²⁴ The thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven good heads. I told this to the magicians, but none could explain it to me.”²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one and the same. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads of grain are seven years; it is one and the same dream.²⁷ The seven lean, ugly cows that came up afterward are seven years, and so are the seven worthless heads of grain scorched by

the east wind: They are seven years of famine.²⁸“It is just as I said to Pharaoh: **God has shown Pharaoh what he is about to do.** ²⁹Seven years of great abundance are coming throughout the land of Egypt, ³⁰but seven years of famine will follow them. Then all the abundance in Egypt will be forgotten, and the famine will ravage the land. ³¹The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. ³²The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon. ³³“And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

Daniel 2:1, 26-28, 44-47 (NIV) In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had **dreams**; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. . . ²⁶The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”²⁷Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your **dream** and the **visions** that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these . . . ⁴⁴“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. ⁴⁷The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

PILATE'S WIFE'S DREAM

Matthew 27:19 (NIV) While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a **dream** because of him.”

CORNELIUS'S VISION

Acts 10:1-4, 30-35 (NASB) Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort, ²a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually. ³About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a **vision** an angel of God who had *just* come in and said to him, “Cornelius!” ⁴And fixing his gaze on him and being much alarmed, he said, “What is it, Lord?” And he said to him, “Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ³⁰Cornelius said, “Four days ago to this hour, I was praying in my house during the ninth hour; and behold, a man stood before me in shining garments, ³¹and he said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. ³²Therefore send to Joppa and invite Simon, who is also called Peter, to come to you; he is staying at the house of Simon *the* tanner by the sea.’ ³³“So I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. Now then, we are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded by the Lord.”

Testimonies from the field.

Actual names have been changed to protect those in the field.

"Aziz" (23 years old) had a dream where Jesus appeared to him and said, "Aziz, I am the way, the truth, and the life. Follow me." When Aziz awoke, he went in search of someone who could tell him more about Jesus. He went to a Catholic priest who told him that he should go home and be the best Muslim he could be. Aziz was not happy with this answer and returned to the Catholic priest several more times begging him to tell him more about Jesus. Finally the priest said, "I can tell that you are going to be one of the charismatic types. There is a man in a near by city (my city) who can help you. Go there and you will find him." (speaking of

my team leader) So Aziz traveled to my city where he sought out my T.L. and came to know who Jesus is. He has turned his life over to Christ and continues to be disciplined by my T.L. to this day.

"Mohammed" had a dream where a man told him to go to a certain park in my city and he would find answers to his questions. He went the following day, and saw a movie playing. The same man who appeared to him in his dream was in the movie. It was Jesus in the Jesus film. He gave his life over to Jesus Christ that night.

God is working through dreams and visions in our area. Please pray that God continues to work in this way so that people will actively seek Him and eventually find Him.

PETER'S CHALLENGING VISION

Lets continue to read about Peters response to God regarding Cornelius's vision.

Acts 10:34 - 36 (TMSG) ³⁴Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! ³⁵**It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open** ³⁶The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, **he's doing it everywhere, among everyone.**

ARE WE WILLING TO BE USED?

While we are praying that God would send a witness, is it possible that we may need to respond to God call to be a witness?

- The Samaritan woman received Christ and became a witness.
- Andrew responded to the call of Christ and was compelled to be a witness to his brother.

Part 3 = Praying for the lost

Lets do a quick review of the last two weeks



2 Peter 3:9 (NIV) The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY AND KINDNESS: Romans 2:4 , John 8:3-12

PRAY THAT GOD WILL DRAW THEM: John 6:44, John 12:32

PRAY FOR A WITNESS TO BE SENT: Romans 10:14-14, John 4:29, John 1:41-42

PRAY FOR DREAMS AND VISIONS: Job 33:14-17, Genesis 20:3-6, 41:17, Daniel 2:1, 26-28, 44-47, Matthew 27:19

My wife and I have a friend in Texas that our family lived with for a short time. The wife was a sweet Christian woman whose husband was a typical self-made millionaire. He was a prideful man who had no desire for God. As we prayer for him we asked God to begin to speak to him in dreams and visions. He began to have numerous dreams about end-time events and the coming of Christ. He would not listen to his wife or others but God got his attention!

PRAY FOR SPIRITUAL DESIRE AND EARS TO HEAR

People that resist God and choose to live in rebellion are blinded by their sin. Their ears are closed to the voice of the Holy Spirit and they can not understand the things of God.

Ezekiel 12:2 (NLT) “Son of man, you live among rebels who could see the truth if they wanted to, but **they don’t want to**. They could hear me if they would listen, but they **won’t listen** because they are rebellious.

Matthew 13:15 (NLT) For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears **cannot hear**, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes **cannot see**, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.

Satan is determined to blind the eyes of the unbeliever so that they can not receive the truth of the gospel.

PRAY FOR THE POWER OF SATAN TO BE BROKEN

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) The god of this age has **blinded the minds** of unbelievers, so that they **cannot see** the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

The apostle Paul was sent as a light bearer into the world. Through the preaching of the gospel he was able to see blind eyes opened and people set free from the deception and power of Satan.

Acts 26:12 - 18 (NASB) ¹²“While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and

commission of the chief priests, ¹³at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. ¹⁴“And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ¹⁵“And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶“But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; ¹⁷rescuing you from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,

PRAY FOR BLIND EYES TO BE OPENED

Acts 26:18 (NIV) to **open their eyes** and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

PRAY FOR CLOSED HEARTS TO BE OPENED

Acts 16:13-15 (NIV) On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord **opened her heart** to respond to Paul’s message. ¹⁵When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

PRAY FOR PRIDE TO BE BROKEN

In our pride we pay no attention to God. We are determined to go our own way and continually resist the Holy Spirit. That pride must be broken for it is only the humble heart that will submit to Christ.

Proverbs 26:12 (NIV) Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Psalms 10:4 (NIV) In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Hosea 13:6 (NIV) When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.

Here are two examples of men that had to be broken before they would acknowledge their need of God.

THE PRIDE OF MANASSEH

2 Chronicles 33:10-13 (NIV) The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. ¹¹So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. ¹²In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ¹³And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

THE PRIDE OF SAMSON

His story is told in Judges 13-16.

The mention of Samson’s name in the list (Hebrews 11:32) of ancients who “by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness,” warrants us a favorable estimate of his character as a whole. And yet the inspired narrative records infirmities that must forever mar the luster of his heroic deeds. In Samson the Nazirite we see a man towering in supernatural

strength through his firm faith in, and confident reliance upon, the gift of God committed to him. On the other hand we see in Samson an adventurous, foolhardy, passionate, and willful man, dishonoring and frittering away his God-given power by making it subservient to his own lusts. —The New Unger's Bible Dictionary

Where there is life there is hope

Manoah and his wife display qualities of truly godly parents. They believe the promise of a son. They ask God “to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born” (v. 8). Yet Samson was far from the godly, dedicated person we might expect to come from such a home. In a way, this story is a blessing for all godly parents whose children disappoint. We can do our best, and even do everything “right,” and still see our children make wrong choices. Each person is responsible to God for the choices he or she makes, and there is nothing we can do to force a son or daughter in the right direction. Samson was even given the Spirit of God (v. 25), and still made poor and selfish decisions! Don't be overcome with guilt over a prodigal child. That child has made his or her own choices, and God may yet bring him or her home.

—The Bible Reader's Companion

Part 4 = Praying for the lost



Last week we talked about the need for pride to be broken in the lives of those we are praying for. Pride blinds their eyes to the truths of God's word. It deafens their ears to the voice of the Holy Spirit and hardens their hearts.

Psalm 10:4 (NIV) In his pride the wicked does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

Pride causes them to minimize or to deny their sin. As they continue in their sin they become deceived, unable or unwilling to see the consequence of their lifestyle. In their pride they blame others and refuse to take personal responsibility for their decisions. One of the ways God attacks this pride is through conviction.

PRAY FOR THE POWER OF GOD AND THE CONVICTION OF SIN

John 16:8-11 (NIV) When he comes, he will **convict** the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; ¹⁰in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

Psalm 38:4 (NIV) My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.

PETER IS CONVICTED

Luke 5:1-11 (NIV) One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ²he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵Simon answered, "**Master**, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." ⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. ⁸When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, **Lord; I am a sinful man!**" ⁹For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." ¹¹So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Simon had seen people cured and had heard Jesus' teachings, but this miracle reached directly into his life and grabbed him. Simon had been fishing all his life. When he saw what Jesus did in supplying such a huge haul of fish, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. He had called him "**Master**" in 5:5, but here he called him **Lord**. —Life Application Bible Commentary

PETER SPEAKING TO THE CROWD AT PENTECOST

Acts 2:36-37 (NLT) So let it be clearly known by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah!" ³⁷Peter's words **convicted them deeply**, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?"

PRAY THAT THEY WILL COME TO THEIR SENSES, CALL OUT TO GOD AND REPENT

Acts 26:19-20 (NASB) “So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰but *kept* declaring both to those of Damascus first, and *also* at Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* to the Gentiles, that they should **repent and turn to God**, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Isaiah 55:6-7 (NIV) Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.⁷Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

THE PRODIGAL SON



Luke 15:11 - 24 (NASB) ¹¹And He said, “A man had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.’ So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³“And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. ¹⁴“Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ¹⁵“So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶“And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving *anything* to him. ¹⁷**“But when he came to his senses**, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸‘I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.”’ ²⁰“So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion *for him*, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹“And the son said to him, ‘**Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight**; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’’ ²²“But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’ And they began to celebrate.

THE PRISON GUARD

Acts 16:22 (NIV) The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose. ²⁷The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”²⁹The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, **what must I do to be saved?**”

EPHRAIM Hebrew *Ephraim*, referring to the northern kingdom of Israel.

Jeremiah 31:18 - 19 (NLT) ¹⁸ I have heard Israel saying, ‘You disciplined me severely, like a calf that needs training for the yoke. Turn me again to you and restore me, for you alone are the LORD my God. ¹⁹ I turned away from God, but then I was sorry. I kicked myself for my stupidity! I was thoroughly ashamed of all I did in my younger days.’

Part 5 = Praying for the lost

For the last four weeks we have been talking about praying for the lost. We have been reminded of God's love and His desire for them to be saved.



Luke 15:4 (NIV) “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 19:10 (NIV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

We have learned from the scriptures how to pray for those who have never know Him and those that have wandered from the faith. We have learned how to pray for the religious as well as the rebellious. We have learned to . . .

- **Pray they will be touched by God's mercy and kindness**
- **Pray that God will draw them by His Spirit**
- **Pray that a witness to be sent to share the good news**
- **Pray that they would have dreams and visions**
- **Pray that their blind eyes and deaf ears would be opened**
- **Pray that their pride would be broken**
- **Pray that they would be convicted of their sin**

We know that as we pray in this fashion we are praying the will of God for their lives. We pray in faith that our friends, loved ones, neighbors and coworkers will yield their lives to Christ Jesus and experience the joy of forgiveness and redemption.

This week I would like to share with you how to pray once they have committed their lives to Christ.

PRAY THAT THEY WOULD LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD

Proverbs 14:27 (NIV) The **fear of the LORD** is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

WHERE THERE IS NO FEAR THERE IS AN ABUNDANCE OF SIN

Romans 3:9 (NIV) What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. ¹⁰As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. ¹²All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.” ¹³“Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit.” “The poison of vipers is on their lips.” ¹⁴“Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.” ¹⁵“Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷and the way of peace they do

not know.”¹⁸“There is **no fear of God** before their eyes.”

Psalm 36:1-2 (NIV) An oracle is within my heart concerning the sinfulness of the wicked: There is **no fear** of God before his eyes. ²For in his own eyes he flatters himself too much to detect or hate his sin.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD KEEPS US FROM EVIL

Exodus 20:18-20 (NIV) When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹and said to Moses, “Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die.”²⁰Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to **keep you from sinning**.”

Philip. 2:12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation **with fear** and trembling,

Proverbs 16:6 (AMP) By mercy {and} love, truth {and} fidelity [to God and man--not by sacrificial offerings], iniquity is purged out of the heart, and by the reverent, worshipful fear of the Lord men **depart from {and} avoid evil**.

Proverbs 16:6 (YLT) In kindness and truth pardoned is iniquity, And in the fear of Jehovah **Turn thou aside from evil**.

Proverbs 16:6 (NASB) By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one **keeps away from evil**.

Job 28:28 (NASB) “And to man He said, ‘Behold, the **fear of the Lord**, that is wisdom; And to depart from evil is understanding.’”

Psalm 111:10 (NIV) The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

THE EXAMPLE OF KING UZZIAH

2 Chronicles 26:3 - 5 (NLT) ³Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother was Jecoliah from Jerusalem. ⁴He did what was pleasing in the LORD’s sight, just as his father, Amaziah, had done. ⁵Uzziah sought God during the days of Zechariah, who **taught him to fear God**. And as long as the king sought guidance from the LORD, God gave him success.

2 Chronicles 26:16 (NLT) ¹⁶But when he had become powerful, **he also became proud**, which led to his downfall. He sinned against the LORD his God by entering the sanctuary of the LORD’s Temple and personally burning incense on the incense altar.

THE PERSON WHO FEARS THE LORD IS BLESSED



Proverbs 3:7-8 (NIV) Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.⁸This will bring **health to your body and nourishment to your bones**.

Proverbs 10:27 (NASB) The fear of the LORD **prolongs life**, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Proverbs 19:23 (NASB) The fear of the LORD **leads to life**, So that one may **sleep satisfied**, untouched by evil.

Proverbs 22:4 (NIV) Humility and the fear of the LORD bring **wealth and honor and life**.

PRAY FOR THE JOY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 61:10 (NLT) I am overwhelmed with **joy in the LORD** my God! For he has dressed me with the clothing of salvation and draped me in a robe of righteousness. I am like a bridegroom in his wedding suit or a bride with her jewels.

JOY AND STRENGTH

Strength H4581: מַצְוֵי־ט / מַצְוֵי־ט / מַצְוֵי־ט / מַצְוֵי־ט
mā'ōz [maw-oze], mā'ūz [maw-ooz]

place or means of safety, protection, refuge, stronghold

—Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions

Jeremiah 16:19 (NASB) O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, And my refuge in the day of distress, To You the nations will come From the ends of the earth and say, “Our fathers have inherited nothing but falsehood, Futility and things of no profit.”

. . . joy founded on the feeling of communion with the Lord, on the consciousness that we have in the Lord a God long-suffering and abundant in goodness and truth (Ex 34:6). This joy is to be to them מַצְוֵי־ט, a strong citadel or refuge, because the Almighty is their God.

—Keil & Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament Vol. 4

Psalms 28:7-8 (AMP) The Lord is my Strength and my **[impenetrable] Shield**; my heart trusts in, relies on, {and} confidently leans on Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart **greatly rejoices**, and with my song will I praise Him.⁸The Lord is their **[unyielding] Strength**, and He is the Stronghold of salvation to [me] His anointed.

IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD

Habakkuk 3:17-19 (NASB) ¹⁷Though the fig tree should not blossom And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive should fail And the fields produce no food, *Though* the flock should be cut off from the fold And there be no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation. ¹⁹The Lord GOD is my strength, And He has made my feet like hinds' *feet*, And makes me walk on my high places. For the choir director, on my stringed instruments.

Proverbs 15:13 (NLT) A **glad heart** makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 17:22 (NASB) A **joyful heart** is good medicine, But a broken spirit dries up the bones.

Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB) ⁴**Rejoice** in the Lord always; again I will say, **rejoice!** ⁵Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all comprehension, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus.

Thank you for
attending this class

