

New Testament Apostolic Prayers for New Churches

Adapted from the International House of Prayer

1. Prayer for a revelation of Jesus' glory and the calling and inheritance of His people

...the Father of glory, may give to you the SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the HOPE OF HIS CALLING, what are the riches of the GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, and what is the exceeding GREATNESS OF HIS POWER TOWARD US... (Eph. 1:17-19).

2. Prayer for the release of supernatural strength so that we may better comprehend and receive his great love for us

...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH MIGHT THROUGH HIS SPIRIT IN THE INNER MAN, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, MAY BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-- to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)

3. Prayer for God's love to abound in our hearts in order that we may grow in discernment and righteousness

And this I pray, that YOUR LOVE MAY ABOUND still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may APPROVE THE THINGS THAT ARE EXCELLENT, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being FILLED WITH THE FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God (Phil. 1:9-11).

4. Prayer to know God's will, to be filled with understanding so that we can walk in a manner worthy of Him, to be fruitful in ministry and strengthened by intimacy with God to face difficulty with joy, trusting in his promise

We...do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may have a WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD, fully pleasing Him, BEING FRUITFUL in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; STRENGTHENED WITH ALL MIGHT, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. (Col. 1:9-12)

5. Prayer for unity among churches across a city or region to the glory of God

Now may the God of patience and comfort GRANT YOU TO BE LIKE-MINDED toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, THAT YOU MAY WITH ONE MIND AND ONE MOUTH glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus. (Rom. 15:5-7)

6. Prayer to be filled with supernatural joy, peace and hope

Now may the God of hope FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YOU MAY ABOUND IN HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:13)

7. Prayer for growth in connection, relationship, formation into Christlikeness, and growth in love and holiness

...we rejoice for your sake before our God, night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and ABOUND IN LOVE to one another and to all...so that He may ESTABLISH YOUR HEARTS BLAMELESS IN HOLINESS before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints. (1 Thes. 3:9-13)

8. Prayer for disciples being made holy, for perseverance and trust in God who will complete his good work

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. (1 Thes. 5:23-24)

9. Prayer to be equipped and prepared to walk in the fullness of God's purposes for the church, to the glory of Jesus according to his grace

Therefore we also pray always for you THAT OUR GOD WOULD COUNT YOU WORTHY OF THIS CALLING, AND FULFILL ALL THE GOOD PLEASURE OF HIS GOODNESS AND THE WORK OF FAITH WITH POWER, that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thes. 1:11-12)

10. Prayer for the gospel message to be honored, to move and multiply quickly, and for deliverance from those who oppose the gospel message; prayer for growth in obedience of new disciples rooted in the love and patience of Jesus

Finally, brethren, pray for us, THAT THE WORD OF THE LORD MAY RUN SWIFTLY AND BE GLORIFIED, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. NOW MAY THE LORD DIRECT YOUR HEARTS INTO THE LOVE OF GOD AND INTO THE PATIENCE OF CHRIST. (2 Thes. 3:1-5)

Several Scriptures describe God causing His Word to increase, resulting in many being born again. God glorifies His Word by manifesting His power to confirm it with signs and wonders:

- *Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)*
- *So the Word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. (Acts 19:20)*

- *The Word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly... (Acts 6:7)*
- *But the Word of God grew and multiplied. (Acts 12:24)*
- *Then the proconsul believed, when he saw what had been done, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord. (Acts 13:12)*

11. Prayer that God would provide opportunities for the gospel message to be shared clearly and relationally

Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, THAT GOD WOULD OPEN TO US A DOOR FOR THE WORD, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. (Col. 4:2-4)

Several Scriptures describe God opening a door for His Word by showing His power and confirming the Word with signs and wonders, such that many people would be born again.

- *...that God...had OPENED THE DOOR OF FAITH to the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27)*
- *For a GREAT AND EFFECTIVE DOOR HAS OPENED TO ME... (1 Cor 16:9)*
- *when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a DOOR WAS OPENED TO ME BY THE LORD... (2 Cor 2:12)*
- *...I have set before you AN OPEN DOOR, and no one can shut it... (Rev 3:8)*

Several Scriptures declare how God opens hearts (by revelation) in order to grant repentance to the spiritually deceived. We can pray that God would supernaturally open many hearts.

- *...IF GOD PERHAPS WILL GRANT THEM REPENTANCE, so that they may know the truth, and...come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil... (2Tim 2:24-26).*
- *Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us...THE LORD OPENED HER HEART TO HEED the things spoken by Paul. (acts 16:14)*
- *He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. (Luke 24:45)*

12. Prayer for God to enrich his people with the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit leading to righteousness

I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, THAT YOU WERE ENRICHED IN EVERYTHING by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so THAT YOU COME SHORT IN NO GIFT, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will also confirm you to the end, THAT YOU MAY BE BLAMELESS in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:4-8).

Several Scriptures exhort us to earnestly desire the spiritual gifts. We can ask God to pour out more of his gifts on his people for their own blessing and joy and also so that many more people may come into His kingdom

- *But EARNESTLY DESIRE the best gifts...(1 Cor. 12:31)*
- *...DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS, but especially that you may prophesy. (1 Cor. 14:1)*
- *DESIRE EARNESTLY to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues. (1 Cor. 14:39)*

13. Prayer for the impartation of boldness through the Spirit and the release of signs and wonders.

...they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, "who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.' "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together "to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and GRANT TO YOUR SERVANTS THAT WITH ALL BOLDNESS THEY MAY SPEAK YOUR WORD, "BY STRETCHING OUT YOUR HAND TO HEAL, AND THAT SIGNS AND WONDERS MAY BE DONE through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (Acts 4:24-31) also, see Eph. 6:19.

14. An apostolic blessing that disciples might be established in their understanding if the gospel to the glory of God.

Now to Him who is able TO ESTABLISH YOU according to my gospel...according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now has been made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures has been made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith-- to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. (Rom. 16:25-27)

15. Prayers to grow in the grace and knowledge of God

- GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, (2 Peter 1:2,3)
- ...grow in the grace and KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)

Prayers of Jesus for this people:

1. The Lord's Prayer

"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. YOUR KINGDOM COME. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. GIVE US this day our daily bread. And FORGIVE US our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And DO NOT LEAD US into temptation, but DELIVER US from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matt 6:9-13)

2. Prayer for anointed laborers in the Harvest

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. "Therefore PRAY THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND OUT LABORERS into His harvest." (Matt 9:37-38; Luke 10:2)

3. Prayer of strength in temptation.

Then He came to the disciples..., "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation..." (Matt. 26:40-41)

4. Jesus' High Priestly Prayer - John 17

- **That his disciples would be kept in the Father's name**
 - "...I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. (John 17:11)
- **That his disciples would be kept from the evil one**
 - "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. (John 17:15)
- **That his disciples might be sanctified by God's truth**
 - "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. (John 17:17)
- **That his disciples would live in unity, just as the Trinity lives in perfect, loving unity; and that they would experience the fullness of God's glory and love**
 - "that they ALL MAY BE ONE, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also MAY BE ONE IN US, that the world may believe that You sent Me. "the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they MAY BE ONE JUST AS WE ARE ONE: "I in them, and You in Me; that they MAY BE MADE PERFECT IN UNITY, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.
 - "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, THAT THEY MAY BEHOLD MY GLORY which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.
 - "And I have declared to them Your name, and WILL DECLARE IT, THAT THE LOVE WITH WHICH YOU LOVED ME MAY BE IN THEM, and I in them." (John 17:21-26)