

# Praying God's Promises

## To Pray God's Promises is to Pray God's Will

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### Seven Mountains of Influence

#### A Sevenfold Daily Prayer Focus

*In the mid-1970s God drew two visionary leaders together for a luncheon meeting in Colorado. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ and Loren Cunningham, founder of Youth With A Mission were those men. As they came together each felt the Lord was revealing an important strategy necessary for impacting nations and cultures in such a manner as to initiate true transformation of a society. Little did they know they both had received the same insights. Indeed, a few weeks later in Switzerland, theologian Francis Schaeffer was to receive the identical revelation. The message was simple but profound: To impact all of a culture, people or nation with the totality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, every major sphere of influence had to be impacted. More specifically, this involved seven clearly defined spheres, or as some have come to define them, the Seven Mountains of Influence.*

#### **1. Religion (The Church, Ministries and Other Faiths)**

Pray for the Holy Spirit's anointing on all churches no matter their denomination. Pray for ministries involved in evangelism and discipleship including foreign missionary activity. Pray for all faiths and religions that they will see the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that Christians will be bold in their witness.

#### **2. Family and Marriages (Youth, Children, Marriages, etc.)**

Pray for families in general, and particularly the healing of broken relationships in marriages and families, especially among believers and those in Christian ministry. Pray for the sanctity of marriage. Pray against cultural influences that diminish the value of marriage and family.

#### **3. Education (All Schools, Universities, Colleges and Educators)**

This focus involves all institutions of education, whether for the very young, when children are so easily influenced, or those studying at higher levels. Pray for teachers and educators. Pray for those you know by name. Add them to your daily prayer lists for each day. Pray 25 also for the content of textbooks so they will reflect biblical values. Ask God to send a revival to all campuses.

#### **4. Business (The Marketplace)**

This focus involves praying for a spiritual awakening in the marketplace. Pray especially for Christian businessmen and women that God will use them to influence others in their professions. Pray for major corporations that they will build their companies on a foundation of high moral and ethical standards.

#### **5. Government (Local, National and International)**

Pray for heads of your local, state (or province) and national government. Remember especially to intercede for the judiciary (judges) of your nation and the nations of the world. Intercede for other nations listed for each day as they appear in this guide. Include the military of these nations and law enforcement as well as other service officials, such as firefighters and civil servants.

#### **6. Media (The Press, Television, Internet, and Social Networking)**

Ask God to cause all aspects of the media and information technology to become a tool in His hands to change the culture around us for His honor and glory. Pray that the influence of the Internet and social networking will be used by Christians to capture a new generation of young believers. Pray that Christian values and ethics will find their way into all aspects of the media.

#### **7. Arts and Entertainment (Including Sports)**

This focus includes all those in any field of the arts or entertainment including sports. Some have defined this sphere as the "Celebration" sphere because it takes many such aspects into consideration. Ask God to use the

influence of those who know Him in these arenas 26 27 so they might impact many around them. Pray for entertainers or athletes you know by name who have a strong Christian testimony. Ask God to expand their influence.

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## Four Claims for the Nations

*To help you pray with focus and meaning for the nations, the below four biblical claims will help you pray for vital issues related to the harvest of lost souls in the nations.*

### 1. Claim One: Open Doors!

...So the Gospel can be freely proclaimed in a region.

“Devote yourselves to prayer...that God may open a door...so that we may proclaim...Christ” (Colossians 4:2-3, NIV).

### 2. Claim Two: Open Minds!

...So people will hear the Gospel with an open mind.

“I am sending you to them [the lost] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light” (Acts 26:17b-18a, NIV).

### 3. Claim Three: Open Hearts!

...So unbelievers will invite Christ into their hearts.

“For God...made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of... Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV).

### 4. Claim Four: Open Heavens!

...So the transformation of a culture may begin.

“Open up, O heavens, and pour out your righteousness. Let the earth open wide so salvation and righteousness can sprout up together” (Isaiah 45:8, NLT).

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## Promises Passages

### 1. Religion (The Church, Ministries and Other Faiths)

#### Ephesians 3:14-21

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family<sup>l</sup> in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

#### Ephesians 1:15-23

“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love<sup>l</sup> toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that

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he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

#### **Ephesians 4:11-16**

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

#### **Romans 15:5-7**

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

## **2. Family and Marriages (Youth, Children, Marriages, etc.)**

#### **Ephesians 5:25-33**

“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

#### **Genesis 18:17-19**

“The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.”

## **3. Education (All Schools, Universities, Colleges and Educators)**

#### **Ecclesiastes 12:9-14**

“Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.”

#### **Proverbs 1:5-9**

“Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.”

## 4. Business (The Marketplace)

### Isaiah 60:1-6

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.”

### Deuteronomy 8:18-20

“You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.”

## 5. Government (Local, National and International)

### Romans 13:1-7

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”

### 1 Timothy 2:1-4

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

## 6. Media (The Press, Television, Internet, and Social Networking)

### Ephesians 2:1-7

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

### Mark 7:17-23

“And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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## 7. Arts and Entertainment (Including Sports)

### **Ephesians 4:17-24**

“Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

### **Philippians 4:8-9**

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”

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## Personal Promises Passages

*These are great promises to pray specifically (by name) for friends, family, fellow believers and non-believers in your life.*

### **Ephesians 1:15-23**

“For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love<sup>l</sup> toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.”

### **Ephesians 3:14-21**

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family<sup>l</sup> in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

### **Philippians 1:3-11**

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

### **Colossians 1:9-14**

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”