

What Should I Pray For the Unchurched?

By Dr Barry L. Davis

1. That God draws them to Himself.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (John 6:44).

2. That they seek to know God.

God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us (Acts 17:27).

But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul (Deuteronomy 4:29).

3. That they believe the Scriptures.

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

4. That Satan is bound from blinding them to the truth.

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart (Matthew 13:19).

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 (2 Corinthians 4:4).

5. That the Holy Spirit works in them.

When [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment . . . He will guide you into all truth (John 16:8, 13).

6. That God sends someone (maybe you?) to lead them to Christ.

Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field' (Matthew 9:37-38).

7. That they believe in Christ as Saviour.

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life (John 5:24).

8. That they turn from sin.

[God] commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Acts 3:19).

9. That they confess Christ as Lord.

If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (Romans 10:9).

10. That they will be baptized into Christ.

for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:27).

11. That they yield all to follow Christ.

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again (2 Corinthians 5:15).

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish that I may gain Christ (Philippians 3:7-8).

12. That they take root and grow in Christ.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness (Colossians 2:6-7).

This copyrighted article was originally published for the Mind of Christ website (www.mindofchrist.net) - Copyright 2003©Barry L. Davis. Printed with permission.

How To Pray For Your Church - Written by Pastor Greg Bond

Dr. David Jeremiah has this to say about rejuvenating a cold prayer life, "Several years ago I began to be troubled by the coldness that I sometimes experienced in my prayer life. As I shared my concern with a trusted friend, he encouraged me to find a good book on prayer and read a chapter every day before my prayer time. As I began doing that, I discovered a new dimension to my fellowship with Almighty God! It seemed like every day, a statement about prayer would literally jump off the page and into my heart and I would enter into prayer with the expectation and fervency I had longed for. Since then, I have read hundreds of books on prayer and been blessed beyond measure. The blessing has been largely due to the way the authors have diligently expounded the many Biblical passages on the subject of prayer."

I have put together this portion of your prayer binder specifically to help you keep your prayer life fresh, invigorated and effective. Each section offers specific suggestions on who or what to pray for, and specific ways to pray effectively in that area. Some of the suggestions are simply practical in nature, while others are based wholly in the spiritual realm. Most of the outlines come from noted authors to give you a variety of perspectives. Some contain their comments only and some are mixed with my own comments. Each is given purely as a suggestion. I hope they will be a blessing to you. This outline comes again from John Maxwell's book, *"Partners in Prayer"*.

It has some very good practical suggestions for anyone interested in supporting and strengthening their pastor and church through prayer, and as with all Maxwell's books, it contains some very informative and encouraging illustrations. Maxwell says, "You can transform your church and help it reach its potential through prayer. My prayer partners have done it with me, and you can do it too.

Here are some ways for you to get started:"

Page 1

1. Pray Continually

(1Th 5:16) Rejoice evermore. (1Th 5:17) Pray without ceasing. (1Th 5:18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

We all understand that we can't spend every hour of our day with our head bowed and eyes closed in solemn prayer, but we can develop our lives in such a way, that prayer is always at the forefront of our thinking. One of the main concerns of our prayer thoughts should be the church. The "Church" of Christ, and the "Body" of Christ are synonymous. We, the "Church", we the "Body", are the vehicle through which the Holy Spirit performs the will of the Father here on earth. Each individual and each local assembly (church), is a part of that the "Body of Christ" and therefore worthy of, and in need of constant prayer. Our particular assembly has a specific function in the "Body", designated by the Holy Spirit. It is vitally important that we pray that God would show us the work that He wants us to do and equip and empower us to do that work. Maxwell says that one of his prayer partners used to set an alarm to go off every hour, one day (night) a month. That day was set aside specifically to pray

for his church and its leaders. Another prayer partner put a quarter in his shoe and every time he felt it, he would pray for his church and his pastor. How you remind yourself is not so important, but that you do remind yourself, is vitally important.

2. Pray Strategically

John Maxwell says, "Be aware of all the events and activities occurring in your church, then pray for them to succeed." Too often we are only interested in what we are involved in, and consequently only pray for those things. But everything that is done in church affects everything else in some way. Maxwell says, "pray for anointing for the pastor, for people to come to Christ at each service, for newcomers to be drawn to special events, for relationships to grow, for power as people pray at Wednesday night prayer meeting, for children to be saved in Sunday School." Take a look at his list and see how each of these things would affect you, your family, and the church as a whole and you will understand how important it is to pray strategically.

3. Pray Geographically

I believe, like Maxwell, that there is great value in praying in the area where ministry is going to take place for the people who are going to be ministering there and also for the people who are going to be ministered to in that area. Maxwell relates this personal experience, "*When I was still in the pastorate, some days I used to walk around the church, asking the Lord to just cover each area. For example, many times I went into the nursery and spent some time laying hands on the cribs and baby beds, praying for God to raise up some giants for the kingdom from the children in the church. Maybe the next Billy Graham would be playing in one of those cribs the next week. And each Sunday before the services, my prayer partners used to lay their hands on all the pews in the church, asking God to do something special for the people who would be sitting there that day.*" When you are in the area you are praying for, it helps you focus on the ministry you are praying for. It also helps you to see the possibilities that area of ministry holds. At times later when you see people walking into those areas, you are able to identify faces with that particular ministry, and the understanding of how important your prayers are is given new light. (2Ch 6:19) *Have respect therefore to the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O LORD my God, to hearken unto the cry and the prayer which thy servant prayeth before thee: (2Ch 6:20) That thine eyes may be open upon this house day and night, upon the place whereof thou hast said that thou wouldest put thy name there; to hearken unto the prayer which thy servant prayeth toward this place. (2Ch 6:21) Hearken therefore unto the supplications of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, which they shall make toward this place: hear thou from thy dwelling place, even from heaven; and when thou hearest, forgive.* Solomon understood the value of geographic praying. He ask's the Lord to hear the prayers prayed from His House, and even the prayers that people would pray when they prayed toward His House. Solomon was not trying to make the Temple an idol to be prayed to, but a place where the Children of Israel could focus their attention, remembering that in this place, God had revealed His glory. With that God, who called them His children, there was nothing impossible. When we pray in a specific place, or remember a specific place, where ministry takes place, we remember the possibilities that come with the revelation of God's glory.

4. Pray Powerfully

The comments in this section come directly from John Maxwell in, "*Partners In Prayer*". *If you want to pray effectively for your church, pray with power. There are two ways to do that. First, be filled with the Holy Spirit so that you have the power of God within you. Second, pray according to God's Word. When you pray for the church, use Jesus' prayer as the model and pray for the following: Pray for believers to experience true worship.* • Pray for an outpouring of God's glory in His church as people acknowledge Him, not only with their lips but with their lives. • Ask God for a spirit of worship to manifest itself in your church. • Pray for revival in the churches across our nation and the world. *Pray*

that believers will know, accept, and obey the Word of God Pray that God's Word be preached continually in the church. • Pray for spiritual understanding and discernment among the people.

- Ask God to make the people obedient to His Word. *Pray for unity in the church.* • Pray for humility among the church's leaders and body of believers Pray that a spirit of humility and repentance will rise up among all believers.
- Ask God to break down all racial, cultural, and denominational walls. *Pray for souls to be won to Christ*
- Ask God to give your church leaders a vision for reaching the lost.
 - Pray for workers for the harvest - for believers who will consistently share their faith.
 - Pray that local churches across the country would reach out to the lost in their communities.
 - *Pray for joy in the hearts and lives of believers*
- Ask God to reveal your churches potential to your leaders and the people.
- Ask God to bring joy to your leaders and the people of the church.

Prayer is a fine delicate instrument.

To use it right is a great art, a holy art.

There is perhaps no greater art than the art of prayer.

Ole H. Hallesby

