

7 WAYS TO PRAY THROUGH AN ELECTION

By Kim Butts

Local and county elections are today! If you haven't already voted early, here are 7 specific ways to pray through this process before, during and after election day! If you have already voted, use this guide to pray for others as they vote!

Pray before you vote:

1. **Ask God to give you a desire to get out and vote even if you don't feel like it.** *"The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill"* (Proverbs 11:11 TLB). We often have the mentality, especially in local elections, that voting isn't really very important or that our vote is just one of many and couldn't possibly make a difference; however, it is especially important for Christians to express the heart and life of Jesus Christ through their votes! Don't think that it doesn't matter, because it does! There may be a critical issue that your city or county is voting on that will change the moral culture of your community! The people running for mayor, city council, etc. will affect you and your family through their lives, their beliefs and their authority. You want godly people to be in places of influence. Be sure your voice is heard – don't stay home
2. **Ask God for wisdom.** *"If you want to know what God wants you to do, ask him, and he will gladly tell you, for he is always ready to give a bountiful supply of wisdom to all who ask him; he will not resent it"* (James 1:5 TLB). If you can, get ahold of a sample ballot and ask God to help you to make wise choices based upon His plans and purposes for your city or county. Go through each

office, each issue, etc. and seek God's answers, people, position, etc. Many people just make random selections rather than prayerfully and wisely considering this very important privilege!

Pray as you vote:

3. **Ask God to open your eyes.** Sometimes we can get in a hurry and/or be distracted during the voting process. It is important to stay focused and to stay aligned with what God is showing you to do: *"Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute..."* (1 Corinthians 16:13 MSG).
4. **Ask God to help you be Christlike to anyone you come into contact with no matter their political party or preference.** *"...for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world..."* (Philippians 2:13-15 NASB). Demonstrate the life of Jesus as you wait in line, perhaps running the gauntlet of those trying to convince you to vote for a certain person or for a particular side in a referendum, etc. When you speak to the election officials be sure to thank them for their selfless service – they work long hours. Take time to pray for them to have endurance, patience and kindness...perhaps as you wait in line. As you enter or exit the polling place, if someone is unkind or rude to you, don't allow the Devil to tempt you to sin with your response. Instead, shine the light of Jesus and pray for that person.
5. **Ask God for the strength to pray for those who are running for office that you don't agree with. Ask Him to help you not to criticize and judge, but to love, and to replace anger with kindness.** *"Don't criticize and speak*

evil about each other, dear brothers. If you do, you will be fighting against God's law of loving one another, declaring it is wrong. But your job is not to decide whether this law is right or wrong, but to obey it. Only he who made the law can rightly judge among us. He alone decides to save us or destroy. So what right do you have to judge or criticize others" (James 4:11-12 TLB)? God loves every person passionately. Even those who disobey Him or who do not follow His commands. You can ruin a good opportunity to be a living testimony for Jesus if you speak badly about others. Instead, pray for those whom you disagree with and who disagree with you, and for those who persecute you or think poorly of you because of your beliefs. "But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you" (Luke 6:27-28 NASB).

Pray after you vote:

- 6. Commit to pray for those who have won different offices, even if your candidate didn't win.** *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV).* Pray that those elected to public office will carry out their duties with honor, honesty, moral uprightness and truthfulness. Pray that those who don't know Jesus as Savior and Lord will come to know Him in all His fullness! Pray also for their families!
- 7. Thank the Lord for freedom and for the opportunity to live in a nation where you have a voice in electing officials and voting on issues that affect our lives and our culture.** *"It was for freedom that Christ set us*

free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1 NASB). We should never take this privilege and responsibility lightly, but continually give thanks for our freedom to have a say in our government.

(c) Harvest Prayer Ministries

A National Rhythm of Prayer

A National Rhythm of Prayer

The National Prayer Accord is patterned after a rhythm of prayer established by Jonathan Edwards and churches in the colonies prior to the First Great Awakening in the United States. In more recent days, many prayer and revival ministries are encouraging believers and churches to adopt this ongoing rhythm of prayer in their own churches.

It is presented here as a challenge for you to consider how you or your church can join with the hundreds of thousands of believers and thousands of churches who are currently a part of this rhythm.

The National Prayer Accord

In recognition of:

- Our absolute dependence on God
- The moral and spiritual challenges facing our nation
- Our national need for repentance and divine intervention
- The covenants of prayer that God has answered throughout

history

- Our great hope for a general awakening to the lordship of Christ, the unity of His Body, and the sovereignty of His Kingdom

We strongly urge all churches and followers of Jesus in America to unite in seeking the face of God through prayer and fasting, persistently asking our Father to send revival to the Church and spiritual awakening to our nation so that Christ's Great Commission might be fulfilled worldwide in our generation.

This voluntary agreement in prayer seems "good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28) in light of the promise of Jesus in Matthew 18:19 and the unity for which Jesus prayed in John 17. This prayer accord presupposes a spirit of freedom to adjust its component parts as local Christians see need.

Though many are seeking God more often than this prayer accord outlines, calling millions of others around focused times of prayer is an urgent need.

We resolve to promote as an ongoing "Rhythm of Prayer" . . .

Weekly In private or small group prayer, which lends itself to a focus on the regular preaching and teaching of God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to light the fires of revival by anointing our preachers and teachers each week.

Monthly In local ministry prayer gatherings, such as a mid-week prayer meeting, a Bible study class, a Sunday evening service, a home group, or one meeting of a college campus group, etc. for the exclusive purpose of prayer for revival.

Quarterly In prayer gatherings among local ministries and groups, uniting churches in a community, college ministries in the area, businessmen's groups, or radio listeners for an evening meeting, a luncheon, or a segment of airtime focusing on prayer for the community or region.

Annually In prayer meetings designed to unite Christians nationally, such as The National Day of Prayer, the first Thursday of May, and Cry Out America, September 11 each year—occasions that call millions of people to pray together.

Downstream in America we find the symptoms and signs of church irrelevance, fragmented relationships, cultural decay, moral decline, and love growing cold, but Upstream from such symptoms, we find hope in united prevailing prayer.

- “. . . but I have prayed for you and when you are restored strengthen others” (Luke 22:32). **As certainly as Jesus prayed for Peter, He prays for us!**
- “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes forever” (Hebrews 13:8).
- “He always lives to make intercession” (Hebrews 7:25).
- “Christ Jesus is He . . . who also intercedes for us” (Romans 8:33).

We resolve to promote as “Prayer Goals” the outpouring of God’s Spirit for . . .

The Revival of the Church as Evidenced by the Indicators of Awakening in the Church:

1. Increasing testimony of the manifest presence of God.
2. Increased conversions and baptisms.
3. Amplified participation in corporate as well as individual prayer, fasting, and other spiritual disciplines leading to more effective discipleship.
4. A decrease in divorces and renewed commitment to marriage between a man and a woman in covenant relationship as God intends.
5. Imparting faith to children and youth as parents are equipped by the church to become primary disciplers of their children.
6. Among churches, a passionate pursuit for the well-being of their cities through the planting of new

congregations, benevolent ministries, practical service, and focused evangelism.

7. Commitment to radical generosity as evidenced by compassion ministries and global missions.
8. Improved health among ministers as evidenced by their joy, decreased resignations, healthy loving relationships within their families, and an increased response among young people called to the ministry.
9. Christians involved in bold witness accompanied by miracles, dramatic conversions, and Holy Spirit empowered victories over evil.
10. Heightened expressions of love and unity among all believers, as demonstrated by the unity of pastors and leaders.

The Advancement of the Kingdom as Evidenced by These Indicators of Awakening in the Culture:

1. Breakdowns of racial, social and status barriers as Christ's church celebrates together—Jesus!
2. A restoration of morality, ethical foundations and accountability among leaders of church and government, business and politics.
3. A transformation of society through the restoration of Christ's influence in the arts, media, and communications.
4. Increased care for the hungry and homeless, the most vulnerable and needy.
5. Young adults, students, and children embracing the claims and lifestyle of Christ through the witness of peers who live and love as Jesus.
6. Community and national leaders seeking out the church as an answer to society's problems.
7. Increased care for children as "gifts from the Lord" as the gospel addresses abortion, adoption, foster care, and child well-being.
8. Righteous relations between men and women: decrease in

divorce rates, cohabitation, same-sex relations, sexual abuse, sexual trafficking, out of wedlock children, and STDs.

9. An awakening to the “fear of the Lord” rather than the approval of people, thus restoring integrity and credibility.
10. Neighborhood transformation and an accompanying decrease of social ills through increased expressions of “loving your neighbor” in service, compassion, and unity.

–Developed by [America’s National Prayer Committee](#) in partnership with [OneCry](#) and the [Awakening America Alliance](#).

Sign Up for Connection! Prayer Devotions for Everyday Life.

A daily devotional on prayer. Each devotional includes an inspiring and challenging message on prayer, a prayer to pray and several scripture-based prayer points. Here is a note from one of our thousands of subscribers from all over the world: “Thank you for your faithfulness in service to the Kingdom of God!! These devotionals make a difference in my life as the Holy Spirit speaks to my heart!” – Diane H.

Harvest does not rent our email lists to other organizations. On rare occasions we will use our lists to inform our friends of prayer events or initiatives of national or international importance, and occasionally we will use our lists to inform our friends of a financial need in the ministry.

[Sign Up Today](#)

When God Shows Up in Church

By Dave Butts

Christians around the world are praying for revival. What are they praying for and do they have good reason to expect revival? Is revival something God wants to do for His people today? To answer these questions, we need to understand that God has always worked in the area of revival with His people. From the earliest days of Israel, on through the history of the Church, God's method of dealing with His people has been to grant periodic times of special blessing in which His presence is made manifest and His people are drawn back to Him. The result of that is a changed society.

Perhaps the clearest view of revival can be seen by looking back at Israel in the Old Testament. Historians tell us that there are seven major revivals in the Old Testament. I would suggest that if you take away the word "major" there are somewhere between fifteen and sixteen revivals. Very clear, distinct times, in which the people of God were restored to a time of religious excitement, enthusiasm, and commitment with a resultant change in society.

You typically see something like this: Israel, as a people, called by God to make a difference...called to be a light to the Gentiles. You see them under a leader such as Moses or David, people who are living a life that causes them to be set apart from the people around them. They are worshipping God, they're holding on to His Word, they are doing what God wants them to do. Then, typically, after a generation or so when a leader has died you see Israel begin to slide. You begin to see them move farther and farther away from obedience to the Word of God. They begin to accept idolatry from the tribes around them. Pagan practices begin to come in, with acts of

immorality and all the problems associated with that – eventually times of war and even slavery.

Typically at this point of decline there arises a remnant of people who begin to pray. They begin to cry out to God asking the Lord to save them. Then, in His own timing, God sends a leader and there comes a time of revival when they begin to throw off their idolatry and paganism and restore once again the true worship of Jehovah. They begin to again hold on to the Word of God. The nation experiences a time of national prosperity, spiritual excitement and religious significance that lasts for about a generation. Then you see the cycle begin to happen again. Over and over again throughout the Old Testament: revival and decline, revival and decline.

As you move into the New Testament you see a group of people who were born in a time of revival. But we know historically that it did not last. Through the history of the Church you once again see the exact same pattern of revival and decline. It seems to be the way God deals with His people. Down through the years many countries have experienced periodic times of revival. Within the United States we have experienced three times of national revival, known as the Great Awakenings. During these times, God moved and changed the course of our nation. Many of us believe that God is getting ready to do it again in our day, in our age.

What is this thing called revival? I believe that revival is the Church waking up to the presence of Jesus in her midst. It is nothing more and nothing less than you and I beginning to experience what we already know theologically and intellectually. You believe that Jesus is with you. Why? Because He said He would be. You don't necessarily believe it because you feel Him, but just because Jesus said it. He said that where two or three are gathered together there am I in your midst. You also have to believe Colossians 1:27: "*Christ in us, the hope of glory.*"

We believe that Jesus is present when we gather as the Church. But we don't act that way. That is not the way things happen on Sunday. You know why I know your church needs revival? The reason I know your church needs revival is when church services ended last Sunday, you went home. What would happen if Jesus was there? Let's just suppose Jesus was there. Would you be looking at your watch? Would you be eager to leave? One of the characteristics of the great revivals was extended times of worship. They never wanted to end the service. Now obviously people had to leave, they had to take care of physical things, they had jobs that they had to go to, but as soon as they were done they were back, because that was where God was. They wanted to be in on the action. They wanted to be where God was. They wanted to experience His presence.

I want to suggest to you that revival is not strange or mystical. It is simply the Church waking up to the presence of Christ in her midst. It is almost as though God reaches out and slaps us and we wake up and we realize God is there. That is what revival is. It is God shaking us. It is God waking us up. And we recognize that Jesus really is here.

We are desperate for that in our nation today. I am not in any way a critic of the Church. The more I travel the more I fall in love with the Church of Jesus Christ. I am seeing so many wonderful things happen. Christians are doing wonderful things in the name of Jesus, acts of love, mercy and self-sacrifice. It is amazing what is happening today, and has been happening for years. We are doing all we know to do. But it isn't working.

Most of the churches have all kinds of activities. They've tried all kinds of programs. They've given and done everything they know how to do to get the Church going and to impact society. But in all that has happened in the last fifty years in the Church in the US, are we a more moral and ethical nation because of what we have been doing as a Church? It is unbelievable when we consider the tremendous acts of

sacrifice, service and ministry in the last fifty years in the Church, and yet it is apparent that the Church is going one way and our nation is moving the opposite way as fast as it can.

In a very real sense, we are at this wonderful point of despair. We are at a wonderful point of hopelessness in which the Church is beginning to recognize that we have been doing everything we know how to do and it is not working. It is time for revival. It is time to humble ourselves before God in prayer and ask Him to make Himself known in the midst of His people so that our nation can be saved and our world impacted for Christ.

How does revival come? Any student of revival will tell you that there has never been a revival without a movement of prayer. God always calls His people to prayer in anticipation of revival. I would ask you today to get serious about praying for revival. We need to shift our prayer focus to the issues that are close to God's heart, especially that His people, His Church, would wake up and discover the presence of Jesus in our midst.

When that happens, our lives become different. When Jesus is there, suddenly things that we accepted before, are no longer acceptable. Some of the things that go on in our church and in our society are changed because it is the Lord who is present. That is why in those great revivals in the past, there was a bit of emotionalism. Suddenly they came into a church service and there was Jesus. Now they did not see Him in the flesh, but there was a powerful sense of the presence of Jesus. What do you suppose happens if you come into a church service during a revival and there is a strong sense of the presence of Jesus and you've been sinning all week? When you come into the presence of the awesome holiness of God suddenly there is weeping, crying out, and sometimes even falling down before God in repentance.

Heaven-sent revival is our only hope. We don't have answers. We don't know what to do. We don't have any programs in our churches that are changing whole communities and our society. It's just not happening. What we need is God.

How do you pray for revival? Psalm 85 is a good place to begin: *"You showed favor to Your land, O Lord. You restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of Your people and covered all their sins. You set aside all Your wrath and turned from Your fierce anger. Restore us again, O Lord our Savior, and put away Your displeasure toward us. Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"*

Based on that passage we will find ourselves praying, "Lord, revive us again, do it again in our day." We will come before God saying, "Lord, this is what you have done and this is what we want you to do in our life and in our nation.

Dave Butts (1953-2022) was the co-founder and president of Harvest Prayer Ministries. His popular prayer guide, [*Asleep in the Land of Nod*](#) has been used by hundreds of churches to help their congregations pray for revival.

Test

PRAYER FAQs

We all have questions about prayer.



We all have questions about prayer. They range from basic questions to deep theological ones. This page is designed to answer questions about prayer that come up most often as we travel to churches all over the nation.

We encourage you to review the questions below. Some of the questions are linked to a longer answer; however, it is important to know that we are trying to answer in as short and simple a way as we can in this context. When possible, we will try to link you to additional resources for a more in-depth study on the topic.

If you have a question that you would like us to address here, please feel free to send it to: info@harvestprayer.com. If we feel it is a question that many could benefit from, we will post the answer here!

Click to reveal the answer to the question.

I keep starting and stopping in my prayer life. How can I be more consistent?

- 1. Become intimate with Jesus, your Lord and Savior!** It's important to spend time with the One you love! If you spend some significant time with Him regularly (DAILY), you will begin to know His heart so that He can use you to accomplish His will on this earth. Take time to worship Him, to offer praise, and to simply sit in His presence. Intimacy with Jesus will allow you to consistently pray with intensity, fervor and purpose.
- 2. Get to know Him through His Word** (He IS the Living Word). Study it, memorize it, pray it, and let it soak into your spirit. The Bible should become your prayer manual. In it you will find the perfect will of God, and learn more about God's character.
- 3. Pray His word back to Him.** Praying Scripture is a powerful way to know that you are praying God's will. This knowledge alone will revolutionize your prayer life.
- 4. Be still and know that He is God!** Take time to listen to His voice. The more you know Him, the better you will be at hearing His voice and praying what is on His heart...and there is MUCH on His heart. Listening will keep you focused upon those things which He desires to accomplish in and through you...or on behalf of someone else, or a situation you are concerned about.
- 5. Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit** to pray as people, situations, countries, etc. are brought to your mind. It isn't a random thought – it is the work of the Spirit as He calls you to intercede.
- 6. If you desire to be more consistent with your prayer life, then you must determine to be disciplined and faithful.** Don't ever let your lack of "experience" stop you or slow you down. If you stop, don't be discouraged and quit! Start again tomorrow. Always remember that

prayer is not about your will being done in heaven. it is about God's will being done on earth.

As you apply these principles to your prayer life, you will find that prayer begins to become a delight rather than a duty...and you will look forward to spending time with God, who created you to have relationship with Him.

“Prayer is the act of bringing God into every situation and asking Him to change it from something natural into something supernatural so that He can get all the glory.” – Joy Dawson.

© 2020 Harvest Prayer Ministries

Why do my prayers seem to go unanswered?

First of all, it is important to recognize that there are many reasons why prayers “seem” to be unanswered, or at least not answered in the way we would wish or expect:

- **The most common reason is that we have already determined what the answer we want to hear or see is before we actually ask God.** In other words, we make the decision about the answer rather than waiting on the answer God wishes to give...we don't ask God to do what He feels is best in our situation or someone else's.

- **We may ask God with wrong motives...usually because we selfishly want something to benefit ourselves or those we know.** Perhaps our prayer may be completely counter to God's will and purposes. It is important for us to realize that every prayer we pray should bring honor and glory to God alone!
- **If we are intentionally living sinful lives, God is under no obligation to answer our prayers (Psalm 66:18).** We need to check our lives carefully before coming to God with our requests and needs. If there is sinfulness, we need to confess it before Him because He promises to forgive us (1 John 1:9)...opening the way to His response to our prayer lives! This is the grace-filled life with God.
- **Sometimes we ask in a half-hearted way rather than praying with faith and power,** which can make our prayer ineffective and weak...much like a medical treatment that fails because it isn't the correct dosage or even the correct treatment. The prayer of desperation cries out to God because He is the only place to go when we are in need.
- **Sometimes what we are asking infringes upon the needs of another person, or pits us against them – even unintentionally.** It's like two parents on opposing sides rooting for the team their child plays for to win. This is asking God to take sides instead of asking for His best in a situation. God knows what we...and our children need even more than we do! He will help us to handle loss, pain and struggle when it comes, just as He will rejoice with us in celebration and victory.
- **Our "bad" circumstances are not caused by God.** We live in a fallen world where "bad things happen to good people." Recognizing that God, through His life in us, can take our pain, disappointments and roadblocks into

His heart and give us comfort, reassurance and victory in the midst of difficulty and struggle will keep us filled with hope, peace and strength. He will sometimes allow the circumstances in our lives to lead us to something better even though we may not see it at the time. He will also utilize anything the enemy attempts to do to us in ways that will be used for good – even when we may not perceive it – if we will trust Him enough to ask (Matthew 7:9-11). Too many people blame God, and walk away from their faith because they feel their prayers were not heard, were not answered, or that their prayers were not answered as they expected...because they do not understand this truth about God... He wants to give us His very best. He is always present in the believer. He understands our suffering because He suffered and died on the cross. The ultimate victory is eternal life through Jesus Christ...forever...no matter what this life may bring.

- **If we are not careful, we can miss God's answer when it comes.** It is important to be watchful in our waiting...and because the Father wants to give us His best to strengthen our walk with Him, we must be prepared to yield ourselves to His answers – even if they seem to go against what we think that answer should be. Sometimes our answers will not come in our lifetime, but in His eternal purposes we will one day see how He answered every prayer we have ever prayed...even if the answer is counter to our expectations or desires. One day it will be amazing to see how God's hand worked in our lives and situations for His glory!

“The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you

need” (Matthew 6:7-8 MSG).

What should I do when I don't feel like praying?

There are days, seasons, or events in all of our lives that sometimes seem to paralyze our hearts and leave no words available to us for prayer. When this happens, the first thing to do is remember that God is still there. He is with you in whatever you are walking through. He saw what brought the grief, or the anger, or the frustration. He is there in the depression, the addiction, the pain of rejection, the times of uncertainty. Your first step is to trust that He is right where Matthew 28:20 states He said He would always be – with us! He is with you – now and always!

Next, simply breathe in His presence. Take the next breath...and the next...and the next. Adversity or dark times can suck the air from your being and it's so important to breathe God in and breathe out the issues or circumstances that may be causing your inability to pray. Think about the One who gave you life, who gave you Eternal Life, and who is Himself Living and Active. He has not abandoned you. His presence surrounds you. Soak in the awareness of this reality! [\[Read More\]](#)

How can I grow in prayer?

If you are a Christian and you need something, the first place you should turn is to the Lord. Jesus teaches us that we are to ask for anything we need, even for daily bread. That's how dependent on Him we are to be. It seems to me then, that if I want to grow in prayer, the first place to go is to God. So I suggest praying about prayer.

Isn't it interesting, and maybe a bit sad, that we struggle so much in prayer, and yet never come to the Lord and ask Him to help us to pray. Do we really believe that we are so spiritual that we can handle this on our own? If we know that God wants us to be a people of prayer, and that is certainly clear in

Scriptures, then when we ask believing God to make us a person of prayer, we can expect great results. I pray every day that God would make me a man of prayer. In His way, and in His timing, He will always answer that prayer. [\[Read More\]](#)

How can I keep my mind from wandering when I pray?

Let's face it! Many of us struggle to stay focused when we pray. Our culture is busy and there are so many things vying for our attention. What are some simple ways to combat the wandering mind when we want to focus our attention on God in prayer?

- 1. Choose times for focused prayer when you are most mentally alert.** If mornings are your best time of day, get up a bit early to meet with God. Grab a cup of coffee or tea, your Bible and a blanket if needed. We are to pray without ceasing, so although setting aside a certain time to pray is important, don't forget to pay attention to the activity of God in and around you throughout each day.
- 2. Keep paper and a pen nearby** so that if distracting thoughts come, you can quickly write them down so you won't forget and then go back into prayer. [\[Read More\]](#)

How can I make my prayer life more about the kingdom and less about me and my needs?

One of the problems that most of us have with praying is that we instinctively know that prayer isn't about getting what I want from God. It's about God's will being accomplished. Yet, there are things we want God to do that are very important to us. How do we reconcile these things?

The Bible demonstrates for us a fascinating way to pray that brings together our needs and the purposes of God. I call it "so that" praying. In many places throughout Scripture you will find someone making a request of the Lord for something

that is very important to him or her. Then that person closes out his or her prayer by including a “so that” addition. Almost without exception, the “so that” portion takes the prayer and focuses it on God and His purposes. It often has to do with bringing additional honor and glory to God and expanding His kingdom. [\[Read More\]](#)

How can I learn to pray out loud?

God can hear our prayers anytime, anywhere, and at any volume! He is able to hear us even when we think our prayers to Him rather than voice them. Yet, so many of us struggle and would like to be able to verbalize prayers in a group setting. Here are a few tips on how to stretch yourself a bit and grow in this area:

1. One of the best ways to grow in praying out loud, is to practice listening to yourself reading prayers from Scripture. You could start with the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. Hearing your own voice as you pray out loud is an important step.
2. Read Psalm 145 out loud back to the Lord and then say, “Lord, You are___(fill in the blank with some of the attributes you find in this Psalm). Looking for ways to praise God in His word is a powerful way to express your love for Him out loud. The more you know about Him and His goodness and love, the more you will want to express what’s on your heart to Him.
3. After using Scripture to help you pray out loud for awhile, try to voice your own prayers based on those you have been praying. Here is just one way: try looking at pictures of some of your family members and tell God what you want to pray for each of them. For example, “Father, my daughter Emily is really struggling to make friends in her new school this year. Would you bring her some godly young women to get to know?” Or, “Lord, my husband has such a stressful job. Please help him to

feel Your presence and to be filled with peace instead of anxiety.” [\[Read More\]](#)

How Can I Learn to Pray with My Spouse?

This is an important question, as the majority of Christian couples, even pastoral couples, don't make this a regular practice. Yet it is probably the most fulfilling and divorce-proofing thing any couple can engage in. Also, it has been said that praying together is the most intimate thing a husband and wife can do. So how do you get started? Here are a few ideas and things to consider:

1. Maybe all it will take is for one of you to simply suggest it. Many spouses just haven't considered this practice as it was never modeled in their own homes. Perhaps just a suggestion that you pray together for your children/grandchildren, or for one another's day...could prime that pump.
2. Sometimes one spouse is obviously a more seasoned prayer, especially out loud. This makes the other feel very self-conscious. Be sure to remember that you are talking to God and simply agreeing in prayer with your spouse. Reassure one another and make a commitment to be completely non-judgmental of one another's prayer styles.
3. Praying Scripture over family, friends and situations is a very good way to pray together if this practice seems difficult at first. For example, pray the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:24-26 over children/grandchildren and even over one another. Another Scripture to pray over children/grandchildren is 1 Timothy 4:12. A good prayer devotional can also be very helpful.
4. Pray as you take walks or while you are driving together. [\[Read More\]](#)

Creating an Atmosphere for the Presence of Jesus

7 WAYS TO PRAY THROUGH AN ELECTION

If you are married or have been in a romantic relationship, you likely can recall some special times or seasons when you were overwhelmed by the way your loved one planned the perfect setting with great care and attention to detail. Perhaps it involved music, a special event, a quiet dinner, or just a peaceful evening watching a glorious sunset at your favorite spot. What made this experience significant in your mind is the time and effort taken by another person to please you and to express his or her heartfelt love.

When was the last time you took such care and made such a profound effort to meet with the One who loves you more deeply than any human on earth has the capacity to do? He is the One who has given you eternal life, blessed you and cared for you spiritually, emotionally and physically...and who has promised never to leave you or forsake you...in good times or in the midst of suffering. Jesus is worthy of our deepest love and affection. He is worthy of the time we spend creating an atmosphere that welcomes His presence no matter the situation or season of life we are in...whether in our most joyous thankful moments or when our hearts are broken and our lives are shattered.

What if we, as believers, spent as much time preparing our

hearts to create a place where Jesus feels welcomed and cherished as we would for a family member or friend...a place where we can have an intimate conversation, hug tightly when life is hard, or simply enjoy each other's company? Prayer is that space for every believer!

I can assure you, that if you will take the time to create a sacred space in your heart and life with God, your seasons of prayer will be deeper and richer and more powerful than ever. He is the One we adore and He deserves all of our affection and attention. So, before you next spend time in prayer, consider asking and reflecting on these questions during a quiet season of preparation:

- 1. Is my heart in right relationship with God and others?** Have you renounced any idolatry to things that take up more time than you are willing to pour into your relationship with God (social media, sports, television, etc.)? Have you emptied yourself in order to make room for Jesus? Is there anything you need to confess or anyone you need to make things right with before praying? "But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive you your sins too (Mark 11:25 TLB)."
- 2. Am I focused upon entering the throne room of heaven to stay for a while, or am I intent on rushing through my prayer list for the day?** How have you ordered your day so that the best part is given to Jesus? Will He have your full attention, or are there distractions to pull your attention away from His face? Can you picture the Father sitting on His throne attentively focused upon you as you enter His throne room...and into His very presence? Consider how you might "pray without ceasing" (1 Thessalonians 5:17) throughout your day, just as your thoughts might be drawn to a human relationship continually.
- 3. Do I worship Him because of my deep love for Him...adoring**

His beauty and majesty? Sometimes it is easy to forget our First Love and let other things and other people in life take greater importance. If we will take the time to worship in spirit and truth (for this kind of worship is true prayer), the other things we have our hearts set on begin to fall away and become lesser in our hearts. "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers" (John 4:23). Sometimes we have to lay our lists aside because we forget what we wanted to ask for in the midst of His beauty and majesty. Are you ready to worship Him? Do you long to spend time focused upon His loveliness?

4. **Do I draw near to Him with the kind of anticipation and expectation that is fueled by a childlike faith?** Jesus made much of the faith of children and urged us to come to Him this way. Are you excited to meet with Jesus, anticipating what He might show you or say to you? Do you delight in His presence and believe He will hear and answer? Are you willing to humble yourself and perhaps even posture yourself in a position to experience Jesus in whatever way you imagine a child would?
5. **Do my prayers bring honor and glory to Jesus?** This is a vital question to ask ourselves as so often we become more intent upon our own selfish desires. If our prayers are not focused upon the kingdom of God and His plans and purposes being accomplished for His glory alone, then there is always a danger of the focus being taken off of the Father and put onto us. Praying with an open Bible often keeps our prayer focus upon the things that God desires.
6. **Are my prayers focused on His will being done on earth or my will being done in heaven?** Even Jesus had to bow His will to the will of the Father and submit to death on a cross; however, His prayer was, "...not my will but yours be done (Luke 22:42)." This is particularly

difficult when we pray for healing or for things that seem good to us, but the outcome is beyond our understanding. We must learn to trust that His will is always perfect and that His ways are not our ways. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit knows the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:11), and that we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). What power is at our disposal to discern the Father's will!

7. **Am I yielded to hear what He might say to me?** We often spend most of our time in prayer talking to God and not spending a lot of time listening to what He may have to say to us. The priest Eli told young Samuel, when the Lord called him, to say: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:9 NASB). This is good instruction for us all. Quietly wait for Him to call your name, or to give you instructions for your day...or even just for the moment you find yourself in. Sometimes all you will hear is an affirmation of His great love for you...but you will miss it if you don't take the time to wait for such an encouragement. Perhaps you will hear nothing...and that is okay too, for you are spending time in His presence. If you have ever just sat quietly with someone you love, you know that sometimes nothing needs to be said...and yet, you know what is in one another's heart.
8. **Am I able to "pray without ceasing"?** Think about creating an atmosphere that allows your thoughts to turn towards the Father continually throughout your day much as would happen with a human "love interest" that one would wish to call or make contact with as often as one's thoughts turned towards this person. What needs to happen in your life in order for Jesus to take first place in your thoughts, so that communing with Him becomes as natural as breathing? Consider prayers of continual gratitude, which is an incredibly powerful way to keep your thoughts fixed upon God.
9. **Are my prayers a sweet sacrifice with an aroma pleasing**

to the Father? God is pleased when His people come to Him in prayer. “God, come close. Come quickly! Open your ears—it’s my voice you’re hearing! Treat my prayer as sweet incense rising; my raised hands are my evening prayers” (Psalm 141:1-2 MSG). Imagine your prayer life as incense rising up to the nostrils of God. How will that change the way you seek Him?

If you will sincerely take time to create a spiritual atmosphere that will attract God’s presence, He will draw near and your communion with Him will be meaningful and rich. “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (James 4:8).

- [FollowFollow](#)



Biography

Kim serves as the Executive Director of Harvest Prayer Ministries which she co-founded in 1993 with her late husband, Dave (1953-2022). Her ministry involves teaching/training and consulting as well as writing and developing resources. She is content coordinator for HPM's teaching platform, PrayerU.com

and also compiles and edits HPM's free daily devotional, [Connection!](#) as well as [Prayer Tip Tuesday](#).

Kim has written multiple books and has published articles in a variety of magazines and publications. She is a member of America's National Prayer Committee and serves as President of Gospel Revivals, Inc. (Herald of His Coming).

Kim has a BA in Psychology and a Masters degree in Spiritual Formation and Leadership.

Some of Kim's Books



7 PRAYERS

*for Discernment and
Decision-Making*

A Group Prayer Process to Find God's Direction

KIM BUTTS



CREATIVE
WAYS
TO PRAY
TOGETHER

the
PRAYING
FAMILY

KIM BUTTS

Foreword by
EVELYN CHRISTIANSON

PRAY
Like the
KING

*Lessons from the
Prayers of
Israel's Kings*

David & Kim Butts

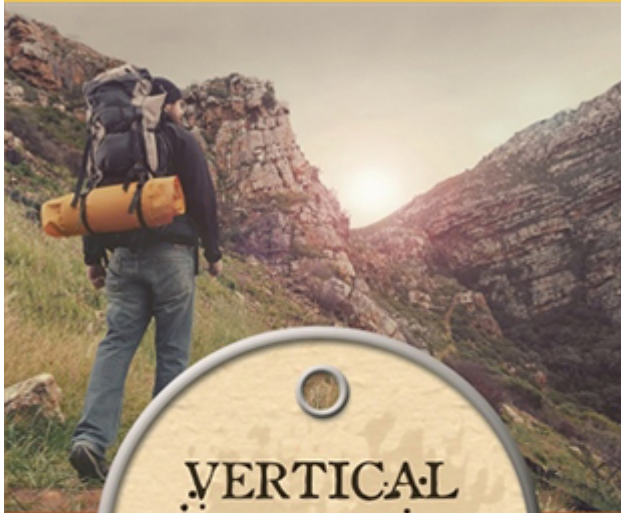
FOREWORD BY DICK EASTMAN

REVOLUTION
— on Our —
KNEES



30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations

DAVID & KIM BUTTS



VERTICAL
WITH:
Jesus

A 30-DAY JOURNEY
TO
IMPACT KINGDOM LIVING
DAVID AND KIM BUTTS