

*A Gift of Faith Book*

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**Part 2**

**PRAYER  
AND  
PRAISE**



A Gift of Faith Book

5

# Prayer and Praise

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# Sun

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You, that it's a sunny day! I love it when the sun is shining. It makes everything look so cheery and beautiful. Thank You that each day is new and full of fun things to do.

I'm so happy for the sunshine that makes the flowers grow and the fruit trees bud. On warm sunny days it's fun to splash and play in my wading pool.

Please help me, Jesus, to have a happy day with You today. Thank You that I always have sunshine in my heart with You, Jesus. So no matter what kind of weather, even when it's rainy and gloomy, I still have the sunshine of Your love to keep me happy.

*Amen*



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# Wind

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You, for the wind! It's so nice to watch it blowing through the trees. I love the way it blows kites and sailboats. Wind is also good for making windmills move, and blowing seeds everywhere so they can get planted.

Thank You for making the wind! I like to think of how the wind blows everywhere, and touches my friends and family the same as it touches me.

Your spirit is like the invisible wind. It's all around us and helps us in many ways.

Please bless all my family and friends, and help them to have all that they need. Send them the answers and the help they need, on the wings of the wind of Your spirit. Thank You, Jesus!

*Amen*





# Missionaries

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so glad that someone told me and my parents about You. Now I can look forward to going to Heaven! I will be so happy to see You, and to enjoy all the wonderful things that there are to see and do there. It will be nice to never again get sick or hurt, and we will have so many things to make us happy in Heaven!

I want all the children on Earth to get the chance to hear about You, and to receive Your love into their hearts and lives. Then they will be happier, and when I get to Heaven I'll have so many new friends too! I know that the reason You came to Earth Jesus, was to show and tell everyone about Your love.

You then gave the job to Your disciples, of passing on the news. That way You can be with all of us, all over the world, at the same time—rather than just on Earth in one place,

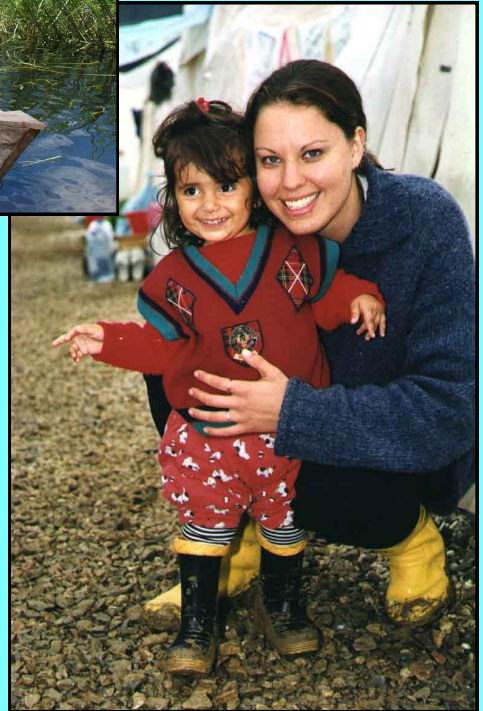


like You were for a while. Those disciples were faithful to tell everyone they could about You, and then those people told even more people! Today there are many people who love You and are doing their best to live for You and to pass on Your love to others all over the world.

I pray for each of these people, each of the missionaries, that You will give them good health and provide all that they need. Please help each one of them to have the food, clothes, transportation, and supplies that they need. Please help them to know what to say and what to do in the place they are living, so that those they talk with can come to know You.

I pray that people in those countries will make it easy for the missionaries to do their job. Please encourage each one around the world who is telling others about You, Jesus. Help them to not give up but to keep on going, so that many people will be able to go to Heaven and will be happier while on Earth too. I know that will make You, Jesus, so happy!

*Amen*



# Difficulties

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so glad, that no matter where I am or what I am doing, I can be with You. Whether I am hurt or well, healthy or sick, You know right where I am and You know how to heal and care for me.

I know that one day the world will be made all nice again, and there won't be the kinds of difficulties that are now in the world. People will be happy and safe everywhere.

There won't be big and dangerous storms, or flooding, or other hardships. But even when there are nowadays, You still care for each one, and want to bring help, supply, and safe-keeping.

I know that You listen to my prayers, and the prayers of others, and that it makes a difference to a situation when we pray.



So I ask You now to help anyone and everyone that is in the middle of a difficult or dangerous situation, or at a time when they are losing things that are special to them.

I want You to be so close to each one, that the love they feel from You, and the miracles they see You do for them makes them feel special and happy inside. You can make them so happy just knowing about You and how much You love them, that the hard times, or loss, or hurts don't seem as bad anymore.

Please supply all the food, water, warmth, care, and healing that each one needs. Please take away the problems quickly, and bring them safety and miracles of protection, while they wait for things to change for the better.

I know You can help each seemingly wrong situation turn out for good, for those that love You. Help each one to have a chance to know about You and Your love, and experience Your loving care, right now.

*Amen*





Photo by Naomi

# A Friend

*Dear Jesus,*

I love my friends so much. I'm glad that You let us meet and be friends. I miss seeing them at times, and it's hard to live so far away from where they are.

I wish they could just drop by right now, today, and have some play time and we could talk about so many things. That really would be fun.

But the world is so big, and travel takes so long, that it's just not possible right now. However, when I pray for them it can be like taking a very fast trip right to where they are. Through my prayers it can be like I'm helping them with whatever is hard for them to do right now.

Maybe I can pray for them to have fun today, and they will all of a sudden feel glad, and have a great day—just like if I was there helping to think up fun things to do.



Or perhaps they are feeling sick, and my prayers can help to make them feel better—even better than if I was just there bringing them a nice drink or doing something with them while they are recovering.

I think the effect of my prayers sent their way could even make them happier than if I was right there. So as my gift to them today, to show them my love and care, I ask You, dear Jesus, to please bless them in every way.

Please give them lots of fun and great things to do. If anything is bothering them or they aren't feeling well, please heal them and strengthen them.

Please help them to have good friends where they are, so they won't be lonely. And when the time is right, help us to be able to meet again. I'm so glad that we can have all the friendship time we want to have in Heaven! I'm looking forward to that!

*Amen*



Photo by Jon Berg

# Farmers

*Dear Jesus,*

It's such an amazing thing to think that one tiny seed can grow and grow and become a plant, and that a plant or tree can produce food for me and others.

I know it takes a lot of hard work, and that the farmers have a tough job. It's not easy for them to keep the weeds away, and plough the soil, so that the seeds and crops can grow easily. They need to make sure the seedlings have enough water so they can grow big and well.

Please help all the farmers today as they work hard to help the crops grow, so that people have what they need to eat.

Please keep away the pests so that each plant can grow healthily. Provide enough rain for the crops, and just the right amount of sunshine too.



Photo by Naomi

Help the farmers to grow good, healthy, natural food, so everyone can have what they need.

If there are farmers trying to grow food in places where there are lots of people who need food and there's not much rain, please do miracles for them and make abundant food to grow well.

Help me to always be thankful for the food that You provide. Each bite of fresh good food is because of the hard work of patient faithful farmers, and because of Your loving care.

*Amen*





Photos by Curtis Peter van Gorder (t) & Fleur Celeste (b)

# Read and Write

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so glad that I can see. And that means that I can read books and stories, and see pictures and learn about new things. I can read an instruction book and learn how to do or make something. I can read letters from friends, and write a note back to them as well. These things are fun!

Please help children and adults around the world to have the chance to learn to read and write, especially in places where it might not be so easy to do so. And then, please provide Bibles for them to read, so that they can learn about You and Your love. Help people to teach them in fun and interesting ways, and to make it easy for them.

In places where there aren't many Bibles or it hasn't been translated into that language, please help some people to be able to translate and print Bibles in their languages so that they can read and understand it.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

I know it's important to make good choices about what I read and look at, and also in the words I write to others, or the stories or songs I write, too. Please help me to choose to read things that will benefit me and make me able to do a better job for You—not things that will weaken me in heart, mind and body and take away my joy.

Help the words that I write to others to be ones that You would like me to say—words that are kind and true, honest and helpful. Thank You for Your words, Jesus. They are always good, and bring great things our way when we listen to them and read them.

Please bless anyone who is trying to type or write Your words for others to hear. Help them to listen carefully to You, and to pass Your words on to others. You need people to be like pens for You—just like the prophets of old. They wrote down what You wanted to say.

Help us who know You to be faithful like the prophets, to hear from You and to tell others what You tell us, and what You have said in the Bible too.

*Amen*



Photo by Chariane Quille

# A Project

*Dear Jesus,*

I like to be busy doing fun and interesting things. Thank You for the new ideas that You gave us; of some projects that we can be doing. It's going to be great working on these things.

I know we won't get everything done in one day, although it would be fun. It's going to take a lot of patience and perseverance to get it all completed. But I'm looking forward to seeing our project completed, so I need You to help us not to give up or quit until we are done.

There are a few things that we need and we're glad that we can trust You, as the owner of everything on Earth, to supply what we still need in order to reach our goals and get this project done.

You said in the Bible, "ask and it shall be given unto you". (Matthew 7:7) It's so nice that we can just ask You, and then You'll do the miracles that we need.



Photo by Chariane Quille

Please supply each thing we still need so that this project, this idea and this job can be completed!

It's like we are working together with You on the project, Jesus. We can talk with You, get Your ideas, and ask You to help with the things we can't do ourselves. You're a great person to work with. You make our life filled with so many new and interesting things, if we just ask You and teamwork with You.

You know how to start great projects, and how to finish them too. It's kind of like us: we are one of Your very special projects. You made us, and You are helping us to grow and develop in skill and wisdom. You are helping to teach us all kinds of things, and You are with us all the time.

Finally, we, Your projects on Earth, will stand before You in Heaven. We want to make the right choices and use our time well, doing helpful and positive things, so we'll make You happy when we meet face to face. I'm reminded of the verse that says, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." (Philippians 1:6)

*Amen*





Photo by Lorraine

# Cleaning up

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for my hands and all the great things they can do. Sometimes I get to do things that I really enjoy, like climbing and building and drawing. Other times I need to use them to work. Now is the time when I need to use them to work and clean things up.

No matter how clean things are one day, it never stays the same forever, and that's just how it is. We need to keep eating, and plates and bowls get dirty again. We need to wear clothes, and then need to wash them and put them away again.

We need to keep busy, have fun learning and working on different projects, and then there are things to put away again afterwards. Floors get soiled and sinks need scrubbing. Toys need tidying, and surfaces need wiping and dusting. Please help us to clean things up, so our place will look nice and fresh again.



Photo by Lorraine

When things are clean and tidy it always makes us feel better, because You like orderliness and organization, and You made us, so we like it too. It makes us feel good, but it's also hard work sometimes, so we need You to give us the strength.

Those verses in the Bible, that talk about Nehemiah and his men working hard to fix things up and make the walls of the city again, are good ones to remember. "The people had a mind to work," and "The joy of the Lord is your strength!" (Nehemiah 4:6; 8:10)

We want to be like that—to focus on our job and to do it joyfully. It will seem easier then, and get done faster too! Thank You for helping us, Jesus.

We know that in Heaven we won't have to worry about dirt and mess, and it will look nice all the time! And if we are faithful to do these jobs while on Earth, then when we get to Heaven, You can reward us for a job well done, and we'll have an even more enjoyable time!

*Amen*



# Manners and Politeness

*Dear Jesus,*

I want to treat each person I am around as if it's You there, because it matters to You how I am with others. If I am nice and polite, and speak kindly, then not only will people appreciate it but so will You!

But even if I want to be this way, it really isn't so easy all the time. People do things that upset me, and that makes me feel discouraged. I need You to fill my heart with Your love for each person. That's the only way I think I can manage to treat people with the loving care that You would appreciate.

When I talk with people, or when they talk with me, please help me to listen well, and answer in ways that I would like to be listened to and talked with. When I'm given things, or I would like to receive something, please help me to remember the polite and kind words to use.



Jesus, help me not to focus so much on what I want to get, that I forget to show Your love to others—which is even more important than gaining possessions. When people think about me, I want to be known and remembered for the kind way I treated them.

I want people to remember the love that I shared in all the ways I could—through gently spoken words, through sharing what I could, through letting others have the first turn, and through showing my thoughtfulness in caring more about others than getting what I wanted.

I know You have many rewards and treats for those who live their lives on Earth in love. And I will even have a happier life down here too, if I live in ways that make You and others happy, through my kind words and actions.

*Amen*





# Travelling

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm glad that no matter where we are, You are there with us too. You can travel around with us. It's not always easy to travel, and we really need Your protection and safe keeping.

We pray that You will keep us safe in every way, and bring us safely home again when the trip is done. It says in the Bible that You will bless our going out and our coming in, so I ask that You, dear Jesus, will do that for us.

If there are any special people that You want us to meet, please help us to be in the right place at the right time, so we can be a blessing to them, and them to us.

May our paths cross at just the right time, and help us to be listening to You so we can be aware of who they are and we can speak Your words to them as well, and do what is best.

Photo by Jon Berg



It's not easy when we forget important things that we need for our trip. Please remind us of anything that we may have forgotten to bring or do before we leave. Then, while we are out, please send Your angels to help us not to lose anything along the way.

Help all those that we need to talk with while travelling, to be helpful and to make it easy for us to do what we need to do.

Help any transportation that we will be taking to be in good working order, and the drivers to be wise, careful and alert.

It's really great to get to do new things, see new places, and meet new people. May this trip be one full of miracles and knowing Your loving care, every step of the way.

*Amen*



Photo by Jon Berg

# Dreams

*Dear Jesus,*

I'm so glad that I have a nice place to rest. It's better than what You and Your disciples had while travelling around telling everyone the good news of Your love, healing the sick and preaching God's Word.

I'm so thankful for a good place to sleep. While I sleep I can relax, knowing that You never sleep, and that You are watching over me all the time. I can trust in Your constant care.

Please keep us safe all night long, in every way. Heal up anything that isn't right in our bodies, renew our strength and energy for a new day tomorrow, and help us to grow well too!

I would also like to ask for good and pleasant dreams while we sleep.



Photo by Jon Berg

Please put Your protection on our hearts, and minds, and spirits, so that we can enjoy our time of rest.

Help us to learn something good in our dreams, and to be able to do things that are fun—things that we might not get to normally do, like flying, or exploring, or eating extra special food, or meeting friends and relatives that live in other places.

As I go to sleep, please help my mind to think good and pleasant thoughts, and to have words of praise on my lips and in my mind.

I want to think about You and Your love for me while I go to sleep. That way it will be easier for You to direct my thoughts and to give me great dreams. I'm so glad that You are with me always.

*Amen*





Photo by Jon Berg

# Brothers and Sisters

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for my brothers and sisters, near and far. I praise You for being able to have so much time with them, like I have so much time with You, Jesus. I love You so much! Jesus, I want to hug and kiss You on the cheeks like they do with me.

I love how my older brothers and sisters can teach me things they've already learned and how I can then teach these things to those younger than me.

Older brothers and sisters are kind, and when I fall down they help me up. We can share with each other and have more fun together than if I was alone.

Jesus, You are so big compared to me and no matter how small I am when I read Your Word, I feel Your love in my heart that overflows on to other people.



Photo by Naomi

It's fantastic to have the love You give us for each other. Those in my family can be my best friends and always be there for me, just like You want us to be for each other.

You always take such nice and cosy care of us. Help us to take really good care of each other as well, and keep us very close to You and safe in every way.

And for all the girls and boys that have no brothers and sisters, I pray You send them very good friends that can be as brothers and sisters to them.

*Amen*



Photo by Chariane Quille

# Rainbows

*Dear Jesus,*

I love rainbows! They make the sky so beautiful. They also make me smile, just like You, Jesus. You always make me smile. Thank You Jesus for rainbows, they always show Your love.

So, Lord, every time that I feel grumpy, I will pretend there is a rainbow of Your love that shines down on everyone, and especially on me. Jesus, thank You that You send rainbows for everyone to look at, even if they do not know You. It still makes them happy. And if everyone is sad, we can also make them happy, because we are like rainbows for You, shining with Your love!

Jesus, I call on Your help for me to shine with Your love like a rainbow in the sky.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Just like a pretty rainbow brightens even the cloudiest sky, You can help me see good things even when everything looks so bad and I want to feel sad instead of glad.

Good can overcome bad.

Happy can overcome sad.

And good + happy = happy!

Sad can be good in some ways,  
but bad + bad will always = bad.

So if I am good, happy or even sad, You can make me strong and beautiful by shining Your light through me.

*Amen*





# Water

*Dear Jesus,*

Thank You for making water. Water is fun to play with and it helps to keep us clean. Praise You Jesus, that swimming is so much fun; when we are splashing and playing games. I love swimming under water with my eyes open, it helps me see where I am going so I can catch the coins and rings I'm diving for.

Water is so important, without water we could not exist. Thank You, Lord, for the way we can store water in dams when it rains.

Thank You for the rain, Lord. I love it when it rains. And in the monsoon, when it rains almost every day, our dams fill up. Dams give us drinking water and without clean drinking water we would be sick a lot, so thank You, Lord, for drinking water.



Photo by Jon Berg

Thank You for our clean clothes too. They smell nice, they look and feel nice, and I can make a good impression when I wear them. It helps me be a better sample for You!

I thank You for using the water of Your Word for cleaning my heart. You constantly keep cleaning my heart with the waters of Your Word, so that I can be a good example of You.

People shouldn't only see me but You, Jesus, and my words should show and express the beautiful things that You've put in my heart. I really love You, Jesus!

*Amen*

**Continued in Part 3**