

# Written Prayers

## For your personal time with God

Throughout the ages, written prayers have been an integral part of the prayer lives of many Christians. So many times, knowing where to begin in prayer can prove to be difficult. We may struggle knowing what exactly to say or how we feel before God.

When our children are learning to speak, we teach them what words to say in hopes those words will shape their heart and character. Words like “please” and “thank you” must be set upon their lips and then shape their hearts as a result. They borrow our words until they become their own.

The same can be true when it comes to prayer. Whether we are just beginning to pray or have been praying for some time, there are moments when we need some to borrow the prayers of others. As a result, those prayers shape our hearts and minds, helping us to identify our own thoughts and feelings before God.

As you engage in some of these written prayers, take time to allow the words to settle into your mind and heart. Ask the Lord to show you what portions of the written prayer could become your own words. Allow the words to shape you. Then see if any additional prayer response stirs in you that you would like to share with God.

On the back side of this guide are some of our favorite written prayers for your personal time with God from Scripture.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever.  
Amen.

## **Any of the Psalms (after all, it's the Prayer book of the Bible!)**

You can start with these:

Psalm 119  
Psalm 23  
Psalm 51  
Psalm 130  
Psalm 139  
Psalm 150

## **Other Written Prayers in the Bible**

Moses and Miriam's Song of Victory: Exodus 15:1-21  
Hannah's Prayer of Praise: I Samuel 2:1-10  
Solomon's Prayer of Dedication: 2 Chronicles 6:14-42  
Paul's prayer for the Ephesian Church: Ephesians 1:15-23

One of our favorite prayer resources that will help you to engage with written prayers from both Scripture and faithful followers of Christ is *Prayers for Today* by Kurt Bjorklund. Check it out for further ways to engage in prayer in your personal time with God.