



# 36 Prayers, Creeds, & Scriptures for Family Devotions



# [1] The Lord's Prayer

*from Matthew 6:9-13*

Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Holy is Your Name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
Lead us away from temptation,  
and deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory  
forever and ever! Amen.

## [2] *The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace:  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.  
Where there is injury, let me sow forgiveness.  
Where there is discord, let me sow harmony.  
Where there is error, let me sow truth.  
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.  
Where there is despair, let me sow hope.  
Where there is darkness, let me sow light.  
Where there is sadness, let me sow joy.

Lord, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be comforted, as to comfort;  
to be understood, as to understand;  
and to be loved, as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in forgetting self that we find;  
it is in forgiving that we are forgiven;  
and it is in dying that we are awakened  
to eternal life. Amen.

### [3] The Heart Prayer of Thomas a Kempis

Give us, O Lord, steadfast hearts,  
that cannot be dragged down by false loves.  
Give us courageous hearts that  
cannot be worn down by hardships.  
Give us righteous hearts  
that cannot be sidetracked by  
unholy or unworthy goals.

Give to us also, O Lord our God,  
understanding to know You,  
diligence to seek You,  
wisdom to recognize You,  
and a faithfulness that will bring us  
to see You face to face;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## [4] The Shield Prayer of St. Patrick

Christ shield me this day:  
Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ on my right,  
Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down,  
Christ when I arise,  
Christ in the heart of every person  
    who thinks of me,  
Christ in everything I do,  
Christ in every eye that sees me,  
Christ in every word I say,  
Christ in every ear that hears me.

## [5] The Covenant Prayer of John Wesley

I am no longer my own, but Yours.  
Put me to what You will,  
rank me with whom You will;  
put me to doing, put me to suffering;  
let me be employed for You, or laid aside for you,  
exalted for You, or brought low for You;  
let me be full, let me be empty,  
let me have all things, let me have nothing:  
I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things  
to Your pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God –  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

## [6] *The Prayer of St. Thomas Aquinas*

Grant me, O Lord my God,  
a mind to know You,  
a heart to seek You,  
wisdom to find You,  
conduct pleasing to You,  
faithful perseverance in  
waiting for You,  
and a hope of finally embracing You.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## [7] The Rwandan Martyr's Confession

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made: I am a disciple of Jesus. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed vision, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, applauded, or rewarded. I live by faith, lean on His Presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow. My way is rough; my companions few; my Guide reliable; my mission clear.

I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, and prayed up for the cause of Christ.

I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops. And when He comes to claim His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me: my banner will be clear.



## [8] *The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into the place of the dead;  
on the third day He rose again from the grave;  
He ascended into Heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;  
from there, He will return to judge  
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy worldwide Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

## [9] The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages,  
God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God,  
begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father;  
through Him, all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, He came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit, and through the Virgin Mary became truly human.  
For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He  
ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.  
We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## [10] Put on Christ: A Prayer

Father, give me the eyes of Christ.  
Let me see things as He sees them.  
Give me His vision.  
May I see people and situations through His eyes.

Father, form in me the mind of Christ.  
Let me think about things as Jesus does.  
Baptize my mind, and renew my thinking.  
May I be saturated and permeated through with Truth.

Father, grow in me the heart of Christ.  
Let me feel about things the way Christ's heart does:  
His compassion, His heartbreak, His joy in me.  
May the intentions of Christ's heart become  
the intentions of mine.

Father, give me the hands and mouth of Christ.  
As I feel with Christ's heart about the things I see with  
Christ's eyes and think about with Christ's mind,  
May my hands and mouth respond with Christ's actions  
and words.

In Name & Spirit of Jesus, Amen.

## [11] Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart and  
with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today  
are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children.

Talk about them when you sit at home  
and when you walk along the road,  
when you lie down and when you get up.

Tie them as symbols on your hands  
and bind them on your foreheads.

Write them on the doorframes of  
your houses and on your gates.

## [12] Psalm 23

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd,  
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,
- 3 He restores my soul.  
He guides me in paths of righteousness  
for His Name's sake.
- 4 Even though I walk through the  
valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy will  
follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

## [13] Psalm 24

- 1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;
- 2 for He founded it on the seas  
and established it on the waters.
- 3 Who may ascend the hill of the Lord?  
Who may stand in His holy place?
- 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to an idol  
or swear by what is false.
- 5 He will receive blessing from the Lord and  
vindication from God his Savior.
- 6 Such is the generation of those who seek Him,  
who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
be lifted up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates;  
lift them up, you ancient doors,  
that the King of glory may come in.
- 10 Who is He, this King of glory?  
The Lord Almighty – He is the King of glory.

## [14] Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, oh God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your Presence,  
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

## [15] Psalm 103:1-6

- 1 Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
let all that is within me praise His holy Name!
- 2 Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits –
- 3 He forgives all your sins,  
and heals all your diseases.
- 4 He redeems your life from the pit,  
and crowns you with love and compassion.
- 5 He satisfies your desires with good things,  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The Lord works righteousness and justice  
for all the oppressed.

## [16] Psalm 103:8-13

- 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse,  
nor will He harbor His anger forever;
- 10 He does not treat us as our sins deserve,  
or repay us according to our iniquities.
- 11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is His love for those who  
reverently adore Him;
- 12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has He removed our transgressions from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who  
reverently adore Him.



[17] from Psalm 119

9 How can a young person keep their way pure?

By living according to Your Word.

10 I seek You with all my heart;

do not let me stray from Your commands.

11 I have hidden Your Word in my heart

that I might not sin against You.

18 Open my eyes that I may see

the wonderful things contained in Your Word.

29 Barricade the road that goes Nowhere;

grace me with Your clear revelation.

30 I choose the true road to Somewhere;

I post Your road signs at every curve and corner.

31 I grasp and cling to whatever You tell me;

God, You will never let me down!

[18] from Psalm 139

- 7 Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Where can I flee from Your Presence?
- 8 If I go up to the heavens, You are there;  
if I make my bed in the depths, You are there.
- 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn,  
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
- 10 even there Your hand will guide me.  
Your right hand will hold me fast.
- 17 How precious to me are Your thoughts, oh God.  
How vast is the sum of them!
- 18 Were I to count them,  
they would outnumber the grains of sand!
- 23 Search me, oh God, and know my heart.  
Test me and know my anxious thoughts.
- 24 See if there be any wicked way within me,  
and lead me into the everlasting way.

[19] Proverbs 3:3-7

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;  
bind them around your neck,  
write them on the tablet of your heart.  
Then you will win favor and a good name  
in the sight of God and man.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.  
Do not be wise in your own eyes;  
fear the Lord and shun evil.

## [20] Jeremiah 17:5-8

This is what the Lord says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,  
who draws strength from mere flesh,  
whose heart turns away from the Lord.

That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;  
they will not see prosperity when it comes.

They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,  
in a salt land where no one lives.

But blessed are those who trust in the Lord,  
whose confidence is in Him.

They will be like trees planted by the water,  
that send out their roots by the stream.

They do not fear when heat comes;  
their leaves are always green.

They have no worries in a year of drought,  
and they never fail to bear fruit in season.”

## [21] Matthew 5:1-10

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to Him, and He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and  
thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted  
because of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

## [22] Matthew 11:27-30

Jesus now spoke tenderly to the people:  
“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion?  
Come to Me. Get away with Me and you’ll recover your life.  
I’ll show you how to take a real rest.  
Walk with Me and work with me – watch how I do it.  
Learn the unforced rhythms of grace.  
I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you.  
Keep company with Me and you’ll learn to  
live freely and lightly.”

## [23] Mark 12:28-30

One of the teachers of the law came and asked Jesus,  
“which is the most important commandment?”

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this:

‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.’ [Deut. 6:4-5]

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ [Lev. 19:18]

There is no commandment greater than these.”

## [24] from Romans 8

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things?

If God is for us, who can be against us?

33 No one! Christ Jesus who died –

more than that, who was raised to life –

is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ?

Can trouble or hardship or persecution

or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

37-39 No, in all these things,

we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life,

neither angels nor demons,

neither the present nor the future,

nor any powers, neither height nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation

will be able to separate us from the love of God

that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## [25] from Romans 12

1-2 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters,  
in view of God's mercy, to present your bodies as  
a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God –  
this is your true and proper worship.  
Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to test and approve what  
God's will is – His good, pleasing, and perfect will.

9-15 Love must be sincere.  
Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.  
Be devoted to one another in love.  
Honor one another above yourselves.  
Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor,  
serving the Lord.  
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.  
Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.  
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,  
live at peace with everyone.

21 Do not be overcome by evil,  
but overcome evil with good.



[26] **Jeremiah 29:11-14**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,  
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future.  
Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me,  
and I will listen to you.  
You will seek Me and find Me  
when you seek Me with all your heart.  
And I will be found by you," declares the Lord.

[27] **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**

Though we live in the world,  
we do not wage war as the world does.  
The weapons we fight with  
are not the weapons of the world.  
On the contrary, our weapons have divine power  
to demolish strongholds  
and to counter deceptive arguments.  
We bring down every high pretension  
that sets itself up against the knowledge of God,  
and we take captive every thought  
to make it obedient to Christ Jesus.

## [28] 1 Corinthians 13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor, and give over my body to suffering for the Gospel, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, that which is incomplete will pass away. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became mature, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

## [29] Ephesians 3:16-21

I pray that out of His glorious riches,  
the Father may strengthen you with power  
through His Spirit in your inner being,  
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,  
may have power, together with all the saints,  
to grasp how wide and long and high and deep  
is the love of Christ, and to know this love  
that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled  
to the measure of all the fullness of God!

Now unto Him who is able to do  
immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine –  
according to His power that is at work within us –  
to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus  
throughout all generations, forever and ever!  
Amen.

## [30] **Philippians 2:3-11**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,  
but in humility, consider others better than yourselves.  
And you should not only look out for your own interests,  
but also for the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:  
who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
but made Himself nothing, taking on the very nature  
of a servant, being made in human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a man,  
He humbled Himself and became obedient to death –  
even death on a cross!

So God exalted Him to the highest place  
and gave Him the Name that is above every other name,  
that at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow –  
in heaven, on earth, and under the earth –  
and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## [31] **Philippians 3:7-14**

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  
and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own  
that comes from the law, but that which is through faith  
in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God  
and is by faith.

I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection  
and fellowship of sharing in His sufferings,  
becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow,  
to attain to the resurrection from the dead.  
Not that I have already obtained all this,  
or have already been made perfect,  
but I press on to take hold of that  
for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

My dear brothers and sisters,  
I do not yet consider myself to have taken hold of it.  
But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind  
and straining toward what is ahead,  
I press on toward the goal to win the prize  
for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

## [32] **Philippians 4:4-8**

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice!

Let your Christlikeness be evident to all,  
for the Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God.

And the peace of God,  
which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

And finally, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable –  
if anything is excellent or praiseworthy –  
think about such things.

## [33] Colossians 1:15-23

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.  
He existed before anything was created.  
He is supreme over all creation.  
Through Him, God created everything in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;  
all things were created through Him and for Him.  
He existed before anything else,  
and He holds all creation together.

Christ is the head of the Church, which is His Body.  
He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead.  
In everything, He has the supremacy.  
For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ,  
and to reconcile all things to Himself through Christ.  
He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth  
by means of Christ's blood, shed on the cross.  
This includes us, who were once alienated from God.  
We were God's enemies, separated from Him by our evil thoughts  
and actions.

But now, He has reconciled us to Himself  
through Christ's physical death,  
and has brought us into His own Presence, holy in His sight,  
as we stand before Him without blemish  
and free from accusation.  
But we must continue to believe this truth and walk firmly in it.  
And to not drift away from the assurance we received from the Gospel!

[34] **1 Thessalonians 5:16-19**

Be joyful always. Pray without ceasing.  
Give thanks in all circumstances,  
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.  
And do not quench the Spirit's flames.

[35] **James 5:13-16**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray.  
Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise!  
Is anyone among you sick? Let them call  
the elders of the church to pray over them  
and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.  
And the prayer offered in faith  
will make the sick person well;  
the Lord will raise them up.  
If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.  
Therefore, confess your sins to each other  
and pray for each other so that you may be healed.  
For the prayer of a righteous person  
is powerful and effective.



## [36] 1 John 4:15-18

If anyone believes that Jesus is the Son of God,  
God lives in them and they in God.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.  
God is love.

Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

This is how love is made complete among us,  
so that we will have no fear on the day of judgment.

There is no fear in love.

But perfect love drives out fear,  
because fear has to do with punishment.  
The one who fears has not yet been made  
perfect in love.

We love because He first loved us.