

PRAYER GUIDE #1
24/7 PRAYER FOR CENTRAL PA
TILL WE GATHER AGAIN

BIBLICAL TRUTHS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS

1. **This is not a “trouble” that is beyond the overcoming power of Christ.** “In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus said, “but take heart I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33) He speaks to the storm and the wind and waves stop. (Matthew 8:37) All power and authority has been given to him (Matthew 28:18) and he is (Colossians 1:15-20) the firstborn over all creation. In him all things hold together, as he sits on the throne in the control room of heaven. (Hebrews 1:3) He’s got this.
2. **God has not abandoned us.** He is in the midst of the trouble with us. He is our ever present help in times of trouble, our refuge and our strength. (Psalm 46) In fact, through him we are more than conquerors and nothing can ever separate us from the love of God that we find in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:31-39). Let’s take it a step further. In fact, we do not live in fear, because God is our Father. (Romans 8:14-17)
3. **The coronavirus is part of the “anything” that we are challenged to not worry about.** (Philippians 4:6-7) “Do not worry about anything,” Paul writes, “but in every situation through prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
4. **God is going to do something good in the midst of this time.** He always has good purposes working through even the worst of circumstances. (Romans 8:28) He is shaping us to be more like Jesus. He is drawing us to repentance, by his kindness (Romans 2:4). He is the potter shaping the clay of our lives (Isaiah 64:1-9) and the artist at work on his masterpiece. (Ephesians 2:10) He loves the work of his hands!
5. **The best is yet to come.** While this is a unique moment in world history, a moment seemingly filled with trouble—economic downturn, death & disease, relational isolation & mental health issues—we are a people of hope. We live in the days when the resurrection power of God has been poured out into the world. (Ephesians 1:18-20). We are sons & daughters of the King who pursues us with His goodness and mercy. (Psalm 23). And He is doing a work within us to reveal a glory, the likes of which will make the most tragic suffering pale in comparison. (Romans 8:18) No matter how good or how difficult we find our present moments...the best is yet to come and it’s filled with glory.
6. **While many things will seem important during this time, nothing is more important than Christ.** (Philippians 3:7-14) If we lose everything, but gain Christ, we’ve lost nothing. Christ + nothing = everything. It’s time for us to stare at Christ, treasure Christ.
7. **Finally, the harvest is plentiful.** (Luke 10) Now is the time to pray like crazy for the Lord to send workers into the harvest to share the gospel. Now is the time to say, “Here I am Lord, send me.” Jesus is about to come to our communities!

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. **To Begin, read Philippians 4:6-7** – Paul says that if we want our hearts to be guarded so that worry and anxiety do not overcome us—and we need our hearts guarded from worry, fear and anxiety during this time—then it's not enough to pray. We must pray with thanksgiving. So before you pray, make a gratitude list. Write out some of the blessings of God for which you are grateful!
2. **Breakthrough in My Relationship with God:** Begin your time of prayer by drawing a circle (figuratively) around yourself and pleading with God to bring revival to everything in the circle. Ask him to show you the places in your heart where the virus of sin has found a place to grow. Ask him to show you where your heart has grown cold or hard towards him. Is he my first love? Let this be a time of repentance, coming clean and drawing near. Don't be afraid to do business with God. He loves you.

Scripture to Ponder/Pray – Colossians 3:1-17

3. **Breakthrough in My Relationships with Others:** Perhaps as you read Colossians 3, some relationships other than your relationship with God came to mind. Is there anyone you have offended or by whom you have been offended? What hurt or bitterness do you need to let go. Forgiveness is a gift we give to others and ourselves. Is there a hard relationship where you have put all the blame on someone else? What is your part in it? Bring that to God. Ask him for healing and grace.

Scripture to Ponder/Pray – Ephesians 4

4. **Breakthrough in My Relationship with my Neighbors – so that they in turn might have a breakthrough in their relationship with God.** Spend time praying for your neighbors. Even if you don't know their names...picture the homes on your block, the apartments down your hall. Ask God to bring faces to mind. Pray for peace instead of fear; a contagious hope instead of despair. Pray for joy to overrun grief. Ask God to provide daily needs in ways that will draw them to Jesus. Some of your neighbors had trouble before this trouble came. Pray for marriages that were barely surviving & now have the extra stress of self-quarantine. Pray for children who found school to be a respite from a difficult family life and now are in the midst of it 24/7. Pray for children being abused and parents who have addiction problems. Pray for neighbors wrestling with mental health issues. So much for which we can pray. Pray that Jesus walks our empty streets & knocks on the door of every isolated heart.

Scripture to ponder/pray – Luke 10 (If we want a front-yard-mission, then we need to love like the good Samaritan and if we want to love like the Good Samaritan we need to sit at Jesus' feet like Mary!

- 5. Corporate and City-Wide Move of Prayer:** Ask God to give us a hunger for prayer. Even as we are isolated, ask Him to send His Spirit to draw us into desperately hopeful prayer. Ask God to raise up intercessors that we might see every neighborhood in Central PA covered by 24/7 unceasing prayer. And while you are at it, pray for the pastors in your community...we are all part of one church, the body of Christ. Pastors are doing their best to lead through something they didn't study in Seminary.
- 6. Loving Our Neighbors:** Pray that during this time, even in the midst of social distancing that Christ-followers would excel at praying for and loving our neighbors. That we would not shrink back from compassionate sacrifice; bringing living proof of a loving God.
- 7. Pray for those on the frontline of serving us during this time.** You may know some of them. Some of them are part of your church family. Those still involved in life-sustaining businesses and especially remember health care workers, police officers, first responders, community volunteers and those keeping the food coming.
- 8. Pray for those who are sick:** Worldwide this is taking a toll. You may know someone who has gotten sick or will get sick. Pray for God to pour out health and healing as we draw close to him during this time.
- 9. Pray for the finances/generosity of Christians.** Needs/opportunities are coming at us left and right. Pray that we are generous in the midst of this season so that we can serve our communities well.
- 10. Revival Amongst the Next Generation:** Yes of course, we want revival for all generations. But during this season plead for the younger generations. Ask God to move in these generations like never before! Even though this seems to be passing over the next generation, pray that God uses it to open their hearts to him. Pray for children, middle school and high school students, and Penn State students. Pray that God would grab these generations and lead them to prayer, surrender, holiness, courage, humility, racial reconciliation, justice, love, and generosity.
- 11. An UNPRECEDENTED Harvest:** Pray that God would allow us to see more people come to know Christ and surrender their lives to Him, than we have ever before seen. That children would come to know Jesus. That middle and high school students would surrender their lives to Christ. That college students would find themselves seeking Christ with passion. That people addicted to opioids would come to Jesus along with people struggling with depression. That divorces would be stopped because a spouse surrendered to Christ. That workplaces would be transformed by new Christians. That neighbors would fall in love with Jesus. That international students who came to Penn State for an education would go home with Jesus. And so on...and so on... Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send our workers; for the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few!

SOME SCRIPTURES TO PRAY OVER YOU, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR CHURCH, THE CHURCH OF CENTRAL PA AND BEYOND – IN THE DAYS TO COME

- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Ephesians. 3:14-21
- John 17
- Romans 8 (not a prayer but so many good prayer points)
- Isaiah 64:1-8
- Psalm 51
- Psalm 139
- Daniel 9:1-19

SOME WORSHIP TO CLOSE YOUR TIME
(or use later)

It is Well – Nashville Cellphone Choir

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDIJz6zzHNU>

Remember – Lauren Daigle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nThnLyjQgbA>

Waymaker – At Passion 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kBvpS3z9Qo>

Graves Into Gardens

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwX1f2gYKZ4>

Breakthrough – Red Rocks Worship

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9VqQpf5vc8>

The Blessing – Kari Jobe and Cody Carnes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp6aygmVzM4>