

Lydia Prayer Suggestions #8

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Using Scripture as a prayer guide is a dynamic and effective way to pray. Keep your Bible open as you pray. Communicating with God, the creator of the universe, is a high and holy privilege! Listening to Him speak from His Word is incredibly powerful. There is value in recording His messages to you through prayer and the Word so that you can return to them and reread them in the future. Remember, His instructions to you during your listening and prayer times will never conflict with Scripture.

Listen for Him to speak: “And the Lord spoke to you from the fire.” (Deuteronomy 4:12 – NLT)

Confess and Allow God to Cleanse You: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16 –NIV)

Seek Guidance: “If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask him, and he will gladly tell you. He will not resent your asking.” (James 1:5 – NLT) Ask God to direct your prayers.

Rejoice – Request – Receive: The believers’ prayer for courage in Acts 4:23-31 is a powerful model for prayer: After Peter and John were released from prison, the believers first rejoiced and lifted their voices in adoration to their Sovereign Lord, Creator of heaven and earth; then they presented their requests asking God for boldness in the name of Jesus. “After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.” (Acts 4:31 – NIV) Spend some time rejoicing before you lift your requests to God.

Obey - Keep Praying - Sing Praises: In the sixteenth chapter of Acts we are told that Paul on his second missionary journey was restrained by the Holy Spirit from going to the Provinces of Asia and Bithynia. Instead, he was led through a vision to Macedonia. When he and Silas reached the city of Philippi, they stayed several days. Verse thirteen says that on the Sabbath they went outside the city gate to the river to find a place to pray. There they found a group of women, presented the message of Jesus, and the church at Philippi was birthed. Later in verse sixteen they were again going to a place of prayer and met a demon-possessed slave girl that they delivered in the name of Jesus. What followed was a beating and imprisonment. Verse twenty-five says that around midnight they were praying and singing while the other prisoners were listening. It is exciting to read the results: An earthquake, doors flew open, chains fell off, the jailer and his household were saved, more rejoicing! Stop now and sing a song of praise before continuing your prayer time lifting your church to God in prayer.

Here are some ways to pray for your local church suggested by Dr. Gregory Frizzell in *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life*, page 84:

- Pray for a powerful move of God’s Spirit to bring deep conviction, repentance, and a mighty release of God’s power.
- Pray for powerful anointing and direction upon your pastor and all teachers and church leaders.
- Pray for deep love among members. Pray that strife and disunity will be subdued.
- Pray that Satan be completely bound from all the members and activities of the church.
- Pray for a strong wall of protection to surround the church and its members.
- Pray that the church will clearly receive God’s direction in all decisions and ministries.
- Pray that the church clearly discerns God’s vision for your particular congregation.
- Pray for a spirit of zeal in all ministries and initiatives.
- Pray for God to raise up many laborers and resources for His work.
- Pray for a powerful spirit of worship, prayer, and holiness to permeate the church.

Yes, there is incredible power in prayer! After you listen, confess, seek, rejoice, request, receive, obey, keep praying, and praise, begin to watch carefully for God’s answers! It may surprise you the way He chooses to answer, but go forward believing that He has heard every prayer. Close your prayer time by reading aloud I John 5:14-15.