

How to pray for unsaved loved ones

We do not have to persuade God to save our loved ones, or to save anyone else for that matter. It is His idea in the first place, and He paid a dear price to give the gift of salvation to every person, for all time.

1 Timothy 2:1-7(NKJV)

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Acts 10: 34-43, Acts 11:1-18 (NKJV)

Then Peter opened *his* mouth and said: “**In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.** But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which *God* sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all— that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God *to be* Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**”

Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, saying, “You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!”

But Peter explained *it* to them in order from the beginning, saying: “I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. And I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Rise, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I said, ‘Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.’ But the voice answered me again from heaven, ‘What God has cleansed you must not call common.’ Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, ‘Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, **who will tell you words**

by which you and all your household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave* us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?”

When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.”

Acts 16:25-34(NKJV)

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, “Do yourself no harm, for we are all here.”

Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*”

So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed *their* stripes. And *immediately he and all his family were baptized.* Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and *he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.*

Now that we have firmly established the Truth, that God wants our loved ones to be saved, and we know that He is in the work with us, how do we help them to arrive at the place of receiving God's gift? This is good news, so why doesn't everyone quickly and readily receive it?

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 gives us the answer:

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age (the devil) has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

How do we remove the devil's “blindness” from our loved ones, so they can see, hear and receive the good news of what Christ has done for them?

Matthew 12:29(NKJV)

(Jesus said,) “Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.”

Matthew 18:18(NKJV)

(Again, Jesus speaking) “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

As Jesus' followers we have the God-given power and authority to bind demonic spirits, and render them harmless and ineffective. You may be asking, “Jesus made those statements to His apostles, so how do we know this will work for us, today?” We just read in **Acts 10:34**: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.” **Hebrews 13:8** states: “Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

(For further study on your God-given authority, please study Mark 16:15-18 and John chapters 14-17. Pay particular attention to Jesus' statements that the promises in these scriptures pertain to all who believe. There is no time stamp on His promises, the only qualifier is believing God's Word).

Next step:

Romans 10:8-15a, 17 (NKJV)

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Matthew 9:37-38 (NKJV)

Then He (Jesus) said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Based on these scriptures, we see that we need to ask God, the Father, to send “laborers” (mature, spirit-filled Christians, who are trained, skilled and operating in the fullness of God's Word) to preach the Good News of who Jesus Christ is, and what He did for all of us at Calvary.

Before we pray, there is one more truth that we would do well to understand. This is a process. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians explained the principle:

1 Corinthians 3:5-7(NKJV)

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? *I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.* So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Understanding this truth will help us to be patient as we wait for the fulfillment of God's promise. As we patiently wait, we continue to bind the demonic forces that attempt to influence our loved ones, and we thank God that He has already heard and answered our prayer.

Mark 11:23-25(NKJV)

(Jesus said,) “For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask *when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.* And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.”

That last part is especially important for us to remember, as we deal with our loved ones going through this process. Realize that the devil doesn't want them in God's kingdom, he will put up some resistance, and he may use that loved one to say or do things for which we will need to forgive them. Please don't give up! Remember to love the person, hate the sin; never hate the person. God loves them, just as He loves us, and He paid a dear price to save all of us.

Now, are you ready to pray?

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending your Beloved Son, Jesus, to save _____ . I bind the demonic spirits that are blinding his/her eyes to keep them from seeing the Truth, and I bind the spirits that are blocking his/her ears to keep them from hearing the Truth, in the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. (Demonic spirits) I command you to cease and desist your maneuvers against _____. Lord of the Harvest, I ask You to send laborers into the harvest for _____. You know who they will listen to, and I ask you to send those laborers now. Give _____ the grace to see, hear and receive the Truth of your Word, and accept Your Son, Jesus, as the Savior and Lord of their lives. I claim salvation, deliverance and healing for _____, I claim them, by faith, for the kingdom of God. I believe I receive, and give You the praise, the Glory, and the thanks for hearing and answering my prayer. I count it as done, in Jesus' Name. Amen!