

Where Prayer Focuses Power Falls!

**1. Freedom of Religion and Speech for Pregnancy Centers:** Pray that no Christians at Christian organizations be forced to create speech that violates their conscience. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services determined that Illinois officials are violating federal law by forcing pregnancy centers to refer women for an abortion. (Source: [www.adflegal.org](http://www.adflegal.org))

**2. Freedom of Religion and Speech for Students:** Pray that Christian students can freely express themselves in their public schools. A Kentucky high school senior was told she could not include a Bible verse in her graduation speech. Christian Law Association helped the school understand her constitutional rights—and she spoke boldly, for Christ. (Source: [www.christianlaw.org](http://www.christianlaw.org))

**3. Freedom to Share the Gospel or Bible:** Pray that Christians continue to have and exercise the right to share the gospel. Pray that students on college campuses will continue to be able to freely speak on campus (including sharing the gospel). Student Chike Uzuegbunam was told he could not share the gospel except in a “speech zone” that encompassed 0.0015 percent of his campus and was available only 10 percent of the time. After reserving “the speech zone” a policeman told Chike that someone complained and that Chike’s peaceful speech was classified as “disorderly conduct,” (defined as any speech “which disturbs the peace and/or comfort of person(s).”). Praise God that Chike prevailed at the U.S. Supreme Court. Pray that students would know and defend their right to freely share the gospel. (Source: [adflegal.org](http://adflegal.org))

**4. Sanctity of Life:** Pray that our nation would value life and that the murder of the unborn, disabled, or elderly would not be tolerated or funded by our government. In June 2022, the Supreme Court overturned its 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. Now that each state must decide the question of the abortion issue, pray that unborn life would be preserved as states work out the details of their own statutes. (Source: [www.adflegal.org](http://www.adflegal.org))

**5. Religious Freedom in Public Schools:** Pray that students would not be hindered from exercising their religious rights while at public school. Two separate incidents with 2 different students who attended high schools where seniors were allowed to purchase a parking spot and allowed to paint the spot show pushback to this freedom required intervention. Sophia of Colorado requested to paint her paid parking space with a shepherd on a hill, a staff and a sheep, along with a Bible verse, which was denied as well as her second request to put part of 1 Corinthians 13:4 on the spot. Sabrina of New York submitted a design that featured “Salvation Mountain,” along with the phrases “God is love,” “He loves you,” a cross, and John 14:6. The school rejected it. Hoping she’d still get a chance to paint her spot, Sabrina sent other designs. Those were also rejected. The school said to get approval, she’d have to drop the Bible references and mentions of God. First Liberty sent letters on behalf of each student to their respective school districts outlining their rights as students. In both cases, the schools reversed their positions, and both students were allowed to paint their spots expressing their faith. Pray that the students and parents know and exercise their legal rights. (Sources: [www.firstliberty.org](http://www.firstliberty.org))

**6. Freedom of Religion for in the Market Square:** Pray that Christian ministries to have free speech and freedom of religion when engaging in the market square. A small church in a growing suburban community wanted to host Christmas caroling in their town square. Officials denied their request, saying religious songs were “not appropriate for public space.” Christian Law Association communicated with the city and clearly explained the constitutional protections for religious expression. Within days, the city reversed its decision—and the congregation joyfully sang the message of Christ to hundreds of people. (Source: [www.christianlaw.org](http://www.christianlaw.org))

**7. Freedom of Religion in One’s Own Home:** Pray that the constitutional right to engage in religious exercise within one’s own home remains free from government burden and interference. Rabbi Illulian hosted gatherings for family members and friends (not the public) that included Shabbat prayers, dinner, and religious holiday celebrations. The city of Beverly Hills, after receiving complaints from a private citizen, invasively investigated (including drone surveillance) Rabbi Illulian’s gatherings and issued a “Notice of Violation” prohibiting all religious activity at the home with non-residents. Praise the Lord that after receiving 2 letters from a law firm and First Liberty, the city withdrew its notices. Pray that everyone will continue to be allowed to exercise their right to exercise their religion within their own home. (Source: [www.firstliberty.org](http://www.firstliberty.org))

**8. Freedom from discrimination for Christian Colleges and Universities:** Pray that Christian universities will have equal opportunities to work with local school districts as secular universities. Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of The Moody Bible Institute, challenging the Chicago Board of Education for religious discrimination over the school’s hiring practices. Chicago Public Schools has prevented Moody Bible Institute from participating in its student-teaching program unless it gives up its right to hire like-minded individuals who share and live out its religious beliefs and mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. (Source: [adflegal.org](http://adflegal.org))

**9. Freedom of Religion for Religious Organizations to Hire Consistent with their Religious Beliefs:** Pray that religious organizations continue to be able to hire according to their religious beliefs. In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit ruled that the Yakima Union Gospel Mission is free to hire like-minded employees who share and live out the mission’s religious beliefs and purpose to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ through its homeless shelter and other community service programs, challenging a Washington state law that limited its ability to hire individuals who share and live out its faith. The 9th Circuit’s ruling affirms that churches and religious ministries have autonomy to hire fellow believers for all positions. Pray that no Christian organization would be forced to hire those who do not agree with their mission. (Source: [adflegal.org](http://adflegal.org))

**10. Supreme Court:** Pray that each justice would be courageously impartial in every case. Pray that God would help each justice to make decisions that would be in keeping with the purity and character of the living Judeo/Christian God. Pray that the Lord would bring future justices of His choice onto the Court in His sovereign timing. Ask God to draw each justice to Himself.

# Prayer for Christians to Exercise Rights in the Public School Arena

Current legally protected rights of religious expression: From Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation  
(<http://cpcfoundation.com/religious/religious-freedom/>)



- 11. Discrimination**—School authorities may not discriminate against religious activity or speech. Pray that school administrators would uphold students' and teachers' religious and speech rights.
- 12. Bible Reading and Prayer**—Students may read their Bibles or other Scriptures, say a prayer before meals, and pray before tests. Pray that Christian students would freely and courageously pray and read their Bibles at appropriate times during school.
- 13. Discussions**—Students may attempt to persuade their peers concerning religious topics, just as they may concerning political topics. Harassment, however, (which is not defined) is not permissible. Pray that Christian students would lovingly share Jesus with their peers and have wisdom not to harass their classmates.
- 14. School Work**—Students may use religious themes in their homework, artwork, or other assignments, and such work should be judged (graded) by ordinary academic standards. Pray that students would seek God to creatively share Christian themes in their school assignments.
- 15. Literature**—Students have the right to distribute religious literature (tracts, etc.) to their schoolmates on the same terms as they are permitted to distribute other literature. Pray that students would discern how to best distribute religious literature to their peers.
- 16. Religious Objections**—Students may be excused from lessons that are objectionable on religious or other conscientious grounds. Pray that the Christian parents would be made aware of any lessons presented to their child/ren that are religiously objectionable and that they would boldly have their child/ren excused from these lessons when deemed warranted.
- 17. Clothing**—Students may wear clothing depicting religious themes, and these messages may not be singled out for suppression. They are subject to the same rules as apply to comparable messages. Pray that Christian students feel free to wear clothing with a Christian message.
- 18. Christian Groups**—Students' religious groups at public secondary schools have the same right of access to school facilities as is enjoyed by other comparable student groups. Pray that students are not hindered from access to school facilities and help these groups know and articulate these rights to authorities.
- 19. Student Meetings**—Student meetings may include a prayer service, Bible reading, or other worship exercise. Pray that students would confidently take advantage of opportunities to meet together for religious activities at school.
- 20. Access**—Students may use the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board to announce their meetings on the same terms as other student groups. (This only applies to schools receiving federal funds.) Pray that administrators allow student groups at your local schools equal access as other groups.
- 21. Teaching**—Schools may teach about religion, including the Bible or other scripture, the history of religion, the Bible-as-literature, and the role of religion in the United States and other countries. Schools are to be neutral with respect to religion. However, they may play an active role with respect to teaching civic values and virtue, and the moral code that holds us together as a community. Schools may not allow religious instruction by outsiders on school premises during the school day. However, school officials may dismiss students to off-premises religious instruction. Pray that Christian teachers seek God in how to neutrally incorporate religion in their lessons and that they may do so without censure.

*(Concerning the points below, pray in Jesus's name and bind any people or demons trying to remove, or limit, these rights.)*

## Student Rights at Public Schools:

22. ▶ Students can pray, read their Bibles or other religious material, and talk about their faith at school.
  - ▶ Students can organize prayer groups and religious clubs, and they can announce their meetings.
23. ▶ Students can express their faith in their classwork and homework.
  - ▶ Teachers can organize prayer groups with other teachers.
24. ▶ Students may be able to go off campus to have religious studies during school hours.
25. ▶ Students can express their faith at a school event.
  - Students can express their faith at their graduation ceremony.

## Student Rights at Public University:

26. **Freedom of Speech** - The U.S. Constitution protects your right to express personal religious and political beliefs in writing, speech, and visual or performing arts while at a public university. In class, professors may ask you to take positions you disagree with, so long as they do not require you to agree with those positions outside the classroom.
27. **Freedom of Association** - Christian and conservative student groups have the same right to associate on public university campuses as any other group.
28. **Free Exercise of Religious Beliefs** - Public universities cannot compel you to publicly advocate views and adopt values that are contrary to your beliefs.
29. **Equal Access** - All recognized student groups have the same right to access resources a university has made available. This includes funding, meeting rooms, mail systems, or other campus resources.
30. **Equal Opportunity** - As a student, you have the right to be free from censorship, reprisal, or punishment for your beliefs. Students with religious or conservative beliefs should have the same chance at academic success, employment, and promotion.

A summary of key points from *Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools* ([www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)) by Gateways to Better Education ([www.GoGateways.org](http://www.GoGateways.org))