



## Praying for the Lost

Within a ten-minute drive from the Mansfield Church of God are more than 44,000 people who are perishing and far from God. These are those to whom God has assigned our church to reach with the Good News. Through prayer, the soil of their hearts will be softened toward hearing the Gospel. It is through the leading of the Holy Spirit that they will come to Christ. Let's pray and believe in the Holy Spirit to draw all men to him in our community.

Do you ever ask God to "just save all the lost people"? If you have ever wanted specific, biblical ways to pray for those still lost in darkness, here are seven simple ways to posture yourself before the Father and ask Him to move on behalf of lost people.

### Praying for Open Eyes

"I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me" (Acts 26:18).

The Apostle Paul was sent on a mission, just as Jesus commanded us in the Great Commission.

**Pray:** Father, show me how to pray so that people's eyes are opened so they may turn from darkness to light and from Satan's grip to God's freedom. Your word commands us to go into the world so that the lost may receive the forgiveness of their sins and an inheritance among those sanctified by faith in You! Use me to reach my family, neighbors, city, and beyond so that You alone will receive the glory! And when eyes are opened, may they see and experience new life forever.

**Listen:** Take some time to wait expectantly before the Father. What is God revealing to your heart? Is there a response, a change, an act of repentance or forgiveness that needs to be paid attention to? Is God showing you the next step towards being the answer to the prayer you just prayed?

### Salvation for the Lost Should Be Our Heart's Desire

"Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation" (Romans 10:1).

Paul was in anguish over the lost in Israel. Do we share his grief for the lost next door, in our families, at our workplaces, in our nation, and across the earth?

**Pray:** Lord God Almighty, touch my heart so that it longs for the salvation of every person in every nation on earth. May Your Spirit deepen my anguish over those lost in darkness. I cry out to You to give Jesus His inheritance – the lost of the world!

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## **The Good and Acceptable Prayer**

“First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. 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” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

God doesn't want our lives to be hurried, out of control, and frantic. He wants us to lead tranquil lives of godliness and dignity. This is possible when we pray for others, especially our leaders and those in authority, to come under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

**Pray:** Father, because You desire all to be saved and to know the truth in my heart. May I be faithful to pray for all the men, women, and children you place upon my heart and give me a burden to seek You on their behalf? Help me always pray for those in authority so we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

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## **The God Who Is Always On Time**

“The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

We are impatient people, used to getting what we want instantly. We are even impatient in prayer, wanting results more than we want to wait upon God's timing. Let's choose to believe He is at work in the lives of those for whom we pray and that He will bring their salvation about at the perfect time.

**Pray:** Father God, You are always right on time, even when I am anxious for answers or results. Help me to faithfully pray for friends, family members, neighbors, co-workers, and others who have not yet declared that You are the Savior and Lord of their lives. You love every person and want them all to be a part of Your forever kingdom. May I faithfully pray for all of those You put in my path to be drawn to You!

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## **The Savior Who Seeks the Lost**

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

Perhaps no one comes to Christ apart from the prayers of at least one other person. We won't be able to verify this until heaven; however, more people will have the opportunity to come to Christ if we pray than if we don't.

**Pray:** Lord, because You came to earth and were crucified and risen, I have been saved to live a Christlike life and to pray for the salvation of all who are lost. You found me when I was lost and living apart from the fullness of life. Thank You for allowing someone to pray for my salvation, for putting people in my life to speak of You, and for convicting my heart through Your Holy Spirit of the sin in my life. Thank You for the greatest act of sacrificial love – dying on the cross for my salvation and the salvation of all who have yet to call You Lord and Savior. May I have the privilege of praying thousands into Your kingdom!

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### **Prayer for Blinded Minds**

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (II Corinthians 4:4).

Because Satan has blinded the minds of those who have yet to know Christ, their minds need to be opened to see the true light of His gospel. As we pray, God moves to change hearts and minds. He makes a way in the most challenging circumstances for those who are lost to be saved.

**Pray:** Lord God Almighty, we pray for the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ Jesus, who is Your very image, to be made known to those who are lost. Draw them to Yourself as we seek Your face and ask that in Your mercy, You will move to remove whatever is blocking their minds to receive the gospel. Let them see the futility of going their own way and the blessing of embracing the life-giving Savior. Show me how to help people draw closer to You.

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### **Lord of the Harvest**

“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest’” (Matthew 9:37-38).

Jesus made it clear to His disciples what their mandate was – bringing lost people into the kingdom. Never has there been a time in history when more people needed Jesus – all across the earth. Jesus said we are to “beseech” the Lord. Other words for beseech are implore, beg, and plead. Are we willing to pray the price of eternal life for countless loved ones, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and even those we have never met?

**Pray:** Lord of the Harvest, awaken my heart more fully and move upon the hearts of those who have yet to discover their usefulness in the amazing harvest that is ripe and ready to be gathered. Give us compassion for those who are lost!

So many are wandering in darkness every single day, and so many others are completely without hope. Please show me how to bring others with me to step into the harvest field together. May we be faithful to pray earnestly for the lost who are unreachable by human contact but who can be reached through the power of Your Spirit as we pray! We ask that You raise more workers and more people who will tell their God stories to the lost across the street and worldwide!

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