

HOW TO PRAY WITH INTENTION FOR COVID-19

As the people of God, there is always a need for God's care and protection in our lives. At this time in our world, we are experiencing the harassment from the Evil One with rampant evil, crime, war, sickness, and all kinds of violence. It is the opportunity, privilege, and responsibility of God's people to come to the Lord in prayer. We are a community of believers who believe that God is in control of our lives and the world around us. God wants us to be active in his ministry of protecting, healing, and saving the world. At this particular time, we are threatened by a virus and the cure or prevention has not yet been found. It is our responsibility as God's people to pray for ourselves and others. As a church body, we need to pray.

Following is a guide for you to use as you pray. Our pastor, Dr. Jody Ray, reminded us from his trip in Israel who we are as disciples of Jesus and what we have been given. It comes from **2 Timothy 1:7: "God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."** As we pray, may we approach the throne of God's grace with the confidence of an unshakable faith in His sovereignty and power.

1. Pray that we will walk by faith and wisdom. We live in a world where we are bombarded by social media. News agencies are rewarded by a click of our computer mouse. An anxious consumer base is, for these agencies, a good thing. Therefore, they fill our minds with alarming reports. Pray that people will fight anxiety and walk the line between faith and wisdom. Pray that we do not lose sight that God is our help and our refuge, and He Himself is untouched by disease (**Psalm 91**). Pray that even if we experience the worst imaginable outcome that Christ would remain our sure and steady anchor. Pray that we will trust God and not waver in faith.

***Those who are fearful: 2 Timothy 1:7; Isaiah 41:10**

***Those who need assurance: Psalm 91**

2. Pray for healing and safety. This is the most important request we have. Pray that those who have the virus will be healed, and the spread of the virus would be slow and soon eradicated. Pray that government agencies will have the wisdom and skill in containing the epidemic, and that doctors and nurses will be energized for their work. Pray for scientists and biomedical engineers scrambling to invent a way to cure and immunize against this virus. Pray for those infected by the coronavirus in China and around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection, and of course for all who at this time are feeling anxious.

***Those who are sick: James 5:14-15; Exodus 23:25**

***Those in isolation: Romans 8:35; 37-38**

***Those seeking a cure: 2 Kings 20:5; Mark 6:56; Jeremiah 17:14**

3. Pray for believers to have a gospel opportunity to speak the Good News into someone's life who needs to hear it. Since China has been hit very hard with this virus, pray for Chinese Christians, pastors, foreign missionaries, businesspeople, and educators who remain in China to have open doors for gospel conversations in light of this crisis. Ask God to make the compassion and unity of His people reflect the gospel in these dark days. Pray that the resolve and sacrifice of missionaries would pave a way for fruitful ministry.

***The gospel might be spread with love and power: Matthew 28:16-20**

4. Pray for wisdom and understanding for our church leadership as they discuss how to advise our staff, our church family, and our guests. Pray that we have wisdom to shepherd our members. There are many precautions we need to take and yet live out our faith in this situation. Pray that God will be glorified, and His name will be lifted up in a strong way. We need His wisdom.

***Those in leadership position making decisions: Proverbs 18:10**

5. Pray for Christian unity. As you might imagine, not all of us agree on everything or every decision that will be made. Pray that we would all submit to the prayerful decisions that are being made by those who must make them. Pray that godly leaders will be trusted, and that we would assume the best of motives in our brothers and sisters. Again, pray for wisdom for our government and spiritual leaders as they lead us through this crisis.

***Our response as disciples of Jesus will be one of compassion, love, and a spirit of cooperation: 3 John 1:2; Philippians 4:6-7**

6. Pray for you own spiritual growth and faith walk during this time. Satan hates when we grow in our faith during trying times and grow closer to Jesus, our Lord.

***Those who need strength: Deuteronomy 31:6; Psalm 46:1-3; Proverbs 18:10**