





PRAYER GUIDE

As we approach the National Day of Prayer on May 6, we want to assist every member in developing their own thoughtful engagement in prayer. The life of the Christian is one where God continually draws us out of self-reliance into deeper reliance upon Him. In Christ God invites each one of us—His beloved children—to confidently “draw near to the throne of grace” (Hebrews 4:16). Prayer provides each of us with the unique opportunity to experience deeper intimacy with God, seeing our hearts transformed as we personally rest upon God’s mercy to us in Christ.

“In the morning, O LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation.”

- Psalm 5:3

As we engage in prayer, it can be easy to become overwhelmed, wondering, “Am I doing this right?” This is true, especially if prayer is a new practice.

The words we use do not need to be perfectly polished, but honest, talking as you would with one who loves you utterly. In the same way that every parent delights in their child’s first attempts to speak, so too does God delight in our desire to communicate with him. Whether this is your first time praying or you are a disciplined veteran with decades of experience, each one of us comes to God just the same—loved, adopted, and accepted in Christ.

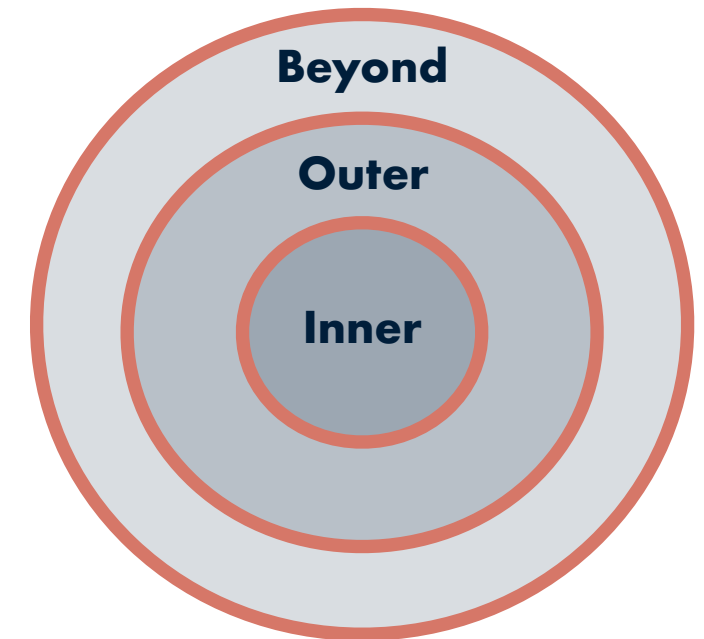
But if you don’t know where to begin, instead of praying *in* circles, praying *with* circles may help you organize your thoughts in a meaningful way.

Inner : Starting with yourself, immediate family, closest friends and neighbors, Coral Ridge staff, officers, and members, and local officials, etc.

Outer : Extended family, coworkers and acquaintances, partner churches and ministries, and state officials, etc.

Beyond : Our denomination, “the Church” as a whole, our nation, national leaders like the President, members of Congress, global leaders and ministries, etc.

What this looks like for each of us is personal and different. Some may write a list and go through each one. Some may focus on different circles at different times, rather than tackle everything at once. Whatever your prayer time looks like, you will find it to be a powerful and transformative experience that leads you continually to look beyond yourself to God who is our refuge and strength.



Below, you will find some principles that will help you as you pray, as well as some ideas about how you can pray for the individuals and groups within the various “circles” of our lives. It is not an exhaustive list, but a starting point.

Our Father

When Jesus taught the disciples to pray, he began by saying, “*Our Father*.” For all who are in Christ Jesus, we are not approaching a stranger, but *our Father* who loves us in the same way He loves Jesus. Remind yourself of who you are speaking to, especially when you feel unsure — for there is “nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39).

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever,
Amen**

Beginning with Gratitude

Beginning our prayers with gratitude and praise is a great way to start, in difficulty or simply when your mind is going a mile a minute. Making a habit of expressing gratitude to God trains us to notice the gifts of His grace throughout our lives, reminds us of all that God has done, and that even in trouble, God is worthy of our praise and honor.

Confession

One of the first truths we come to recognize as Christians is that all of us, however hard we might try, have not lived up to the perfect standard God has for us. But we also know that God does not love us because we have worked hard enough to earn it, but “shows his love for us in that *while we were still sinners*, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). Not only that, but Christ rose again for us and in our place, so that we can “rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation” (Rom. 5:11). As we come before God, it is right for us to acknowledge where we have failed, while at the same time recognizing we have perfect security in Christ.

**Most merciful God,
I confess that I have sinned against
you in thought, word, and deed, by
what I have done, and by what I
have left undone.
I have not loved you with my whole
heart; I have not loved my neighbors
as myself. I am truly sorry and I
humbly repent. For the sake of your
Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me
and forgive me; that I may delight in
your will, and walk in your ways, to
the glory of your Name,
Amen**

**“Do not be anxious about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God.”
- Philippians 4:6**

Praying for your Circles

God, open our eyes that we would know the love you have for us in Christ and that we would become increasingly confident in Him.

Protect us from temptation, giving us strength to turn from sin, knowing that only You can provide true and lasting satisfaction.

Where there has been hurt or sin in our lives, may there be confession and reconciliation, being merciful to others as You have been merciful to us.

God, grant us wisdom to face the demands, opportunities, and challenges before us, so that we would be a blessing to those in our lives.

For those who do not know you : God would you soften their hearts and resistance to you, showing them the truth of who Jesus is and what he has done for them. Give us the words to say that we would effectively communicate the good news.

For those struggling against illness : God would you provide comfort and peace in the midst of these battles, wisdom to doctors and caretakers, and bring healing and restoration to the sick.

For those dealing with death and loss : God would you comfort the brokenhearted, drawing near to us in our grief, reminding us that in Christ the

grave has been conquered. Help us to grieve well, remembering that your resurrection enables us to grieve with hope. Help us to be a comfort others in their time of grief.

For those struggling financially : God would you help us to trust you, casting our anxieties upon you, knowing that you promise to give us daily bread. Help us to find gainful employment for the sake of ourselves and our families, and lead us to be generous to others in need.

For those who are struggling with fear : God would you draw us to an awareness that you are with us — you are our refuge from fear and anxiety. Make us to be a people who lend help to all who struggle.

For those struggling with addiction : God you are the God of redemption, who liberates from slavery. Would you grant us freedom from what so easily entangles, and help us to love and wisely care for those in need of support.

For couples : May each person grow in love and respect for the other, demonstrating Christlike affection in both word and deed. Strengthen and protect marriages so that each couple would pursue Christ together, and minister to others in life together.

For parents : May each parent look to you, the true Father, as the model of deepest, parental love, to raise and guide their children to know and love you

For children and grandchildren : May they grow in knowledge of God, coming to trust in Jesus by faith, and be able to discern how they, as unique image

bearers, are called to live and use the talents, passions, and individual gifts you have given them.

For CRPC Leaders : Protect and strengthen Pastor Rob, the elders and staff, deacons and other leaders, and their families. Open their eyes to what you intend to do now and in the future, that we would be increasingly faithful and effective in the call you have placed upon our congregation.

For CRPC Members : God, would you make our church unified in our common faith, like the family you call us to be, energized and equipped to be light in this world individually and together. In the midst of this trial, teach us how to care for one another as you conform us into the image of your Son.

For our Ministry Partners : God would you grant them wisdom and strength to proclaim the Gospel effectively, to lead their ministry with faithfulness, and to care for all those who are under their authority.

For the Church as a whole : God, would you move mightily in our denomination and your Church, throughout your world, drawing us away from our idolatries and sins, so that we will become effective messengers of the gospel, and lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ. Empower us now, as ever, to be your witnesses in the world.

For Government Officials : God would you grant wisdom, strength, and compassion to those in power—our president and governors, members of Congress, and all local authorities, assisting them to make wise and God honoring decisions, for the sake of all who are under their influence.

For our Nation and World : God would you move in power upon our nation and across your world, bringing about the revival we seek, empowering us to be your hands and feet wherever you have called us to be. You promise to work all things for the good of those you have called. May this crisis lead all people everywhere to call upon your name in faith.

**We pray all these things in the precious and powerful name of Jesus Christ,
Amen**

