



**PLUG**  
INTO THE  
**POWER**  
OF  
**PRAYER**

**For the Lost**

# Prayer for the Lost

**Remember – Who we are approaching**

**Psalm 95:3-7** “For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup> In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup> The sea is his, for he made it,  
and his hands formed the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup> For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.”

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## Recall the invitation to Come to Him

- **Rom. 10:9** “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- **Psalms 145:18-19** “The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he also hears their cry and saves them.”

- **1 John 5:14** “<sup>14</sup> And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. <sup>15</sup> And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”

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## Review the truth – God hears and responds

- **James 5:17-18** “<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

<sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.”

### - Story found in 1 Kings 17-18

- **1 Kings 18:41-45** “And he bowed himself down on the earth and put his face between his knees. <sup>43</sup> And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” And he went up and looked and said, “There is nothing.” And he said, “Go again,” seven times. <sup>44</sup> And at the seventh time he said, “Behold, a little cloud like a man's hand is rising from the sea.”

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## Key Truths so far:

- Prayer is 2 way communication
  - have the Holy Spirit in us
  - sheep know my voice
- Given authority in the Spiritual realm – Matt. 18
  - ask according to his will
  - greater things than these will you do
- Practice of Jesus, taught to followers
  - when you pray
  - central in early church, clear call in scripture

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## 1. Uncomfortable Reality

### a) Reality of.....

- **sin – Rom. 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

- **without excuse – Rom. 1:18-20** “<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.”

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- **cost of sin – Rom. 6:23** “<sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- **wrath of God – Rom. 2:4-5** “Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? <sup>5</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.”

**Rom. 12:19** “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

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## **b) There is One Way to be Saved**

- **well intentioned, doing best – irrelevant**

- **Acts 4:12** “<sup>12</sup> And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

## **c) Gift offered, cannot be earned or deserved**

- **Rom. 5:8-10** “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”

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## d) Two Options for Us

- free will, one path or the other

- **Heb. 9:27-28** “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,<sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

- **Option 1 – Pay for my Sin Personally**

- **wrath of God poured out on me**

- **Matt. 25:46** “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

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- **Option 2 – Accept Christ’s offer of Payment for my Sin.**

- **John 3:16-18** “<sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world,<sup>[i]</sup> that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

- **Rom. 10:9** “<sup>9</sup> because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved”

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## 2. God's Heart is Clearly Revealed

### a) Desires that None Perish

- **2 Peter 3:9-10** “<sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.”

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## **b) Intends for Us to be Participants with Him**

- prepared works – Eph. 2

- light, ambassadors, reconciling

- **2 Cor. 5:18-22** “All this is from God, who through

Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

<sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

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## c) Role in Asking God to Work

- **open eyes and ears (reveal himself)**

- **2 Cor. 4:3-4** “<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”

- **Acts 16:14** “One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul”



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- **reveal the mystery – Eph. 6:18-20** “<sup>8</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”

- **courage & opportunity**

- **send others – Matt. 9:37-38** “Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; <sup>38</sup> therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

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## 3. Active Participation

- stakes are huge, God has been clear

### a) Love Them

- commandment – John 13:34
- while we were still sinners – loved! Rom. 5:8
- greater love – John 15:13
- know your mine by your love – John 13:35
- Love your enemies – Matt. 5:43-44

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## b) Entrust them to God

- spiritual battle, God reveals self
- arm is not to short – Isaiah 59:1
- loves the wandering – Luke 7:36
- loves the uninterested – Acts 16:16
- able and in control – Acts 17:24-27

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## c) Be Willing for God to Use You

- give a reason for the hope – 1 Peter 3:15-16
- preach & support the gospel – Rom. 10:14-15
- willing heart – Isaiah 6:8

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