

A Prayer Guide for September 11, 2010

We were all shaken on September 11, 2001.
Nine years later, September 11 is an ideal time to pray
for God's life and love to be revealed to our neighbors and co-workers.

Unite your prayers with thousands of others across the land
who will prayerwalk their neighborhood or workplace from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

A Prayerwalking Guide

Prayerwalking is simply praying where we expect to see God bring forth answers to our prayers. Praying near the places where people live and work can make it easier to focus and to unite prayer on their behalf.

- Pray with others or small teams of two or three.
- No need to be demonstrative. Be on the scene without making one.
- Pray with God's Word to unite and focus your prayers with confidence. Make all the photocopies of this prayer guide that you may need in order to put Scripture at your fingertips.
- In your small prayer groups, read the following scriptures aloud in unison. The written prayers that spring from the scriptures can help you find ways to express in your own words what you know is on God's heart.

Praying for God's life and strength from Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth give way
and the mountains fall
into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake
with their surging. Selah.
– Psalm 46:1-3*

*There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God, the holy place
where the Most High dwells.*

*God is within her, she will not fall.
God will help her at break of day.*

*Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall.
He lifts His voice, the earth melts.
The LORD Almighty is with us.
The God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah.
– Ps 46:4-7*

We cannot fully know the troubles that threaten those who work, play and live here. But in these days of turmoil, reveal the tender strength and constancy of Your love. We declare the truth of Your presence: You are near to us with help, not harm. We declare the truth of Your love for all people: You have not set Your heart against this community. You are for all those who take refuge in You. Some have come to regard You with fear, blaming You for what afflicts them. Reveal, instead, Your mighty love. Call the people of our community to Yourself. Regardless of how distant they may feel from You, move them to look to You and find that You are near to them in trouble.

Many of our city have already taken refuge in You. They have welcomed You to dwell in their lives and homes. Cause Your life to flow to them as if a river were streaming from heaven. They are not immune from affliction but they know that You—the Most High—are near to them in the pressure of daily affairs. Protect them by filling them with Your steadfast strength. Refresh them in the genuine joy of hope.

Let the river of Your life flow to those who have not tasted the gladness of knowing You. Let Your voice of promise come to them. Anchor their lives in hope that You will surpass Yourself by giving even greater help in days to come. Come upon our community like the dawn dispelling darkness. Raise Your voice above the noise of collapsing economies and clashing nations. As every steady thing seems to dissolve, turn our hearts to trust You.

Prayers from Psalm 46 continue on the reverse.

*Come and see the works of the LORD,
the desolations He has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.
He breaks the bow and shatters the spear,
He burns the shields with fire.*

*"Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."*

*The LORD Almighty is with us.
The God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah.*

– Psalm 46:8-11

We cry out that people throughout this community will look to You so that they will recognize the extent of Your power and purpose. You will do what we cannot do. Only You can bring an end to violence and evil. And so we hush and look to You for our help. Only You can bring an end to the tension and turmoil of our city. Call our community to know You. Overcome the noise that clutters our attention. Silence our distractions and fears. Be exalted in our homes. Be honored in our workplaces. Cause Your works to be seen. Be glorified in this land.

(Stand quietly for a moment in silence as an act of prayer.)

Praying for God's kindness and guidance from Psalm 23

*The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters.
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.* – Psalm 23:1-3

*Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.* – Psalm 23:4

*You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.* – Psalm 23:5-6

Many of our community are lost to You, but even so, You have never ceased to search for them. You are always close and You constantly care for them. Renew the weary minds of those exhausted by guilt or fear. Restore broken hearts. Heal them from the inside out. Forgive their sin. Show them how to live so that You are known and honored.

Death's shadow looms over some. Others are paralyzed in grief, having lost loved ones long ago. Overcome their fears. Guide them with Your staff. Guard them with Your rod. Encompass them in Your steady love.

Heal the relational wreckage of their past. Rescue them from cycles of petty paybacks from those they have considered to be their enemies. Convince them to trust You as their safe defender. May their trust in You be the beginning of a feast of forgiveness. Cause our community to overflow with honor and gratitude for all that You do to renew relationships. Pursue the people who are far from You with words of life and acts of love. Cause Your kindness to turn their attention toward You. Bring them all the way home.

Praying in unity for God's life-giving power and blessing

Gather with others for a time of united prayer at noon on September 11, as many others will do all over America. Praying in unity multiplies our faith and focuses our hope upon Christ. Use this prayer as a way to begin or close a time of crying out for God to move in mercy and life-giving power.

Most High God, we gather to honor You with praise and to ask that You intervene with mercy, grace and power in our land.

We approach You boldly, as a loving Father, who names and knows every family and people of the earth. Your power is only surpassed by Your love, proven by the sending, the death and the raising of Your Son, Jesus, the Christ. You have entrusted the Lord Jesus with authority to fulfill Your purpose on the earth.

We cry out to You in this day of trouble. The passing of years since the great calamity of 9/11 have not reassured our trembling hearts. We are powerless to explain the tragedy. We cannot defend ourselves from the frightful evil we see in the hearts of all humanity.

Although nations continue to rise against one another, and although lawless violence may increase, cooling the love of many, we ask You to move by Your Spirit upon all who live in our land. Break the escalating powers of hatred. Bring forth sweeping moves of chain-reaction forgiveness. May love cover a multitude of sins. Empower Your people to become a force of blessing among all peoples.

Cause the life of Your Spirit to flow like life-giving rivers upon the earth. Instill courage in our hearts to pray and labor in hope for all that You have promised to be fulfilled for Your glory. Amen.