

PRAYER SELECTIONS FROM “WORDS TO PRAY BY”

Pertaining to abuse within the Church...

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WORDS FOR THOSE SUFFERING ABUSE

Psalms 10:17-18

You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; You encourage them, and You listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

Strengthen the hearts of those who are suffering, Lord. You know the wicked acts being done against the weak and the vulnerable. Intervene on behalf of those who are trapped and let them know You are working on their release! Do away with those who bring terror to men's souls and let them know their days are numbered!

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Thank You, Lord, for Your overshadowing presence in the lives of those who are broken and crushed in spirit. Thank You for saving those who are unable to move forward on their own. May Your presence increase in tangible ways to those who are hurting so that they will know of Your incredible love and desire to redeem and restore.

Psalms 107:19-20

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them from their distress. He sent out His word and healed them; He rescued them from the grave.

You are more than able to heal and restore all those who have been abused and inflicted, Lord! You can rescue those who have a spirit of death hovering over them and bring them back to life! Your saving power is more than enough to redeem those who have suffered and show them the power of resurrection life.

Isaiah 40:29-31

He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

For those who are weak and weary, Lord, give them extra strength to persevere. Speak to their hearts and minds and let them know You are with them and watching over them. Show them Your truth and Your ability to turn everything evil into something good for Your glory and for their blessing. Give them a reason to hope again.

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.

Thank You, Lord, for walking with us through the valley of the shadow of death. We do not need to fear any evil because You are with us! You enable us to keep walking and not give up. You empower us to rise above the flames and not be burned by the enemy's fires. We will not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with the grace of Your goodness. Thank You for being our Shield and Defender, even when we can't see it.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the Lord, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”

Regardless of how things look, Lord, I trust in Your plans. I reaffirm Your heart to prosper Your children and to give them a hope and a future. I stand on this promise and ask that You answer the cries of those who are suffering and show them Your love and concern. Stir their hope in Your Word and in Your determination to use everything in their life to bring them to a place of blessing and abundance.

Malachi 4:2

But for you who revere My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves.

Lord, bring healing to all who have been hurt and abused by the wicked. Your healing power is supernatural and able to touch every part of the human soul, mind, and body. Especially for the most vulnerable, may their healing be so complete that they will regain any years lost and be filled to overflowing with joy and vitality.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.

For those whose lives have been impacted by evil deeds from the wicked, I pray that they will be fully vindicated and receive full retribution for their suffering. Give them life and life abundant, Lord! Hold back nothing that is good and pure for those You will rescue and redeem. With You, all things are possible!

2 Corinthians 1:5

For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

Pour out Your comfort to the hurting, Lord. To the degree the enemy has inflicted pain and torment on the weak and vulnerable, pour out Your tangible presence and unmistakable compassion and mercy. May all who are suffering experience the power of Your love and a hope for tomorrow that is beyond imagination.

2 Corinthians 4:8-10

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

No matter how the enemy tries to crush and destroy us, Your love is stronger and Your power is greater. Thank You for the grace to override every kind of hardship and pain with an outcome that reveals Your compassion for the suffering and Your wrath towards the wicked. There is always resurrection life inside of us! I call forth that resurrection life in Jesus' name, to vanquish the spirit of death and destruction in the lives of those suffering from abuse. Reveal Yourself, Jesus, and shine forth the life and healing that comes from You alone.

WORDS FOR JUSTICE AGAINST THE WICKED

Psalms 33:5

The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love.

When You deliver Your justice, God, may it be the power of Your love that receives the most attention. May we be reminded that it is Your love that compels You to act with justice. It is Your love that defends the weak and punishes those who purposely rebel against the gift You offer them. May the earth be filled with the knowledge of Your goodness and love, even in the midst of severe judgement against those who rebel.

Psalms 37:1-2

Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.

Forgive me, Lord, when I worry about those who do evil and wonder if they will prevail. Forgive me when I think they have the upper hand. You see from on high and know that their days are numbered and their fate is secure. Regardless of what they seem to get away with, there is a soon and coming day when they will be gone. They will die away and their deeds will be rendered null and void. They will answer to You, the final Judge of all things, and answer for the crimes they've committed.

Psalms 94:18-23

When I said, "My foot is slipping," Your unfailing love, Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought me joy. Can a corrupt throne be allied with You - a throne that brings on misery by its decrees? The wicked band together against the righteous and condemn the innocent to death. But the Lord has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge. He will repay them for their sins and destroy them for their wickedness; the Lord our God will destroy them.

Your love, O Lord, is greater than any doubt or fear. When my heart becomes anxious, come and overshadow me with Your presence. You grant me joy in knowing that no one who does evil will get away with their plans. You will repay them for their sins and destroy works they have done. Thank You for already determining their fate and sealing their destiny.

Psalms 97:3-6

Fire goes before Him and consumes His foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles. The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth. The heavens proclaim His righteousness, and all peoples see His glory.

Your holiness is like a burning fire, Lord, and it consumes all who dare to defy it. May the holiness of Your presence be tangible to those who oppose you and defile Your name through vile and corrupt acts. May all of creation witness how powerful You are and how passionate You are to defend the integrity of Your Word and the validity of Your throne!

Psalms 106:3

Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.

Lord, when You release Your judgments against the wicked, may those who have stood for justice at personal cost be rewarded. May all who have acted in truth, justice, and true compassion, be given favor and blessing as a reward for exercising the courage to do what is right.

Proverbs 5:22

The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare them; the cords of their sins hold them fast.

According to Your Word, sin bears a price. Because the wicked have forsaken Your Word and spun their own web of deceit and corruption, they will get ensnared in their sin and become entangled in their own wrongdoings. God, may they see that this is the cost of deliberately refusing Your Lordship and the price of practicing evil. May they have no one to blame but themselves.

Isaiah 35:4

Say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you."

Thank You, God, for Your plans to avenge the cause of Your children. Your plan to rescue and save those who are being attacked without cause is sure. Not only are You coming to bring down the wicked, You are coming to reward those who have withstood the time of trial. Thank You for Your unwavering commitment to save, heal, and restore!

Isaiah 59:17-18

He put on righteousness as His breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped Himself in zeal as in a cloak. According to what they have done, so will He repay wrath to His enemies and retribution to His foes; He will repay the islands their due.

You wear the mantle of justice and vindication, Lord, and have already promised to pour out Your wrath on the wicked. You are watching all that they do and are preparing to repay them for all they have done. I will not fret at their agendas or worry about their plans because You have already determined their fate. Thank You that in the midst of suffering, You show us the end result. You are Lord and King and will save Your own, bringing justice and liberty to all who are oppressed.

Matthew 5:43-44

You have heard that it was said, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy." But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

As hard as it is, Lord, I pray for these enemies who do harm to others. I pray that Your presence would overshadow them and cause them to turn from the devil's schemes and follow after You. Guard my heart from a spirit of hatred towards individuals so I can focus my prayers on the works of darkness. Separate the sin from the sinner so my prayers will be effective, and my heart remain pure. Fill me with Your love, even for those who do wrong, so that You can have full sway and do what You alone can do.

Romans 2:8-10

But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Father, You do not look lightly on sin. For those who reject Your truth and follow their own ways, Your anger and judgment will fall. Though You do not delight in punishment, Your Word is final. May the consequences of our words and deeds cause all to know the true fear of the Lord.

Romans 12:19

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Keep our hearts from hatred, Lord. Keep our minds free from thoughts of revenge or violence against those who wound our young. You alone have the right to bring judgment upon their acts. You alone will determine their destiny and fate.

2 Peter 2:9-10a

If this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority.

You say You will deliver the godly from trials and rescue them from their distress. Thank You for the plans You made ahead of time to redeem Your own. I will not give in to any idea that the wicked will win or that their destruction will last. You have already determined their judgment. Thank You for Your sovereign plan that assures us our victory and our validation.

WORDS FOR PASTORS AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSPsalms 25:14

The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes His covenant known to them.

Bless my leaders with Your presence, Lord, and overshadow them with an awe of Your holiness. May they desire to walk in the fear of the Lord. Open their hearts and eyes to the depth of Your promises. Give them a greater vision of Your heart and purpose for us as believers and as the Body of Christ.

Psalms 128:1-4

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to Him. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.

Father, I ask that our leaders delight in following after You. May they see the abundant blessings you release when they walk in obedience to Your Word. May their entire household reflect Your goodness. May their provisions be met, and may Your favor bring them increase as they faithfully follow Your call on their lives.

Psalms 119:66

Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust Your commands.

Teach our pastors and leaders the knowledge they need to lead well, Lord. Meet them in the quiet place and grant them greater insight into the truths You reveal to them. Give them sound judgment and the ability to rightly distinguish between what is of God, what is of man, and what is of the enemy. May their faith grow as they see the power of Your Word at work in their own lives.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Father, I pray that the leaders in my church would operate in the fear of the Lord and not the wisdom of men. May their understanding come from the awe of Your holiness and not the opinions of others. May they pursue the truth and be willing to change if it pleases You.

Proverbs 2:6-8

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.

Grant my pastor and leaders increased wisdom and insight as they study Your Word and listen for Your heart. Show them the blessings and sovereign protection that comes from being faithful to Your truth and walking in Your ways. Cover them with Your wings and overshadow them with peace and security.

Proverbs 4:25-27

Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

Guard and protect our pastors, Lord, from temptation and sin. Holy Spirit, speak into their ears the way to go when confronted with challenging choices. Keep their hearts pure and their walk holy. May they desire to have a right relationship with You through a clear conscience and a life of integrity. Anoint their eyes to pursue only that which will bring blessing and honor to Your Name.

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

Lord, give our pastors a conviction of Your truth and a determination to follow You at all costs. May they not be lured away by men's praise or bow to men's complaints. May they have a heart to please You above all else and have the grace to deal with those who misunderstand them and oppose them. Keep them safe from the darts of the enemy and strengthen their resolve to finish their race with integrity.

Isaiah 11:2-3a

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

I pray that pastors and church leaders would be filled to overflowing with the power of Your Spirit. May they operate in the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and of might, and the spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. May our leaders receive much joy in walking in Your Spirit and experience, firsthand, the blessing that comes from walking in Your ways.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

Bless our pastors as they teach Your Word and declare the truths of the Kingdom. May they go beyond merely teaching the principles to demonstrating these realities with Your power and presence. I ask for signs, wonders, and miracles to follow the teaching of Your Word so that people would be drawn to You above any minister.

Encounter pastors and teachers with the power of Your Spirit, Lord, so they will preach a Kingdom of power and not just words.

Ephesians 6:16-17

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

I pray that our pastors would know Your Word with great insight and understanding. May their knowledge of Your Word shield their hearts from doubt and distress. May they be strong in their faith and able to deflect the threats and accusations of the enemy. May they be overshadowed with the confidence that comes from knowing Your heart and trusting in Your providential care.

Philippians 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Lord, grant our pastors and church leaders an even greater love and compassion for those they serve. May they know, first and foremost, how much You love them and how committed You are to fulfilling Your purpose for them. Encourage their hearts when they are frustrated with others and weary of dealing with people. May they see the fruit of their labors and know that You smile on their faithful ministry unto You.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

Keep our pastors and leaders centered in the truth of Your Word, Lord. Guard their hearts and minds from the opinions of men and any teaching which strays from Your truth. As they pursue the work of Your Spirit, grant them a discerning heart to distinguish between what is real and what is counterfeit. Free them from the constraints of religion and center their hearts in the Living Word which alone brings life.

1 Timothy 6:11-12

But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

Give our pastors a passion for purity, Lord. Give them an undivided heart that seeks You above all else. Stir their heart with a hunger for righteousness and all that is holy. Encourage their hearts to stand against the enemy's attacks and reward their diligence in being faithful to their charge.

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

Give those who preach Your Word a perseverance to study the scriptures and dig deeper into the truth. Give them a joy as they receive revelation and share these insights in a way that calls everyone else deeper. Show our leaders the fruit that comes when they practice what they preach. Through their diligence in studying Your Word, give us greater spiritual perception and depth of insight to overcome evil and pursue what is good.

Hebrews 12:14-15

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Lord, give our pastors and leaders increased grace to settle disputes and bring resolution to conflicts within the Body. May their pursuit of holiness bring clarity and integrity in the way they manage the household of God. Alert them to any spirit of offense that would seek to divide and discourage. May they empower the Church to rise above our differences and find a unity of heart and oneness of purpose for Your glory.

James 3:17-18

But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Grant our church leaders the wisdom that comes from above, Lord. Give them keen discernment in making decisions and dealing with the daily challenges of ministry. Give them the right measure of grace and truth in order to uphold the standards of Your Word and yet show tender mercies to the young in faith. May they love well and reap a great harvest through their service unto You.

1 Peter 4:7-8

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

Father, I pray that our pastors and leaders would have a rich prayer life that is filled with Your presence and power. Alert them when they forget to spend time with You and give them a heart that diligently pursues the quiet place. May their prayers be directed by Your Spirit and inspired by Love. Grant them the ability to love without hesitation and overlook those things that are not priority to You. Give them the wisdom they need to inspire others in overcoming sin and pursuing You above all else.

2 Peter 1:10-11

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lord, when the enemy tries to discourage our pastors from their call and make them question their journey, overshadow them and remind them of the destiny You have for them and the rewards that await them. Reaffirm Your purpose for their life and grant them a renewed joy in their call. Give them the clarity they need and establish their steps so they can walk forward with confidence and conviction.

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