

PREPARE YE THE WAY

PRAYERS TO PRAY FOR YOURSELF

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Abba Father, I submit myself to You and invite Your Holy Spirit to be here with me.

I pray that You would woo me and help me to be able to feel and receive Your love in a real, tangible and deep way. I want a deeper and more intimate relationship with You. Give me a hunger for You and for Your Word, for intimacy with You through prayer and praise and worship. Help me to trust You more and to feel Your affection and lovingkindness towards me. (James 4:8; Jer. 29:12-13). Show me areas of my life that need a touch from You and give me courage to face them - give me such a sense of Your presence with me. Help me to be fast to repent and to forgive.

Father, help me to be quick to discern the difference between conviction and condemnation. I know that true Peace and Joy only come from You and I pray that You help me to live a life of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness and faithfulness (Gal.5:22). Grow me into the likeness of Jesus. Give me ears to hear You and eyes to see You. Remove any misconceptions that I have about You that would block my true understanding of who You are. Show me Your true nature and how You see me. Give me Your eyes to see myself. Give me Your vision and calling for my life and help me to not be distracted it. Help me to have spiritual eyes and to not feed into what the world may say.

I pray that You would provide for me financially and protect my sources of supply. Especially during these times of worldwide economic hardship, please give me the power to get wealth (Deut.8:18) and then the discernment and self-control to handle it according to Your principles and Your leading.

And Father, above all else, I pray that I always have such a sense that I am Your BELOVED and that I find my identity in that. Further yet, I know that You have a special name just for me – that You have an affectionate

nickname that You use for me. I pray that You would reveal that name to me when You know that I am ready to receive it. (Isa. 40:26, Psa. 139: 13-17). I thank you for Your presence in my life. Thank you for this time together and for hearing my prayer. I pray all of these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Some parts adapted from the work of Stormie O'Martian.

Loving Father, I surrender to You today with all my heart and soul. Please come into my heart in a deeper way. I say "Yes," to You today. I open all the secret places of my heart to You and say, "Come on in." Jesus You are Lord of my whole life. I believe in You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. I hold nothing back. Holy Spirit, bring me to deeper conversion to the person of Jesus Christ. I surrender all to You: my health, my family, my resources, occupation, skills, relationships, time management, successes and failures. I release it, and let it go. I surrender my understanding of how things ought to be, my choices and my will. I surrender to You the promises I have kept and the promises I have failed to keep. I surrender my weaknesses and my strengths to You. I surrender my emotions, my fears, my insecurities, my sexuality. I especially surrender _____, _____, _____. (Continue to surrender other areas as the Holy Spirit reveals them to you.) Lord, I surrender my entire life to You, the past, the present and the future. In sickness and in health, in life and in death, I belong to You.

Taken from Miracle Hour by Linda Schubert.

O Merciful God, Your eyes are too pure to behold sin, yet You have promised forgiveness to all who confess and turn from their sins. I come before You humbly, knowing that I am unworthy, and acknowledging that I have sinned

against You and broken Your laws. But You are gracious, Father, and don't wish death upon even a sinner. I humbly ask You to be merciful to me and forgive me of my numerous sins. I thank You for always being ready to offer forgiveness to humble and repentant sinners. Give me an awareness of how evil my sins are, and bring me to sorrow that I may turn from them and receive Your forgiveness.

I ask You Father to protect me through the direction and assistance of Your Holy Spirit, that I may not be drawn again into sin through my own weakness or the temptations around me. Transform the very nature of my soul and cleanse me from all unclean thoughts, intentions, or desires. I ask You to rid my heart of envy, hatred, and spite, so that the sun may never go down upon my anger, but that I may instead go to my rest in peace, love, and good-will with a clean conscience, and that I may remain pure and blameless unto the coming of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Specifically, Father, I ask for Your grace and protection for the coming day. Give me diligence and self-control in all things that You have called me to do. Give me patience when I find myself in difficult situations. Give me the grace to be just and upright in all circumstances. Allow me to be a peacemaker, full of compassion and eager to do good to everyone, according to the abilities and opportunities that You give to me. Direct me in all my ways. Defend me from all danger and adversity and take me under Your fatherly care and protection. Please open my eyes to see Your hand in all of Your creation, that I may rejoice in Your works and that I may learn to be joyful in serving You. I ask all of these things and also that You would meet all of my unmentioned needs and desires, through the merits and mediation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

Adapted from prayers from the 1928 BCP: Forms of Prayer to be Used in Families