# HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILD

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## HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR (HILD

#### BY GINGER HUBBARD •

excerpt from "DON'T MAKE ME COUNT TO THREE!"

NO MATTER WHAT STAGE OF LIFE OUR CHILDREN

are in, the most important thing we can do is to pray for them. Whether they're in diapers, danger, love, rebellion, or a sports car, our most powerful and effective tool in parenting is demonstrated by fervently praying over every aspect of their lives.

As parents cursed with a sin nature, we are bound to mess up. We will make some wrong decisions. We will lose our temper, or shall I say, we will find it from time to time! Because we are not perfect, we will let our children down, set poor examples, and fail them in more ways than one. However, there is one thing we can do perfectly and with great confidence. There is one thing that will always reap fruit and never return void. We can pray for our children in accordance with God's Word. In speaking about His Word, God says, "It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Stormie Omartian says, "Being a perfect parent doesn't matter. Being a praying parent does."

To pray directly from God's Word for our children is to pray in harmony with God's perfect will for their lives. It is to bind up our shallow and vain desires and unleash the wisdom and power of our mighty Lord. When we pray from God's Word, we surrender our foolish misconceptions of what is best by acknowledging that God's ways are not our ways. To pray from the Scriptures is to seek the will of the Father rather than the will of the parent. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

#### WHY SHOULD WE PRAY?

**Prayer is a command of God -** "Be joyful always: pray continually; giving thanks to God in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (I Thessalonians 5:16- 18).

**Prayer draws us near to God -** "What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the Lord our God is near us whenever we pray to Him?" (Deuteronomy 4:7).

**Prayer releases God's power** – "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16).

#### WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY?

- Pray that our children would come to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.
  - I Timothy 2:3-4



- 2. Pray that they would honor and obey us as their parents as well as those in authority over them.
  - Ephesians 6:1-3
  - Hebrews 13:17
- 3. Pray that the Lord would surround them with godly friends and role models.
  - I Corinthians 15:33
  - Proverbs 13:20
  - Proverbs 27:17
- 4. Pray that the Lord would implant into their hearts a hunger and thirst for Him.
  - Psalm 42:1-2
- 5. Pray that the Lord would give them the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they might know Him better.
  - Ephesians 1:17
- Pray that the eyes of their hearts would always be enlightened in order that they might know the hope to which He has called them.
  - Ephesians 1:18
- **7**. Pray that they would always follow the truth and reject the lies of Satan.
  - Proverbs 22:3
  - Titus 2:11-12
- 8. Pray that they would bear much fruit for God's glory.
  - Galatians 5:22-23



- Ephesians 2:10
- I John 3:16-18
- 9. Pray that they would flee temptation.
  - I Corinthians 10:13
  - II Timothy 2:22-26
- **10.** Pray that they would use their gifts and talents to honor the Lord.
  - Proverbs 16:3
  - I Corinthians 10:31
- **11.** Pray that they would have freedom from fear as they trust in the Lord.
  - Psalm 56:13
  - II Thessalonians 3:16
  - II Timothy 1:7
- **12**. Pray that they would keep themselves sexually pure for their future mates.
  - I Corinthians 10:8
  - Hebrews 13:4
- **13**. Pray that the Lord would bring godly mates into their lives.
  - II Corinthians 6:14-16
- **14.** Pray that they would take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.
  - II Corinthians 10:5
  - Philippians 4:8



**15.** Pray that they would become more like Him.

• Romans 8:28-29

In every situation, we must learn to trust in the Lord and lean not on our own understanding...and we all know that with children, there are going to be some situations! We must realize that every blessing, every trial, and every heart-breaking event has been fil tered through His hands of love. We must have full confidence in God's sovereignty.

#### HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

Study your children and know what is going on in their lives so you will know how to pray specifically for each one of them. Find verses from God's Word relating to the issues they are facing. Ask your children how you can pray for them. Pray the Word of God for your children. (Hebrews 4:12)

Pray out loud with them. Pray often. Pray conversationally (without a lot of "thees" and "thous" or churchy-sounding phrases that are hard for children to understand) as though you are talking to someone in the room with you. Pray everywhere – indoors, outdoors, driving in the car, feeding the cat – so your child realizes his Heavenly Father is always available.

Pray about little things – the lost toy – as well as big things – Daddy's lost job. Tell them of God's faithfulness in answering your prayers on their behalf. Consider recording your answered prayers in a journal for them to read in years to come.

Prayer will not only draw you closer to God, it will draw you closer to your children. Encourage your children to pray about everything. Assure them that God will faithfully meet their every need!