

Praying for the LOST

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Have you ever thought that even while Jesus was nailed to the cross, He was concerned for the lost who were around Him? Looking at those who were crucifying Him, "Jesus said, 'Father forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing'" (Luke 23:34).

Jesus clothed himself in flesh and came to this earth to seek and to save those that were lost. This was His mission and His passion. Do you have a heart to pray for the lost like Jesus did? When you really look at those around you and realize that they are lost without a hope, this should give you the burden to pray that would receive gospel's salvation and would be saved.

The first thing that you can do for the lost is to pray for them. "First of all...Prayer...."Paul wrote to Timothy, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—" (I Timothy 2:1). Paul went on to say that Kings and others in authority should be the subject of our prayers. Verse two says that this is good and that it pleases God who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Other Bible examples of praying for the lost

One of the first examples we see in scripture of one praying for the lost was when Moses came from Mount Sinai after being given the tables of the law by God himself. He came face to face with the children of Israel engaged in idolatry



worship at the very foot of the mountain where he had been in God's presence. He confronted them with their sin and then he prayed for that they would be forgiven of their sins. He pleaded with God to forgive them, and then stated that if they were not forgiven, then he too wanted to have his name blotted out of God's book. He was willing to give his life for the people

We read the story of Stephen in the New Testament Book of Acts, and while he was being stoned to death, he followed Jesus' example and prayed for those that were throwing the stones putting him to death. (Read Acts 7:54-60.)

Years later we see the Apostle Paul, who had been there at the stoning of Stephen, and he too pled for his people, much like Moses had done: "I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel" (Romans 9:1-3).

Our Prayers will not go unnoticed.

God has always honored men's prayers for the souls of the lost. He will continue to honor your prayers also. You should pray for your friends, you family and even your enemies. But remember how important it is for you to pray for those that are eternally lost unless salvation comes to them.

It is your responsibility to carry the gospel message. As stated in Acts 1:8, you will be given the power to carry out this responsibility. However, the proclaiming of the Truth should not be the end of your duty. Continue to pray for them that they will follow the teachings they have received and then you trust God for the answer to your prayers. You will then be able to rejoice when you see people turn from their sins and walk in the newness of life they have received as a result of your prayers.

Address: