

8 Prayers to Pray for Unbelievers (Tim Challies—part 1 of 2)

A friend asked the question: How do I pray for unbelievers? How do I pray effectively? I trust that every Christian regularly prays for family or friends or colleagues or neighbours who do not yet know the Lord. And while we can and must pray for matters related to their lives and circumstances, the emphasis of our prayers must always be for their salvation. Here are some ways the Bible can guide our prayers.

Prayers for Salvation

We begin with prayers for salvation. Each of these prayers seeks the same thing, but in a different way or from a different angle or using different language. Each of them is grounded in a specific text of Scripture.

Pray that God would circumcise their hearts. Circumcision was the Old Testament sign of entering into God's covenant, of being God's people. To have a circumcised heart symbolizes having a heart that is fully joined to God, fully submissive to Him. "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live" (Deuteronomy 30:6).

Pray that God would give them a heart of flesh. The Bible contrasts a heart of flesh, a heart that is alive and responsive to God, to a heart of stone, a heart that is cold and unyielding. Pray that God would work within these unbelievers to change their hearts. "And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh..." (Ezekiel 11:19).

Pray that God would put His Spirit within them. The great joy of salvation is being indwelt by God Himself. Pray that God would grant this honour to those unbelievers, that He would choose to take up residence within them. "And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes and be careful to obey My rules" (Ezekiel 36:27).

Pray that they would come to Christ. If unbelievers are to come to salvation, there is just one way. They must come through Christ and Christ alone. "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me"" (John 14:6). Remember, too, that He is the One who calls them to come and to be relieved of the burden of their sin (see Matthew 11:28-30).

Pray that God would open their hearts to believe the gospel. Once more, God must initiate and people must respond. So pray that God would open the hearts of these unbelievers so they can in turn believe, just as Lydia did. "The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul" (Acts 16:14).

Pray that God would free them from the slavery of sin. Unbelievers may believe they are free, but they are in fact enslaved. They are slaves of sin, bound by their sin and sinfulness. Pray that God would liberate them by His gospel. "But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed" (Romans 6:17).

Pray that God would remove Satan's blinding influence. Unbelievers have been blinded by Satan and will only ever be able to see and appreciate the gospel if God works within them. So pray that God would give them sight—spiritual sight. "In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Pray that God would grant them repentance. Unbelievers cannot repent without the enabling grace of God. So pray that God would grant them repentance, that this repentance would lead them to a knowledge of the truth. Pray as well that they would come to their senses and that they would escape from the devil's snare. "God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, after being captured by Him to do His will" (2 Timothy 2:25-26).



2 September 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11:30am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week: Isaiah #7— Foolish Schemes and Wise Plans

In the face of the Assyrian crisis Judah falters because their foolish leadership propose a false solution (alliance with Egypt) leading to a 'desert'. The truest solution is to trust God as their King leading to a 'garden'.



Next Week:

Isaiah #8 [Isaiah 36-37]

Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	The Lord is My Salvation O Great God My Hope Is Built
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Isaiah 30:1-26, 35:1-10;
Sermon	By Pastor Steven Tran
Song of Response	I Will Trust You In The Darkness

Stay Connected

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

PASTOR BEN HO

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$3,253.55
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD THAT HE IS BOTH JUST AND GOOD. Praise God that His goodness, grace and mercy, so beautifully and wisely poured out on us through the gospel, deals with the judgement we deserve and gives us eternal blessings that we certainly don't deserve.

PRAY FOR US TO FAITHFULLY WAIT for the final judgement and the eternity to come by looking backwards gratefully and joyfully to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Pray for yourself and your fellow brothers and sisters not to become faithless, not to become distracted by present pleasures and pursuits, not to allow anything or anyone hinder your whole-hearted trust in Jesus.

PRAY FOR WISDOM AND BOLDNESS to faithfully warn our unbelieving family and friends (and even strangers) on the reality and horrors of judgement and hell that is to come for those outside of Christ.

THANK GOD FOR EVENTS LIKE BLOOM and conferences like "Restoring True Humanity" held at QTC yesterday. Thank God for those who encourage us with God's word and wisdom. Thank God that these events spur our ongoing faithfulness and Christ-likeness. Pray for these teachings and training to be impactful in our personal and community lives.

Community News

TOGETHER FOR THE GOSPEL – 25 NOV @ BRISBANE CITY HALL

The Gospel Coalition along with Queensland Theological College present 'Together for the Gospel'. Gather in the heart of Brisbane City with 1500 brothers and sisters to encourage one another, sing, pray and hear God's word preached (from Kevin DeYoung) as we stand together for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brisbane City Hall | Sunday, 25 November 2018 | 7:00pm

Tickets: \$10

Serving

	Today	Next Week
Chair	Ps Ben	Gabriel
Preach	Ps Steve	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Andrew <i>Jessica</i>	Boon Cheng <i>Alice</i>
M.Tea	Georgie Winnie Tao	Alice Muriel
Wash Up	SOS Central	YF Friday
Welcome	Ken Steph Amy <i>James</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Marilyn</i>	Ken Steph Amy <i>James</i> <i>Marcus</i> <i>Leya</i> <i>Marilyn</i>
Stewards	Meng Yin David Chong <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>DT/Jordan</i>	Meng Yin David Chong <i>Nethanel</i> <i>Yong Seng</i> <i>Sarah</i>
Piano	Liesl	Dan Lowe
Guitar	Jabez	Shao Peng
Bass	Chuan Yuan	Ethan
Drums	Marcus	Ariel
Vocal	Sarah/Joachim	Sharne/Shawn
PA	Reuten <i>Jowin</i>	William <i>Chris</i>

Foolish Schemes and Wise Plans (Isaiah 28-35)

Intro:

1. The crisis: foolish leaders and false hope (28-29)

2. The false solution into the desert (30-31, 34)

3. The true solution into the garden (32-33, 35)

4. "Are you the One—or is there someone else?" (Luke 7:18-23)

So what?