



PRAYING FOR
YOUR CHILD TO

*Mature in
Christ*

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a prayer resource from million praying moms

Praying for Your Child to Mature in Christ

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How to Use This Resource

Maybe you've heard me say before that prayer is one of the most overlooked, but most important parts of Christian parenting today. If so, I want to take just a moment to applaud the work of God in your life to get you to this point.

Why?

Because the enemy doesn't want you to pray for your children. He much prefers for them to wander around, uncovered by their parents' prayers. He would love for the Word of God not be prayed by loving parents who long for God to be faithful to it. He wants this simple, yet profound act of faith—praying God's Word back to Him—to be looked over, thought unimportant, underutilized, or neglected altogether.

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

I don't know about you, but that's exactly what I want to happen in my children's hearts. I want the Word of God to be alive, active, and effective at shaping their hearts to look more like His. The good news is that God says His Word won't, "...return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do" (Isaiah 55:11).

This is why Million Praying Moms creates resources to help you pray God's Word. It isn't that it's more correct than any other way. Praying God's Word isn't a formula in the sense that it guarantees the exact outcome we desire, but it is a formula in the sense that it promises to accomplish what *God* desires in the hearts of our children, and from where I'm sitting, there couldn't be anything better.

So join us. In this short resource you'll find a collection of 30 verses or passages from that speak specifically to maturing in the faith. With each Bible reference, you'll find what we call a, "scripture-inspired prayer" to go with it. That just means that we've done our best to take the true spirit of the words, and form them into a prayer. Because this is a book for moms of boys and girls, you'll see mixed pronouns throughout. Feel free to change them as you need to for your child. Also, these prayers are for all children, regardless of age. Personally, I love asking God to move in my child's life before they even need Him in that area.

Use this resource as a reference guide. Use it as a 30-day prayer challenge. Use it with a prayer group. Use it however it suits you best, but do use it knowing there's absolutely no better gift you can give your child than the gift of a praying mom.

On Maturity in Christ

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity" 2 Peter 3:18

There is nothing a Christian parent wants more than to see their children profess faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. It's one of the ways we fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20), by sharing the gospel in our own homes. We tell our children about Jesus, inspire them with stories of what Jesus-followers do, try to help them see they can't possibly live up to God's standard all by themselves, and understand that each failure to do so is a glaring, neon sign pointing to their great need for a Savior.

We do this for several reasons. First, because we're told to. It's our mission, not just as parents, but as those who call themselves followers of Christ, to share the Good News. Second, because we want the security of knowing they are safe in Christ. There's a peace that comes in knowing that no matter what happens, Jesus has them. Third, because we know it is what's best for them. After all, God works all things together for good (Romans 8:28). And fourth, because it changes everything. Or at least it's supposed to.

The problem is that it doesn't always change everything overnight.

When my children were little, I often found myself wishing away the time, longing for the day when their faith would match mine, and their eyes would be open to see what I could see. It isn't wrong to want our children to have our perspective, but I had forgotten how long it took me to get there myself! I didn't understand everything there is to know about God when I was four, or fourteen, twenty-four, or even forty-four. In fact, I'll leave this world with an incomplete picture of who God is.

So will you. So will our children.

And while we can be sure that the goal really is to grow and mature in Christ, looking more and more like Jesus every day, each of us will do it at a different pace. We might not be able to control the pace of the journey God has our children on, but we can pray and ask Him to keep it moving toward Him.

Brooke McLothlin

Grow in grace...

01

2 Peter 3:18

Father, help my child grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May her life bring Him glory more and more, both now, and to the day of eternity.

02

1 Peter 2:2

Father, give my child a desire to learn and love Your Word. Help him to long for its pureness, so that he can grow in his salvation.

03

Hebrews 6:1-2

Lord, help my child to understand and embrace the simple doctrines of Christ, so that she may go on and mature, learning and applying all there is to know about You.

04

1 Corinthians 13:11

May my children grow and mature at the exact right pace for them. Use each and every thing they encounter—the hard, the good, the challenging, and the amazing—to shape them into who You created them to be.

Be transformed...

05

Hebrews 5:13

Father, move my child beyond the basics of Christianity, so that he may be skilled in righteousness, and useful for Your Kingdom.

06

Romans 12:1-2

God, make my child aware of how merciful You have been to her and make her heart respond to that mercy with a desire to offer herself fully to You as an act of worship. Help her not be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of her mind with Your word, so that she can discern Your perfect will.

07

2 Peter 1:3-4

Father, thank You for giving my child everything he needs for life and godliness. Help him to know You more, and help him trust in Your good promises. Grow him up for Your glory.

08

James 1:2-4

May my children see the trials they face as joyous opportunities to strengthen their faith, learn endurance, and grow in maturity so that they'll be complete, lacking nothing.

Value Your Gifts...

09

Hebrews 5:14

Father, help my child to grow in discernment, and make her able to distinguish between good and evil.

10

2 Timothy 3:16-17

God, settle in my child's heart that the Bible is true and inspired by You. Help him believe it can be trusted to help him mature in his faith by teaching, correcting, and training him so that he'll be equipped for every good work You call him to complete.

11

1 Peter 4:10

Lord, help my child to recognize the gifts You've given her, and to value them as the way You've called her to serve You and others with her life.

12

Galatians 5:22-23

Lord, fill my children with ever-growing amounts of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Fill your mouths with praises...

13

2 Corinthians 3:16-18

Father, remove the veil from my child's heart, and help him see following Your Spirit as true freedom. Transform him into the image of Christ.

14

1 Corinthians 11:1, Proverbs 15:22

God, bring mature believers into my child's life so that she can see what it looks like to follow You, and have wise counselors to turn to in times of need.

15

1 Peter 2:9

Lord, help my child know who he is because of Your Son. May he believe that he's chosen, holy, and that he belongs to You. And may the knowledge that You called him out of darkness into Your light cause him to proclaim Your praises, filling his heart with joy.

16

James 4:7

May my children submit their plans, hearts, and minds—all of themselves—to You, knowing that when they do, the devil will flee from them.

Remember what you were taught...

17

James 1:22

Father, help my child understand Your Word, and know how to apply it to her life. Make her a doer of Your Word and not a hearer only.

18

Hebrews 5:12

God, show my child where he needs to grow in his knowledge and understanding of Your Word. Help him securely embrace the basic principles of his faith so that he can mature in his ability and be used by You to teach others.

19

2 Timothy 3:15

Lord, help my child remember the things she was taught about You and Your Word as a child. Root them deeply in her heart, and bring them to mind when she needs them.

20

2 Timothy 2:15

May my children be diligent to present themselves to God as those who are approved...workers who are not ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth.

Choose what you dwell on...

21

Colossians 3:16

Father, let Your Word dwell richly in my child, and surround him with other believers in a family that teaches, admonishes, and sings to You from a place of gratitude in their hearts.

22

Philippians 4:8

God, may my child choose to dwell on whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, of moral excellence, and worthy of praise. Keep her mind on these things.

23

Philippians 3:12-14

Lord, help my child make every effort to look more and more like Jesus. Help him forget what is behind him, and reach forward to what is ahead, pursuing as his goal the prize promised by his call in You.

24

Philippians 2:5

Lord, help my children let go of any attitudes that don't bring glory to You, and adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus.

Grow in knowledge...

25

Philippians 1:9-10

May my child's love keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that she will be able to approve the things that are superior, and be pure and blameless in the day of Christ.

26

Philippians 1:6

God, I believe You have started a good work in my child. Carry it on to completion in him until the day of Christ Jesus.

27

Ephesians 4:13-15

Lord, let my child reach unity in her faith and in the knowledge of Your Son. Grow her into maturity and give her the fullness of Christ. Help her to let go of being a "little child" of the faith, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching. Give her the ability to cleverly recognize human cunning and deceitfulness, and give her the ability to speak the truth in love, growing in every way into Him who is the head—Christ.

28

Ephesians 4:1

Father, encourage my children to walk worthy of the calling they've received with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with others in love.

The new has come...

29

Galatians 5:16

Father, empower my child to walk by Your Spirit so he will not carry out the desires of his flesh.

30

2 Corinthians 5:17

God, grant my child the ability to understand that since she is in Christ, she is a new creation; the old has passed away, and the new has come!

In Jesus' Name, amen.

About

Brooke McGlothlin is the cofounder of Million Praying Moms, and author of 5 books, including her latest, *Praying Mom: Making Prayer the First and Best Part of Motherhood*, and *Unraveled: Hope for the Mom at the End of Her Rope*. She's a wife and mom to two teenage boys who make their home in the mountains of Appalachia, calling southwestern Virginia home. To learn more about Brooke, or see other prayer resources created just for you, visit www.millionprayingmoms.com