

7-Day Prayer Guide
Against Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery



Prayer is a rebellion against the status quo. It calls on the God who created everything to reconcile all things to Himself – the broken people, messed up relationships and unjust systems to a holistic freedom that restores the shalom that He originally intended.

Sunday

Prayer for the Lukewarm Church

Paul proclaims in Ephesians 2:8-10:

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—**9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

James, continues in James 2:14-19

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15** Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16** If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17** In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. **18** But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. **19** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees, the religious people of the day in Matthew 23:27-28 for their hypocrisy that causes people to grow farther from God and not closer.

27 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **28** In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Ultimately, in Matthew 25 you see that those who do not care for the orphan, widow, oppressed, hungry, naked, thirsty, sick and imprisoned do NOT spend eternity with Christ.

41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. **42** For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me. **44** “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ **45** “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ **46** “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

No, we are not saved by works but by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. This genuine faith in the power of His resurrection is transformative and fruits from those people who call on the name of Lord should fill the Earth!

If this faith in the resurrection of Jesus is redemptive in its nature, taking what was dead, stagnant and existing and raising it to abundant life, should the church not be the place where LIFE is most evident? Let’s pray for the Church, God’s people around the world!

Let Us Pray.

Pray that we who "say" they follow Jesus would "learn to do right, plead the case of the orphan, care for the widow and the fatherless." – **Isaiah 1:17**.

Pray for we who like the rich man who approaches Jesus and asked how can He be saved would actually choose Christ over our wealth. – **Mark 10**.

Pray for we who are busy "doing" things for God like Martha instead of seeking a genuine relationship with Him like Mary who sat at His feet. – **Luke 10**.

Pray for our pastors and leaders who preach a Gospel of comfort and prosperity and not the reality of Christ's victory over personal, relational and systemic sin in the world. – **2 Timothy 4**.

Pray for we who are afraid of sharing our faith in Christ with others because of what people might say or think about them. – **Romans 1**.

Pray specifically with authority for how God might be calling you and those of faith around you to live out the Gospel.

Monday

Prayer For Our Food

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27** God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." **29** Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; **30** and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so. **31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

Nearly all of the pork that we eat comes from pigs that have spent their entire lives in confinement and most of them never venture outdoors. Chickens are raised in industrial coops on top of one another. 75% of all beef contains "filler products" rich in antibiotics and proteins to kill bacteria that may be in patties (["Food Inc."](#), ["The Future of Food"](#))

40% of all food produced in the United States is thrown away in fields and grocery stores. (["The BIG Waste"](#))

We throw away an estimated 5 Billion eggs each because they are not the right size and color. ([The BIG Waste](#))

Much of our produce is harvested in the US and abroad by migrant workers who could be said to work in near slave labor conditions. Tomato and orange pickers in the Southeast, sugarcane in South America and the Caribbean, coffee and chocolate in Africa -- all of these products have a history steeped in exploitive labor practices. ([USA Dept. of Labor](#))

Lastly, there are droughts and famines all over the world making harvests low and food scarce. Natural disasters wipe out entire crops and drive up prices around the world ([World Vision](#)). Families in poverty in the US must choose between foods that are healthy and happy meals filled with little nutrients, ([Food Inc.](#))

Let Us Pray.

Please pray for the companies producing our food to end labor exploitation in their supply chains. – [1 Corinthians 10:23](#)

Please pray for food equity where subsidies would be given to those who produce fruits and vegetables, not just those with strong lobbies in Congress so that families with extremely low

incomes would be able to afford healthy foods. – **Isaiah 58:10**

Please pray for those around the corner and around the world who have no food today, that Our Father would provide for them and if He is calling to provide then we would hear them. – **James 2:15-17**

Please pray for every part of our meals. Ask God to redeem every step - from producers to consumers, from farm to factory, from to truck to lunchbox, from one person to another. – **Ephesians 1:10**

Tuesday

Prayer for “What We Wear”

On December 14, 2010 28 workers in Bangladesh lost their lives when a factory caught fire. The exits had been locked and windows shut so that no one was able to leave or take breaks so when the fire broke out there was nowhere for them to go.

The reality of sweatshop labor to make the overwhelming majority of our clothes, shoes, handbags, accessories, jewelry and more is visible and documented. Dallas Cowboys Apparel (ESPN “Outside the Lines), artisan gold in Macy’s (NBC’s, “Rock Center”), and bikinis from Victoria Secret (US Dept. of Labor) have all been exposed for their use of child and exploitive labor.

Additionally, as labor exploitation and abuse is documented in the manufacturing of our clothing, it becomes more apparent in the harvesting of raw materials like cotton and indigo. Uzbekistan is one of the world’s leading cotton producers, due in no small part to its child labor force that harvests the crop every year. Workers are given little or nothing and 70% of the world’s supply is mixed with Uzbek cotton (US Dept of Labor)

Let Us Pray.

Please pray that God would be with those who are forced to harvest, manufacture and distribute these goods and materials.

Please pray that God would transform the hearts of consumers not to buy fashion made by exploitive labor.

Please pray for the success of fair trade and slave free companies that protect people and not just profits.

Please pray that God would transform the hearts of executives and business owners all along the supply chains for their companies.

Wednesday

Prayer for Those Make Our “Stuff”

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” – Galatians 5:14.

2 x 4's and wedding rings, backpacks and kitchen sinks, would we pray that in the making of all of the things around us that there would not be exploitation. That the 14 year old girls who make iPhones would one day be able to afford one.

The average CEO makes 300 times the lowest ranking employee ([ABC News](#)), so the gulf between a chief executive and the one who works on the ground is even more extreme.

50% of all the world's electronics is produced in one plant in China called FoxConn infamous for exploitive labor practices and suppressing workers' rights, ([Mike Daisy, “The Agony and Ecstasy of Steve Jobs”](#))

50% of all consumer goods contain Palm Oil including cosmetics, chocolate, cleaners and more. Unfortunately, it's taken from exploitive labor practices in Borneo, Indonesia, and Malaysia. ([Not for Sale Campaign](#))

It is easy to be paralyzed and feel overwhelmed by such large issues of injustice. We are thankful that we serve a mighty, sovereign God who conquered these and all problems on the Cross of Calvary.

Let Us Pray.

Please pray for those putting together our flat screens and building our homes would actually be able to enjoy a Sunday on a sofa in his or her own home. ([Psalm 130:1](#))

Please pray that with the same fervor we seek to get the best for ourselves we would seek the best for other people. Ask God to transform us so that as much as we buy, we would be willing to give at least that much. ([Luke 18:22](#))

Please pray that by God's grace we could love our neighbors as ourselves. ([Mark 12:30-31](#))

Please pray specifically for how God might be calling you to buy or stop buying. How is He calling you to invest in His Kingdom and not just to build your own. ([Luke 12:32-34](#))

Thursday

Prayer for the Powerful

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism **35** but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. **36** You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. – Acts 10:34-36.

International Justice Mission battles to protect the rule of law in places like Cambodia where police officers take bribes from pimps and Mama-sans to protect brothels instead of the children in them. In the United States, there is law enforcement that protects drug traffickers instead serving the population they swore to protect. There are senators and representatives with bribes in their pockets from the US to Uganda and business owners counting profits before looking at the welfare of the people producing goods and those consuming them.

But we also have those trying to do the right thing and raid that brothel, make a case against that trafficker, prosecute a pimp or see executives as equal with everyone in a company and break the binds of cyclic poverty and selfishness.

Let Us Pray.

Please pray for those in government leadership that they might transform systems and structures of injustice to protect and promote freedom and justice according to God's will and not our own. – **Mark 12:17**

Please pray for those business leaders who are stuck between cleaning up their supply chains and please shareholders. Pray for wisdom, knowledge and grace as they strive for transformation. – **Psalms 111:10**

Please pray for those in the military who are away from home and where prostituted women and boys are made available near bases. Pray for discipline, fellowship and wisdom on how and how not to act. – **Matthew 6:33**

Please pray for all those with influence. Pray for mothers, fathers, pastors, teachers and leaders of communities that they would use their influence to bless and not curse the poor and less fortunate in their midst. – **Titus 1:6-9**

Friday

Prayer for Those Who Exploit Others

Ezekiel writes in Ezekiel 18:

30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct,” declares the Lord GOD. “Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. **31** Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? **32** For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord GOD. “Therefore, repent and live.”

Peter continues in his Second epistle:

8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Pimps and johns, drugs and arms dealers, gangs, mama sans, and human traffickers are all people for whom Christ laid down His life. There is no person on the planet that is too far for His grace to reach. There is no person on this planet that God does not wish would turn to Him. There is not one person who He would not come running out to meet like the father who ran out to meet the Prodigal Son.

If this faith in the resurrection of Jesus is redemptive in its nature, taking what was dead, stagnant and existing and raising it to abundant life, should we not pray for those who would exploit others to be convicted by the Holy Spirit and have a powerful encounter with Jesus? Let's pray for those who would harm to be changed into those who would help by the power of God!

Let Us Pray.

Pray for the transformative power of the Holy Spirit to disrupt and intervene and set those who are captive to greed, power, revenge, anger and other ungodly motivations. – **2 Cor 5:17**.

Pray for johns who would seek to sexually exploit boys, girls, men and women for their own pleasure on streets, in hotel rooms, in strip clubs, and at home on their computers and phones. – **2 Chron. 7:14**.

Pray for pimps, producers of pornography, leaders in organized crime, and the sex industry. – **Matt. 18:6**.

Pray for drug dealers and traffickers around our corners and around the world. – **Matt. 6:33**.

Pray for human traffickers looking to kidnap children, those lying to parents in villages, or swindling men and women in cities. – **Luke 23:34**

Pray for business owners and managers who abuse their employees and look for the cheapest, exploitive labor. – 1 **Corinthian 10:23**.

Pray for specific places, people, or problems that you have heard about in your community or around the world. Ask God to transform those who would do evil to those who pursue Good.

Saturday

Prayer for the Vulnerable

9 If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling, **10** no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. **11** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; **12** they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. **13** You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. **14** "Because he**[b]** loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. **15** He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. **16** With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." – Psalm 91:9-16

1 in 5 children in the United States is hungry and 1 in 45 children is homeless, both of these, the highest ever. (NY Food Bank)

Thousands have been killed and injured just this year as conflicts rage in places like Juarez, Mexico, Mogadishu in Somalia, and Brazzaville in the Congo.

97% of runaways who come to NYC are approached about sex for services within the first 24 hours and the average age of entry into sexual exploitation is 12-14 years old. (Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

1/3 of high school students in the US drop out. (Waiting for Superman)

Women and girls around the world are lured and sold into brothels with the promise of a "good job in the city". Men and boys leave home hoping to send money back but both sadly end up in cycles of debt bondage, sexual slavery or slave labor. (Dept of Homeland Security)

There are parts of Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Newark, Patterson, Baltimore, and Detroit where police won't go but women, men and children live.

There are vulnerable people in every community in every country on the planet and God cares most for the least of these.

Let Us Pray.

Please pray that safe spaces and a caring community would be found for children in the US and abroad who do not have a place to call home.

Please pray for the women, men, boys and girls who are being exploited for labor and sex. Pray that God would give them strength, peace and freedom on this side and the next.

Please pray that God would protect those who are without homes and community making them

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vulnerable to exploitation.

Please pray for those addicted to drugs and living in abusive situations. Ask God for His freedom and transformation.