

# Seven Prayers

from

# PRAYERS *for* PRODIGALS

90 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR YOUR CHILD



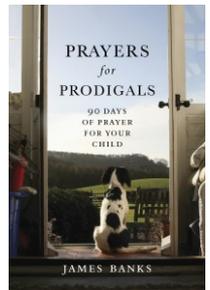
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## *Casting Cares*

*Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

1 PETER 5:7

How do you do it, Lord?

You're able to take all of the cares of the world on your shoulders,  
including my cares for my child.

You're able to carry them continually!

Not only do you carry them, you're also able do something about them.

How amazing you are! Thank you for caring for me and my child.

"You, O God, are strong," and "you, O Lord, are loving"

(Psalm 62:11–12).

I come to you today to cast all my cares on you.

More than anything else, I ask that my daughter will "come to know"  
you, Lord Jesus (Ephesians 4:20).

I long for her to have a living relationship with you.

If she walked with you, how blessed she would be!

I cast this care and ask that your Spirit draw her to you.

I pray she will repent and turn to you and prove her repentance  
by the things she does (Acts 26:20).

I'm also concerned for her safety, Lord. The choices she's made and  
the friends she's chosen have frequently put her in harm's way.

I know only part of it. But you know all of it.

Only you can keep her safe, Lord, though I try too.

Your "forces are beyond number,"

and those under your command are "mighty" (Joel 2:11).

Please send your angels to watch over her.

May your "power and might" protect her, Lord (Jeremiah 16:21).

I cast this care and place her in your arms again.

There's no better place for her to be.

I also lift her future to you, Father.

I pray she will seek your kingdom with her heart, mind, and  
strength and work for what pleases you.

I pray that you will be in her and she in you (John 17:23) so  
that she will have the joy of knowing you “face to face”  
(1 Corinthians 13:12)!

Until that day, I pray that your “divine power” will give her  
everything she needs “for life and godliness” (2 Peter 1:3).

You have given us such “very great and precious promises,” Lord  
(2 Peter 1:4)!

I praise you that the weight of my cares, no matter how heavy they  
may seem to me, are light to you and easy for you to carry.

“Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior,  
who daily bears our burdens” (Psalm 68:19).

I cast *all* my cares upon you!



## *Bring the Boy to Me*

*“O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”*

MARK 9:19

Here he is, Lord.

This is my son, and he needs you desperately.

I bring him to you, all that he is and all that is going on in his life.

His life is beyond my power to repair or set right.

I ask you to touch him and help him, Lord!

Years ago when you told the disciples, “Bring the boy to me,”  
you began the greatest blessing of the child’s life.

Darkness had to flee. It could not stand in your presence.

So I bring my son into “the light of your presence” again today  
(Psalm 89:15).

I’m reminded of what you told your disciples.

The child could be set free “only by prayer” (Mark 9:29).

The disciples had tried everything they could think of,

but no matter how hard they tried in their own strength,  
“they could not” make any difference (Mark 9:18).

You rebuked them for their lack of faith. Then you said,

“Everything is possible for him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

I’m beginning to understand how much I need to bring my son to you  
in faithful, believing prayer.

He needs the difference only you can make for him.

How wonderful that father must have felt when he walked away with  
his son, happy and healthy and standing strong.

He had brought his son to you, and you freed the boy!

Lord Jesus, I look forward to that day in my son’s life as well,

the day he meets you and is transformed by your love,  
rescued “from the dominion of darkness,” and brought  
“into the kingdom of the Son” (Colossians 1:13).

What a day that will be!

There will be “rejoicing in heaven” (Luke 15:7) and if I’m still here,  
on earth as well!

By faith I see it coming, and I pray that day will come soon.

I believe you will save my son, and that nothing will stand in  
your way!

I look forward to that moment when “the day dawns and the morning  
star rises” in his heart (2 Peter 1:19).

Please, Lord, could that day be today?



## *Songs in the Night*

*By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—  
a prayer to the God of my life.*

PSALM 42:8

I can't sleep, Lord, and you know why.  
I'm worried about my child.  
I know you told me not to worry about *my* life (Matthew 6:25),  
but is it OK if I talk to you about hers?  
I remember when she was just a baby, and things were so much easier.  
Thank you for those days. They were a gift!  
But you know the situation we're in now, Father.  
I never saw this coming. Not like this.  
Do any parents think their child will go through prodigal years?  
I always thought things like this happen to *other* people,  
and I have to admit I've sometimes been too quick  
to come up with a reason *why*.  
It's easier to parent someone else's kids in our own minds  
without knowing what those parents are really going through,  
isn't it?  
My daughter and I are up against it tonight, Lord, and we need you  
so much.  
I need the peace "which transcends all understanding"  
to guard my heart and mind in you (Philippians 4:7).  
She needs your light to shine on her path and lead her  
"from darkness to light" (Acts 26:18).  
You are "the light of the world," Lord Jesus (John 8:12).  
And you are my light tonight.  
You are "God my Maker, who gives songs in the night" (Job 35:10).  
I stand on the promise of your Word tonight:  
"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.  
The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;  
he has become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2).

Thank you that when I “do not know what to do”

(2 Chronicles 20:12),

I can look to you for the direction I need.

You are “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

“With you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light”

(Psalm 36:9).

I place this situation in your hands, Lord, and cast on you

every worry, every need, every care (Psalm 55:22).

You said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,

and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).

That describes me pretty well right now, so I come.

And I bring my child with me in the arms of faith and prayer.

I praise you because your “light shines in the darkness,”

and the darkness will not overcome it (John 1:5).

“I will lie down and sleep in peace” (Psalm 4:8),

because you are my hope.

The future looks bright with you!



## *Extra Miles*

*If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.*

MATTHEW 5:41

Sometimes I feel like I have some extra miles on me, Father.  
There are days it seems like my child needs me to ‘go the extra mile’  
more than once.  
Thank you, Lord Jesus, that my child’s needs are teaching me to serve  
him in ways that you have served me.  
You “did not come to be served, but to serve,  
and to give” your life (Matthew 20:28).  
I pray you will help me to serve my son in a way that will point him  
to you.  
Help me to have your attitude, Lord.  
You took on “the very nature of a servant” (Philippians 2:7).  
This isn’t an easy road, but I accept it gratefully  
knowing that I’m following you.  
I know by faith that this road comes out in a better place for him and  
for me if I keep my eyes on you.  
I pray that I will continue in “faith, established and firm, not moved  
from the hope held out in the gospel” (Colossians 1:23).  
Because love “always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7),  
help me to take the steps I need to take to help my son  
“without complaining or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).  
Help me to understand that “the end of a matter is better than its  
beginning, and patience is better than pride” (Ecclesiastes 7:8).  
Your eyes “range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose  
hearts are fully committed to” you (2 Chronicles 16:9).  
You are not only watching, you are *with me*.  
When I “pass through the waters” of difficult days, you have  
promised, “I will be with you.”  
When I “pass through the rivers”—those days when we’re in over our  
heads—you have said, “they will not sweep over” us.

Even when I “walk through the fire” of trial or temptation or anger,

I “will not be burned” if I stay close to you (Isaiah 43:2).

You have promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20)!

Help me stay close to you in such a way that my son will learn to follow.

Let me walk humbly with you, knowing that I am an “unworthy” servant, and I “have only done” my “duty” (Luke 17:10).

I ask for your unconditional love so that I can love my son like you do, Father.

May he see your love in me, and love you for it, forever and ever.



## *Shame Off Her!*

*As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts  
in him will never be put to shame."*

ROMANS 10:11

I can see my daughter standing before you, dressed in white.  
It's her wedding day! But not on this earth.  
There she is, in the kingdom of God, where your church is "prepared  
as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband" (Revelation 21:2).  
I pray that day will come for her, Lord Jesus!  
That day in which she knows with all of her heart that whoever trusts  
in you "will never be put to shame."  
She trusted in you once, Lord, and I believe that you "began  
a good work" in her and will "carry it on to completion"  
(Philippians 1:6).  
I pray you will move soon in her life to turn her heart from sin  
back to you.  
Let her hear your Spirit speaking to her: "I have swept away your  
offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist.  
Return to me, for I have redeemed you" (Isaiah 44:22).  
Let the fog clear and a bright new morning break!  
Even when we rebel against you, you long for us to give our hearts  
to you.  
When we do, you take our sins completely away.  
You clothe us with "garments of salvation"  
and "a robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10).  
You present us holy in your sight,  
"without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22).  
You have said, "You will forget the shame of your youth" (Isaiah 54:4).  
And you choose to forget it as well!  
You tell us you will remember our sins no more (Jeremiah 31:34).  
Take the shame off my daughter, Lord Jesus! Just as you have for me.

You promise in your Word, “Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame.  
Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated” (Isaiah 54:4).  
I pray my daughter will understand that when prodigals return,  
you throw a party!  
You welcome them with arms held wide open!  
Let her know deeply in her heart that there is no shame in being  
your child.  
Let her know that any name she has been called doesn’t matter,  
because one day, you will give a “new name” to all you have saved  
(Revelation 3:12), all who live for your kingdom and your love.  
May any sin or shame from the past be washed away  
by your “precious blood” (1 Peter 1:19).  
May she live so in love with you that others are drawn to you as well!  
I know she has a choice to make, and I pray she will make it soon and  
“choose life” (Deuteronomy 30:19)!  
I pray she will choose you!



## *For Freedom from Substance Abuse*

*Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation,  
drunkenness and the anxieties of life.*

LUKE 21:34

He's not being careful, Lord.

His heart is "weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness  
and the anxieties of life," and he doesn't even know it.

He's given in to the world's message that he's 'having a good time,'  
but he isn't.

He's complicated his life in ways that hurt to see.

"Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints?  
Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes?  
Those who linger over wine" (Proverbs 23:29–30).

There's been too much lingering, Lord. He likes it too much.

And "in the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper"  
(Proverbs 23:32).

But I praise you, Father. You are the one who says "to the captives,  
'Come out,' and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'" (Isaiah 49:9).

Call him out, Lord! Out of darkness, out of dissipation, out of any  
substance or drug abuse, and out of relationships that contribute  
to these things.

I can see him set free, Lord. Shining from head to foot, smiling and  
strong, a living example of your kindness and love.

He has "spent enough time in the past  
doing what pagans choose to do" (1 Peter 4:3).

Set him free, Father!

I know that he has to *want* to be free. So I ask you to open his eyes  
to see the consequences of his actions, and let him long for  
something more.

Let him "hunger and thirst for righteousness,"  
for then he "will be filled" and blessed (Matthew 5:6)!

Let him “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18),  
because “where the Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom” (2 Corinthians 3:17).  
Lord Jesus, you came “to proclaim freedom for the captives and  
release from darkness for the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).  
Help my son, Lord—he’s a prisoner of his addictions.  
I pray that he be “brought into the glorious freedom of the children of  
God” in every way (Romans 8:21)!  
I thank you that you are completely able to do this, Father.  
You are able to keep him “from falling and to present” him before your  
“glorious presence without fault and with great joy” (Jude 1:24).  
Let your joy be so real to him that he won’t seek happiness in  
anything less.  
I praise you in advance for the day he will tell you,  
“You have filled my heart with greater joy” (Psalm 4:7).  
Let that day be today!



## *Your Dream for My Child*

*And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will  
dream dreams, your young men will see visions.*

JOEL 2:28

Father, you have a vision for my child that is beautiful beyond words.  
You are “wonderful in counsel and magnificent in wisdom”  
(Isaiah 28:29).

I can only imagine what you have planned for her!

I have so many dreams for my child, Father.

I believe I want good things for her. But my wisdom is limited,  
and my heart has been tainted by sin.

So I want what you want, Lord. Your vision for her, your dream  
for her future!

There is no sin in you (1 John 3:5). Your way is perfect  
(2 Samuel 22:31).

You have promised, “Call to me and I will answer you and tell you  
great and unsearchable things you do not know” (Jeremiah 33:3).

I do call to you for her, and thank you that you will answer.

It's not so much that I need to know your vision for her life  
as *she needs to know it*.

She needs to “taste and see” that you are good (Psalm 34:8).

She needs to know that you are “a refuge in times of trouble,”  
and that you care for “those who trust” in you (Nahum 1:7).

She has an adversary that you know better than I,  
even though “we are not unaware of his schemes”  
(2 Corinthians 2:11).

Father, I ask in the strong name of Jesus that you frustrate every plan  
that the enemy has against my daughter.

I long to see your Spirit bless my child, Father, while she is still young.  
Let her be happy in you, and let her heart give her joy and the wisdom  
to know that she will one day stand before you.

She needs to acknowledge you in all her ways so that you will make her “paths straight” (Proverbs 3:6) and keep her “from the snares” (Proverbs 14:27) that would bring her harm.

Lord Jesus, I pray that she will learn from you, for you are “gentle and humble in heart.”

In you, she will “find rest” for his soul (Matthew 11:29).

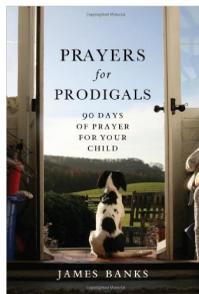
Be her rest, Lord, and her “peace” (Ephesians 2:14).

Be her life and her purpose, her ultimate goal. This is your dream for my child.

“Blessed is” she “whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD” (Psalm 146:5).

Oh, Lord, be her help and her hope!

Father, please give my daughter grace to turn to you!



**Dr. James Banks**



Dr. James Banks' bestselling writing on prayer has encouraged well over a million people in many countries around the world. James is a writer for Our Daily Bread, has been a pastor and church planter for over 25 years, and is a popular speaker at churches, conferences and retreats. He and his wife Cari have a calling to encouraging parents of prodigals in prayer. They have been married 31 years and have two adult children. For more information visit [JamesBanks.org](http://JamesBanks.org), [PrayersForProdigals.org](http://PrayersForProdigals.org) and James' Facebook Author Page.

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