

## Great Prayers of the Bible

The Bible is full of prayers from Genesis to Revelation. Dr. Ralph F. Wilson has provided what he considered some of the great prayers of the Bible. This will make a great study for personal use or a small group study.

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by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson


1. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15). Jesus taught this classic lesson in prayer to his disciples. We'll consider the Lord's Prayer phrase by phrase as a pattern for our own praying.
2. Moses' Prayer for Israel in the Wilderness (Exodus 32:9-14). Incredible examples of Moses pleading with God to preserve his own name and character and not destroy Israel. We examine the question: Does prayer actually change anything?
3. Abraham's Prayer for Sodom (Genesis 18:16-33). An example of intercessory prayer which finds its basis in God's character.
4. David's Prayer for Pardon and Confession of Sin (Psalm 51). When we sin against God, how can we pray to restore our fellowship? David's prayer is a classic prayer of repentance.
5. David's Prayer at the End of Life (1 Chronicles 29:9-20). A short psalm of praise and David's prayer for his son Solomon to build the temple.
6. Hezekiah's Petitions for Deliverance and Healing (2 Kings 19:14-19; 20:1-7). Here's a godly king about to see his nation conquered and destroyed by the mighty Assyrian army. Then he who has just heard from a prophet that he should prepare to die soon. How does he pray?
7. David's Psalm of Surrender (Psalm 139). David struggles with God's intense knowledge of him, marvels at God's intricate formation of him in his mother's womb, and then prays a prayer of surrender to God's searching, knowing, probing, and refining.
8. Daniel's Confession on Behalf of His People (Daniel 9:1-19). When Daniel realizes the 70 years of exile are ended, he offers a prayer of confession in which he (though personally a righteous man) identifies with the sins of his people and asks for God's mercy.
9. Nehemiah's Prayer for Success (Nehemiah 1:1-2:9). Nehemiah hears of the suffering of the returned exiles. After grieving in fasting and prayer, Nehemiah prays for success -- and commits himself to God's will for his life.
10. Jesus' Prayer of Submission at Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46). Jesus asks for the cup (crucifixion) to be bypassed, but then prays for the Father's will to be done most of all.
11. Paul's Prayers for the Ephesian Believers (Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21). Here are Paul's prayers for the Ephesian Christians -- and for us -- to really understand the heights and depths of Christ's love for us.



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# What Are the "Great Prayers" of the Bible?

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

New free online Bible study on  [Resurrection and Easter Faith](#) begins March 9th

I have selected 12 great prayers for my study. But two other authors who have written studies entitled Great Prayers of the Bible selected other prayers. In only two cases have all three of us selected the same prayers. What this says is that there are plenty of great prayers in the Bible to go around. Here are some of them:

	Wilson	Plueddeman	Jenkins
Moses' Prayer for Israel in the Wilderness (Exodus 32: 9-14)	x		x
Moses' Prayer for God's Presence (Exodus 33: 9-13)			x
Moses' Prayer of Despondency (Numbers 11: 4-17)			x
Joshua: A Prayer God Could Not Answer (Joshua 7: 7-9)			x
Joshua: A Prayer that Produced a Miracle (Joshua 10: 12-15)			x
Abraham's Prayer for Sodom (Genesis 18: 16-33)	x	x	
Hannah: A Cry and a Song (1 Samuel 1: 1-20; 2: 1-10)		x	
Gideon's Prayer for a Sign (Judges 6: 36-40)			
David: A Prayer for God's Glory (Psalm 24)			x
David: A Prayer Acknowledging Personal Sin (Psalm 32)			x
David: A Prayer Answered (Psalm 40)			x
David's Prayer of Confession and Repentance (Psalm 51; 1 Samuel 11-12).	x		
David's Praise-Prayers in the Psalms (Psalm 65 and others)			
David's Prayer of Surrender to the Searcher (Psalm 139)			

David: A Prayer at the End of Life (1 Chronicles 29: 1-30)	x	x	
Solomon: A Prayer for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:5-9)			x
Solomon: Hear and Forgive (2 Chronicles 6:1-7: 4)		x	x
Elijah: A Prayer of Persistence (1 Kings 18: 41-46)			x
Elijah: A Prayer of Futility (1 Kings 19:1-18)			x
Isaiah: A Prayer Admitting Sin (Isaiah 6: 1-13)			x
Isaiah: A Prayer for Peace (Isaiah 26: 3-12, 20-21)			x
Hezekiah's Prayers for the Israel's Defense (2 Kings 19:15-19) and for Extension of Life (2 Kings 20:1-7)	x		
Job: Trusting God for Who He Is (Job 38: 1-18; 40:1-5; 42:1-16)		x	
Daniel: A Prayer for Understanding (Daniel 2: 14-23)			x
Daniel's Confession on Behalf of His People (Daniel 9:4-19)	x	x	x
Jonah: A Prayer Out of Hell (Jonah 2: 1-9)			x
Jonah: A Prayer from a Pouting Prophet (Jonah 4: 2-3)			x
Habakkuk: Praying with God's Perspective (Habakkuk 3: 1-19)	x	x	
Nehemiah's Prayer for Success (Nehemiah 1)	x		
The Levites: A prayer of Corporate Confession (Nehemiah 9: 1-38)		x	
Mary: A Prayer of Joy (Luke 1:26-56)		x	
The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)	x	x	x
Jesus: A Farewell Prayer (John 17)		x	x
Jesus: A Prayer of Agony (Matthew 26:36-46)	x		x
Early Church: A Prayer of Preparation (Acts 1: 4, 14)			x
Stephen: A Prayer of a Martyr (Acts 7:54-60)			x

Early Church: A Prayer for a Prisoner (Acts 12:1-17)			x
Paul: A Prayer of Conversion (Acts 9:1-6, 11)			x
Paul: A Prayer for Deliverance (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)			x
Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Church (Ephesians 1:15-23)			
Paul's Prayer for Comprehension of Christ's Love (Ephesians 3:14-21)	x	x	x
James: A Prayer for Wisdom (James 1:5-8, 17)			x
James: Unanswered Prayers (James 4:2-3)			x
James: Prevailing Prayer (James 5:13-18)			x
Revelation: A Prayer of Praise to the Lamb (Revelation 5:9-10)			x
Revelation: A Prayer of the Glorified Saints (Revelation 19:1-10)			x
Revelation: A prayer of Consummation (Revelation 22:17, 20)			x

Ralph F. Wilson, [Great Prayers of the Bible](#) (JesusWalk Bible Study Series, 2005)

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