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POWER PRAYERS for Dads

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Our mission is to inspire the world with the life-changing message of the Bible.



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Introduction

The Power of a Father's Prayer

You want to be a good dad, to connect with your children, to leave a legacy for them that recalls the *better moments*. In a nod to total honesty you might admit that perfection has eluded you and frustration has replaced good intention. You're here because good dads always look for ways to become better dads. You're looking for tools and this book offers *one* powerful tool with *multiple* applications. The tool? Prayer.

This book encourages conversation. It pays attention to a dad's concerns as well as the high points of God's Word that deal directly with those concerns. You'll meet Bobby, Douglas, Wayne, Jack, Eludi, and Wes. Each of these men bear the likeness of God in the way they responded to His will. Their lives have something to share with dads today.

Men often seem unwilling to ask for directions. This book is a bold declaration that you need to ask God for help—and you can find answers to your questions on fatherhood by asking.

The power prayers offered here are based on scripture. They help bring light to twenty-one different aspects of a dad's life and responsibility. This isn't a five-step plan to parental perfection. It is a practical companion to an improved prayer life—for dads.

Take each aspect as it comes, gain some insight, and then ask God to take it from there. This is a journey. Take the first step. It begins on your right.

My Bible

The Power of God's Road Map

There's a book stolen more often than any other. It's quoted more often, sold more often, and displayed more than any other book. It holds the key to real life, hope for your future, and offers help for each new day.

The Bible was designed to be a road map for the directionally challenged, a go-to resource for discovering who God is, and it contains the exclusive gift God offers to rescue every willing human.

You can read God's Word with a desire to learn—or you *could* leave it unopened while making your best guess. In Isaiah 55:8–9 (MSG) God says, “I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work. . . . For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.”

Guessing about who God is and what He wants will always result in wrong conclusions, wrong actions, and wrong beliefs. God does things differently than you do. It seems strange that the greatest instruction manual you'll ever know has become a common desk ornament instead of wisdom that informs life's decisions.

There are plenty of resources to help you become a better dad. You'll find advice columns, support groups, and a never-ending supply of five-step plans. You'll find quotes,

theories, and commonsense guides that celebrate fatherhood. This book was specifically designed to encourage better fathering. However, without God's wisdom, plan, and direction, even this advice will fall short of the mark.

God's plan for dads is unexpected in its generosity. He provides tools, encouragement, and round-the-clock personal assistance. You never have to face new parenting experiences alone. Forget gutting it out, pulling yourself up by your bootstraps, and exploring every shade of self-sufficiency. If you've ever wondered if you could really rely on God for help, Psalm 121:2 (ESV) has your answer: "My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

The Bible is a treasure hunt without hidden danger. Truth is not out of focus. It's the definitive truth quest for dads. Read it daily for best results. Offer a prayer asking your parenting questions, and begin reading His Word for answers. They're there. They existed even when you weren't looking for them and were unaware you could ask.

In God's Word you'll learn what He expects from you. By learning to pursue Him you'll discover that the rules you follow are the same ones your children need to learn. Your example is as valuable when your children are two as when they're grown and have children of their own. You can be an example because you *have* an example. In Leviticus 19:2 (NLT) God says, "You must be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy."

Hard? Yes! You're human. Failure is certain. The Bible exists to help you retrace the steps that took you off track so you can rediscover God's true life path. In Matthew 7:14 (NIV) the *Creator of dads* says, "Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

If the gate is small and the true path leads to life, and if

only a few find it, then it isn't much of a stretch to conclude that the Bible is much better read than displayed. Psalm 119:105 (NKJV) says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Jesus says in John 14:15 (ESV), "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

When the Bible is ignored, it can't bring perspective (light) to your decisions. A lack of knowledge will not allow you to show love to the God who made rescue available in the vortex of broken life plans. Many unintentionally walk the wrong path because God's Word remains unread.

Your children need God's instructions as much as you do. Spending time learning together can bring a sense of bonding that few other activities offer. Don't look at God's Word as outdated, irrelevant, or hard to understand. Find a version of the Bible that helps connect you to God's heart. Don't be surprised when it begins to make sense. Don't be surprised when it alters the atmosphere of your home. Don't be surprised when God's idea of a father begins showing up in your bathroom mirror.

The Richest Resource

The revelation of GOD is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of GOD are clear and point out the right road. The life-maps of GOD are right, showing the way to joy. The directions of GOD are plain and easy on the eyes. GOD's reputation is twenty-four-carat gold, with a lifetime guarantee. The decisions of GOD are accurate down to the nth degree.

PSALM 19:7-9 MSG

Always Valid

*"Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away."*

LUKE 21:33 ESV

Dear God, You never leave me to sort through expired words, useless ideas, and partial truth. Your wisdom isn't seasonal or generational. You express Your heart in words that mean something to You and can change something in me. The tallest mountain, the fullest ocean, and the most impressive landmarks will all fade from memory before Your words are even a day old compared to eternity. Help me read them with awe and accept them with joy. Amen.

Life Instructions

Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another—showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God’s way.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16 MSG

Dear God, there’s so much I need to know—and so much You can teach. Help me learn what to do, what not to do, and why it’s always in my best interest to follow Your instructions. Your truth is exposed when I read Your Word. Help me read. Help me understand. Amen.

Freedom from the Past

Get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

JAMES 1:21 NLT

Dear God, where I have been is not where I want to return. What I once was is not how I want anyone to remember me. Help me evict my willingness to break Your law and accept Your help in transforming the way I act and speak. May Your ability to rescue bring new definition to who I will one day be. Amen.

Strength for Today

*“For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth
pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass
from the Law until all is accomplished.”*

MATTHEW 5:18 ESV

Dear God, You have given me a purpose, and that purpose includes today. You want me to make decisions as if there is still work to accomplish. You write my story, and You give me the encouragement to live that story. Give me strength to fully engage with Your plan. Amen.

Hope for Tomorrow

*Your word is a lamp to guide my
feet and a light for my path.*

PSALM 119:105 NLT

Dear God, I may not know the destination of where You're leading, but You've promised to light the path. My view has limits, but Your willingness to guide never stops. My hope is anchored in my belief that You care enough about me to show just what I need to know—just when I need to know it. Amen.

A Father's Heart

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:3 NKJV

Dear God, Your blessings are a gift I need to recognize. Some of Your gifts I can see. Some I experience. Some blessings may not feel like blessings at all. Your Word is perfect even when it says things I don't like. Your commands can feel like restrictions. Your ways can seem confusing. But Your heart expressed in Your Word confirms that You have always been for me. That may be one of Your best blessings. Amen.

A Father's Love

"This is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

JOHN 3:16 NLT

Dear God, Your Word is crystal clear—You love me. I might be able to learn this without reading the Bible, but Your Word makes this truth brighter than the noonday sun. You ask me to believe in Jesus. You want me to live in Your presence for all eternity. I don't think I completely understand Your rescue, but I understand that You loved me enough to offer what no one else can. Amen.

A Father's Plan

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.*

PSALM 32:8 NIV

Dear God, You have offered to instruct, teach, and counsel me. You pay attention to my progress. Your plan for me is greater than my ambition, beyond my ability, and completely within Your control. The great lessons of obedience can be found in the Bible. Help me read it for direction. Help me accept it for purpose. Help me obey it for life. Amen.

A Father's Rescue

*For by grace you have been saved through faith.
And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

EPHESIANS 2:8–9 ESV

Dear God, the Bible tells me that You do the rescuing. Salvation is Your gift to mankind. I can't save myself. The only thing I can do is trust that You are the Rescuer and that I can be rescued. And when I want to boast about the rich life You've given me, help me boast about the God who made it possible and not the man who simply accepted Your gift. Amen.

My Salvation

The Power of Authentic Rescue

It is no coincidence that this chapter follows the last prayer. God's rescue is important for you and equally important for your children. His rescue is not merit based, He doesn't grade on a curve, and if you insist on doing life alone, then you'd better be continuously perfect.

The reason you need rescue is that you can *never* be perfect. If you have broken God's law—even once—you're imperfect, and there's no makeup test—no extra credit. First John 1:8–10 (MSG) adds perspective: "If we claim that we're free of sin, we're only fooling ourselves. A claim like that is errant nonsense. On the other hand, if we admit our sins—make a clean breast of them—he won't let us down; he'll be true to himself. He'll forgive our sins and purge us of all wrongdoing. If we claim that we've never sinned, we out-and-out contradict God—make a liar out of him. A claim like that only shows off our ignorance of God."

It actually hurts your children when you fail to make it clear they have broken and will continue to break God's law. Your children should know they need rescue, just like you did, and it's only God's ability to rescue that restores a relationship with Him. It's possible to raise children who are on their best behavior but don't believe they really need rescue. It's also possible to have children who sin but, after breaking God's law, fully recognize they need God's great

rescue. The first results in the lifelong self-sufficiency of a lost but decent person. The second results in the forgiveness of one who understands he or she is lost without rescue.

The greatest gift God can offer you is a restored relationship. Over and over again you will discover that the greatest lessons God can teach you are the very lessons you can teach your child. The truths that make a difference in your life will have the ability to impact the lives of those you love.

Everyone sins, and no one can maintain God's benchmark of perfection (see Romans 3:23). The only thing you can earn from sinning is death. God offers a forgiven life through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. If you believe that Jesus is God's Son, was sacrificed for your sin, that He rose from the dead, and you trust His ability and willingness to rescue, then you *will* find rescue (see Romans 10:9–10). This is God's rescue plan, and His love for you made it possible.

Romans 10:17 (ESV) says, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." Without hearing or reading about God's greatest gift, you could only develop your own theory about how life works. For instance, if you look at the way you gain an income, you might believe you have to work for your salvation. If you were to look at how you earn a raise, you might think God awards salvation based on the measurement between bad choices and good effort. God is the only One who can offer rescue, and His offer is all-inclusive. The only thing you need to do is accept it. Don't try to reinvent or redefine it.

God's salvation message is ultimately very simple, yet you make it complex when you think you have to *earn* what God is only willing to *give*. Romans 5:8 (NKJV) says, "God

demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” The verse does not say that God demonstrated His love for you because you did some good things. It doesn’t say God demonstrated His love only when you decided to show Him your appreciation. It does say that while you were still in open rebellion to His plan, He loved you enough to send rescue. Why? You would never recognize sacrificial love without Jesus, the Rescuer.

Embrace God’s rescue, accept His love, and then use your changed life to tell a story that’s not even about you. God’s story of rescue is eternity changed for each man, woman, and child who hears, responds, and accepts.

First Corinthians 1:21 (MSG) says, “God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered dumb—preaching, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.” What you can do never compares to what Jesus has already done for you.

Wage versus Gift

*When people work, their wages are not a gift,
but something they have earned. But people are
counted as righteous, not because of their work,
but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.*

ROMANS 4:4–5 NLT

The Life of the Righteous

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.*

I PETER 2:24 ESV

Dear God, Your Son suffered wounds in both body and spirit. His death was one of the greatest humiliations of mankind. His example makes it clear that when I accept authentic rescue, I die to my old life. My own wounds suffered in the midst of “old life” living are Yours to heal as You rescue and install an operating system built on the platform of my new life. Amen.

The Life I Now Live

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

GALATIANS 2:20 NIV

Dear God, I have stepped in and rescued my children, sometimes at personal cost. It could have been placing a hand between them and a nasty fall or telling them no when it was the best decision I could make. Thanks for giving me the life I now live. Thank You for giving Yourself for me and placing Your hands between me and a death penalty. Thanks for Your wisdom in sometimes saying no. Amen.

The Need Was Great

If keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die.

GALATIANS 2:21 NLT

Dear God, it honors You when I obey what You've asked me to do, but I have failed. There are moments when I do not follow the yield or stop signs You've posted for my benefit. In those moments, remind me that Your decision to send rescue through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus was the only answer to my greatest needs—love, forgiveness, and a restored relationship with You. Amen.

Old Life Living?

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

ROMANS 6:1–2 NKJV

Dear God, help me remember that Your rescue came at a price. Your free gift was offered because Your Son, Jesus, sacrificed His life to make it possible. I break Your law because I'm human. I make poor choices, but help me to never take Your gift of grace and cheapen it by acting as if it's a "get out of jail free" card to be used when I would rather sin than obey You. Amen.

His Measure of Mercy

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy.

TITUS 3:5 ESV

Dear God, You have made it clear my own "gold star" efforts can never save me. Thanks for infusing mercy into Your message of salvation. Your rescue is an expression of Your love and not my effort, Your care and not my kindness, and Your wisdom and not my knowledge. Amen.

No Other Name

“Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

ACTS 4:11-12 ESV

Dear God, all roads lead somewhere, but only Your road leads to my eternal home. That road is straight, it's narrow, and it bears Your footprints. May I follow them because I completely trust they will lead where no other road can. Amen.

Confess. . .Believe. . .Be Saved

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

ROMANS 10:9 NLT

Dear God, the best news that has ever happened to me was Your rescue. Help me to never be ashamed to tell others where my new life originates. My belief in Your Son's sacrifice and my trust in Your faithfulness is my acceptance of Your offer to save me. Help me take my gratitude public. Amen.

No Acting

“Knowing the correct password—saying ‘Master, Master,’ for instance— isn’t going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience—doing what my Father wills.”

MATTHEW 7:21 MSG

Dear God, it is a solemn responsibility to share what I know about You with my children. I want to make Your rescue plan so clear that they can wisely make the choice to accept that plan. I don’t want my children to simply act as if they know You. I want them to actually know You.

Help me foster an environment in my family that makes it normal for You to find welcome. Amen.

For All

“I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it.”

ACTS 28:28 NLT

Dear God, I am grateful that Your rescue does not discriminate. Any person from any nation speaking any language can believe in You and discover the exact same rescue. The gift was offered to all of us because Your love was for all. Help me represent Your generous gift without discrimination or prejudice. Amen.

My Guide. . .My Hope

*Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are
God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.*

PSALM 25:5 NIV

Dear God, Yours is a boundless love, enduring grace, and infinite truth. Mine is a hope that is sure, trust that believes, and a life that is Yours. While You are perfect, I am not. So guide me and teach me. You are my God, Your Son is my Savior, and Your Spirit is my Teacher. I can only hope, trust, and live by accepting Your love, embracing Your grace, and following Your truth. Amen.

He Knows Your Voice

*I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God;
incline Your ear to me, and hear my speech.*

PSALM 17:6 NKJV

Dear God, there is such a sense of joy knowing that when I call out to You, You hear me. This is true when I responded to Your offer of rescue, and it's true every time I need Your help. My voice is familiar to You. My concerns are logged into Your record book. My heart instinctively knows that, when bad times come, I have every right to call, knowing You hear, understand, and have instructions for my good and Your glory. Amen.