

# PROVEN CHARACTER

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Praying for Our Children



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Praying for Our Children

As for me,

*far be it from me*

that I should sin against the Lord

by failing to *pray* for you.

And I will teach you the way

that is *good* and *right*.

1 Sam. 12:23

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# DEDICATION

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To my 6<sup>th</sup> grade Prayer Committees, I started writing these things down to share with you.

To the women I have prayed with in Moms in Prayer, your faithful prayer support through the years has been invaluable.



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Acknowledgements . . . . .	.ix
Foreword . . . . .	.xi
How to Use This Book . . . . .	.xiii
Introduction . . . . .	xv
Character Prayers . . . . .	19
Attentiveness . . . . .	20
Boldness . . . . .	22
Compassion . . . . .	24
Contentment . . . . .	26
Courage . . . . .	28
Creative . . . . .	30
Diligent . . . . .	32
Discernment . . . . .	34
Encouragement . . . . .	36
Endurance . . . . .	38
Enthusiasm . . . . .	40
Faithfulness . . . . .	42
Generosity . . . . .	44
Gentleness . . . . .	46
Honesty . . . . .	48
Humility . . . . .	50
Integrity . . . . .	52

Joyfulness . . . . .	54
Kindness . . . . .	56
Leadership . . . . .	58
Love . . . . .	60
Obedience . . . . .	62
Patience . . . . .	64
Perseverance . . . . .	66
Purity . . . . .	68
Self-Control . . . . .	70
Servanthood . . . . .	72
Sincerity . . . . .	74
Steadfastness . . . . .	76
Thankfulness . . . . .	78
Wisdom . . . . .	80
Appendix: Commentary on Prayer and Tips for Praying Powerfully and Effectively . . . . .	83
Notes . . . . .	119



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I am thankful for the privilege of serving a noble mission at The Bear Creek School to help students become all God intends. I am most grateful, to my Lord and Savior, whose call to intercession has deepened and strengthened my faith and our relationship.



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## FOREWORD

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**D**uring my first year of teaching at The Bear Creek School in 1999, I had the pleasure of working with Liz's son for third grade. Not only did I enjoy getting to know her family, I also was on the receiving end of her tireless prayers for me and my young family. From the very beginning, and all through the years that I have known her, Liz has been a faithful participant and leader of the Moms in Prayer group at Bear Creek. Her prayer ministry has expanded through the years. Liz takes the time to systematically pray for each teacher at the school. She leads the Prayer Leadership Group for grade six. Under her care, Liz's students learn how to best approach prayer, taking time to thank God and give Him glory. She devotes countless hours to mentoring parents, teachers, and students in developing a thoughtful approach to prayer. Liz even created a prayer room at the school. Its walls are covered with prayers and inspirational verses.

We have all come to depend on Liz for her humble and intentional approach to prayer. We know that we can depend on her to stand in the gap and to truly be a prayer warrior. I will always cherish the written prayers

Liz has provided for me over the years. What a treasure to see her vision of sharing her prayers realized in the publication of this book. This is sure to be a gift to many!

Jenn McDonough  
Early Middle School Division Head  
Middle School Division Head  
The Bear Creek School  
Redmond, WA

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

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The school where I work gives out character awards to each of our students at the end of the school year. The character traits used in this book of prayers were gleaned from the list of awards given to our students. I have written thirty-one scripture inspired prayers that can be used to systematically pray for these traits to develop in the lives of your children or students.

Each trait is accompanied by selected quotes from scripture related to the character trait. Under each prayer you will find a complete list of the scriptures referenced for further consideration. I find reviewing and meditating on them helps influence my thought life. The reminder and affirmation of the Truth deepens my knowledge of God and helps me take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

I suggest starting your time of prayer with a time of praise to our Lord, for who He is and what He has done for us. As you are drawn into His presence through worship, have a quiet moment of confession. Thank Him for His blessings and begin your time of intercession using one the prayers for character. You

may want to expand your prayer to include specific needs of your child.

There is an appendix with some commentary on prayer and tips on how to do it powerfully and effectively. The role and purpose of each part of a common model for prayer are discussed. In addition, some other pertinent tips and encouragement are shared.

“Our children, created in the image of God, are worthy of the sacrifices demanded by faithful and consistent prayer.”<sup>1</sup>

“Arise, cry out in the night, as the watches of the night begin; pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children.” Lamentations 2:19

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# INTRODUCTION

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When I was on a tour of the new building recently built by the school where I work, the Headmaster described the plans for how several rooms were to be used. He concluded their purposes would not be accomplished if we did not make a space for them to happen. The truth of those statements resonates within me as a physical and spiritual reality.

Every aspect of our lives has both a physical and spiritual dimension. Our impact in the physical realm is essential, but limited by time and space. Our influence in the spiritual realm is defined by our knowledge of “His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.” (Eph. 1:19-20 NIV).

Paul calls us to take advantage of that power in two ways in Ephesians 6:10-18. We are to stand firm and put on the full armor of God, so we can take our stand against the enemy’s schemes. We are also to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Because of Jesus’ victory over death, we have power in the spiritual realm to stand firm and silence the

enemy of our souls. We also have the freedom to invite the Holy Spirit's work on our behalf using the Truths found in scripture. Through prayer we can clean up and influence the spiritual environment in which we and our children make our free will choices. Those choices reflect the character that flows from our hearts. In the same way we created physical space for God's work in our school community, our faithful prayers create spiritual "space" for God to accomplish His purposes in our lives and the lives of our children.

### **How This Book Came to Be**

I lead several prayer meetings a week at the school where I work. I pray with students, teachers, parents, and administrators. I developed a love for writing prayers because more and more, I was writing prayers in emails and devotions. Then, I began to write prayers and print them on cards in an effort to help those who might feel uncomfortable with spontaneous prayer. Whenever I used them, I received frequent requests for copies of my written prayers. Thus, was born the idea to gather the prayers for character together into a book. It just so happened, (if you believe in coincidences, which I don't :-)) I wrote thirty-one character prayers. It wasn't until I began to put them together in a book that the light went on in my head and I realized I had one for every day of a month.



The prayers in this book were written to help parents and teachers pray for character development in their students. It is the mission of our school to help our students become all God intends them to be. We wish to see them rooted and established in Him, prepared to accomplish all the good works He has prepared for them to do. Part of how that mission is accomplished is to help our students develop proven character, through perseverance, so they may become mature and complete, not lacking anything. We cannot force character upon them, but through prayer we can silence the enemy and invite the Holy Spirit's influence using the Truths of God's Word.

It is my hope you will use these prayers to pray daily for your children and yourselves. However, whatever way you choose to use them, I know your prayers will be powerful and effective to create "spiritual space" for God's work to be accomplished.



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## CHARACTER PRAYERS

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Therefore, having been justified by *faith*  
we have peace with God through  
our Lord Jesus Christ, through  
whom also we have obtained our introduction  
by faith into this grace in which we stand.

We exult in the *hope* of the glory of God.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations,  
knowing that tribulation brings about

*perseverance.*

And perseverance brings about

*proven character,*

and proven character, *hope;*

and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has  
been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit  
who was given to us.

(Rom. 5:1-5 NASB)

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# ATTENTIVENESS

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Lord Jesus, Your Word is truth. Help \_\_\_\_\_ to pay attention to what You say in Your Word so she(he) may grow in her(his) knowledge of You and Your ways.

May \_\_\_\_\_ recognize Your direction for how she(he) should live. May her(his) careful attention to Your commands bring her(him) peace and well-being. Help her(him) to listen carefully and be observant, so she(he) may guard her(his) heart and maintain discretion.

Help her(him) respect and pay attention to wise people so she(he) may gain knowledge. May \_\_\_\_\_ consider the blameless and observe the upright. May \_\_\_\_\_ consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Amen

## **Scriptures referenced:**

Ps. 37:37; Ps. 119:14-16; Prov. 4:20-23; Prov. 5:1-2; Prov. 21:11; Prov. 24:32; Is. 48:17-18; Heb. 13:7



**Psalm 37:37**

Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace.

**Proverbs 5:1-2**

My son, pay attention to my wisdom, turn your ear to my words of insight, that you may maintain discretion and your lips may preserve knowledge.

**2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,