

What to Pray For During COVID-19¹

Pray for an end to the virus' spread. The Coronavirus did not take God by surprise; He is still governing and sustaining the world (Col. 1:17). Pray for God's healing mercy and that He would graciously bring this pandemic to an end. Pray for healing for all those affected by the virus.

Pray for the vulnerable. Authorities tell us that those immunocompromised people are especially at risk as the virus spreads. Pray for protection for the elderly, diseased, and those facing financial hardship. Pray for students who are being required to vacate university and college housing with very little notice. Over the next few weeks, there will be many opportunities to meet tangible needs. Pray that God's people meet these opportunities with wisdom and grace (Mat. 25:35-40).

Pray for a spirit of generosity. During this time, churches will face a loss of income at a time when there are many opportunities to meet physical needs. Pray that God's people will manifest a spirit of generosity and sacrificially give of their time and resources to meet needs that will arise (2 Cor. 9:6-8).

Pray for a posture of trust. Scripture teaches us that God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control (2 Tim 1:7). Pray for enduring faith during this season of heightened fear, anxiety, and confusion. Appropriate precautions should be taken, but Christians must continue to rely on God and trust His purposes and plans (Rom. 8:28).

Pray for the spread of the gospel. In this time of great anxiety, pray that God's people would be ready to meet the world with the comfort and hope that only the good news of Jesus Christ can offer.

Pray for honest reporting. Christians should pray for those in the news media. Pray that reporters and journalists would accurately report updates about the status of the virus, and not seek to peddle conspiracies, politicize the threat, or stoke fear where it is unwarranted.

Pray for government leaders. At all times, Christians are called to pray for those in positions of authority (1 Tim. 2:2). This is especially true during a time of national emergency. Pray for government leaders and all those making decisions related to public health and safety. Pray for a spirit of cooperation as leaders work together to protect people.

Pray for church leaders. Pastors around the country are making difficult decisions related to public worship and the safety of their members. Pray that pastors will have wisdom to faithfully shepherd the congregations under their care, even if they are unable to physically gather (1 Peter 5:2). Pray that Christians will love their neighbors well during this time (Mark 12:31).

¹ Hill, Verne. Prayer points in response to the COVID-19 threat. Retrieved from <https://www.wbfj.fm/prayer-points-response-covid-19-threat/>

Prayer for COVID-19²

Heavenly Father, we come to you right now amongst a cloud of uncertainty,
COVID-19 has spread amongst your people,
It has scaled mountains, crossed borders, entered countries, and traversed oceans,
Male and female, young and old,
It has entered homes, schools, governments, hospitals, sporting clubs and more,
As a people united, we cry out, do not be far from us God,
Come quickly to help us, (Psalm 38:21)

For those who are currently afflicted by this virus, we ask for the miraculous,
May lungs be restored to full health, headaches dissolved, body aches disbanded,
For anyone battling symptoms, God bring restoration and health,
For those who are battling far worse: cancers, tumours, strokes, may you lay your healing hand
upon them Jesus,
When we cry out to you for help, may your response be “I am Willing” (Matthew 8:3)

We lift up to you the medical professionals across our nation and around the world,
May you bless their gifted hands,
For doctors, surgeons, nurses and specialists, may you give them insight to treat those afflicted
effectively, sustain their efforts with an enduring energy,
May the spread of this virus not overwhelm our medical facilities,

For the margins of our societies, we ask for protection,
Shelter the elderly and vulnerable from this sickness under your wings, may it not cross the
threshold of their homes, (Psalm 91:4)
For those who have nowhere to lay their head, may you not only protect them but whisper to
the hearts of those right now who have the resources to give them shelter,
For the single mums, and single dads who can't spare time off work for their kids, surround
them with friends and relatives who are able to care for their children during this time,
For those worried about finances during this time, business owners concerned about their
livelihood, may you financially provide for them,
For the recently widowed, for those who have lost a loved one through coronavirus or
otherwise, may you sit next to them Jesus and weep with them (John 11:35)
Prompt friends and family to surround them, to grieve with them, to cook for them, and to love
them,
And when the time is right God, bestow upon them a crown of beauty. Anoint them with your
oil of joy, and clothe them in a garment of praise (Isaiah 61)

² Join us with this prayer for COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://98five.com/our-prayer-for-covid-19/>

For our world leaders during this time, we ask for you to generously pour out your wisdom upon them God,
May you help them to govern your people safely during this unsure time,
May they seek to care for the orphaned, the widowed, the refugee, the poor, and the oppressed, (Exodus 22:21)

For those who have felt a rise in stress, depression and anxiety during this time,
Or who have been battling this for some time,
We ask for respite and reprieve,
May their hearts be troubled no longer (John 14:1)
May they be free in their minds like the birds of the sky who have no worries (Matthew 6:26)
Fill their minds with everything true, noble, lovely, pure and praiseworthy (Philippians 4:8)

We are nothing without You, God,
You are the masterful author and creator of everything we have, everything seen and unseen,
The vast mountains, the wild forests, the gentle autumn rains, and the air we breathe is yours,
The ones we love, and the ones we find hard to love all came from your creative hands,
We are all brothers and sisters, so may we share with our brothers and sisters now,
No hoarding, no gathering more than we need,
Jesus, may we be inspired by your generous sacrifice you made on the cross for all of us,
May the spirit of selfishness no longer find a home in the hearts of people around the world,
In this time, may generosity flourish among neighbours and strangers, ensuring we all have enough, and spreading far quicker and wider than this virus ever will.

We ask all of this in your beautiful name God, Amen