# Editorial Praying For The Lost By Dr Jason Hubbard

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One of the key prayer strategies for the Go2020 initiative is praying for five people in our circle of influence who don’t’ know Jesus Christ. Everyone can pray for someone! Who is someone in your workplace, school, neighborhood, or in your family? Start with a prayer list of 5. You might start with a simple prayer,

“Lord, lead me to five people for whom I can daily pray and then create opportunities for me to share with them the good news of Christ”

It truly is God’s desire that all be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth! We all have people in our lives and spheres of influence who are unsaved and don’t know Christ. We should be praying for them because we care deeply about them and because we know that God cares for them and wants none of them to perish—His desire is for all of them to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). God always answers prayer when it is in accordance with his will and for his renown! We don’t always know how or when he will respond, but we do know that he always acts in response to our prayers for others. Our prayers are not in vain! His answers will always be for his glory, for our good and for the good of those we are praying for. He is better than we think he is and doing more than we think he is doing!

“This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:3-4).

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Here are four claims I like to use in praying for the lost!

1. Claim One: Open Doors …So opportunities will be opened to those who don’t know Christ!

“Devote yourselves to prayer…that God may open a door…so that we may proclaim…Christ” (Colossians 4:2-3, NIV).

2. Claim Two: Open Minds …So people will hear the Gospel with an open mind.

“I am sending you to them [the lost] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light” (Acts 26:17b-18a, NIV). 23

3. Claim Three: Open Hearts …So unbelievers will invite Christ into their hearts.

“For God…made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of… Christ” (2 Corinthians 4:6, NIV).

4. Claim Four: Open Heavens …So the Spirit of God will be poured out upon all flesh and men will be drawn to Christ

“Open up, O heavens, and pour out your righteousness. Let the earth open wide so salvation and righteousness can sprout up together” (Isaiah 45:8, NLT).

Here are some other important themes to focus on praying for your lost family members, neighbors, friends, or co-workers!

1. Ask God for the courage and power of the Holy Spirit to be an effective witness in your sphere of influence.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

2. Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh! Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict the world in regards to sin, righteousness and judgment.

“ ‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams” (Acts 2:17).

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged” (John 16:8-11).

3. Pray for God the Father to draw all men to Christ through the power of the cross!

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (John 6:44).

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself” (John 12:32).

4. Pray for God’s kindness to lead people to repentance.

“Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?” (Romans 2:4).

5. Pray for the gospel to the Kingdom to be proclaimed throughout the world! Ask God to give you his compassion for the lost and to send forth laborers into the harvest fields of the world!

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Matthew 9:35-39).

6. Pray that the Lamb who was slain would receive his due reward in the nations!

“And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation… 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:9, 12).

“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession” (Psalm 2:8).

7. Pray for mighty signs, wonders and miracles at the proclamation of the gospel!

“And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness” (Acts 4:29-31).

8. Pray for God to remove the blindness from the enemy over the minds of the unbeliever that they will see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ!

“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Cor. 4:4).

9. Pray for the gift of tears, to cry out for the lost to be saved

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6).

10. Pray for the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord to cover the earth!

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

“All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you” (Psalm 22:27)

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