

## A PRAYER FOR THE FAMILY

Holy Father,

You promised Abram: "I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curses thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12.3) And You said in Galatians 3.7, 26-29: "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. For ye are all children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Father, You have said to have no other gods before You and not to make graven images, to worship or serve them, for You are a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate You; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love You, and keep Your commandments. (Ex. 20.3-6) You have also said: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: and you shall love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up. (Deut. 6.4-7) You have said: There shall not be found among you any one that makes his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that uses divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a conjurer with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God does drive them out from before you. (Deut. 18.10-12)

Father, I come to You in the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord, and lift up before the throne of Your grace, my family, that we might obtain mercy and find grace and favor in our time of need. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we might follow Your ways and keep Your commandments. Oh, that people would praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men (Ps 107.15). I fear the LORD and trust in the LORD. He is my help and shield. Be mindful of us, O Lord, and bless our household, for You bless those that fear the LORD, both small and great, and You increase us more and more, us and our children. We are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth. (Psalm 115.11-15)

I praise You and delight greatly in Your commandments. My descendants shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endures forever. For him, light

arises in the darkness. Lord, let me be gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous. (Psalm 112.1-4)

You have promised those who fear You and walk in Your ways that we shall eat the labor of our hands and will be happy, that it shall be well with us. The wife in this family will be fruitful and the children like olive plants. (Psalm 128.1-3) Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. Indeed, children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is his reward. (Psalm 127)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. Let the members of this family hear the instruction of our fathers and not forsake the law of our mothers. (Proverbs 1.7,8) Let the heart of the husband trust in his wife, and let the wife do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Let the wife look well to the ways of her household and not be idle, and let her children rise up and call her blessed while her husband also praises her. (Proverbs 31.11,12,27,28)

Jesus, You have commanded us to love one another as You have loved us, for by this all people will know that we are Your disciples. (John 13.34,35) Let love be without dissimulation. Enable us to abhor evil and cleave to the good. Enable us to be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. (Rom. 12.9-13) Love works no ill, does no harm, to one's neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Rom. 13.10)

Let the strong in our family bear the infirmities of the weak, and not please ourselves. Let us please others for their good to edification. Lord, may we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures have hope. Grant us to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus that we may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us grace to receive one another as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. (Rom. 15.1-7)

Let us, by love, serve one another, not biting and devouring one another, but taking heed that we be not consumed one of another. Grant us grace to walk in the Spirit and not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another, but grant us meekness to restore those overtaken in a fault. Enable us to bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. (Gal. 5.13-16,26; Gal. 6.1,2)

With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, let us forbear one another in love. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouths, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Help us

not to grieve the Holy Spirit, but rather to be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us. (Eph. 4.2,29-32)

Let us not be drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit. As we go about our day, let us sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord, giving thanks always, submitting ourselves one to another in the fear of God. Let the wife submit to her husband as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ, the church. Let the husband love his wife as Christ loved the church, and gave himself for it, loving her as he loves his own body, for the husband that loves his wife loves himself. Let a man leave his father and mother and be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. Let the husband love his wife as himself; and let the wife respect her husband. (Eph. 5)

Father, grant the children grace to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. Let them honor their father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with them, and they may live long on the earth. Grant that the father in this household will not provoke his children to wrath, frustrating them to anger and rebellion, but rather, that he will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6.1-4) In meekness, let each esteem the others better than themselves, looking not merely to his own personal interests, but also to others'. Enable us to be like Jesus, who took the form of a servant and made Himself of no reputation in all humility. (Phil. 2.3-7)

Let us put on, as the elect of God, holy and loved by You, Father, bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, that we might forbear one another and forgive one another even as Christ forgave us. Let this family put on love and grant that the peace of God might rule in our hearts. (Col. 3)

Grant that our adornment might be that of meek and quiet spirits. If any husband not obey the word, let him be able to see his wife's chaste way of life, and let her not fear nor be intimidated, but trust in God. Let husbands give honor to wives, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that their prayers be not hindered. And let all be of one mind, having compassion one of another, being courteous, blessing each other. Let each sanctify the Lord God in his or her heart. (1 Peter 3.1-8,15) Lord, sanctify the members of this household for the sake of the believing member. (1 Cor. 7)

Lord, let our children walk in truth that we might have great joy (3 John 2). Let us keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life (Jude 21). Help this family to walk in love and witness to the grace of God with power. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen. (Rev. 22.21)