

## *For Governments and National Leaders*

### **That they would serve as instruments of righteousness**

<sup>3</sup> *For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.* <sup>4</sup> *For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.*  
Romans 13:3-4

### **That they would champion the cause of persecuted Christians and let them live in peace**

<sup>1</sup> *I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—* <sup>2</sup> *for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.*  
1 Timothy 2:1-2

### **That their leaders would recognize God's authority**

<sup>8</sup> *The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."* <sup>9</sup> *For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this', and he does it."*  
Matthew 8:8-9

### **That the persecutors would repent**

<sup>3</sup> *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.* <sup>4</sup> *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"* <sup>5</sup> *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.* <sup>6</sup> *"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."* <sup>8</sup> *Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus.*  
Acts 9:3-6, 8

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

2 Peter 3:9

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## Scripture Prayer Guide

### Using the Word of God

# To Pray for Persecuted Christians

... Using the *New International Version* of the Bible...

## *For Persecuted Christians*

### **That they would remember the promise of suffering to godly Christians**

*In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.*  
2 Timothy 3:12

### **That God would provide for their needs**

*Give us today our daily bread.*  
Matthew 6:11

### **That they would rejoice in their sufferings**

<sup>10</sup> *"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* <sup>11</sup> *Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.* <sup>12</sup> *Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."*  
Matthew 5:10-12

### **That they would persevere in their sufferings**

*... Among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.*  
2 Thessalonians 1:4

### **That their faith in God and love for Christ would grow**

<sup>6</sup> *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.* <sup>7</sup> *These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.* <sup>8</sup> *Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,* <sup>9</sup> *for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the*

salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:6-9

**That they would humbly submit to God and alertly resist Satan**

<sup>6</sup> *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. <sup>7</sup> Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. <sup>10</sup> And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

<sup>11</sup> *To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 5:6-11

**That they would respond in a God-honoring way to their persecutors**

<sup>38</sup> *"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth' <sup>39</sup> But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.*

<sup>40</sup> *And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup> If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup> Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. <sup>43</sup> You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

Matthew 5:38-44

<sup>20</sup> *On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Romans 12:20-21

**That they would be prayerful, thankful and clear in witness**

<sup>2</sup> *Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.*

<sup>3</sup> *And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. <sup>4</sup> Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

Colossians 4:2-4

**That they would receive opportunity to lead their persecutors to Christ**

<sup>29</sup> *The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved -you and your household."*

Acts 16:29-31

**For Christians Not Presently Facing Persecution**

**That they would identify themselves with those who are being persecuted**

*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

1 Corinthians 12:26

*Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.*

Hebrews 13:3

**That they would pray for their suffering brethren**

*So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.*

Acts 12:5

**That they would pray for boldness in witness for their persecuted brethren**

<sup>19</sup> *Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.*

Ephesians 6:19-20

**That they would take action on behalf of suffering Christians**

<sup>27</sup> *Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. <sup>28</sup> Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" — when you now have it with you.*

Proverbs 3:27-28

**That they would put their faith into action on behalf of their suffering brethren**

<sup>14</sup> *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James 2:14-17