

PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

I have been told by many (even seniors in nursing homes) that you never stop worrying about your children. This is true! But for Christians, we are never to worry, but always to pray:

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God...” (Philippians 4:6)

We would do well to consider every anxious thought that our children inflict upon us not as a call to weep and gnash our teeth, but as a call to pray and intercede for them. To help us toward that end, here is an outline taken from an article by Jon Bloom of *Desiring God* on “How to Pray for Our Children.” I’ve found it to be particularly helpful in guiding my daily prayers for my son.

SEVEN THINGS TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILDREN

That Jesus will call them and no one will hinder them from coming.

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away. ([Matt 19:13-15](#))

That they will respond in faith to Jesus’ faithful, persistent call.

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](#))

That they will experience sanctification through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit and will increasingly desire to fulfill the greatest commandments.

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ([Matthew 22:37-39](#))

That they will not be unequally yoked in intimate relationships, especially marriage.

Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ([2 Corinthians 6:14](#))

That their thoughts will be pure.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ([Philippians 4:8](#))

That their hearts will be stirred to give generously to the Lord's work

All the men and women, the people of Israel, whose heart moved them to bring anything for the work that the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done brought it as a freewill offering to the Lord. ([Exodus 35:29](#))

That when the time is right, they will GO!

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matthew 28:18-20)