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# Prayer Guide

on behalf of  
Churches  
at Risk



FINDING HOPE AFTER SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Never stop praying,  
especially for others.  
Always pray by the  
power of the Spirit. Stay  
alert and keep praying  
for God's people.

- Ephesians 6:18



## **The Way Home Ministries, Inc.**

### **Prayer Guide on Behalf of Those Impacted by Spiritual Abuse**

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of those impacted by the heartbreak of spiritual abuse. Whether abuse has been exposed and has sent a community reeling, or whether a church is at risk and is showing indications of unhealthy or toxic patterns which could lead to a painful implosion, the damage being done is incalculable. Jesus loves the Church so much so that He laid down His life for her. It is no wonder that the enemy has made the Church his primary target.

When the enemy gets a foothold in a church, the battle is dark, and the resulting impact can be devastating. Not only are people harmed, but their faith in God, pastors, and the church can be damaged, cutting them off from the very source of healing they need most.

The potency of this kind of attack will only be broken through the power of God – shining light, breaking down strongholds, and opening the eyes of those in harm's way. He invites us to join Him in this holy work through earnest prayer, seeking and believing Him for breakthrough, healing, and recovery.

As you do battle on behalf of this church, you are encouraged to

- **Pray scripture.** *We've provided some passages in this guide, but you are certainly not limited to these! Pray as the Lord leads you.*
- **Pray in bold authority.** *Ephesians 2:6 says we have been raised up with Christ and are seated with Him in the heavenly realms, giving us all authority.*
- **Consider fasting** once a week as part of your earnest prayer for this church. *(a meal, food for a day, social media – however the Lord leads)*
- **Ask someone to cover YOU in prayer** as you are doing battle in the heavenly realms.

Thank you for your prayers. You are interceding on behalf of women, men, and children of all ages - including whole families, the next generation, staff members, communities – so many lives and hearts. Your bold, loving prayers of faith matter!



## Prayers for Churches at Risk

Your partnership in prayer on behalf of a church community that shows indications of struggling with unhealthy patterns and may be on the way toward a painful, devastating implosion *matters*. As you pray, rest in the truth that our God is fighting for His bride and that you are partnering with the One who is our Light, Rescuer, and Good Shepherd. He is on the job and invites us to partner in HIS work.

***1. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. ~Ephesians 1:16b-18 (nlt)***

We do not discover spiritual things; they are revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has to reveal the Truth to those who are in a stronghold. Ask the Lord to bring spiritual wisdom & insight and to flood the hearts of church members and staff.

***2. And Elisha prayed, 'Open his eyes, Lord, so he may see.' Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes... ~2 Kings 6:17 (niv)***

Ask the Lord to open the eyes of His servants in the church. He may stir a handful of key people to begin asking internal questions or seeing more unhealthy patterns. You can't unsee what you've seen, so let's beseech the Lord to open their eyes.

**3. *You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.***

*~John 8:32 (nlt)*

Pray that the Spirit of Truth will pursue those who may be stuck or trapped. Ask Him to reveal truth in prayer, dreams, "coincidences", or a well-timed question from a friend. *Use every tool at Your disposal, Lord.*

**4. *I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.***

*~Ezekiel 22:30 (nlt)*

The enemy is real, and he is attacking Jesus' bride. Ask the Lord how you can stand in the gap for those who are blind, afraid, or stuck in an unhealthy system. Pray for protection from the evil one, for the children of families deeply involved, for the marriages that are under attack, and for the faith of those who are new to the faith and are trusting in this community.

**5. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

**Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

**And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ~Ephesians 6:11-18 (niv)**

Take time to put on the armor of God and pray boldly against the powers of darkness, binding up anything that wars against Jesus and His Church. Ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten your prayers and bring discernment to the enemy powers at work. Then invite Jesus to unleash the opposite – His goodness, freedom, purity, faithfulness, etc. – as He directs.

**6. *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ~Galatians 5:22 (niv)***

Pray against anything that is NOT of the Spirit that is at work in the church. For example, “In the name of Jesus Christ, we bind up the spirits of impatience, a spirit of unkindness, envy, boasting, arrogance, etc.”. Then, loose God’s love (as described in 1 Corinthians 13) over the church.

**7. *He answered, “This kind cannot be driven out except by prayer and fasting.” ~Mark 9:9 (ncb)***

Select a passage or two of scripture to pray over the church as you pray and/or fast today. (Suggestions: 1 Corinthians 13, Gal 5:22, Luke 18:1-8)

**8. *Set up road signs; put up guideposts. Mark well the path by which you came. Come back again, my virgin Israel; return to your towns here. How long will you wander, my wayward daughter? For the Lord will cause something new to happen – Israel will embrace her God... For I have given rest to the weary and joy to the sorrowing. ~Jeremiah 31:21-22, 25 (nlt)***

Ask the Lord to shine His light on the pathway to freedom, bringing those who are stuck home and bringing rest and joy to those who are under a heavy burden.

**9. Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God! Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. ~Isaiah 40:3a-4 (nlt)**

Those stuck in an unhealthy church system can have a difficult time finding their way to freedom. Pray that the Lord would open the pathway to freedom, that crooked paths would be made straight, and that the rough places would be made smooth.

**10. I know all the things you do. I have seen your hard work and your patient endurance. I know you don't tolerate evil people. You have examined the claims of those who say they are apostles but are not. You have discovered they are liars. You have patiently suffered for me without quitting. But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first. Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. ~Revelation 2:2-5a (nlt)**

Plead with the Lord to call this church back to their first love! That every distraction, every evil scheme, every degree off-course would be exposed and rejected and that they would find themselves captivated once more with their love for the Father and pure devotion to Him. That repentance – a turn – would happen in every heart.



**11. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. ~1 John 1:5 (niv)**

***Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace.***

*~Luke 1:78-79 (nlt)*

Ask the Lord to shine His light from heaven into every dark, shadowy corner. His light is merciful, gentle, and guides us to the pathway of peace. Pray that those trapped would see the light, wake up, and reach out for help. And ask the Lord that those deadened because of sin would be awakened as well, through the most merciful means necessary: exposure, being caught, a well-timed question, conviction of the Holy Spirit. *In Your tender mercy, BREAK UPON THEM, oh Lord.*

**12. I call on You, my God, for You will answer me; turn Your ear to me and hear my prayer. ~Psalm 17:6 (niv)**

Those stuck in a destructive system may not know the source of the problem, but often they ARE calling out to God for help. Pray for those crying out to God - that the urgency of their prayers will increase and that they will experience God's presence and hope as they pursue His help.



## THE WAY HOME MINISTRIES

recovering a life of thriving faith  
in the aftermath of spiritual abuse

[theway-home.org](http://theway-home.org)

Please remember this work  
in your prayers.