
Prayer Guide

on behalf
of the Next
Generation
struggling
in the
aftermath of
Spiritual
Abuse



FINDING HOPE AFTER SPIRITUAL ABUSE

“Ask and keep on asking
and it will be given to you;
seek and keep on seeking
and you will find; knock
and keep on knocking
and the door will be
opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7



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 the Children/Next Generation Who Have Been Shattered in the Aftermath of Spiritual Abuse

Jesus has strong words against those who cause children to stumble. In Mark 9:42, He says: **“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea.”** As you pray for these wounded sons and daughters, know that you are praying in deep agreement with the God of the Universe. He doesn’t play lightly when it comes to the harm of these tender, vulnerable ones that He loves, and His heart is to rescue, heal, and restore.

1. “But now, listen to me, Jacob my servant, Israel my chosen one. The Lord who made you and helps you says: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, my servant, O dear Israel, my chosen one. For I will pour out water to quench your thirst and to irrigate your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit on your descendants, and my blessing on your children. They will thrive like watered grass, like willows on a riverbank.”

~Isaiah 44:1-4 (nlt)

The Lord promises seasons of refreshment and an outpouring of His Spirit on our children... His blessing on our descendants. We can rest in His care, His pursuit, and His faithfulness, unafraid. Pray in agreement for the promises of God to be fulfilled in the next generation. Many have

ended up thirsty and dry; pray for God's protection over them as they pursue filling and satisfaction. Pray that the enemy's offers would return empty and void, and that the next generation would be drawn to the living water that God Himself promises to pour out on them.

2. "...for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light." ~Ephesians 5:14-15 (nlt)

Pray that God will turn on His gentle, pure light in the hearts of children struggling to find their way... that the enemy's schemes would be exposed, and that the hearts of children would be awakened in the name and in the power of Jesus. Christ is the One who gives light - ask Him to break through the darkness with His exposing, illuminating, healing light - and that the deadness of the ways of darkness would be cut away and that new life would stir within their hearts.

3. Jesus said to them... "The child has not died, but is sleeping." They began laughing [scornfully] at Him [because they knew the child was dead]. But He made them all go outside, and took along the child's father and mother and His own [three] companions, and entered the room where the child was. Taking the child's hand, He said [tenderly] to her, "Talitha koum!"—which translated [from Aramaic] means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!" The little girl immediately got up and began to walk, for she was twelve years old. And immediately they [who witnessed the child's resurrection] were overcome with great wonder and utter amazement. ~Mark 5:39b-42 (amp)

To the watching, grieving, hopeless onlookers, Jesus announced that this little girl may have LOOKED dead, but she was just sleeping. He walked in *where she was*, and took her tenderly by the hand, and spoke past the vestiges of coldness and death - straight to her heart. He didn't avoid her - He walked right in to her, and with tenderness, spoke LIFE.

Talitha koum means "Wake up, little girl"... Talley koum means "Wake up, little boy." Sons and daughters need to hear the words of their Savior in the inner places of their hearts - beneath the protective layers, defenses, coping mechanisms, and sin with which they have insulated their hearts. Join with the voice of Jesus in speaking words of waking, of life over sons and daughters who have wandered far from their *home*. And pray that deadened, weary hearts will hear their Savior calling them to themselves again and that they would be renewed and resurrected to a childlike heart and faith in the One who will never leave them to face their heartbreak alone.

4. It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

~Ephesians 1:11-12 (msg)

Pray that children would be fully restored to Jesus - and find their true selves in Christ. He has His eye on them, with purposes and plans, and He is at work in everyone. Ask the Lord to draw their hearts back to the One who can tell them who they really are and what they are made for.

5. You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me! ~Psalm 139: 13-18 (nlt)

The Lord Himself knit our children together in their mothers' wombs. He delights in who they are, in their wonderful complexity. Even when they are distant, He isn't exasperated or disappointed. His thoughts about them are precious and countless, and He is near. Pray that in the quiet places of their hearts, they would experience God's kindness, delight, and love, and that they would be drawn to their true identity as sons and daughters of God.

6. I waited patiently for the Lord to help me, and he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of despair, out of the mud and the mire. He set my feet on solid ground and steadied me as I walked along. He has given me a new song to sing, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see what he has done and be amazed. They will put their trust in the Lord. ~Psalm 40: 1-3 (nlt)

Ask the Lord to lift up children whose sadness and wounds have mired them in a pit of despair. Pray that the Lord of Heaven's armies would hear their cry (and the cry of their parents) and lift them out of the mud and mire, setting their feet on solid ground.

Rescue our children from the enemy's schemes, Lord! And give them a new song to sing - a hymn of praise to our God!

7. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross. ~Colossians 2:13-15 (nlt)

Pray that the Lord would disarm the spiritual rulers and authorities who are gunning for the next generation. Pray that their purposes would be thwarted and that they would be exposed for the sham authority with which they've masqueraded. Pray that our children would turn to the power of the Cross in their lives - the Cross where the enemy is defeated, where we are forgiven and our hearts are brought to life.

8. ... He called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.
~1 Peter 2:9b (nlt)

Pray that this generation that has been wounded, confused, abused, and deceived by the enemy would hear the Lord calling them out of darkness. This is the work of the Holy Spirit - pray that His voice would

be amplified and heard, and that the Light would be mercifully exposing, gently illuminating, and irresistible for their darkened hearts. *Let them see You, Lord Jesus.*

9. *“Your children will come back to you from the distant land of the enemy. There is hope for your future,” says the Lord. “Your children will come again to their own land.” ~Jeremiah 31:16b-17 (nlt)*

While doing your own internal work with the Lord, pray with confident assurance for the generation of shattered children to come back from the distant land of the enemy.

10. *Thus says the Lord, “A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation (songs of mourning) and bitter weeping. Rachel (Israel) is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are gone.”*

Thus says the Lord, “Restrain your voice from weeping And your eyes from tears, For your work will be rewarded,” says the Lord; “And your children will return from the enemy’s land. There is [confident] hope for your future,” says the Lord; “Your children will come back to their own country.” ~Jeremiah 31:15-17 (niv)

Our tears will bear fruit. The songs of mourning, the weeping for our children who are walking down destructive paths - the Lord sees and holds them all. He blesses us as we mourn, hears our prayers as we grieve, and He *responds*. Ask the Lord for His tears over your children -

or ones you don't know but are near to His heart - and grieve on their behalf. But keep your ears open for the day when the LORD says we can stop - the day He says your work will be rewarded. His promise is that our children WILL RETURN from the enemy's land. Grieve, pray, intercede, but do so with CONFIDENT HOPE for our future and the future of our children.

11. One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. "There was a judge in a certain city," he said, "who neither feared God nor cared about people. A widow of that city came to him repeatedly, saying, 'Give me justice in this dispute with my enemy.' The judge ignored her for a while, but finally he said to himself, 'I don't fear God or care about people, but this woman is driving me crazy. I'm going to see that she gets justice, because she is wearing me out with her constant requests!'"

Then the Lord said, "Learn a lesson from this unjust judge. Even he rendered a just decision in the end. So don't you think God will surely give justice to his chosen people who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? ~Luke 18:1-7 (nlt)

"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

"You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good

gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him. ~Matthew 7:11 (nlt)

God shows His heart for the persistent prayer of this widow. If even a godless judge eventually responds to her pleas, *how much more* will our loving heavenly Father hear and answer our prayers? So, keep on praying, keep on knocking, keep on seeking God's rescue and hand of protection over our children. He will hear and respond and heal.

12. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ~Romans 8:34 (niv)

Know that as we pray, we are joining Jesus as HE is interceding on behalf of our children. You are not alone as you cry out to the Father; our gentle Shepherd is crying out as well. Ask the Lord how HE is praying for this wounded generation, then join Him in those prayers.



THE WAY HOME MINISTRIES

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

theway-home.org

Please remember this work
in your prayers.