

Moving the Needle on Lostness

Praying for those who are far from God

God wants all people to be saved

- John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

- 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

- 1 Timothy 2:3-4

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

God is already working in the hearts of lost people

- Jesus is drawing lost people to himself

John 12:32

And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.

- The Holy Spirit is convicting people

John 16:8

And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

Satan is also working in the hearts of lost people

- 2 Corinthians 4:4

in whose case the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

- Ephesians 2:1-2

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is **now working** in the sons of disobedience.

- 2 Timothy 2:26

and they may come to their senses and escape **from the snare** of the devil, having been held **captive by him** to do his will.

Satan is also working in the hearts of lost people

- Matthew 13:19

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and **snatches away** what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

God wants us to pray for those who are lost

- 1 Timothy 2:1-4

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men,

for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

How to pray for the lost

- Pray for their salvation

This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

- Pray for their circumstances

- That they will hear the gospel
- That they will understand the gospel
- That they will be convicted of sin
- That they will feel their need for Christ
- That they will know only Jesus can save them
- That their questions will be answered
- That they will be in life situations that expose them to the truth

How to pray for the lost

- Pray for their spiritual condition

The Bible tells us that lost people are:

- Bound
- Blinded
- Barricaded

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are

- Bound by Satan

2 Timothy 2:26

and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

Pray that lost friends and family will be freed from Satan's grasp and be free to choose Christ.

- Ephesians 2:2

in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Pray that lost friends and family will be freed from following Satan and will want to live differently

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are
 - Bound by sin

John 8:34

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.”

- *Pray that God will release lost friends and family from bondage to sin and allow them to be free to turn from their sin to turn to Jesus.*
- *Pray God will free family members and friends from specific sins you may be aware of that are holding them back from accepting Jesus.*

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are
 - Bound by self

2 Corinthians 5:15

and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Ephesians 2:3

Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Pray that God will break bondage to self in your family and friends' lives and give them freedom to repent and turn to God.

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are

- Spiritually blinded

2 Corinthians 4:3-4

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

They prefer darkness to light

John 3:19

This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are

- Spiritually blinded

They can be blind to many things:

The fact they are sinners

The nature of sin

The truth of the Bible

Their need for a savior

Who Jesus is

Why Jesus came

How to be saved

Etc.

Pray that God will open your lost friends' and family members' minds so they can understand the truth and that they will not turn back to the darkness.

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are

- Barricaded

- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.

These 'fortresses' are strongholds Satan has built up around lost people to keep people captive. Some examples are:

Pride	John 9:26-29
Fear	John 9:20-23
Anger	Luke 15:25-30
Self-sufficiency	Luke 12:19-20
Materialism	Matthew 19:23-24
Immorality	Titus 3:10,11

How to pray for the lost

- Lost people are

- Barricaded

Identify possible strongholds around your friends and family members.

Pray against those strongholds and ask God to tear them down.

Remember that they may not be torn down all at once so we may need to continue to pray.

We can have confidence that the weapon of prayer will weaken and finally tear down the defenses Satan has placed around our friends and family members.

How to pray for the lost

- Review
 - Pray in faith for your lost friend or family member's salvation
 - Pray for their circumstances
 - Pray for their spiritual condition:
 - Bound
 - Blinded
 - Barricaded