

BY CYNTHIA HYLE BEZEK

PRAYERS OF HOPE AND WHOLENESS

FOR THE

Seriously Ill

Until my husband developed a serious illness, I barely knew how to pray for the sick. But as I've walked through this illness with him, I've taken time to consider God's power to heal and the extravagant grace He offers to those with prolonged illness. These prayers came out of those thoughts and experiences. Use them to intercede for those you know who are sick.

Healing. Father, heal ____ by the power of Your Word. Thank you for sending Jesus to bear our sins in His body so that by His wounds ____ might be healed. (Ps. 107:20; 1 Pet. 2:24)

Prayer. Surround ____ with righteous intercessors and church leaders who will pray with faith-filled, powerful, and effective prayers that make sick people well. (Jas. 5:14-16)

Deliverance. Give ____ and his intercessors discernment to expose any enemy schemes against him. If the evil one has any part in ____'s condition, give him and his intercessors faith and boldness to rebuke the enemy so ____ can be free. (1 Cor. 12:10; 2 Cor. 2:11; Mk. 9:29; Lk. 13:10-12)

Faith. May ____ continue to trust in You, regardless of his physical condition. May he be strengthened in his faith, being fully persuaded that You have the power to do what You have promised. (Job 13:15; Ro. 4:19-21)

Laughter. Grant ____ a cheerful heart. Turn his weeping into joy, and fill his mouth with laughter. (Prov. 17:22; Ps. 126:2-6)

Music. Give ____ a new song—a song of praise to You. Dwell in him richly, and surround him with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Even in his darkest moments, fill him with the music of worship. (Ps. 40:3; Col. 3:16; Acts 16:25; Job 35:10)

Provision. Lord, please provide for ____'s financial needs. Help him to trust You rather than worrying. (Mt. 6:31-34; Phil. 4:19)

Wisdom. God of wisdom, please guide ____ in the many decisions he must make during this illness. Give him the confidence that You are leading him in love and power. (Ps. 32:8; Prov. 3:5-6; Jas. 1:5)

Purpose. Continually remind ____ of the hope and future You have in store for him. Show him how his life impacts and enriches others. Help him to see that despite his weaknesses, You have great plans for him that You will act out according to Your good purpose. (Jer. 29:11; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:13)

Life-giving words. Give ____ the ability to speak apt words that build up those who listen. Keep him from self-focused talk. May people want to be with him in order to hear his grace-filled conversation. (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29; Col. 4:6)

Perspective. Daily renew ____ inwardly, Lord. Guard him from focusing on his present failings, and help him to view life from Your perspective. Remind him that his troubles are achieving an eternal glory that far outweighs what he suffers now. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)

Presence. Lord, assure ____ that You will go ahead of him in all the challenges of life. Even when he cannot feel Your presence, give him the faith to trust that You will never leave him. May he be able to say, as Job did, "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you." (Ex. 33:14-15; Josh. 1:9; Heb. 13:5-6; Job 42:5)

Refuge. Thank You, Lord, that You will never allow ____ to suffer more than he can bear. Prompt him always to turn to You for refuge and rescue rather than to deceptive and self-destructive means of temporary escape. (1 Cor. 10:13; Ps. 25:20)

Freedom from fear. Christ Jesus, please guard ____'s heart and mind. You have not given him a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of a sound mind. Give him peace that passes understanding. Help him to think thoughts that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. (2 Tim. 1:7; Phil. 4:7-8)

Comfort. Father of all compassion, please comfort ____ in all his troubles. And then, Lord, bring someone to him with whom he can share this sweet comfort. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)

Hope. God of hope, please fill ____ with all joy and peace as he trusts in You so that he may overflow with hope by the power of Your Spirit. Thank You that as he continues to hope in You, he will never be disappointed. (Ro. 15:13; Is. 49:23)

Perseverance. Cause ____ to rejoice because he knows that You are using this trial to produce perseverance, character, and hope. Deepen his conviction that when he has stood this test, You will give him a crown of life. May he imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what you have promised. (Ro. 5:3-5; Jas. 1:2-4,12; Heb. 6:12)

Glory. Glorify Yourself in ____'s struggle, Lord. Display Your work in his life by demonstrating Your grace and power in his weakness. (Jn. 9:3; 2 Cor. 12:9-10)

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