

# Prayer Guide for Southern Baptist Convention 2013

I give you a new command: *Love one another*. Just as I have loved you, you must love one another.  
By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.  
*John 13:34-35*

**REVIVE US THAT WE MAY BE ONE.**

This prayer guide uses the acronym P R A Y. Scripture is provided in each area of prayer to assist you as you worship God. Begin your worship and Praise acknowledging God for who He is from His Word. *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord* (Psalm 150:6). With a heart of gratitude, give thanks to God for what He has done, what He is doing and what He is going to do.

Take some time for personal Repentance. *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23). *Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends You, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.* (Psalm 139:23). Confess your sin, asking God to forgive you. *He is faithful and just and will forgive you of your sins and purify you from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

Ask and it will be given to you (Matthew 7:7). *This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us – ...know that we have what we ask of Him* (1 John 5:14-15).

Whole-heartedly Yield yourself to all God speaks to you through the power of His Word! Spend time listening to the voice of God. *Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourself. Do what it says. ... you will be blessed in what you do!* (James 1:25) *God's Word is like a fire*, so when you hear from Him through His Word, I pray you will not be able to contain what He has spoken to you (See Jeremiah 20:9).

## Praise and Thanksgiving

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge!  
How impossible it is for us to understand His decisions and His ways!  
For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give Him advice?  
And who has given Him so much that He needs to pay it back?  
For everything comes from Him and exists by His power and is intended for His glory.

*All glory to Him forever! Amen.*

*Romans 11:33-36 NLT*

## Repentance

Father, as Your children, I pray we not merely say that we love each other; *let us show the truth by our actions*. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before You. Even if we feel guilty, You are greater than our feelings, and You know everything. I pray we don't feel guilty, so we can come to You with bold confidence. And we will receive from You whatever we ask because we obey You and do the things that please You. And this is Your commandment: We must believe in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. *Lord, help me to fully believe in the name of Jesus and forgive me for not loving my fellow believers as Jesus commanded.*

*1 John 3:18-23 NLT*

Because of the privilege and authority You gave to Paul the Apostle, he gave the believers in Rome this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Now I pray I will not think of myself as better than I really am. Help me to *be honest in my evaluation of myself*, measuring myself by the faith You have given me. Just as my body has many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

*Forgive me, Lord, for ever thinking I'm better than anyone else. Help me do an honest evaluation of myself.*  
*Romans 12:3-5 NLT*

Once we were dead because of our disobedience and our many sins. We used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. *Forgive me, Father, any time I yield to temptation and follow passionate desires and inclinations of my sinful nature.*

*Ephesians 2:1-3a NLT*

## Asking

### FOR SBC PRESIDENT PASTOR FRED LUTER

Now I know that You give victory to Your anointed, LORD; I pray You answer Pastor Luter from Your holy heaven with mighty victories from Your right hand. Some take pride in chariots, and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of Yahweh our God. *Psalms 20:6-7 HCSB*

I pray Pastor Fred Luter:

...has a wise and understanding heart. *1 Kings 3:12b HCSB*

...is wise and keeps his mind on the right course. *Proverbs 23:19 HCSB*

...loves You, the Lord his God, with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength and that he loves his neighbor as himself. *Mark 12:30-31 HCSB*

### FOR SBC EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT DR FRANK PAGE

I pray Dr. Page:

... runs with endurance the race You have set before him. *Hebrews 12:1 NLT*

... has a love that will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment.

*Philippians 1:9 HCSB*

I pray that You would grant him, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit in the inner man. *Ephesians 3:16 HCSB*

### FOR SPEAKERS

I pray the speakers prepare by purifying themselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for You, Lord. *2 Corinthians 7:1 NIV*

I pray You give speakers the wisdom that comes from heaven, which is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. *James 3:17 NIV*

I pray they will not shrink or keep back or fall short from declaring Your whole purpose and plan and counsel. *Acts 20:27 AMP*

I pray that as our speakers speak, the eyes of the Churches' hearts may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which You have called us, the riches of Your glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparably great power for us who believe. *Ephesians 1:17b-19a NIV*

## FOR MESSENGERS

I pray You give the messengers wisdom and understanding. *1 Chronicles 22:12a*

I pray the word of Christ dwells in them richly. ...And whatever they do, whether in word or deed, I pray they do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to You, God our Father, through Him.

*Colossians 3:16-17 NIV*

Help them not to waver through unbelief regarding Your promise, but may they be strengthened in their faith and give glory to You, being fully persuaded that You have power to do what You have promised.

*Romans 4:20-21 NIV*

If they have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then I pray their joy is complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. *Philippians 2:1-2 NIV*

As Your people, who are called by Your name, I pray the messengers will humble themselves and pray and seek Your face and turn from wicked ways. Then You will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. *2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV*

## FOR MUSICIANS

I pray that You, who give patience and encouragement, help musicians be in complete harmony with each other--each with the attitude of Christ Jesus toward the other. *Romans 15:5 NLT*

I pray the musicians praise You, Lord. I pray they praise You in Your sanctuary; praise You in Your mighty heavens. I pray they praise You for Your acts of power; praise You for Your surpassing greatness. I pray they praise You with the sounding of the trumpet, praise You with the harp and lyre, praise You with tambourine and dancing, praise You with the strings and flute, praise You with the clash of cymbals, praise You with resounding cymbals. I pray that everything that has breath praises You, Lord. Praise the Lord.

*Psalms 150:1-6 NIV*

With Jesus' help, I pray they continually offer a sacrifice of praise to You, God, by proclaiming the glory of Your name. *Hebrews 13:15 NLT*

I pray everyone will worship You with gladness, Lord; come before You with joyful songs. *Psalms 100:2 NIV*

May they exalt You, LORD our God! Bow low before Your feet, for You are holy! *Psalms 99:5 NLT*

## FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

*But You are so rich in mercy*, and You loved me so much, that even though I was dead because of my sins, You gave me life when You raised Christ from the dead. It is only by Your grace that I have been saved! For You raised me from the dead along with Christ and seated me with Him in the heavenly realms because I am united with Christ Jesus. So You can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of Your grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all You have done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

*Ephesians 2:4-7 NLT*

You saved us by Your grace when we believed. And we can't take credit for this; it is a gift from You. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so we cannot boast about it. For we are Your masterpiece. You have created us anew in Christ Jesus, so *I can do the good things You planned for me long ago.*

*Ephesians 2:8-10 NLT*

Let us not forget that the Gentiles used to be outsiders. They were called “uncircumcised heathens” by the Jews, who were proud of their circumcision, even though it affected only their bodies and not their hearts. In those days they were living apart from Christ. They were excluded from citizenship among the people of Israel, and did not know the covenant promises You had made to them. They lived in this world without You and without hope.

But I praise You, Lord, because now they have been united with Christ Jesus. Once they were far away from You, but now they have been brought near to You through the blood of Christ.

*Help us, Lord, to remember what a magnificent thing You did when You brought us into Your kingdom. I pray we are so excited that we are anxious to tell others about Your wonderful gift of salvation.*

*Ephesians 2:11-13 NLT*

*For Christ Himself has brought peace.* He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in His own body on the cross, He broke down the wall of hostility that separated them. He did this by ending the system of law with its commandments and regulations. He made peace between Jews and Gentiles by creating in Himself one new people from the two groups. Together as one body, Christ reconciled both groups to You, Lord, by means of His death on the cross, and their hostility toward each other was put to death.

You brought this Good News of peace to the Gentiles who were far away from You, and peace to the Jews who were near. Now all of us can come to You, Father, through the same Holy Spirit because of what Christ has done for us.

*I pray we remain humble and in unity, knowing what Christ did for the world by His death on the cross!*

*Ephesians 2:14-18 NLT*

We are citizens along with all of Your holy people. We are members of Your family. Together, we are Your house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus Himself. We are carefully joined together in Him, becoming a holy temple for You, Lord. Through Jesus we are also being made part of this dwelling where You live by Your Spirit.

*Help us to put away any thoughts of division or strife. I pray we do things decently and in order, as part of Your dwelling. Ephesians 2:19-22 NLT*

In Your grace, You have given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So for those You have given the ability to prophesy, I pray they will speak out with as much faith as You have given them. If their gift is serving others, I pray they serve them well. If you gift them as a teacher, may they teach well. If the gift is to encourage others, may they be encouraging. If it is giving, I pray they will give generously. If You have given a leadership ability, help them to take the responsibility seriously. And if You have given a gift for showing kindness to others, may they do it gladly. *Romans 12:6-8 NLT*

Lord, help us not to pretend to love others, but to really love them. Teach us to hate what is wrong. And to hold tightly to what is good. May we love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. I pray we are never lazy, but work hard and serve You enthusiastically. I pray we rejoice in our confident hope. May we be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When Your people are in need, I pray we are ready to help them. And always be eager to practice hospitality. *Romans 12:9-13 NLT*

Show us how to bless those who persecute us. And not to curse them; to pray that You will bless them. I pray we are happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Oh, Father, may we live in harmony with each other. And not be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. Convict us when we think we know it all! I pray we never pay back evil with more evil. May we do things in such a way that everyone can see we are honorable. Help us to do all that we can to live in peace with everyone.

I pray we never take revenge. Leave that to Your righteous anger. For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the Lord. Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

*Father, I pray we never disgrace Your name by doing things You have told us not to do. I pray that as the world sees our honorable deeds, not letting evil conquer us, they will desire the same relationship we enjoy with You. Romans 12:14-21*

## FOR PASTORS

I pray You will make a hedge around our pastors, around their households, and around all that they have on every side. Bless the work of their hands. *Job 1:10 NIV*

Praise You, Lord! You have equipped them with everything good for doing Your will, and I pray You work in them what is pleasing to You, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

*Hebrews 13:21 NIV*

In everything I pray our pastors set an example by doing what is good. In their teaching I pray they show integrity, seriousness and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned, so that those who oppose them may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about them. *Titus 2:7-8 NIV*

I pray they proclaim [Christ], admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that they may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I pray they will labor, struggling with all [Christ's] energy, which so powerfully works in them. *Colossians 1:28-29 NIV*

I pray pastors are strong in You, O Lord, and in Your mighty power. I pray they put on the full armor of God so that they can take their 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. *Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV*

Thank You for giving them wisdom and knowledge, that they may lead Your people. *2 Chronicles 1:10 NIV*

## FOR DEACONS

With minds that are alert and fully sober, I pray deacons in our churches set their hope on the grace to be brought to them when Jesus Christ is revealed at His coming. As obedient children, I pray they do not conform to the evil desires they had when they lived in ignorance. But just as You who called them are holy, so may they be holy in all they do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." *1 Peter 1:13-16 NIV*

Praise You, Lord! You are able to make all grace abound to our deacons, so that in all things at all times, having all that they need, they will abound in every good work. *2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV*

I pray our deacons will stand firm, let nothing move them, and always give themselves fully to Your work, Lord, because their labor in You is not in vain. *1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV*

I pray they use whatever gifts they have received to serve others, faithfully administering Your grace in its various forms. *1 Peter 4:10 NIV*

I pray the deacons' purpose is that the Body of Christ may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. *Colossians 2:2-3 NIV*

## FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP

I pray our leadership would live lives worthy of You and may please You in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of You, being strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might so that they may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully give thanks to You, Father, who have qualified them to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:10-12 NIV*

I pray they do not try to win the approval of men, but of You, Lord. I pray they will not try to please men. They are servants of Christ. *Galatians 1:10 NIV*

I pray You give them wisdom and very great insight, and a breadth of understanding as measureless as the sand on the seashore. *1 Kings 4:29 NIV*

I thank You, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when I pray for our church leadership, because I have heard of their faith in Christ Jesus and of the love they have for all the saints— the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for them in heaven and that they have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to them. *Colossians 1:3-6a NIV*

May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Jesus and have loved them even as You have loved Him. *John 17:23b NIV*

May the leadership strive to be imitators of You, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live lives of love, just as Christ loved them and gave Himself up for them as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to You, Lord. *Ephesians 5:1-2 NIV*

## FOR CHURCH STAFF

I pray the word of Christ dwells in the church staff richly. ...And whatever they do, whether in word or deed, I pray they do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to You, God our Father, through Him. *Colossians 3:16-17 NIV*

I pray that, as Your chosen people, holy and dearly loved, the staff will clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. *Colossians 3:12 NIV*

I pray they use whatever gifts they have received to serve the church, faithfully administering Your grace, O God, in its various forms. *1 Peter 4:10 NIV*

I pray our staff fears You, LORD, walks in all Your ways, loves You, serves You with all their hearts and with all their souls. *Deuteronomy 10:12 NIV*

If they have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then I pray they make Your joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. *Philippians 2:1-2 NIV*

And this is my prayer: that our staff's love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that they may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to Your glory and praise, Father God.

*Philippians 1:9-11 NIV*

## FOR MISSIONARIES

Father, shield the missionaries and care for them; guard them as the apple of Your eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions. I pray that You alone will lead them. *Deuteronomy 32:10b-12a NIV*

I pray missionaries will trust in You, LORD, and do good; I pray they dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture, that they delight in You and You will give them the desires of their hearts. I pray they commit their way to You; trust in You and You will do this: You will make their righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of their cause like the noonday sun. I pray our missionaries are still before You, LORD, and wait patiently for You.  
*Psalm 37:3-7a NIV*

Thank You, Lord, that You have sent missionaries to the lost to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus. *Acts 26:17b-18 NIV*

And I pray that You may open a door for their message, so that they may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which they are in chains. I pray that they may proclaim it clearly. *Colossians 4:3-4 NIV*

Since the day we heard about our missionaries, we have not stopped praying for them. We continually ask You to fill them with the knowledge of Your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that they may live a life worthy of you, Lord, and please You in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of You, being strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might so that they may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to You, Father, who have qualified them to share in the inheritance of Your holy people in the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:9-12 NIV*

## FOR THE LOST

I pray they will seek You, Lord, while You may be found, call on You while You are near. *Isaiah 55:6 NIV*

I pray You will open the eyes of the lost all around us and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to You, Lord, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in Jesus. *Acts 26:18 NIV*

I pray the secrets of their hearts will be laid bare so they will fall down and worship You, O God.  
*1 Corinthians 14:25 NIV*

I pray that unbelievers' strongholds will be demolished through divinely powerful weapons.  
*(See 2 Corinthians 10:4 NIV)*

I pray many will receive the seed [of the gospel]. I pray it will fall on good soil so they will hear the word and understand it. *Matthew 13:23a NIV*

I pray that You, Lord, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," will make Your light shine in unbelievers' hearts to give them the light of the knowledge of Your glory in the face of Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV*

Praise You! You so loved the world that You gave Your one and only Son, that when anyone believes in [Jesus], they shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16 NIV*

So then, just as new believers receive Christ Jesus as Lord, I pray they will continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as they are taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.  
*Colossians 2:6-7 NIV*

## FOR THE NEXT GENERATION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

For young people, coming after us, I pray they know that it's wonderful to be young! Enjoy every minute of it. Do everything they want to do; take it all in. But I pray they remember that they must give an account to You for everything they do. So I pray they refuse to worry, and keep their bodies healthy.  
*Ecclesiastes 11:9-10a NLT*

You know the plans You have for the future church, plans to prosper them and not to harm them, plans to give them hope and a future. Then they will call on You and come and pray to You, and You will listen to them. They will seek You and find You when they seek You with all their hearts. *Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT*

I pray the next generation of the Body of Christ will be on guard; stand firm in the faith; be of courage; be strong. I pray they will do everything in love. *1 Corinthians 16:13-14 NIV*

I pray that the eyes of their hearts may be enlightened in order that they may know the hope to which You have called them, the riches of Your glorious inheritance in the saints, and Your incomparably great power for us who believe. *Ephesians 1:18-19a NIV*

I pray they become blameless and harmless, children of Yours without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom they shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life. *Philippians 2:14-16 NKJV*

I pray Your message, O Lord, may spread rapidly and be honored. *2 Thessalonians 3:1 NIV*

## Yielding

And so, as dear brothers and sisters, I pray we will give our bodies to You because of all You have they done for us. I pray we are living and holy sacrifices—the kind You will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship You. I pray we do not copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let You transform us into new people by changing the way we think. Then we can and will learn to know Your will for us, which is good and pleasing and perfect. *Romans 12:1-2 NLT*

Then Jesus came near and said to them,

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
*Matthew 28:18-20 HCSB*



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