

# *Galatians*

## *Some Common Prayers*

*David Boan 2012*

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1. My suggestion is that you read through the Letter of Paul to the Galatians taking it in the sections that appear at the top of each page.
2. Then, after thinking about the text and its meaning for yourself, compare the headings that I have put at the top of the each page as my summary of the main points in the argument of the apostle.
3. The prayers should be read through after that; see if you would agree with them – so as to be comfortable to pray them as your own prayer.
4. If you would modify them as you would see fit; then you can turn them into your own prayer as a prayer that you would privately pray, even though the language and form of the prayer is framed in a corporate way.
5. If you have an agreement in yourself about the prayer, then we can pray them all together as a “common” prayer – a pray that we have a common mind to ask. There is great usefulness in this common prayer – for when we agree, that is, in itself a gift of God, and so we shall receive what we ask in unity.

***Galatians 1.1-5***  
***Authorised messenger***  
***Grace and peace***  
***Salvation from guilt; delivered to live.***

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O Lord our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom You vindicated when You raised him from the dead, after his humiliating death for our sakes.

Lord Jesus, after ascending to govern, You mercifully halted a persecutor of your people, commissioning him directly through your own call, to do the will of your Father.

Father, we receive Paul's writings as those of an expressly authorised messenger of your very own Son. Help us, by your Spirit, to live under your grace and peace.

May we increasingly know the sure peace issuing from the finality of your Son's sacrifice for our sins.

Draw us by Your Spirit to consistently demonstrate our deliverance and live out that freedom we have from this present evil age.

Only such grace and peace comes to us from You, Father, through your Son and by the Spirit. Glory belongs to You always. Amen.

***Galatians 1.6-10***  
***Desertion from a gracious call***  
***No other gospel; holding to personal faith***  
***Bondservants of Christ.***

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Father, You have called us “in the grace of Christ”.

Thank You for giving us in our life time, sound preachers who were faithful to the testimony of the apostles your Son commissioned.

As we live by the Spirit, thank You for the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament. They are such a faithful plumb-line to us in days when we so often hear distortions of the authorised gospel.

Thank You that in your light we have seen light. Light that is self-authenticating as it testifies to Yourself. Such revelation through your Son puts us into sure relation with You – it settles our persons.

You teach us that our trust in You is precious to You. Help us from our side to accept that our holy faith must be tenaciously held – even against men and angels – in this present evil age. Keep us from ever deserting You.

Father, may we never pass on to others a distortion of the apostolic gospel. Watch over us and help us, when we communicate the gospel in words and life. Empower our words, keep us clear and true in our understanding and accurate in our presentation; in our living, gracious to others and faithful to the Christ who is revealed in us.

Father, once again, we praise You that there is no disjunction between the revelation we receive through your Son and Who you are, eternally in Yourself. Keep us in this revelation and faith that we have grasped.

Blessed be our God, who in the unity of Father, Son and Spirit, mercifully called us and made Himself known to us. Amen.

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***Galatians 1.11-17***

***The revelation of Jesus: a merciful turn around***

***To reveal God's Son in us***

***No mixture of man's authority***

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Father, your Son has always been the apple of your eye. In your out-going love to Him that You have been pleased to always see us in Christ Jesus, even from before You laid the foundation of the world.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, You have sacrificed your life for your Bride; and bought for us the life we have with You by your death and resurrection. We are the apple of your eye.

Thank You that when your call came to us, it put us in touch with our eternal destiny in God. Like Paul, our call and conversion was our becoming aware of the meaning of that life we received from God in our mother's womb.

Lord in the an intimate, covenant relation You have with us, your bride, when we are persecuted, You reveal this to be also the persecution of our Groom. We, with Paul, celebrate your mercy in drawing us into such a relation with You, even when we were your enemies.

Father, as You always saw us "in Christ", now, as we are united in the shared life with our Lord, help us, by your Spirit to grow to share His likeness. Father, reveal your Son in us.

May we never taint our personal, intimate knowing of our precious, eternal destiny by yielding it to the verification of human persons, so as to seek their authentication of it.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places "in Christ Jesus". Amen.

***Galatians 1.18-24***

***Fellowship as equals "in Christ Jesus"***

***Unknown to some churches in a locality***

***God glorified in his servant***

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Father, your Son, in the internal relations of the eternal life of the Trinity, always lives to glorify You. This we have learned from the way He lived out his life in the flesh when He came for our sakes.

Lord Jesus, You have taught us that we glorify You when we believe that You were sent to us from the Father.

As you turned Paul about, making his mouth an instrument to preach the faith he was once trying to destroy; so have mercy upon us .

Where we live in ignorance of your grace and mercy, You are able take us and use what we do that is so destructive to your truth and purposes; and You can get glory for Yourself, to say nothing of relieving our impact on our fellow men and women.

Thank You that our brothers and sisters in Christ know that such "turn arounds" happened in their life when You called them. We bless You for this amazing equality we have "in Christ Jesus".

May it be no embarrassment when others, who have received mercy themselves, "glorify God" because of the transition that has happened to us as You mercifully plucked us out of our own former rebellion and ignorance.

Glory to God, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

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Read also:

***Galatians 2.1-10***  
***Fellowship that confirms us***  
***Resistance to loss of liberty***

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With the astonishing freedom that only You exercise, Father, Whom no external influence can compel, we know through your Son that it is your desire to share your eternal life with us, your creatures made in His likeness.

Lord Jesus, through your Spirit, in union with You we find You to be our greatest treasure. The shared life is such a freedom, confirming to us that old bondages have been left behind. We can hardly imagine what we were doing formerly.

Increase in us such a deep appreciation of the life we have with You; so that we are super clear, and very alert, to any distortions of the gospel and the pressures of those who would bring us into bondage again.

Give us such desire for the treasured life we have, that we are defenders and preservers of it, both for ourselves as well as for others. We ask for nothing less than a deep, holy resistance to any loss of liberty.

Give us to savour, as only You can, the taste of confirming fellowship that we have among others who know the liberty of Christ as we do ourselves. Give us brethren who know Who we know, who delight in the same treasure. Give us the joy of discovery so that we can say to them, "You too, know this..."

Lord of our heart, keep us in this hope we have grasped. Amen.

***Galatians 2.11-14***

***Fear of man among brothers***

***Resistance to loss of truth and consistency***

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Father, You are impartial and consider no man's reputation.

Lord Jesus, by the Spirit, You took flesh, such as our flesh, in the womb of the virgin. You became man.

You knew, all the time of your life with us, what it meant to deal with those who were of 'reputation'. Those who pressured the flock of Israel and who took themselves seriously, as if they mattered in the eyes of others as they sought glory for themselves. We praise You that, as is your Father, so are You.

You also appreciate that lowly men and women lived in the light of others' projected 'reputation' – accepting these persons as authoritative and bowing to their pressure.

Thank You Father, that You allowed people to recognise Christ's own authority; that He taught and spoke as no other man did. Thank you that He could rebuke those in the flock of Israel who feared men rather than seeking glory from God; as He could warn others of the defiling leaven of accepting their reputations.

Grant to us the fearless love in fellowship one for another, that we too, can leave the fear of man and speak boldly of the truth and consistency of the gospel way of living.

Father, we ask this in the name of your Son, Who, as the true man, honoured You, in the face of all men and women. Amen.

***Galatians 2.15-21***

***No flesh justified by works of the Law***

***Dying and rising with Christ***

***Not nullifying the grace of God***

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Father, your ways are not our ways. You are higher than us. Your wisdom surpasses ours, and no one can advise You. You stand alone as our Creator and Redeemer.

[Selah]

Father, You are the Judge of all the earth, and You do right. As a Shepherd and Warrior for your ancient people You saved them out of the hands of their enslavers. Your Law followed after the grace of the rescue of your enslaved people.

In the light of your Son's coming among us, we praise You Father, that through your holy Law; we have come to see the enslaving power of sin revealed; we have come to know our guilt when doing wrong, and we have seen our lack of power to do right. We acknowledge that the whole world is accountable to You and no flesh is justified in your sight.

We praise You that You sent our faithful Saviour Christ and that the Law confined us until He came. Thank You that He delivered himself up for us. Thank You for our baptism into Christ, our dying and rising with Him. Thank You that He lives in each of us, and that, even in the flesh, we live as He lives in us – by the Spirit.

Thank You Father, that Your law could never make a man righteous, but only Your Son, given to us as Your own act of loving grace towards us.

Guard us we pray. That we may we never accede to any erroneous way of life that would negate or weaken our hold on this gracious gift of the death of Christ for us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who has become to us wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Amen.

***Galatians 3.1-14***

***Spirit provided by hearing with faith; or works of the law***

***Those of faith are blessed with Abraham***

***Law brings curse, not justification***

***Receiving the Spirit through faith***

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Father, You are not one for hiding yourself but You set out to be known, and You reveal yourself. You have spoken to Israel and you have spoken to us, in these last days, your incarnate Word – Your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We, your children, praise You; for such is the beauty of your revealed Person, that it evokes from us trust in what You say and do. Your words and works, made evident to us through your incarnate Son, draw us to have faith in You. Thank you for this gift of faith that we find resident within us. And there is more – as it is so often with You – accompanying this ‘hearing with faith’ we find we have come to receive your holy Spirit.

Further, in all this You honour your promise made to Abraham – a man of faith. To our amazement, those of us who are of the Gentile ‘nations’, we find that we are ‘sons of Abraham’ relating to You in the same way as Abraham did.

This blessing of Abraham, the ‘receiving of the Spirit’, is the way You, Father, describe our beginning. Your apostle has taught us that we must not leave this beginning and attempt to go on to maturity with You by doing works of the law. No one, we understand is justified that way; rather it leads to the curse of the law. Please protect us from doing this! Guard us we pray.

We ‘sons of Abraham’ by faith, are asking in the name of Jesus, by whom, in the coming of his Spirit to us, we have received your promised blessing. Amen.

***Galatians 3.15-22***

***Christ the seed in whom all are found***

***Law is later, unable to alter the promise***

***Law is inferior because mediated; the promise was direct***

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Our heavenly Father Who, in sending us your Son has found us a Mediator who shares your very Being and so is truly God. How we praise You for Him whom we worship, by the Spirit, alongside You as co-equal and co-eternal, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, we worship You as the eternal Son of God sent forth from the Father in the fullness of time to be born of a woman, born under the law, for us. We acknowledge You as the 'seed of Abraham' concerning whom the promise was made. You carry us with you into this wonderful promise.

Your apostle tells us that, in the linear movement of history the previous promise cannot be changed in any way by the arrival of a later law. And further, that the law was not directly coming from God as the promise did, being mediated through Moses, as well as angels – all creatures of God. Help us not to act as if the Law has any power to change things here. Let us never confuse Law with promise; grant us that clarity and resolve.

Lord Jesus, we rejoice that You are not a creature, and that your mediation puts us in 'direct' hearing from God Himself. We understand that You are not the Father, with respect to your Person and His, but that we worship You as God for You share His nature and very Being.

We speak to You Father, as those who have been addressed directly by You, in these last days, “through a Son”. Amen.

***Galatians 3.23-4.7 [Part a]***

***Historically speaking, the law, as our tutor, leads us to Christ  
Sons of God, belonging to Christ, Abraham's offspring***

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Father God, as your salvation-history unfolds, we are led to praise You for your wonderful plan. We increasingly see your Wisdom displayed, and we marvel at it even as we are thankful for our place in it.

We praise You for your providential care of us. When we were fallen away from our image, and in rebellion against You, nevertheless you, as a wise Father, You corralled us under your holy Law and, in this close confinement, tutored us in our youth and minority, managing our life until the coming time of maturity, when we shall be justified by faith in the Messiah, Jesus.

We thank you for our baptism into Christ, where, we have put on Christ. Just as You, Father, clothe yourself with righteousness, so we find that we have been given a 'proper' man to put on. One who is our righteousness and who will lead us into a life of the full humanity that You always intended for us. We ask that You will cause us to know what it is that we have been given in this wonderful Man.

Thank You Father, that as we are 'of Christ', in belonging to him we find ourselves to be Abraham's offspring and so heirs to your promise.

We speak to You Father, as the Lord of history Who, in patience and wisdom, waited until the fullness of time, and then selflessly sent forth Your Son to us.  
Amen.

***Galatians 3.23-4.7 [Part b]***

***A child-heir, the owner of all, does not differ from a slave***

***Slavery to law and to elements of universe***

***Mature sonship by ransoming elder brother***

***Knowing God maturely as Father by the Spirit***

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Father God, as your salvation-history unfolds, we are drawn more and more into a Trinitarian experience of your Life together.

Father, how we praise You that You sent forth Your Son! Your incarnate gift of yourself to us.

Lord Jesus, in the unfreedom of our barely formed manhood, whether it be under the Law or the elemental spirits of the universe, you came, in the Father's time, as our elder brother, as One born under law and from a woman – just as we were. You participated in our infantile and undeveloped bondage so that, from that position and for our sakes, You would then ransom us out of such a slavery into the full sonship which You, yourself, enjoy.

Father, how we praise You that You sent forth your Spirit! Your very own Spirit of the Father and the Son.

We speak to You as our Abba! Who has drawn us into the intimate life of the Godhead and has given us authority through your Son to become mature children of God. We look to You to bring us to the full measure of the fullness of Christ. Amen.

***Galatians 4.8-11***

***Before you came to know God and be known by Him***

***Formerly slaves to that which, by nature, are not gods.***

***Could you go back to such a weak and hopeless situation?***

***What would be a return to religious rules- to bondage***

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Father God, in the grace of Christ You have called us to know You and, also to know that we are known.

Lord Jesus, in your Person we celebrate the Son of God who has come to us in deep humility. We know You as One who is, by nature, the eternally begotten Son of the Father, God from God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father. Your mediation of God to us is consistent with Who You are.

Father, You have sent us your very ownest Own. To know Him is to know You; we praise You that You sent forth your Spirit into us!

Please keep the contrast before us of the weak and worthless things we have left in coming to know You. Protect us from the stupidity of our flesh that would draw us back to religious life styles that simply re-enslave us.

Give us to value our maturity in Christ, so as to defend us from returning to the close confinement of infant slavery.

We speak to You Abba, as the One who sees us in your Beloved, through your only Son and by the Spirit.  
Amen.

***Galatians 4.12-20***

***True friendship becomes the test of false new acquaintances***

***Past examples of friendship and acceptance***

***Unsettling people try and turn you to themselves***

***Paul's desire to see Christ formed in the Galatians***

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Father, no one can know the Son except through You. Thank you for allowing us to not be put off by the cross of Christ when we heard the good news of your love for us in sending Him to die in such a dishonouring way.

Lord Jesus, You have become as we are in order that we might become as You are. You have stood with us in our deepest mess to lift us out and place us back upon the rock of your destiny for us. You loved us in laying down your life for your friends.

Hold us to be your firm friends – who never abuse such dying love. By your own jealous friendship make us wise in the encounters we have in life when people come to us. Keep us astute to those who unsettle us in our relation with You. Alert us when folks want to draw us to themselves and away from You.

Thank You for your deep purposes in us – to bring us to the measure of the stature of Christ. We accede to your purpose, that Christ may be formed in us. Make us like our Friend whom you have sent to us.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Galatians 4.21-31***

***Birth according to the flesh and birth according to promise  
Mt Sinai, present Jerusalem is in slavery with her children  
There is a persecution of children of promise by those of flesh  
Need to cast out the child of the flesh; there is no mixture  
possible***

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God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, who makes covenant promises and keeps them. You work in history as You graciously relate to us and You have taught us what is your work as distinct from ours.

We praise and thank You for the birth of Isaac, the fruit of your promise received and believed. Help us to treasure always that we are children of promise. Keep us in this perception that You have opened to us through your Son; that we, belonging to Christ, may always stand in such a knowledge of ourselves as heirs through Christ of the promise You made to Abraham.

Draw us, we ask, to constantly be aware of the Jerusalem above as our mother to liberty and full maturity as sons and daughters of God. Alert us when we encounter the seduction of the flesh to turn back to law and to slavery. Help us to cast it out of our life and to never entertain that such a mixture can be sustained.

Lord Jesus, it was to freedom that You released us from slavery to law and the flesh. Help us, by your Spirit to firmly and resolutely stand free and not to submit to a yoke of slavery again.

We ask this in your Name. Amen.

***Galatians 5.1-15***

***To go back to law is to cut yourself off from Christ  
Through the Spirit, by faith we wait for the hope of  
righteousness***

***You have been hindered when running well; someone will pay  
Freedom is not for our indulgence but to serve one another***

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Lord Jesus, through whom the works of the Father has set us free from the law into the full liberty of the sonship You have, with all your joy.

It thrills us that there is a true Man in heaven who, without ceasing to be the eternal Son of God, has drawn our humanity to share in the eternal Life of God.

Thank You for sending us your Spirit. Through Him we find ourselves trusting your finished work of salvation for us and the eye of our mind is fixed on your heavenly Life where our hope of our full redemption is lodged.

He has poured out your love for us into our hearts and this has set us free to live out of ourselves for others. You have led us away from a slavery to law to the godly freedom of deep service for one another. Keep us from being hindered in this service and protect us from contention and devouring one another.

We ask this in your Name and for your honour. Amen.

***Galatians 5.16-26***

***Live by the Spirit and you will not gratify the flesh***

***The Spirit and the flesh are mutually opposed***

***The works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit***

***We have crucified the flesh; it is dying even now***

***To live by the Spirit means we keep in step with Him***

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Father, we marvel at your loving freedom for us, that You would accommodate to our deep need of salvation and send us your only Son to enter our broken and fallen flesh. We thank You that He took flesh for us, in the womb of Mary by the Spirit.

Lord Jesus, we can only guess at the depth of your humiliation in taking our flesh and standing with us sinners. That you could, by faith, day by day in your earthly decisions, bend this broken nature back to be sanctified and consecrated humanity is a stunning thing. And then to offer Yourself, by the Spirit as an atonement for us means we are sanctified and consecrated as well; and we can receive your Spirit in safety.

And to think that now, after Pentecost, we live by the Spirit of Christ. Thank You for your human life He brings us – a proper humanity at last! And while we await the redemption of our body help us to make no provision for any works of the flesh, but to walk by the Spirit through Whom we have this Life. Give us the resolute understanding that, as we belong to You, we are those who have the dying, crucified flesh as we live by the Spirit.

Give to us a confident expectation of the fruit of the life of the Spirit within us – this manifest produce of the very Being of God, so richly seen in our Lord. Help

us to keep in step with the One by Whom we live –  
keep us yielding to the Spirit.

May our experience of life bring glory to You, Father,  
through your Son and in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Galatians 6.1-10***

***Restore one another while we are alert to our temptations***

***Carry each other's burden; this fulfills the law of Christ***

***Have a proper understanding of yourself in the body***

***Sowing and reaping; to the flesh or the Spirit***

***Let us do good to all, especially the household of faith***

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Father, through your Son we have learned of the shared inner Life that expresses the mutual Love found between Yourself and the Son in the Spirit.

Lord Jesus, all that You ever do is to glorify your Father through your obedience to Him. We adore and worship this expression of submission found within the Life of God.

We, the household of faith, accept that You have sent us your Spirit to express this life of loving submission one to another. It is a new life to us, who have hitherto lived within ourselves from our own centre. As we live between Pentecost and the coming of the Lord help us to gently restore each other when we stumble, and to think humbly of ourselves that we also are open to temptation.

We want to live no longer out of our own centre, but to live out of your life within us. Only so can we live out of ourselves towards others, to share their burdens and love them, we are sure this is the 'law of Christ' – His way. Only in this way can You assure us who we are and where we fit among the brothers and sisters.

Give us an outgoing love to our neighbours. To the household You rule over as a Son, may we treat them as specially our own family.

Father, we understand that the Spirit brings us the Lord's Life. He will produce his fruit within us, of that we are sure, for it is His Being that is expressed. We really want to be continually "reaping" the fruit of the Spirit.

We also understand that the "sowing" is a matter of our decision. We are trusting that, having the life of Christ's humanity given to us by the Spirit, we can make these good decisions.

As we decide to sow, with our eyes on the Lord, the Spirit, will you draw us to what is good and empower us to remain resolute after we have made our decisions. And then, to hold, in faith, and so to "reap".

May our experience of life bring glory to You, Father, through your Son and in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Galatians 6.11-18***

***Compulsion to circumcise is driven by the desire to avoid the persecution for the cross of Christ***

***They can't obey the law themselves; they want to glory in your flesh***

***Paul has no boast except the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ***

***It marks a crucifixion of himself; to the world and the world to him***

***It is the new creation that matters; not circumcision or uncircumcision.***

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Father, out of your great love and spectacular freedom to bring about your purposes, through the sending of your Son, You have freely acted towards us. Such great cost involved You, Father, Son and Spirit in a work that seemed, to many of your covenant people, to be 'alien' to your very Being.

Lord Jesus, the way of your suffering on the cross stumbled many of your own people to whom You came.

But, by the grace of God, we have come to know that You love us more than You love yourself, and we can begin to understand your suffering a little; and more so when your love for us is poured out into our hearts by the Spirit. Indeed, we treasure it as the bearing of our shame, our death and our deserved wrath.

We have come to glory in the cross as the most wonderful outpouring of the love of God towards us as it is your own work of righteousness.

This is the justifying righteousness of God in which we stand. It was worked 'apart from the law' and makes all our own efforts to justify ourselves as redundant and useless. We see them to be the filthy rags of defiled work that they are - unacceptable to You at

all. We refuse to go back to the law that enslaves us to the works of the flesh.

We understand that, on the cross, You took our old life to a death, which as far as the world is concerned, it is over and gone – we have, in You, been crucified to the world.

If your cross was our point of departure out from an old life, so by your resurrection, You have raised us to the new life in which we now find ourselves engaged. It is as we live this new life by the Spirit that we find the world has been crucified to us – we have died to its allure and its pressure to mould us.

We rejoice in the new creation You have made us to be through your life, lived in our flesh, and brought to us by your Spirit.

May this new creation of our liberty as mature sons be the constant experience of life, to bring glory to You, Father, through your Son and in the Holy Spirit. Amen.