

Praying Through Hebrews 12:14-29
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, as followers of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, help us live in peace with everyone in so far as we are able in compliance with the Bible's teachings. Bring the truth of Your word to mind in all our relationships. By Your Spirit, guide us and help us to live in holiness, totally consecrated to You, sincerely loving You all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. Give us the courage and strength we need to never compromise the truth in our quest for peace, and help us show others the Source of everlasting peace.

We do not deserve Your favor, but by grace You have forgiven us for all our sins against You, others, and even ourselves. When we remember the sins of others against us, remind us to forgive them, show them mercy, and pray for them so no bitterness will take root in our lives, which can cause further problems and defilement.

O God, show us and help us consider the consequences of disobedience and ignoring Your commands in the Bible. Grant us the strength of spirit we need so we do not follow the emotional desires that would lead us into sin and self-destruction. Help us look to You for guidance when we know that we have forfeited future possibilities because of our ignorance or poor choices. Indeed, You can bless and work with us new ways.

Dear Father, thank you for opening the gates to the heavenly Jerusalem so we can come into Your presence through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We praise You that we can join with thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful worship of You at any time of day or night. Heavenly Father, we thank you for writing our names in heaven and that we can come before You, our God, the Judge of all, because Jesus is our Lord and Mediator. We humbly bow before You in grateful praise that by grace through faith in Jesus Christ we can be made righteous and perfect someday. We look forward to the day when we can live with You, Your people, and the glorious angels without shame or remembrance of sins. We pray to You with joyful hearts, thankfulness, reverence, and awe. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.