

Praying Through Galatians 4:8-20

International Bible Lesson

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Heavenly Father, thank You for revealing yourself to me in the Bible and in Your Son, Jesus Christ. When I have seen Him in Your Word and working in my life and the lives of others, I have seen You. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I might be able to glorify and honor You as You deserve and the world needs to see. Thank You for freeing me from my former slavery to sin and the false gods of this world by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

O Father, strengthen my faith in You daily as I pray and read the Scriptures so I will not turn away from You, the only God, and back to living in the ways of this world. I do not celebrate special days of the year as a cheap way of “checking in” with You to assure myself of Your undeserved favor. Rather, I have decided to serve and worship You alone each day, and on special days of the year celebrate You and Your gifts, and remind myself of the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to save me from my sins.

Lord Jesus, help me reach out to all people as You would have me do, and cleanse me from all sin so no thoughts, words, or actions on my part would interfere with my sharing the gospel with others. When I am ill, please heal me and give me the strength to remain loyal to You if my healing is delayed until I see You face to face. Help me tell the truth to others in ways that they will understand my love and concern for them, so no sin on my part would influence them to become my enemy. Help me have true zeal based on true knowledge. Help me have the zeal that flows from true faith in You and a loving desire to do Your will in the service of others. Help me understand the needs of others and be willing to suffer according to Your will in order to share the Way of Salvation with them. For the sake of Your Glorious Kingdom. 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.