

Praying Through Amos 7:10-17
International Bible Lesson
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Dear Heavenly Father, help us avoid accepting false ideas just because they are promoted by someone influential in the world. Just because a leader or someone famous creates a “new way” of worship or a “new idea” about the best way to think and live, help us evaluate what is done and said as we read the Bible so we are not misled by someone who seems to be an authority but is working against God. Please give us the courage to do Your will when strong and popular leaders may be promoting thoughts and actions that are the very opposite or even slightly contrary to the Bible’s teachings.

O God, when needed, give us the wisdom to speak out against false ideas and teachers no matter what the possible personal consequences. If You call us, help us speak out as a prophet of God. If threatened or disparaged or lied about, help us keep doing what You want done with the right attitude. Give us the courage and personal strength to disobey human leaders if they command us to stop doing Your will or proclaiming Your Word. If we look at our life experiences or evaluate our talents, if we look at our strengths or weaknesses and feel inadequate to serve You rightly, encourage us and fill us with Your Spirit so we will do Your work Your way even when success seems impossible.

O Lord, if someone tells us to stop doing Your will, give us the courage and wisdom of an Amos, so we will be able to answer them according to Your will and Spirit. And if we do not succeed as we expected, then help us keep doing Your will each day no matter what the consequences, for others may not accept Your words or ours, as Amos discovered when he preached in the Kingdom of Israel. In whatever we say and do according to the Bible, may You always be glorified! 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.