



## TALK IT OVER

EFFECTIVE PRAYERS

### BOTTOM LINE

Your prayers indicate the health of your relationship with Jesus.

### CONVERSATION STARTER

Did you have any prayers you learned and recited as a child? If so, share them. Share a specific time when you actually were aware you prayed authentically and believed God heard you.

### THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

### RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointe.org/thedaily](http://newpointe.org/thedaily)
- [Lifeway Research](#) offers a three-minute read that will help you pray for NewPointe specifically.

### KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

*Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.*  
Acts 4:29-30

The church launched as a multicultural, multiplying movement with a specific mission: to make disciples or followers of Jesus. And from that day forward, there has always been a group that refused to let go of that ideal. They refused to make it a building. But the majority has not. The gravitational pull for the local church is always toward the reached rather than the unreached—insiders vs. outsiders. History shows the church being HOSTILE to outsiders: insensitive and judgmental.

One of the top indicators of individual health in a church is the way they pray. Insider prayers about personal and family protection and blessing are not the bold, effective prayers that indicate a true follower. We cannot afford to be a BIG church that prays little prayers.

If you pray like most Christians, if God answered all the prayers you have prayed this past year, the only difference it would have made is in your life and the life of your family.

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When did you last pray a bold, courageous prayer that only God could answer? About what? What does your 2021 prayer life tell you about your bold following of Jesus Christ?

“Search me, break me, stretch me, lead me, use me.” Which prayer is most needed in your own life? What keeps you from praying it with an open heart?

### ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will open my heart to pray consistently in 2022 for specific people and situations that normally miss my notice. I will pray effective and courageous prayers and step out in faith and obedience.

My Action Step: \_\_\_\_\_

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