

8 WAYS TO PRAY THIS SPRING

BY CATHY BAKER

Prayer was never meant to stay within four walls, or spoken from a well-worn chair, or coupled with coffee. Don't get me wrong, praying in my favorite spot with coffee in hand is a delight. But when I look at Jesus, I see how He prayed in the wilderness, solitary places, on a mountain, in crowds, gardens, and with children.

Jesus prayed with the same ease as His next breath, making the most of every opportunity.

As I look around, I see spring everywhere -- in outdoor activities, flowers, trees, and on the labels of my sinus meds. The struggle is real. But every season offers its own unique opportunities for prayer, and spring is no exception. So, where are some places we can make the most of every opportunity to pray this season? I'll get the ball rolling with eight ideas:

A Park

Depending on the time we visit, we might see women running, children climbing on play sets, or couples circling it hand-in-hand.

- We can pray God will bless the efforts of those taking the time to exercise.
- Are children climbing monkey bars? Pray for them to know Jesus at an early age, for their protection (spiritually, emotionally, and physically), and for their parents.
- Also, seeing couples enjoying time together is a good reminder to pray that they'll be a good and godly influence on other couples (and we will too). So, let's get to dusting off the devilish yellowish-green powder covering the park bench and take our seats!

Walks in Our Community

We walk in our neighborhood and pray for various families as we pass by their homes. So let's stretch our prayer muscles and find other places in our community to pray.

- We can circle our children/grandchildren's school in prayer or a small business that's struggling.
- Let's circle our church, praying for the pastoral staff and their families.
- We can also pray as we pass by the police station, fire department, and other places where dedicated men and women serve our community and country.

In the Garden

You know the old saying that we're closer to God in a garden? Maybe it's older than we think. After all, life began in a garden and the union with God was perfect before fruit was plucked and eaten.

- As we dig into the earth, let's consider those who need a holy heart tilling – for the Holy Spirit to begin preparing their heart for His Word, and that truth will sink deeply in their heart and mind.
- Pulling weeds? What a beautiful reminder to pray that we ourselves will also have a well-tilled heart.

At the Beach

Many southerners make their way to the beach during spring break, weekend trips, and early vacations. I have a feeling we're not alone. (I hope we're not!)

- While sitting on the beach, scoop up a handful of sand. Notice the number of granules, even in one pinched finger's worth. Psalm 139 says God's thoughts toward us outnumber the grains of sand. Do you, or someone you know, need to be reminded of God's goodness, care, and attention? Pray and if you want to give them a tangible reminder, scoop sand in a Ziploc bag.
- Also, watching the mighty waves curl, crash and ease their way to the shore reminds us of God's power and strength. Let's pray for this power to move in our present circumstances, as well as others. A week's worth of similar ideas is included in [my devotional guide for the beach](#). (Not an affiliate link.)

The Farmer's Market

We see a smorgasbord of fresh vegetables, flowers, jams, honey, and jellies—the fruition of hard work behind the scenes. It's a great opportunity to pray for those who plant, water, fumigate, and can fruity goodness. Pray for their health, blessings on their work, and success.

At the Zoo

Who doesn't enjoy a visit to the zoo, especially before the double-whammy hits – humidity and mosquitoes! Kids and kids-at-heart marvel at God's creativity -- the colors, habits, shapes, and their innate ability to survive. There's no better place to praise God for surrounding us in His handcrafted beauty.

Road Trip!

Maybe it's hard to imagine being able to pray while whipping around curves and stopping for lunch at our favorite mom and pop cafe but thanks to breath prayers, it's possible.

Intentionally "taking" our prayer life wherever we go opens our eyes to spiritual truths and opportunities we would miss otherwise. And no greater example of this is Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9-11

Thanks for downloading this post!