

Prayer and Scripture Passages for the Sick or Dying

Dear Friends:

St Paul teaches us in 2 Timothy 3:16 that, "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness..." I would add that the words of Scripture are also comforting to those who are sick or dying. There are times in our lives when we have to face the reality of an ill or dying family member or friend. We become paralyzed and overwhelmed by the circumstance. I would encourage you to consider at those moments to be the voice of God and bring comfort by sharing with the person who is ill or dying the Word of God. I have included below some Scripture passages that would be appropriate to share.

*Respectfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Tom Morgan*

A Prayer of St Jerome in Time of Agony

Merciful Jesus, thou art my strength, my refuge, and my deliverer; in thee I have believed and hoped; in thee have I loved. Call me now, I beseech thee, and I will answer. Stretch forth thy hand of mercy to the work of thy hands, and let me not perish, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood.

It is now time for dust to return to dust, and my spirit to thee who gavest it. Open then, Lord, the gate of life, and receive me; receive me most merciful Lord, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, who receivedst the thief on the cross, and now prepare my soul for hearing the same promise of mercy which he did. I am sick, O Lord, and my life is withering away; therefore, I come to thee my physician. Heal me then, my God, and I shall be healed: let me not be confounded; because I put my trust in thee. In thee have I hoped; let me not be cast off forever.

But what am I, most merciful Lord, that I should speak thus boldly to thee? I am a sinner, grown up in sin, a rotten carcass, a vessel of corruption, and food for worms. But spare me still, my God; for what victory is there in overthrowing me,

who am but as dust before the wind? Forgive me all my sins and deliver me from my distress.

Arise and help me, Lord; arise and let thy mercy plead for me. Let my prayer ascend before thee and stretch forth thy hand to help me; for behold I am covered with sin, and have done evil in thy sight, and there is none can heal me but thou, my God. If thou has not paid my ransom, by dying on the cross, should not I have been forever miserable? Remember then, O merciful Jesus, that I have a share in that price that was paid. It was for me also, though most unworthy, thy blood was shed; let me, therefore, have a part in this mercy.

I confess I have many times **offended** against thy child; but turn away thy face, I beseech thee, from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Deal not with me according to what I deserve, nor chastise me according to my iniquities; but help me, O God, my Savior, and for the glory of thy name deliver me. Now at this hour show mercy to me, and whenever I depart, receive me into the number of thy family, that I may be one of those who are to praise thee forever.

*This “Prayer of St Jerome in Time of Agony” is a beautiful and effective prayer for a dying person in his or her final agony. It is in these final moments that the devil tempts us the most with doubts about our faith and doubts about the mercy of God.

Scripture Passages to Read to the Sick or Dying:

Matthew 28:20: “And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Isaiah 49:15 & 16: “Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you. See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; your walls are ever before me.”

Luke 23:42 & 43: Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied to him, “Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Romans 8:37-39: “No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor

depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

1 Peter 5:7: “Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you.”

Matthew 10:29-31: “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

Matthew 6:9-13: “This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test but deliver us from the evil one.”