

# PRAYING FOR YOUR SPOUSE

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Here are five suggestions on how to pray specifically for your spouse:

## **1. Pray for your spouse's spouse.**

That means you. "Your heart must be clean before God in order for you to see good results, If you have resentment, anger, unforgiveness, or an ungodly attitude, even if there's good reason for it, you'll have a difficult time seeing answers to your prayers. But if you can confess and repent of those feelings to God in total honesty, and then move into prayer, there is nothing that can change a marriage more dramatically."

## **2. Pray for your spouse's relationship with God.**

Pray that your spouse would know God, trust God and remain in Him. Jesus says in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing." Nothing means that without Jesus, your spouse can't be patient, unconditionally love you, nor be the man/woman you need.

Rather than nagging about a growing "honey-do" list or an area of weakness in your spouse, "pray before you say." Openly communicate with each other, but pray that your spouse would spend time listening to God. Trust the Holy Spirit to provide ultimate correction.

## **3. Pray for their God-given role.**

Wives, pray for your husband's leadership in your marriage. Ask God to give him strength to carry out his responsibilities and help him prioritize time with his family. The Lord has entrusted many things to you both—money, time, a home—so pray for your husband to be a wise manager of God's gifts.

Husbands, as you provide direction for your family, pray for your wife's role as your partner—the person who can come alongside to help you. Ask God to remind her to pray about her worries so she'll experience Christ's peace. Pray that her day will go smoothly and she would accomplish much.

## **4. Pray for strong relationships with godly members of the same sex.**

Same-sex friendships are vital. If a person looks to their spouse to meet all their friendship needs, chances are their spouse will eventually crumple under the pressure. But remember, those whom your spouse spends extra time with will shape them as a person. Pray that he/she would be surrounded with followers of Jesus Christ.

## **5. Pray practically.**

Good intentions don't naturally lead to good results. You have to have a plan. Pick Scripture by which to pray for your spouse, then put it on your dashboard and pray while on your morning commute. As you fold your spouse's laundry, pray for them or use your lunch hour once a week to pray.

Resist the temptation to turn this into an obligatory checklist. Instead, this guide highlights areas where spouses need prayer. Your spouse is God's gift to you; take time to speak with Him about that gift. I wish I could say I prayed for Aaron for hours each day, but that's not the case. Some days, as I drift off to sleep, I just