

Teens-2-pray: Want your parents to change?

Each one of us has our own idea about the ideal parents and how we would want them to be. Ever thought of praying for your parents about these things? The Word of God is clear that God listens to prayer – He will also listen to you when you pray to Him. Do not doubt that. The following are some ideas on what you can pray for your parents. Share these with a friend and pray together and see how God answers your prayers.

- 1. Face it...** They are not perfect. Whether they are at home a lot or not, divorced or separated, they are your parents. Accept it. Thank God for the privilege to have parents. Say you're sorry for the times you wished them 'away' or 'dead' because of something they did or did not do for you or someone else. Pray that God will open your eyes to see the good things they do that other parents are perhaps not doing. Ask the Lord to help you see their needs and give you wisdom on how to pray for them.
- 2. Respond...** Pray that God will help them to understand your needs and pray that your parents will have the desire to spend time with you *and* be in a position to do it. Remember, when they reach out to you, it is God answering your prayer – do not give them the cold shoulder!
- 3. Their work...** Economic circumstances have really changed their world and work circumstances. Pray for them to be able to handle all the difficult situations they have to face at work, and not to be so tired when they get home at night. Pray that they will have favour with their superiors, for good working conditions and proper payment. If they have their own business, ask that God will give them peace in their business, that their lives and work will be rooted in integrity and that they will not chase money to the extent that they do not care for their families and do not make time for family life, but enjoy the beautiful things in life.
- 4. Their marriage...** Look carefully to see what your parents struggle with. Begin writing these things down and pray about them. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to pray about the things that cause heartache and pain.
- 5. Their responsibilities...** Submit to their authority and ask the Lord to help you accept them and their discipline. Ask the Lord that they will have wisdom on how to lead you and to help you to grow to maturity. Pray that they will take up their role as a father and a mother, that they will live godly lives and show compassion to the poor and needy.
- 6. Their conduct toward you...** Pray that they will be patient with you and that God will help you to be patient with them also. Remember that they are also just human and will make many mistakes. Do not judge them, but love them. Ask the Father to give them the wisdom and revelation to understand your needs and desires, and that they will make time to help you and be available to you, and love you.