

PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN

The nation of Afghanistan is now under the political and military control of the Taliban. While the world and our leaders navigate the days ahead, we as people of the Way of Jesus cry out to the Lord in prayer. While prayer is not our sole response to the current crisis it is our first and central one.

2 Corinthians 10:4 - For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

Prayer is the muscle that moves the omnipotent arm of God, and right now, nothing else can bring change, peace and hope to our world. But we also understand that for most of us, approaching the Lord in prayer within the context of worldwide hurt and catastrophe can be difficult and uncertain. We have written a guide to help us pray and go before the Lord, together.

Pray For God's Hand Of Mercy Over The People

Father we know and believe you are sovereign over this world. We ask in humility that you will send your mercy over the people in Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing for their lives. While we live in the comfort and safety of our nation here it is difficult for us to understand the fear they are going through. Many have lost their homes, jobs, schools and families. Lord Jesus we ask for your mercy over this land. As the people are fleeing bring them to safety. Protect them with your divine presence and might. May your mercy reign over them.

Pray For Women And Children

Lord Jesus, in your earthly life and work, you restored dignity to women and children. Lord Jesus you protected the most vulnerable in society and called them fellow image bearers. Right now the most vulnerable in a region ruled by the Taliban are women and children. Lord Jesus would you protect women and children who right now fear the Taliban will once again take away their opportunities for education and a future. They are afraid of being forced into unspeakable atrocities. We also pray for the many courageous women who have taken up the mantle to be educators - they are at risk and we ask for their protection. We pray that you would protect the children of Afghanistan who are innocent victims caught in the middle of a violent conflict. We pray that as we see our own children here our hearts would break for children in Afghanistan who's childhood is marked more by bloodshed than by laughter. Lord Jesus you have said that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to children - will you deliver on that promise now.

Pray For Christians

Father we ask that you protect Christians in this region. This world is not worthy of them. We ask that you would watch over them. Give them strength and endurance to know that nothing can separate them from the everlasting love that you have for them. Give them courage. Guide them into safety as they are fleeing and for the ones who remain Father we cry out for your mercy over them. We ask for your supernatural power to cover them. As you watched over Israel as they moved to the land of promise, would you watch over Christians in Afghanistan. We pray for the many missionaries and organizations continuing to give their lives to care for the physical and spiritual needs of the people. We know they are doing this at great risk to their own lives. Lord Jesus we remember your words that those who hated you will hate those who love you. How real these words are today. May our hearts break for those who call on the Name of Jesus, who right now are in the sights of those who wish to do them harm. Holy Spirit would you breathe supernatural power over our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Break our hearts for them. Holy Spirit intercede for us when we have no words. Bring an increase of your power, strength, courage and grace in the face of such opposition.

Pray That The Taliban Will Be Restrained From Enacting Evil

Almighty God – evil is not of you. You hate evil. Evil and violence is not your design. We ask God that in your mighty power you would move your hand to withhold the evil of the Taliban. For those who have hardened their heart against you, it is better that their life would be shortened than for them to continue to advance violence against the innocent people of Afghanistan. Father we ask that you raise up forces across the world who will stand in the gap and refuse to allow evil to have the final word. We ask that you move in the hearts of world leaders to defend the cause of the innocent, the poor, women, children, and Christians.

Pray For Divine Justice

God – You are a God of justice. We do not rejoice in the death of those who cause evil. Rather, we ask that divine justice would be delivered. We ask that you move in the hearts of the Taliban. Let the force of your divine love be the mightiest weapon that transforms their hearts. For those who have caused violence and crimes against humanity, and refuse to repent and accept your grace, we ask that your divine justice would be enacted. We do not pray this out of vengeance or spite. Our ultimate prayer is that the Taliban would have a divine encounter with the living God. We pray their hearts would be transformed to know the love of Jesus. Our prayer for divine justice is a last resort – a final “plea for doing what is necessary for those who will neither turn to God nor turn away from doing evil.”