



How to Pray for... **TRUTH & DISCERNMENT**



In every culture and society, some deeply-held beliefs are based on truths. For example, many African and Asian cultures have high regard for the elderly and place great value on relationship, while in western societies, most believe that hard work is rewarded. Yet some lies are also embedded in every culture, and where these lies exist they create brokenness in relationships and societal systems. The Bible calls Satan the father of lies, so it's no surprise that deception is one of the tools he uses to perpetuate poverty and oppression, to hinder God's people, and to destroy relationships.

It is really difficult to recognize and analyze our own deeply held beliefs. And yet God promises us "the Spirit of truth" to guide us into all truth (John 16:13). He also gives us the Bible, our yardstick for truth. And we have the example of Jesus' life on earth, as He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

The issue of truth and discernment feels all the more urgent these days. Confusion and fear are running rampant. Many faithful followers of Christ are left unsure who or what to believe in issues from politics to current events to their faith. As a result of this lack of clear truth, we see relationships destroyed and rising unrest among nations.

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.

Philippians 1:9-10

Please join us in praying for...

- The Church – Pray that churches would recognize cultural beliefs and practices based in lies and would overcome them with biblical truth. Pray that the body of Christ would have discernment from the Holy Spirit to know God's will in every area of life so that they can be a witness to their communities as they speak and live out truth. Pray that pastors and church leaders would teach the Bible well and not accidentally or purposefully lead any astray.
- Christian workers – Pray for those who are engaged with vulnerable people, especially cross-culturally, that they would have great discernment and would bring truth in word and deed. Pray that, as believers from different cultures, languages, and backgrounds interact, both Majority World and western partners would understand better the truths and lies in their own culture and adopt a truly biblical worldview.
- Politics – Pray that those in authority will speak the truth and will not practice any type of deception—from taking bribes to self-protection to saving-face. Pray that any falsehood would be brought to light and shown for what it is. Pray for God to protect and bless those leaders who do stand on the side of truth. Pray for believers in every country to place their faith and hope in Christ alone, not a political party or leader.
- Media – Pray that believers will have discernment from God regarding what they read, watch, and listen to. Where there is conflicting information or false claims about an important issue, pray that God would make the truth plain and remove all deception.
- Religion – In times of stress and uncertainty, many people are spiritually hungry and open to the gospel in a way they hadn't been before. But cults and false prophets take advantage of that openness too. Pray that God would protect the minds of His people so they would not be tricked or seduced. Pray that those who recognize their need for God would also have the opportunity to understand the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:31-32



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