

✳ How are we to pray for our lost loved ones?

1. God works all things, including the salvation of sinners, according to the counsel of His will  
(Eph 1:4-5, 11)
  - He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked but calls them to repent and live  
(Eze 18:23, 32)
  - He does not wish for any to perish but for all to come to repentance  
(2 Pet 3:9)
  - He desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth  
(1 Tim 2:1-4)
2. The lost person, like everyone else born into this world, is a sinner and thus under the wrath of God and the penalty of eternal death  
(Rom 3:10-18, 23, 6:23; 1:18)
3. God, in His kindness and love for doomed mankind, has given the world His Son, offering salvation to all men
  - He demonstrated His love in that Jesus died for sinners
  - He is calling all people everywhere to repent and to choose to live and not die  
(Jn 3:16; Titus 2:11, 3:4; Rom 5:8; Acts 17:30; Eze 33:11)

4. As we pray for our loved one we must remember what the Bible says is true about his (her) unsaved condition
  - ✳ he has the power of self-determination and is completely free to choose God or not
    - BUT – he is spiritually dead in trespasses and sins
      - he is enslaved to sin
      - he is in rebellion and hostile to God
      - he is deceived by his own hard heart
      - the gospel is foolishness to him because Satan has blinded his mind
      - he lives as it seems right to him

(Eph 2:1-3; Ro 6:17; Ro 8:7; Jer 17:9; Rom 1:21; Eph 4:18; Rev 12:9; 1 Co 1:18, 2:14; 2 Cor 4:4; Isa 53:6a)
5. So we pray that God will
  - a) override his power of self-determination and contravene his free will
  - b) send someone to preach the gospel boldly and clearly
  - c) powerfully draw (drag) him or he will not be able to come to Jesus
  - d) open his eyes to see his sin and the gospel
  - e) give him the gift of repentance
  - f) give him the gift of saving faith
  - g) forgive his sins and give him eternal life

- h) rescue him and transfer him to the kingdom of His beloved Son
  - i) remove his heart of stone and give him a heart of flesh
  - j) raise him from death to walk in newness of life  
(Mt 9:37-38; Eph 6:19-20; Jn 6:44, 65; 2 Co 4:3-4; Ac 16:14, 26:17-18, 5:30-31; Eph 2:8; Ac 26:18; Jn 3:16; Col 1:13; Eze 36:26; Ro 6:4)
6. All our prayers on behalf of the lost and for each other must be steeped in truth and reflect the teaching of the Scripture
  7. Therefore the most powerful and multi-beneficial way to pray is to pray the Scripture itself
    - the Psalms and the prayers of the Bible are ideal for us to use for worship as well as for petition and intercession
    - the passages that are not prayers can be spoken back to God in the form of prayers
    - we can be sure then to stay in keeping with God's will and God-pleasing words
    - we incorporate the two primary disciplines into one; they compliment and enhance each other  
(Ps 19:14; He 4:12)

Please be sure to check out the resources for this lesson on the Solid Ground website!