

Prayer Topic #8:

**A Prayer for Parents with Special Needs Children**

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 121, Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reflections of the Heart:

“Children remind us to treasure the smallest of gifts, even in the most difficult times.”

~ Allen Klein

Scriptural Prayer:

Omnipotent Father, we thank You for all of our children, for they are a gift and reward from You. Thank You for blessing the seed and the womb to produce and be fertile. Thank You that despite the challenges of our parents with special needs children, You turn their mourning into joyful dancing. We understand that You have not set Your heart on us because we are more numerous than others, for in many ways we are the smallest. Rather, it is simply that You love us and You are keeping the oath that You had sworn to our ancestors. We understand that You are indeed God. You are faithful to keep Your covenant for a thousand generations. Thank You for lavishing Your unfailing love on those who love You and obey Your commands. All praise to You, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before You made the world, You loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in Your eyes. You decided in advance to adopt us into Your own family by bringing us to Yourself through Jesus. So we praise You for the glorious grace You have poured out on us who belong to Your dear Son!

All-Knowing Father, we, the family of Windsor Village UMC, declare that our parents with special needs children are favored for You are with them. Their plight has not gone unnoticed by You. We decree and declare that even though their nights may sometimes be filled with weeping and grief, You have heard their plea and You will answer their prayer. We proclaim that those parents within our Church family who have children with special needs regard their children as a blessing, no matter what struggles they face. We confess over them that they will not throw away the confident trust they have in You. They will remember the great reward it brings to them. We decree that You will raise up supporters for our parents with special needs children to them succeed in meeting the needs of their families. They will be better off than they are on their own. We proclaim that You will surround them with people who truly love them and love their children. We decree and declare that You will supply all their needs from Your glorious riches which have been given to them in Christ Jesus. We declare that our parents with special needs children reside in a place of safety and they are still restrained by hope. You have promised to repay them two blessings for each of their troubles. We confess that their children will bring You glory through the witness of Your grace and favor upon their lives. We decree and declare that they will be led by Your Spirit to competent medical professionals who genuinely care about the welfare of their children. We declare that our parents with special needs children will not worry about anything. Instead, they will pray about everything. They will tell You what they need and thank You for all You have done. They have Your peace, which exceeds anything they can understand. Your peace guards their hearts and minds as they live in Christ Jesus.

Ask the Holy Spirit what you can do to give support a parent with a special needs child today:

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Holy Spirit, show us as a Church Family how we can better meet the spiritual and tangible needs of our parents who have special needs children. Early each morning, may they bring their requests to You and wait expectantly. Calm their fears about the future of their special needs children. Help our parents with special needs children to hold tightly without wavering to the hope that has been affirmed in them. Let them know that the Father can be trusted to keep His promise to them. Confirm for them that the Father will generously provide all that they need. Then they will have everything they need and plenty left over to share with others. Teach us as a Church Family to look for opportunities to bless these families and their children. Strengthen them to meet each day's challenges with an expectancy that You will give them the wisdom they need in order to make sound decision for the health and healing of their children. Holy Spirit, please enable our parents with special needs children to take time for

themselves to be replenished often. Let them not get caught up in guilt or religious activity, but help them to bring order into their own lives. Help them to resist the temptation to take on too much alone. Teach them to trust others that the Father has placed in their lives to help them care for the children and their household.

Beloved Father, forgive the sins of our parents with special needs children. Forgive them for any unconfessed bitterness and anger toward You and anyone else they may blame for their child's condition. Forgive those who sometimes become stressed and overwhelmed, but fail to acknowledge their need for You. Forgive us as a Church Family for overlooking the unique challenges of these families. Forgive those of us who have been insensitive, thinking more about our own discomfort than the needs that we can meet for those with special needs children. Forgive those parents who may have become fearful and overwhelmed by the rigor of life at home with a special needs child. Lord, forgive me for (list any sins that You have committed). Holy Spirit, remind the parents of special needs children of those they need to forgive and help them to be quick to forgive. As for me, Holy Spirit, bring to my remembrance those I need to forgive. (Take a moment and ask the Holy Spirit to show You names or faces of people that You may need to forgive. As He shows You, say aloud, "I forgive name of person(s)." Now, trust the Lord to heal any wounds in Your soul caused by unforgiveness.)

Holy Spirit, help those parents with special needs children not to yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, may You be praised forever and ever! Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is Yours. This is Your kingdom. We adore You as the One who is over all things. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 127:3, Psalm 30:11, Deuteronomy 7:7-9, Ephesians 1:3-6, Luke 1:28, Psalm 6:8-9, Hebrews 10:35, Ecclesiastes 4:9, Zechariah 9:12, Philippians 2:20, Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 5:3, Hebrews 10:23, II Corinthians 9:8, Matthew 6:13, I Chronicles 29:10-11

Today I will trust God to:

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