

**Prayer Topic #2: (STC 1/12)**  
**A Prayer for Our U.S. Soldiers Who Are Returning Home**

**Scripture Reading:**  
Nehemiah 9:6-12, II Timothy 2:1-4, Galatians 6:2-3

**Reflections of the Heart:**  
“The joy of meeting pays the pangs of absence; else who could bear it?”

~ Nicholas Rowe

**Scriptural Prayer:**

Benevolent Father, thank You for returning our men and women in the armed forces back home to us. We are a grateful people. Thank You for bringing them through the ravages of war to make it home alive. From the depths of our hearts we thank You for their selfless service in protecting the freedoms of our nation. We give You praise for strengthening their families who have endured their long absence. We bless Your Name Lord! By Your hand You have sustained our soldiers and their families through each and every conflict. We, the Godly, sing for joy to You for it is fitting for the pure to praise You. Your Word holds true, and we can trust everything You do. You love whatever is just and good. Your unfailing love fills the earth!

Gracious Father, as our nation receive our soldiers back home, we proclaim that we will receive them with unconditional love. We will be sensitive to their unique needs and challenges. We confess that we will not just pretend to love them, but we will really love them with genuine affection. We will take delight in honoring them and their families. We declare that governmental agencies (The Veterans’ Administration, The Department of Defense, and The Department of Health and Human Services) who have services to offer our returning soldiers and their families will be well-equipped and well-prepared with supplies, resources, and competent personnel. As a nation, we commit to doing our part to continue and even expand the good works that have been launched by our First Lady, Michele Obama, and Second Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, through the Joining Forces initiative to help our military families. We declare that as our soldiers attempt to adjust to civilian life, they will be anxious for nothing. In everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, they will let their requests be made known to You. And we believe that Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

***If you know any returning soldiers and/or military families, list their names here. Pray for them today, and ask the Holy Spirit how you can best serve them:***

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Holy Spirit, we realize that there is no such thing as an “unwounded” soldier. Some of them will return to us unharmed physically, but we understand that the strain of war and prolonged conflicts leave a lasting mark in the soul of every soldier. Show us, as Kingdom ambassadors, how to wisely reach out to our returning soldiers. Teach us how to listen to them, how to discern them, and how to anticipate their needs. Help us to be swift to hear and slow to speak. Help us to be patient with them as they learn how to assimilate back into our communities. We ask that You will give them wisdom and favor in the marketplace so that their skills and experience can be appropriately utilized. Re-establish the bonds they have with their spouses, their children, and other family members. Give them the spiritual, emotional, and financial support they need most. Comfort them in the night hours and during times of loneliness, fear, or confusion. Should any of them need medical treatment of any kind, connect them with competent, compassionate professionals who are experienced in dealing with their unique needs. Strengthen them against feelings of shame, guilt or pride. May those who are lost receive the Good News by faith and be saved.

Holy Father, forgive those soldiers who doubt Your love for them. Forgive our returning soldiers of any sins they committed while they were deployed. Forgive any sins of adultery, deception, betrayal between them and their spouses. Forgive those who have negatively influenced our returning soldiers. Forgive any soldier who has been too stubborn and prideful to receive help when they need it. Forgive those who have not taken their responsibility

to our military families seriously enough. Forgive those who have withheld good from our deserving soldiers and their families when it was within their power to help them. Lord, forgive me for ***(list any sins that You have committed)***. Holy Spirit, remind our returning soldiers of all 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 our returning soldiers not to yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

No one is holy like You, Lord! There is no one besides You. There is no Rock like You, our God. Your voice is glorious in the thunder. We can't even imagine the greatness of Your power. We will worship You in all Your holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture References for the Written Text:** Psalm 33:1, 4-5, Romans 12:9-10, Philippians 4:6-7 NKJV, James 1:19, Proverbs 3:27, Matthew 6:13, I Samuel 2:2, Job 37:5, Psalm 96:9

**Today I will trust God to:**

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