

Prayer Petition #10:
A Prayer for People Who are Facing Court Sentences

Scripture Reading:
Psalm 138, Matthew 5:21-26, 43-48

Reflections of the Heart:

Let us be compassionate toward those within our Church Family who are facing court sentences. Refrain from judging and allow God to reveal truth in all matters. Remember, the Lord expects us to show love and to pray for His mercy upon their lives.

Scriptural Prayer:

Righteous Father, You are the only wise God. We give You praise and thanksgiving for Your abundant mercy toward us when we've made mistakes in life. Thank You that when we confess our sins, You are faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. Your gracious love toward us is so reassuring. Thank You Lord that those who are facing court sentences can rest in Your promise never to leave nor abandon them. Lord, You are so worthy to be praised! When You approach, You are not silent. You call on the heavens above and earth below to witness judgment of Your people. The heavens proclaim Your justice, for You Yourself will be the judge.

Gracious Father, time is growing short for some brothers and sisters within our Church Family. Their physical freedom is at stake, but we know that if the Son has set them free, they are truly free. We declare that their sins are under the Blood of Jesus. No matter what crimes they have been accused of, or may even be guilty of, we believe that Your will is being done during their court proceedings. We confess that their legal counsel is competent and objective as they provide them with excellent representation. We trust You, Father, to give them favor with judges as they decide the length and severity of each sentence. While we know that You forgive their sins, we understand that there will be consequences to pay. Therefore, we proclaim that Your grace is sufficient to see them through every part of their process. We decree that Your compassion will quickly meet the needs of those within their families who are on the brink of despair due to the strain of recent circumstances surrounding their loved one's sentencing.

List the names of those you know who are facing court sentences and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to be of comfort to them and their families at this time:

Holy Spirit, give us, as a Church Family, a heart to reach out to those who are facing court sentences and to their families. Help us to remember those who are in prison (or being sentenced to go to prison) as if we were there ourselves. Help us also to remember those who are being mistreated within the court system as if we feel their pain ourselves. Teach us how to speak the truth in love without judgment as we offer comfort. Help the families and friends of those who are facing sentencing to trust in You and in your mercy like never before. Use these adverse events to strengthen and mature all of them in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Assure them that the Father is causing everything to work together for their good because they are called according to His purpose for them. Please shield them from guilt and condemnation about the events that led up to this time. Let Your unfailing love surround them, for their hope is in You alone.

Lord, we ask You to forgive the sins of those who are facing court sentences. Forgive them for neglecting to allow the Holy Spirit to guide them. Forgive them for any outbursts of anger and resentment toward those in authority. Forgive those who have unfairly placed blame on their parents, spouses, or other relatives. Lord, forgive me for **(list any sins that You have committed)**. Holy Spirit, remind them of those they need to forgive and help them 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.)

Eternal Father, help those who are facing court sentences not to yield to temptation; but deliver them from the evil one.

Almighty God, all glory to You who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are Yours before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture References for the Written Text: I John 1:9, Hebrews 13:5, Psalm 50:3-4, 6, John 8:36, Psalm 79:8, Hebrews 13:3, Romans 8:28, Psalm 33:22, Matthew 6:13, Jude 1:25

Today I will trust God to:
