

Praying for the Next Generation

O God, raise up today a new generation of Christian apologists and Christian communicators. Raise up today a new generation of Christians who combine an absolute loyalty to the biblical gospel and an unwavering confidence in the power of the Spirit with a deep and sensitive understanding of the contemporary alternatives to the gospel. Raise up today a new generation of Christians, who will relate the one to the other with freshness, authority, and relevance; and who will use their minds to reach other minds for Christ.

– John Stott, adapted from [Your Mind Matters](#)

Dear Lord, I love my children so much and I know that they are learning to love You more daily. Father, I am scared for them because everything around them says You are a lie. I pray that the Holy Spirit will convict them daily to know what is right and what choices they should make. I know that they are only with me for a brief time and I pray that I would be found faithful in Your sight with how I raise them. I will continue to pray with them and encourage them to read their Bibles daily. Lord, I believe Jesus! He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6) I pray that my children will grow to believe the same way. I put them in Your hands, Father. Amen --Derek Hill

O Father in Heaven, My heart is breaking for the young men and women who are social outcasts. The news tells the same story every single night. Someone is being bullied or shot. Father, this is chaotic! Please, Lord, protect the ones who cannot protect themselves. Some kids are so emotionally traumatized that they have attempted to take their own lives...some have succeeded. Father, I pray that You would place men and women of faith in the paths of these kids to show them that they are special and they are loved. Until they see love they will only continue in the spiral of endless chaos. Father, use me to help in any way! I love You! Amen -- Derek Hill

Father, pour out your Spirit on the generation to come. Give them one pure and simple devotion, a holy devotion to Christ. Do a work in their midst that will cause the nations to shake. Encourage those who are wrestling with depression, exchange their sorrow for joy. Strengthen those who bend to the breath of cultural whims, exchange their fear for boldness. Love those who feel unworthy, exchange their shame for grace. Spirit lift Jesus up in every place they gather and Jesus draw them to yourself. We love them. We love you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

I recently ran across a statistic that between 55-60% of next-gen Christians temporarily or permanently disconnect from the church after age 15. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for youth ages 10–24. The number of those wrestling with depression is on the rise. And yet every time I think of the next generation, I can't help but be amazed at the opportunity before us. I can't help but think that God is going to do his next great work in their midst. I am struck that they are not just the church of tomorrow. They are the church today.

God has often used young people to shape and start His movements. George Whitefield was in his mid-20's when he was used to further impact of the First Great Awakening in America. Spurgeon preached more than 600 sermons before his 20th birthday. Evan Roberts, a central figure of the Welsh Revival, was 26 when God used him to spread revival to an entire nation. Amy Carmichael was barely 20 when she started a mission to impoverished girls in Manchester. It grew to over 500 people. In her early 20's she accepted a calling to India as a missionary. God is passionate about using young people to further His Kingdom on earth. But rarely, if ever does the next generation rise up to serve, without the last generation kneeling down to pray.

Here are some ways to pray for the next generation:

- **Prodigals.** Pray that those who have walked away from Jesus would return. That they would experience God's grace and spread it far and near.
- **Purpose.** Pray that those who follow Christ, would gain a sense of divine purpose. Pray that many would participate in Leadership Advance to discover their identity and calling in Christ.
- **Identity.** So many struggle with feelings of worthlessness, that they are not enough, not good enough, not worthy of love. Pray for the love of God to surround and fill those struggling with shame. Pray that they would gain a sense of their identity in Christ.
- **Relationships.** A deep and meaningful connection is a need for every generation but the next generation has experienced so many broken relationships. Pray for restoration of relationships with family, friends, and God.
- **Sexual Purity.** 64% of people aged 13-24 actively seek out pornography weekly or more often. Child porn is one of the fastest growing online businesses. This affects the next generation in so many ways. And that's just the pornography portion of sexual purity.
- **Passion.** Passion today is so often distracted into a thousand different small pursuits from screen time to binge-watching Netflix to vocation to family to etc. Ask God to awaken a deep longing only He can fill in this generation, and pray that Christ would become their #1, all-consuming passion.
- **Revival.** Finally, pray this generation will experience awakening and revival from coast to coast. Jesus longs for the next generation not only to know Him but to spread His gospel around the world.

Psalms 78 & Isaiah 59.21, along with many other verses is a great one "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore."