

PRAYER TO BREAK THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF RELIGION.

Loving Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus Christ your Son, relying only on his finished work on the Cross for me and proclaiming my complete dependence upon him.

Please forgive every way I have sinned against you, others or myself. (*release it*) I receive your forgiveness. Thank you that I am covered in Jesus' blood and righteousness.

In the name of Jesus, I repent and renounce every opening, known or unknown that my ancestors or I have given to any spirit of religion in my family line. I repent and renounce every spirit of religion or religious spirit, and every work of darkness connected with it.

Father God, I repent for not fully receiving your love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. I renounce the belief that you are distant, unkind or judgmental. I choose to know you intimately and embrace the truth of all you are.

In the name of Jesus, I repent of being led by any spirit other than the Holy Spirit.

I repent of relying on my own intellect in worship, prayer, spiritual warfare or study of the Bible.

In the name of Jesus I repent and renounce all legalism, traditions and religious formulas, and dullness and hardness of heart to the things of God.

I now choose to invite the Holy Spirit to come and soften my heart and enlarge my spirit and soul to accommodate all God wants for me. Come, Holy Spirit.

I repent and renounce every person's opinion of me that is different from my heavenly Father's.

I repent and renounce all compromises of my attitude toward sin. I repent of covering or excusing sin, for not confessing sin, for not receiving correction and for being defensive and rationalizing my sin.

I repent and renounce all deception and self-deception, hypocrisy, pride, arrogance and self-righteousness.

I repent and renounce all comparison, judgment, criticism, judgmental or critical spirit, gossip, envy and anger.

I repent and renounce all persecution and slander of those controlled by the Holy Spirit, especially any leader who had authority over me.

I repent and renounce every act of rebellion that reinforced the spirit of religion.

I repent and renounce all fears that caused me to allow the religious spirit into my life. I renounce the lie that I need to work to earn my Father's love and acceptance.

I come out of agreement with the enemies of Most High God in every area and choose to come into agreement with the true Living God. I declare my submission to God and his Word and ask the Holy Spirit to keep me in alignment with his plans, purposes and ways.

In the name of Jesus, I now break every other legal right, known or unknown, for the spirit of religion to stay in my life or my family's life.

Father God, I humbly ask for the blood of Jesus Christ, my Savior, to cleanse me from all the sins I have confessed and renounced. I receive your cleansing and forgiveness.

Father, thank you for your forgiveness and grace. Please, fill me with your love and restore all that was lost or stolen, Thank you for your Holy Spirit who fills, guides and restores me. Come into the center of my life, Lord Jesus, and rule in me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

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Accepting God's Grace – Overcoming the Spirit of Religion

As new believers in Jesus Christ it is natural to want to do things right. We look to those in our church who seem mature in their faith, our pastor or other leaders, to model what we should look like. It is a common phase for some to be more focused on earning the approval of the people in our church and doing the right things, then on focusing on God and our relationship with him.

Sadly, without help, many of us get stuck there. In fact, entire churches may stay in that place where it seems that looking godly and doing things right take priority over developing our relationship with God and allowing his Spirit to guide us. We may feel that we have to earn God's favor and keep doing things for him in order for him to love us and accept us.

Ephesians 2:8,9: *God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.*

Rejecting the free of gift of real relationship with God must make the Father very sad, since he sent his Son Jesus to save us from slavery to religious form and through him to give all of us direct access to him. However, Satan loves it. In fact, he apparently has assigned one of his most powerful demons to blind and deceive us into getting stuck in fearing man more than God and missing out on the free gift of the freedom of God's grace.

1 John 4:10: *This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.*

We were all sinners when Jesus died for us. Grace tells us that though we can never do enough to earn God's love and acceptance, we are chosen. Jesus paid the price for us that we could never pay. We are saved by faith, not works, into this new life, and we are adopted into God's family. We are children of God. And God is not a mean or demanding Father. He will never love us more or less than at the very moment he chose us and he wants to spend time with us. He wants us to come running to him with all our problems and joys. Through Jesus his door and his arms are always open, no matter how we may feel.

Hebrews 4:16: *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

The devil has another strategy. The moment we believe, we are given the Holy Spirit as proof that we belong to God and to empower and guide us. Satan does not want us to know and experience the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Not relying on the Holy Spirit causes us to work in our own strength and out of our old nature to accomplish what God asks. We continue in slavery to religious form, without power or joy. (Romans 8)

Romans 8:15: *So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.*

Anyone who has not been living in the freedom of grace, filled and led by the Holy Spirit, may access that freedom through Jesus in prayer. On the other side of this sheet is a prayer to help you. We suggest that you pray it aloud.

If you have been struggling, trying to continue to earn God's love, may the Lord give you spiritual understanding of his wonderful gift of grace and may the Holy Spirit guide you into the truth that will set you free. We celebrate that freedom with you!

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