

## Praying Deuteronomy 6

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(This week's readings from Sunday to Saturday: Deuteronomy 3–9)

### Deuteronomy 6 (ESV)

**1** “Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the rules—that the LORD your God commanded me to teach you, that you may do them in the land to which you are going over, to possess it, **2** that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long. **3** Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them, that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the LORD, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

**4** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**10** “And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, **11** and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, **12** then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by his name you shall swear. **14** You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you—**15** for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

**16** “You shall not put the LORD your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah. **17** You shall diligently keep the commandments of the LORD your God, and his testimonies and his statutes, which he has commanded you. **18** And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the LORD, that it may go well with you, and that you may go in and take possession of the good land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers **19** by thrusting out all your enemies from before you, as the LORD has promised.

**20** “When your son asks you in time to come, ‘What is the meaning of the testimonies and the statutes and the rules that the LORD our God has commanded you?’ **21** then you shall say to

your son, ‘We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. **22** And the LORD showed signs and wonders, great and grievous, against Egypt and against Pharaoh and all his household, before our eyes. **23** And he brought us out from there, that he might bring us in and give us the land that he swore to give to our fathers. **24** And the LORD commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God, for our good always, that he might preserve us alive, as we are this day. **25** And it will be righteousness for us, if we are careful to do all this commandment before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us.’

## Adoration

Deuteronomy 6—a chapter about God’s commands—gives us many reasons to praise the Lord our God. Lift your voice and praise God out loud with the words of verse 4: “The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” He is one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Worship God for his power to deliver his people from slavery and captivity, as shown in verse 12 and verses 21–23. Praise him for the signs and wonders—verse 22—that he has done for his glory and for the good of his people.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Let’s take time now to praise God for the promises he has fulfilled and will fulfill in the future, as seen in Deuteronomy 6, verse 3 and verses 20–23. Acknowledge that the Lord is purposeful and he keeps his promises to his people.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

God, you are the name above all names.<sup>1</sup> We love you and we praise you because you are worthy to be praised. You are the light of the world,<sup>2</sup> and have brought us out of darkness and into the light. All of your promises are Yes and Amen in Christ, your Son.<sup>3</sup> You will fulfill every promise and are due every praise. We know, Father, that you show steadfast love to those who love you and keep your commandments,<sup>4</sup> and, greater still, that you love us before we ourselves know how to love.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Phil 2:9.

<sup>2</sup> John 8:12.

<sup>3</sup> 2 Cor 1:20.

<sup>4</sup> Exod 20:6.

<sup>5</sup> 1 John 4:10.

## Confession

Deuteronomy 6 emphasizes obedience to God's commands. Every one of us has ignored, disregarded, and disobeyed the commands of the Lord. Confess now your own failure and inconsistency to do what God commands, to have these words on your heart, to speak of them daily, and to live according to them.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

In Deuteronomy 6, obedience to God's commands is one way for God's people to visibly demonstrate their fear of the Lord our God, as seen in verses 2 and 13. Verse 24 tells us that the Lord commands us to keep all these statutes to fear the Lord our God. Yet, there are many moments where we do not fear the Lord as his people should. Confess out loud to God, in your own words, your misplaced fear as sin.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

The instructions found in verses 6 through 9 illustrate a deep allegiance to the Word of God. Though God tells us in verse 6 that his Word "shall be on your heart," we don't always cherish God's Word as we should. Carefully reflect on your own attitude toward Scripture, and repent of moments of indifference and unbelief toward God's Holy Word.

[Pray for 10 seconds.]

Deuteronomy 6:12 instructs God's people to "take care lest you forget the Lord," who brought you out of slavery. We all are guilty of forgetting God, whether that means forgetting God's character, his deeds, his presence, or his promises. Confess specific ways that you have forgotten God in your life recently.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

God, we confess that our hearts are not always steadfast, nor our spirits faithful to your commands.<sup>6</sup> We ask your forgiveness for the ways we fail to cherish your Holy Word. All Scripture is breathed out by you and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.<sup>7</sup> Forgive us for the moments that we neglect your Word and the authority that it has over our lives. Guide our hearts to love your commands; let your Word be our meditation, day after day.<sup>8</sup>

## Thanksgiving

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<sup>6</sup> Ps 78:8.

<sup>7</sup> 2 Tim 3:16.

<sup>8</sup> Ps 119:97.

Verses 10 and 11 describe the great depth of God's generosity toward his people—the Lord has provided in abundance provisions that his people have not earned. Thank God out loud for the many blessings he has given to you.

[Pray for 15 seconds.]

Jesus obeyed the Father perfectly, so our only hope of truly satisfying God's commands is in Christ. Thank God for Jesus the Son. Thank God the Father for the Son's life of perfect obedience to the Father's will and the Father's commands. Thank Him that you are not dependent on your own righteousness, but that he lavishes his own upon you as a gift, to be received by faith.

[Pray for 30 seconds.]

Thank Him for the Holy Spirit, who helps us to understand and keep His commands.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Father of lights, we thank you now for every good gift and every perfect gift in our lives.<sup>9</sup> Thank you for grace. Thank you for your Word; your statutes and commands are as precious as your promises. Thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, a helper who teaches us and brings your word to our remembrance.<sup>10</sup> Thank you most of all for the precious gift of yourself and your presence through Jesus the Son, Immanuel, God with us.<sup>11</sup>

## Supplication

Deuteronomy 6:24 explains that God's commandments are for our good. Ask him to give you pleasure in reading the books of the Law and insight as you study them. Ask him to help you learn, cherish, and obey his commands, today and everyday. Ask him to give you a desire for his Word and the discipline to hide it in your heart that you might avoid sinful choices.<sup>12</sup>

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

Throughout this chapter we are instructed to teach God's commands to our children. Let's pray now that he would bless generations after us with obedience to his commands and a love for his Word.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

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<sup>9</sup> Jas 1:17.

<sup>10</sup> John 14:26.

<sup>11</sup> Matt 1:23.

<sup>12</sup> Ps 119:11.

Who in your life needs to know the truths of Deuteronomy 6, to know that God's commandments are for our good? Pray for people in your community, that they would have faith to believe the living God and live lives of obedience to his commandments and for his glory. Pray that you would be bold in sharing God's Word with them.

[Pray for 20 seconds.]

## Benediction

God, like the Israelites, we sometimes question your commands. We often fail to keep them. We do not always delight in your word. But, you, oh God, are the beginning and the end, the first and the last.<sup>13</sup> Help us to love you and follow your commands. Give us the wisdom and discipline to bind them as a sign on our hands, and as frontlets between our eyes and to write them on our doorposts and on our gates.<sup>14</sup> Give us a joy and passion for your commands, to talk of them when we sit in our houses, and when we walk by the way, and when we lie down, and when we rise.<sup>15</sup> Father, thank you for your commands. May we never forget them nor let them go.

AMEN.

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<sup>13</sup> Rev 22:13.

<sup>14</sup> Deut 6:8–9.

<sup>15</sup> Deut 6:7.