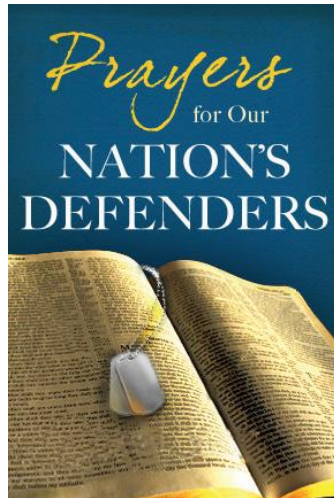


# Prayers for Our Nation's Defenders

*Scriptural Prayers To Strengthen and Encourage Our Troops*

By Anthony D. Gray



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## Preface (excerpt)

I wrote this book to help guide and assist commanders, subordinates, and family members in praying for themselves, each other, and the mission that lay before us....

To be honest, I often thought about what it would be like to serve in combat. I daydreamed of the glory and honor of serving this great nation in battle while at the same time dismissing the childish daydreams thinking they would never come true. I realized that I commanded a highly deployable unit that had never missed a major engagement, and I realized that the nation itself was fully engaged in a war on terror, but somehow I still had myself convinced that we wouldn't see one day of combat. I believed if we did, it would be at the end when everything was said and done....

These prayers that flowed out of my heart to my heavenly Father helped me cast all of my cares on Him and gain a true realization of how much He cares for His children. These prayers helped me to turn fear into courage and much more. Not only that, but God answered every prayer request in this book. And, as a result, I did not lose a single soldier in combat due to fatality.

I'm sharing with you the prayers that brought all of us safely through 15 months of combat operations. May they bless you as well—whether you're a leader, a subordinate, or a family member.

God bless every man or woman who defends our great nation.

# Prayers for Commanders

## 1. The Call

Father, I was put here to command this troop, in this squadron, in this regiment, at this post, and during this time.

Never in my wildest imagination did I expect to command in battle. And yet, Father, You have taught me You never put more on us than we can bear. So, that tells me You have found me justified, worthy, and able to fulfill this role. I thank You for this immense responsibility and the opportunity to serve You so You can receive glory from my service. I thank You for Your divine power that has given me everything I need to succeed.

Father, I thank You for all of Your great and precious promises so that through them I can participate in Your divine nature or purposes and escape the corruption of the world.

I'll make every effort to add to my faith, goodness; to goodness, knowledge; to knowledge, self control; to self control, perseverance; to perseverance, godliness; to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. You promised that if I possess and keep these qualities in increasing measures they would keep me from being ineffective and unproductive. Therefore, I am eager to make my calling and election sure.

For You promised if I do all of these things I will never fail or fall short, receiving a rich welcome in the heavenly kingdom. So help me, Father, to live a life worthy of the calling You have placed on my life.

In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**Scripture References:** 1 Corinthians 10:13, 2 Peter 1:10

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# Prayers for All in Uniform

## 1. We Are Blessed and Highly Favored

Father, favor us to succeed in whatever we put our hands to do. Bless us to succeed here on earth, and bless us in heavenly realms, for we are chosen according to Your will. I have faith that You will fulfill all of Your promises in Your Word and You will prosper us to succeed in combat.

Thank You, Father, that You know what we need before we even ask or think it. Thank You that Your Word promises if we put You and Your kingdom first we will succeed.

Lord, You command us to be strong and very courageous, and You command us to obey Your Word. You promised that if we obey Your Word, we will succeed wherever we go because You are with us. What good news that is!

Father, help us to focus on mission accomplishment. Help us to forget past mistakes and hurts. Help us to forget current sufferings we may be going through, and help us to look toward the victory that lies ahead. Help us press toward the mark and accomplish our goal—what You have called us to do. Help us to not get weary in well doing nor give up, for in due season we will reap a harvest.

In Jesus' name we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Amen.

**Scripture References:** Ephesians 1:3-4, Luke 12:30-31, Joshua 1:6-8, Philippians 3:12-14, 2 Thessalonians 3:13, Galatians 6:9, Philippians 4:13

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## Prayers for Family Members

### 1. In Time of War

Father, I come to You in the name of our Lord Jesus, to lift up in prayer this present military action. Father, I pray that there might be a quick resolution to this action and that truth and righteousness would prevail.

May You guide, bless, and protect all those engaged in this conflict. Heal the physical and spiritual wounds that may be inflicted.

Father, the Gospel of the kingdom must be preached to this nation. I pray that what Satan has intended and devised to hinder the Gospel You will turn to our good, that the Gospel will go into this nation unimpeded.

Let all who hear Your Word turn to You for guidance, courage, and hope.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

**Scripture References:** 1 Timothy 2:1-4, Matthew 24:14, Genesis 50:20

### 2. Prayer for the Children I Leave Behind

God, watch over my children during our time of separation. I ask that You protect them from any evil spirit that tries to deceive them into thinking that they are to blame for my deployment or that my deployment means that I do not love them. I pray that my children do not resent me because of my chosen profession. Help them to understand that I chose to serve our nation because I believe in serving something greater than myself. Please do not let my children become overwhelmed with feelings of fear, sadness, or anger because of my departure. Even as I prepare for deployment, instill in me a sense of urgency to provide my children the love, attention, and reassurance they need to handle the separation.

In the name of Jesus, I bind all negative effects that the deployment could have on my children. I believe by faith that my children will not revert to bedwetting but experience continued progress with potty training. They will not experience nightmares but have Your blessed sleep. They will not develop eating disorders but maintain normal appetites. They will not seek out and engage in conflict or participate in delinquent behavior; rather, they will remain friendly to other people and continue to follow the spiritual, moral, and ethical standards that we set for them. They will not attempt to avoid school but continue to enjoy learning and remain focused when doing schoolwork. They will not experience physical health problems due to the physiological stress caused by my deployment; instead, they are of sound mind and body.

Show my spouse and me the best ways to help our children cope with the deployment, even if that means sending them to professionals. Help my children to know that it is okay and healthy to openly and honestly express what they are feeling. Help my spouse and me not to criticize, judge, or dismiss their feelings in any way. Rather, let us actively listen to them and empathize with their concerns.

Strengthen my spouse to be the model of calm for our children. Give him/her control over his/her emotions so that negativity does not spread to our kids. I pray that my family does not feed their spirits things that will foster fear, doubt, and unbelief. Instead, let them continually feed their spirits with those things that will keep their minds edified and positive. Remind my spouse to spend quality time with the children as a family and individually. Give my spouse Your wisdom when it comes to instilling and maintaining structure, order, and discipline in our children. Guide my spouse when it comes to training the kids in the way that they should go so that they do not depart from it. Through a healthy dose of love and affection, let my spouse continually reassure our children that they are the most treasured part of our family.

In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

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This content from *Prayers for Our Nation's Defenders* by Anthony D. Gray provides an accurate sampling of the powerful and profound spirit of the book. For more information, or to order the complete book, visit [www.militaryministry.org/prayersforournationsdefenders](http://www.militaryministry.org/prayersforournationsdefenders) on the Internet, or call Military Ministry at 1.800.444.6006 and speak with someone in our Rapid Response Center.

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