

## Prayer for Renewal - October 4-10

Contributed by Administrator  
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Prayers for October 4-10

Finding Maturity/The Old Way Has to Go (Ephesians 4)

Monday, October 4 In light of all this, here's what I want you to do. While I'm locked up here, a prisoner for the Master, I want you to get out there and walk--better yet, run! --on the road God called you to travel. I don't want any of you sitting around on your hands. I don't want anyone strolling off, down some path that goes nowhere. And mark that you do this with humility and discipline--not in fits and starts, but steadily, pouring yourselves out for each other in acts of love, alert at noticing differences and quick at mending fences. Ephesians 4:1-3

Lord, I am tired of sitting on my hands and not rising to the challenges of making the world a different place. Pour out your Holy Spirit to enliven me so I can use this day wisely. Help me to pour myself out in love and give me the vision to see the possibilities for mending fences today. Help me to be consistent in going where you lead. Amen.

Tuesday, October 5 You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. Ephesians 4:4-6

Lord, watch over my relationships today. Help me to build people up and bring them together. Inspire me to be the type of person who sees you working in everyone. Guide me to constantly and consistently point to you as the one who can do anything. Amen.

Wednesday, October 6 But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christians in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. Ephesians 4:7, 10b-13

Lord, thank you for the gifts you've given me. Help me not to take myself too seriously or not seriously enough. I want to be part of the incredible rhythm you are producing. I want to be fully developed and alive. Help me to be more like Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, October 7 No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are an easy mark for impostors. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love--like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love. Ephesians 4:14-16

Lord, thank you for encouraging me to grow. Thank you for given me the gift of communication. Help me to consistently ask the question, "What am I communicating today?" Help me to be truthful and loving as I move through my day. Keep my eyes on Jesus, so I can be robust in showing love to this world. Amen.

Friday, October 8 And so I insist--and God backs me up on this--that there be no going along with the crowd, the empty-headed, mindless crowd. They've refused for so long to deal with God that they've lost touch not only with God but with reality itself. They can't think straight anymore. Feeling no pain, they let themselves go in sexual obsession, addicted to every sort of perversion. But that's no life for you. You learned Christ! My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus. Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything--and I do mean everything--connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it! And then take on an entirely new way of life--a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you. Ephesians 4:17-24

Holy God, help me to get rid of the parts of my life that are rotten. Help me to lay down my guilt, my addictions, my worry, my codependency and the pettiness that colors my perspectives on everything. I want to be different. Here I am -- build your life in me. Amen.

Saturday, October 9 What this adds up to, then, is this: no more lies, no more pretense. Tell your neighbor the truth. In Christ's body we're all connected to each other, after all. When you lie to others, you end up lying to yourself. Go ahead and be angry. You do well to be angry--but don't use your anger as fuel for revenge. And don't stay angry. Don't go to bed angry. Don't give the Devil that kind of foothold in your life. Ephesians 4:25-27

Lord, help me to be authentic with those around me, especially about my struggles. Help me to let go of my anger and replace it with a peace that I cannot find anywhere else. Fill me with the knowledge that I am your child and that is a wonderfully powerful identity. Amen.

Sunday, October 10 Did you used to make ends meet by stealing? Well, no more! Get an honest job so that you can help others who can't work. Watch the way you talk. Let nothing foul or dirty come out of your mouth. Say only what helps, each word a gift. Don't grieve God. Don't break his heart. His Holy Spirit, moving and breathing in you, is the most intimate part of your life, making you fit for himself. Don't take such a gift for granted. Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk. Be gentle with one another, sensitive. Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you. Ephesians 4:28-32

Lord, fill me with worship today. You are God and I am not. Open me up so you can work on my heart and mind so that I won't be the same person when I wake up tomorrow. Make me more honest, more patient, more forgiving and more compassionate. Most of all, make me more intelligent so I will stop thinking I can live life without you. Amen.

Ephesians passages taken from The Message (The Bible in Contemporary Language) by Eugene Peterson.