

Grace Family,

As we have been battling fires around California for the last month, we ask you to spend this week praying for our firefighters and reflecting on the implications of God's truth on their work. This prayer guide was provided by Crosswalk and we hope that it would be an encouragement to you and those you pray for in the days to come. Meditate on God's word and allow this to be a guide to greater intimacy as you intercede on behalf of those who place themselves in harm's way.

In Christ Alone,  
Pastor Bryan

A Prayer for Our Brave Firefighters

Father,

Praise You, loving and merciful Father, for the power of prayer. Christ's sacrifice on the cross allowed the floodgates of prayer to open reciprocally. Praise Jesus for coming down to earth to grant us an audience with You. Through prayer, we can take what otherwise leaves us helpless and lift up an anthem of heartbreak and suffering into your hands. Firefighters face the impossible every day. We cannot go before them as they walk into the fire, but we can call upon You to release a blanket of protection upon them as they face what most only see in the news. Through prayer and praise, we find peace that surpasses all understanding. *"When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy." Psalm 94:19.*

Father, we thank You for those that have answered the call to be firefighters. What terrifies most emboldens them to serve their fellow men. Today, we are grateful for their courage and fortitude. We are thankful for the hard work they dedicate to the safety of others, and the sacrifices they and their families make as they fight for our safety. May the truth of Habakkuk 3:19 encourage the hearts of firefighters everywhere, today and always: *"God, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's, he makes me tread on my high places."*

Forgive us for taking the sirens that surround us for granted, for the fire engines we pull over for and then return to our daily routine right after they pass. Remind us to lift them up in prayer as they pass by. They, and all those who serve our country abroad and at home, require a strength that comes from the Lord. *"The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2.*

Bravery in the face of fear requires a courage the average person cannot muster completely on their own accord. During the moments before they arrive on the scene of a fire, bring this reminder to their hearts. Help firefighters to trust in You when they are afraid. *(Psalm 56:3)* Give them courage in the midst of shock, destruction, and death. Comfort their hearts as they witness what we do not see. Guard their hearts with Your love and compassion, for the images that mark their hearts are haunting. Firefighters answer the call to "be strong and courageous, and do the work." Bless them to be reminded that they need *"not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished." 1 Chronicles 28:20.* Allow them to feel Your presence until the last ember cools.

Father, You ensure us that we may come to you when we are weary with heavy burdens and that You will give us rest. *(Matthew 11:28)* Christ never leaves us, even when we're surrounded by charred landscape and lost dreams. Sometimes, a loss of life here on earth. During those exhausting moments, strengthen our firefighters

and renew their hope. When we lack the words to uplift their downtrodden and tired souls, remind them: *“He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.” Isaiah 40:29*

We know we can cast our anxiety on You, and that You care for us. (*1 Peter 5:6-7*) Our flesh will fail . . . but You, God, never will. (*Psalms 73:26*) When strength fails our firefighters physically, emotionally, and spiritually, help them to be strong. *Ephesians 6:10* says, *“be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”* This is the blessing we pray over our firefighters today. Keep them physically safe, and guard their hearts and minds as they report to work. May they know without a shadow of a doubt that You love them immensely. Help us to remember these brave men and women in our prayers on a daily basis, and the families and friends that support and love them, too. As they face the impossible task of taming the destructive nature of fire, bless them to know their efforts are never in vain or forgotten.

In Jesus' name, Amen.