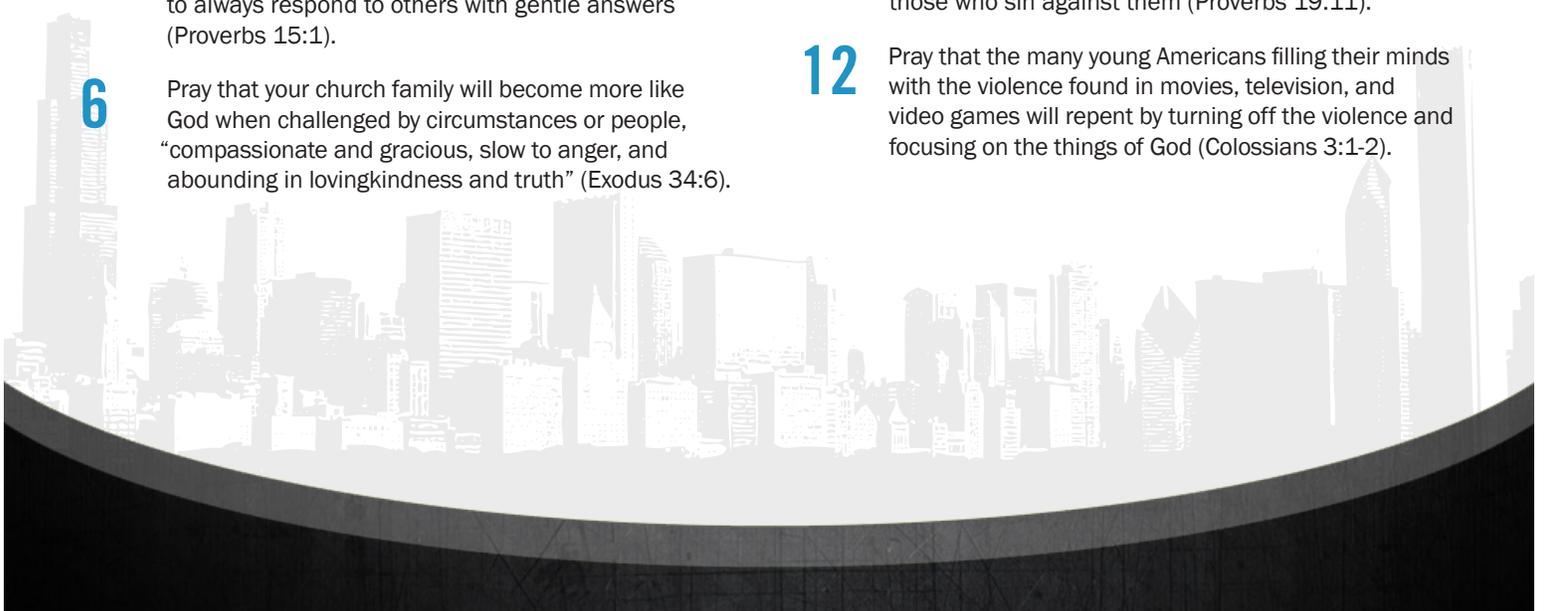


## PRAYING AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF ANGER AND VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Behold, the wicked bend the bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string to shoot in darkness at the upright in heart. . . . The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men. The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked, **and the one who loves violence His soul hates** (Psalm 11:2, 4-5 NASB).

- 1 With the unprecedented number of shootings currently taking place in schools, churches, and public venues across America, please join together in praying that God will graciously deliver us from the evil behind these violent outbursts (Matthew 6:13).
- 2 Pray that those who are thinking about or planning to “shoot in darkness at the upright in heart” will quickly come to understand that God hates the souls of those who love violence. Pray that they will then repent of their wicked plans (Psalm 11:2, 5).
- 3 Knowing that at this very moment God may be testing both the wicked and the righteous individuals living within your community, pray that all those who are under God's examining eyes will pass their tests by turning away from violence (Psalm 11:4).
- 4 For those you know who may have been hurt by others, pray that they will turn away from the thought of taking vengeance into their own hands and trust God to bring to pass that which is just and right in the lives of their offenders (Romans 12:19).
- 5 Pray that your church's staff and members will consistently stay away from the use of harsh words, the kind that stir up anger. Pray also that they will purpose at home, work, school, or the market place to always respond to others with gentle answers (Proverbs 15:1).
- 6 Pray that your church family will become more like God when challenged by circumstances or people, “compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth” (Exodus 34:6).
- 7 During the days of Noah, the corruption of man filled the earth with violence (Genesis 6:12-13). Since the last days will be just like the days of Noah (Matthew 24:37), pray that the church will be prepared to face violence while turning away from its practice.
- 8 Pray that those who are planning to commit violent crimes, thinking they can do so without facing any type of personal consequences, will quickly be brought to understand that “the merciful man does himself good, but the cruel man does himself harm” (Proverbs 11:17).
- 9 Pray that the members of your congregation will purpose not to be quick-tempered but will instead demonstrate their spiritual maturity by always being “slow to anger” (Proverbs 14:29).
- 10 If you know individuals who worry a lot and continually resort to anger in order to control life's constantly changing circumstances, pray that they will heed the pointed counsel of the Psalmist by ceasing from anger, forsaking wrath, and not fretting (Psalm 37:8).
- 11 Seeing in Scripture that discretion enables a man to be slow to anger, pray for the church and political leaders of our nation to be wise in dealing with others and to experience the grace needed to forgive those who sin against them (Proverbs 19:11).
- 12 Pray that the many young Americans filling their minds with the violence found in movies, television, and video games will repent by turning off the violence and focusing on the things of God (Colossians 3:1-2).



- 13** Pray that Christian students in America will be protected from developing attitudes of anger by heeding God's counsel: "Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-tempered man, or you will learn his ways and find a snare for yourself" (Proverbs 22:24-25).
- 14** Knowing that the devil comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10), ask God to reclaim all the spiritual ground through which the devil has gained access to plant violent thoughts and plans in the minds of those who are being oppressed by him (Ephesians 4:27).
- 15** With many relationships in congregations having been strained by circumstances involving anger and sin, pray that those who have hurt others will "leave [their] offering there before the altar" and do whatever is necessary to be reconciled with their brothers and sisters (Matthew 5:23-24).
- 16** Knowing that an action filled with anger or violence is always a choice, pray that your church family will always choose to put aside "anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech" (Colossians 3:8).
- 17** Knowing that one's words can cause great hurt "like the thrusts of a sword," pray that your church family will use conversations wisely, to bring healing into the midst of strained relationships (Proverbs 12:18).
- 18** While suffering can be expected in the life of a Christian, pray that no one from your church family will suffer "as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler" (1 Peter 4:15).
- 19** Believing that violent games and programs can cause a person to stumble in their thoughts and actions, pray that those who are creating, producing, marketing, and distributing these types of entertainment will repent and begin to produce spiritually wholesome content (Luke 17:1-2).
- 20** Pray that Christians throughout America will remember that "everyone who hates his brother is a murderer" and that this type of sin is not to be found in the life of a genuine believer (1 John 3:15).
- 21** With many families failing to open God's Word, and with the Ten Commandments no longer present in our public schools, pray that our nation's awareness that murder is a sin against both God and man will be clearly understood by all (Exodus 20:13).
- 22** Pray that the fathers within your church family will not provoke their children to anger but will "bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).
- 23** Pray that those around you who are often hot-tempered and quick to stir up strife will repent and learn that being "slow to anger calms a dispute" (Proverbs 15:18).
- 24** Knowing that oppressive, spiritual dangers can be experienced by Christians who fail to repent of inappropriate, self-generated anger, pray that believers all over the nation will be diligent in not letting the sun go down on their anger (Ephesians 4:26-27).
- 25** Knowing that evil thoughts and murder come out of a person's heart (Matthew 15:19), pray that hearts all over America will be drawn to Jesus to be forever changed and filled with His Holy Spirit.
- 26** Realizing that a foolish person's anger is "known at once," pray that the members of your church family will act wisely by refusing to make provocative or dishonorable comments or gestures (Proverbs 12:16).
- 27** Knowing that "the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God," pray that everyone in your church family will be "quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger" (James 1:19-20).
- 28** Pray that Christians will "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away" from their lives, "along with all malice" (Ephesians 4:31).
- 29** Since repeated acts of unrestrained anger are guaranteed to produce strife, pray that those from your church family who fall into this trap of aggressiveness will quickly repent and be moved by God to release the self-justified anger that is controlling them (Proverbs 30:33).
- 30** Pray that Christians all over the nation will trust God to give them the power to repent from strife, outbursts of anger, and every other sin that fails to reflect the character of God and the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:19-23).
- 31** Understanding through God's Word that "childhood and the prime of life are fleeting," pray that those who are allowing the pain of grief and anger to control their lives will receive God's grace and lay aside all the thoughts keeping their hearts locked away in pain (Ecclesiastes 11:10).