

Personal and Corporate Intercessory Prayer

Engaging in God-focused, Scripture-centered, Promise-driven prayer

1. Personal Intercessory Prayer: God is our model. As we love and follow Him, He grows us into His image. Isaiah 59. **Intercession = Intervention.** Righteousness, salvation, vengeance.

Spirit of God: Raises up a standard. God is a Redeemer. He makes covenant with those who turn from sin.

2. Key to Intercessory Prayer: God's Word. God will fulfill the promises in His Word! John 15:7

- **Relationship:** We can intercede because we are sons and heirs of God. *Romans 8:15-17*

- **God's will: In His Word** "Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens." *Psalm 119:89*

- **We pray according to the promises in God's Word.** *Ps 119: 1-2, 11, 89-90; 2 Tim 3:16, Heb 4:12*

- **"It is written..."** - Jesus proclaimed God's word when tempted in wilderness Luke 4:4, 8, 12

3. Key to Intercessory Prayer: God's Spirit. God reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit as we grow in Him.

- God acts on behalf of those who waits for Him. 1 Corinthians 2:9a / Isaiah 64:4
- God reveals Himself through the Holy Spirit. "Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit" Romans 8:16

4. Priority of Prayer: First of all, Pray all kinds of prayers for all people 1 Timothy 2:1-4

- Petitions:** Request with a deep sense of spiritual need, Specific needs directed toward God
- Prayers:** All types of prayers to God, general requests or specific petitions.
- Thanksgiving:** Gratitude for blessings or benefits, Praying with a thankful heart
- Intercessions: Intervention** led by God, **intersection between heaven and earth.** Prayer that "hits the mark", reflecting the Lord's specific will. Standing before God and between God and others, as a friend approaching a king with an intimate petition

5. Pictures of Intercession from God's Word

Loved by Jesus: Drawing near to Him and hearing what's on His heart. John 13:23-25

Praying with Jesus: With Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36-38

6. Character Qualities of an Intercessor:

Humble and **Contrite** Psalm 51:17 Isaiah 66:1-2 Psalm 10:17 Psalm 37:11

Humility: A freedom from arrogance that grows out of the recognition that all we have and are comes from God. A humble person, then, focuses more on God and others than on himself.

Contrite: "The kind of spirit, or heart, pleasing and acceptable to God. (Ps. 34:18, Ps. 51:17). Person with a contrite spirit weeps over wrongdoing / expresses genuine sorrow for his sin." Vines Expository Dictionary

7. Hindrances to Prayer - Doing things man's way

Don't Pray Like:

- A **hypocrite. To be seen by men** Matthew. 6:5
- A **pagan:** Thinking we will be heard for much speaking. Matthew 6:7

Don't:

- Have **unconfessed sin** in our hearts. Psalm 66:18
- **Fail to Ask or ask with wrong motives,** to consume it on our lusts. James 4:2-3

People who do not pray will always be disoriented to the activity of God – Pastor Mel Blackaby

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8. Intercessory Prayer: Impact of Praying People

Jesus	<p>Luke 3:21-22 Jesus’s Baptism: While He was praying, heaven opened.</p> <p>Luke 5:15-16 Slipped away to pray in wilderness even when multitudes were there.</p> <p>Luke 6:12-16 Prays all night before choosing disciples.</p> <p>Luke 22:39-46 Prays with disciples at Garden of Gethsemane.</p> <p>Luke 23:46 Prays on the cross, “Father in Thy hands I commit my spirit.”</p> <p>Luke 24:50 Blesses men on road to Emmaus.</p>
Paul	<p>Colossians 1:9-14... We have not ceased to pray that you would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and under-standing, walk worthy of the Lord, to please {Him}... bearing fruit in every good work, increasing in knowledge of God; strengthened with all power according to His might</p> <p>Ephesians 1:15-23 ... I don’t cease giving thanks for you, praying for a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him... eyes of your heart enlightened, know hope of His calling, and riches of glory of His inheritance in the saints, and greatness of His power toward us who believe</p> <p>Ephesians 3:14-21 Ask that God would grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; rooted and grounded in love, comprehend breadth and length and height and depth, know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, filled up to all the fulness of God.</p>
Elijah	<p>James. 5:16b-18: “The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Elijah was a man like us. He prayed and it didn’t rain, then he prayed and it rained.</p>
Corinthians	<p>2 Corinthians 1:11: “And you are helping us by praying for us. Then many people will give thanks because God has graciously answered so many prayers... “</p>
Epaphras	<p>Colossians. 4:12: “Epaphras .. always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God.”</p>

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Corporate Intercessory Prayer: God's People Praying Together - Matthew 18:19

We can't accomplish all God has for His people by praying alone.

1. Praying Together: When Jesus taught on prayer, 33 out of 37 times He did so in the plural”¹

Examples: Acts 1:14, 1:24, 2:42, 3:1, 4:23-31

¹“*And the Place was Shaken,*” pp 181-188 Pastor John Franklin, 2005, Broadman and Holman Publishers.

“Effective corporate prayer is **shining the light of God's word and Spirit on a given topic**. When we see the refracted light that comes from offering prayer on a given topic, God, the “Master Jeweler,” gives us **glimpses of His glory as we gaze on Him together**.

As we **pray and listen together, focused on God's Word and character, the “brilliance” and wisdom of His revelation** can give us an awareness of God's will, purposes and ways that we can discern and respond to.”

Thomas Bush

2. Corporate Intercessory Prayer: Leadership: A prayer group is most effective with a designated leader.

This allows the leader to plan and facilitate the prayer time and allows others to participate well.

“Again I say to you, that if **two believers on earth agree** [that is, are of one mind, in harmony] **about anything that they ask [within the will of God]**, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.” Matt 18:19 AMP

3. Corporate Intercessory Prayer Group Dynamics - Use spiritual “brainstorming” approach.

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| a. Follow the leader. Focus on current topic. | d. Pray briefly enough so that all can participate. |
| b. Pray together as team, not as individuals. | e. Pray loudly enough so all can hear, agree and be edified. |
| c. Prayer focus: God's word and His character. | f. Pray with humility . We can always pray, Lord reveal "truth, wisdom, insight," about what we are praying about. |

4. Agreement in Prayer: We pray in agreement with the topic and the scriptures the Lord reveals to us. As **instruments of a great concert** under the direction of a concert master, so **the Holy Spirit blends together the lives of members of Christ's church.**” (Greek Lexicon)

The Harmony of Praying Together: “*The moment we unite in prayer we become a symphony. As such we blend together in unity respecting the fact that we represent all of Christ's body.*” Dick Eastman

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5. Corporate Prayer Activities – Praying to God

a. Ask: For some needs we simply ask for what is needed	<i>2 Samuel 5: 19, 23 Ps 2:8, 27:4</i>
b. Seek: When we don't know what to do, we seek God for answers	<i>Matthew 7:7, Is 55:6-9</i>
c. Knock: Sometimes we persist in prayer to receive God's answers	<i>Matthew 7:7, Luke 18:1, 5-8</i>
d. Intercede: Intervention led by God, intersection between heaven and earth. Prayer that " hits the mark ", reflecting the Lord's specific will. Standing before God and between God and others, as a friend approaching a king with an intimate petition.	<i>James 5:16</i>
e. Remove Obstacles: "Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.	<i>Isaiah 57:14-15</i>

6. Listening to God and Each Other

1. Listen: Listen to the Lord for what to pray , listen to each other as we pray , listen to the Holy Spirit's response to our prayers	<i>Psalms 81:8-14</i>
2. Hear: Hear the Holy Spirit response to our prayers. What themes is the Holy Spirit highlighting? Is what I hear consistent with God's Word and character? Does it enhance relationship with God and His people?	<i>John 10:27</i> <i>James 1:19</i> <i>Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29. 3:6, 13, 22</i>
3. Obey/Be prepared to act: Be ready to do what God reveals when we pray. Be available to God to be an answer to our prayers. Watch expectantly for God to reveal His answers.	<i>John 10:27</i> <i>Philippians 2:13</i> <i>James 1:22-25</i>

7. After prayer, reflect:

- **How do we respond to what God revealed** during corporate prayer?
- **What promises are we expecting God to fulfill** because we prayed?