

You might be an intercessor if.

by Larry Smith — Pray Big Ministries — 7/08/03/03

The intercessor test

You might be an intercessor if:

- 1. You wake up unexpectedly in the night, you fall to your knees and seek the Lord, asking Him to show you what His prayer assignment is for you.
- 2. You are awakened in the middle of the night, as God is calling your name. You reply "Speak Lord, for your servant hears."
- 3. You pray and fast 40 days at a time, crying out for a nation.
- 4. You pray and fast 21 days for a nation and an angel appears and begins to talk to you.
- 5. You have prayed for others *when* asked.
- 6. You have prayed for others even when *not* asked.
- 7. You would rather be in your prayer closet than anywhere else.
- 8. You gather together with others, stay up late into the night and pray for a friend who is in jail.
- 9. Kings, presidents and governors seek you out for prayer.
- 10. You have seen God answer specific prayers immediately.
- 11. You have the gift of healing with just a touch.
- 12. You cast out demons with just a word.
- 13. You ask God to kill you in order to spare a sinful group of people.
- 14. If you were to be tortured and put to death, you would probably pray for those who are trying to kill you.
- 15. You are a Christian.

Almost all of the stories above are from stories in scripture. Can you identify them? What is intercessory prayer? Who is an intercessor? How do you know if you are one? If you answered "yes" to any of the above questions you are called to be an intercessor.

Definitions:

Intercede. To mediate: to interpose; to intervene between contending parties with a view to reconciling them. To plead or make a request in favor of another or others.

Intercession. To come or go between, intercede. The act of interceding. Prayer or pleading in behalf of another or others, or sometimes against another.

Dépreca'ti/ó -ó'nis f. - averting by prayer. Latin.

Intercessory prayer: the highest calling in prayer.

I believe intercessory prayer is the highest calling believers can have in prayer. Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah, Joshua, Aaron, Elijah, Job, Samuel, Jeremiah, Zachariah and Jesus were all men of prayer. Men who interceded for others.

In praying for the needs of others we serve others. In serving others we become more Christ-like. Jesus came to serve. Intercession is the prayer that Jesus was called to. In John 17, Jesus models intercessory prayer. He prays for His disciples and for us. In Luke 22, when Satan came and asked permission to sift Peter as wheat, Jesus prayed for Peter. As Jesus hung on the cross He interceded for those who were crucifying Him.

After Jesus ascended into heaven to be with His Father, He sat at the right hand of God interceding for us. Even now, Jesus lives to make intercession for His followers — presenting our prayer requests to the Father.

Jesus is the perfect High Priest, who has been consecrated forever, and who makes sacrifices for us. Jesus intercedes for us and He has given us the Holy Spirit. He is our Helper who intercedes for us and helps show us how to pray.

Throughout God's Word we are instructed to pray for the needs of others; to stand in the gap. God is looking for intercessors. Are you called to be one?

Jesus came to serve.

Matthew 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

Matthew 23:11 The greatest among you will be your servant.

Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father making intercession for us.

Mark 16:19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Luke 20:42,43 ⁴² And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ⁴³ Till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Acts 2:32-35 ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. ³⁴ For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ³⁵ Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

Hebrews 7:25, 26 ²⁵ Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. ²⁶ For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Hebrews 1:8-13 ⁸ But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. ¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: ¹¹ They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; ¹² And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail. ¹³ But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Luke 22:69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

The Holy Spirit helps us pray, making intercession for us according to God's will.

Romans 8:26,27 ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Intercession

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and **made intercession for the transgressors.**

Jeremiah 7:16 Therefore **pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.**

Jeremiah 27:18 **But if they be prophets, and if the word of the LORD be with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, and in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, go not to Babylon.**

Jeremiah 36:25 Nevertheless **Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king** that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.

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Romans 11:2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? **how he maketh intercession to God** against Israel, saying,

1 Timothy 2:1,2 ¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone — ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Hebrews 7:24-28 ²⁴ But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. ²⁵ **Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.** ²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

1 John 5:11-15 ¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³ These things have I **written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God;** that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. ¹⁴ **And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:** ¹⁵ **And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.**

God looks for intercessors

Isaiah 59:16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

Intercessory prayers in the Bible.

Samuel saaid that it would be a sin for him not to pray for the people.

1 Samuel 12:19-25 ¹⁹ And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king. ²⁰ And Samuel said unto the people, Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; ²¹ And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain. ²² For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people. ²³ **Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:** but I will teach you the good and the right way: ²⁴ Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. ²⁵ But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

One intercessor can save a city. Was God looking for intercessors at Sodom and Gomorrah?

Genesis 18:20-33 ²⁰ And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; ²¹ I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? ²⁵ That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? ²⁶ And the LORD said, **If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city,** then I will spare all the place for their sakes. ²⁷ And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: ²⁸ Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. ²⁹ And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. ³⁰ And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. ³¹ And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake. ³² And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. **And he said, I will not destroy it for ten's sake.** ³³ And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

God looked for one man to stand in the gap and to pray for the land of Israel, yet He found not one, so He poured out His indignation on them.

Ezekiel 22:23-31 ²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest

gain.²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully.³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

Moses cried out to God to not destroy the children of Israel. God changed His mind.

Exodus 32:5-14⁵ Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD."⁶ So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.⁷ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."⁸ "They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people."¹⁰ "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."¹¹ Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why doth Thine anger burn against Thy people whom Thou hast brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"¹² "Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth? Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about doing harm to Thy people."¹³ "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Thy servants to whom Thou didst swear by Thyself, and didst say to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"¹⁴ So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

After David had sinned by taking a census, he cried out to God to save the children of Israel.

2 Samuel 24:10-25¹⁰ David was conscience-stricken after he had counted the fighting men, and he said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, O LORD, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."¹¹ Before David got up the next morning, the word of the LORD had come to Gad the prophet, David's seer:¹² "Go and tell David, 'This is what the LORD says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"¹³ So Gad went to David and said to him, "Shall there come upon you three years of famine in your land? Or three months of fleeing from your enemies while they pursue you? Or three days of plague in your land? Now then, think it over and decide how I should answer the one who sent me."¹⁴ David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let us fall into the hands of the LORD, for his mercy is great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men."¹⁵ So the LORD sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died.¹⁶ When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.¹⁷ When David saw the angel who was striking down the people, he said to the LORD, "I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? Let your hand fall upon me and my family."¹⁸ On that day Gad went to David and said to him, "Go up and build an altar to the LORD on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite."¹⁹ So David went up, as the LORD had commanded through Gad.²⁰ When Araunah looked and saw the king and his men coming toward him, he went out and bowed down before the king with his face to the ground.²¹ Araunah said, "Why has my lord the king come to his servant?" "To buy your threshing floor," David answered, "so I can build an altar to the LORD, that the plague on the people may be stopped."²² Araunah said to David, "Let my lord the king take whatever pleases him and offer it up. Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and here are threshing sledges and ox yokes for the wood."²³ O king, Araunah gives all this to the king." Araunah also said to him, "May the LORD your God accept you."²⁴ But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them.²⁵ David built an altar to the LORD there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then the LORD answered prayer in behalf of the land, and the plague on Israel was stopped.

The prophet Amos prayed and God changed His mind.

Amos 7:1-3¹ Thus the Lord GOD showed me, and behold, He was forming a locust-swarm when the spring crop began to sprout. And behold, the spring crop was after the king's mowing.² And it came about, when it had finished eating the vegetation of the land, that I said, "Lord GOD, please pardon! How can Jacob stand, For he is small?"³ The LORD changed His mind about this. "It shall not be," said the LORD.

Daniel's prayer of intercession for Israel.

Daniel 9:2-27² In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.³ And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:⁴ And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;⁵ We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:⁶ Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.⁷ O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.⁸ O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.⁹ To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;¹⁰ Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.¹¹ Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.¹² And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.¹³ As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.¹⁴ Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.¹⁵ And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.¹⁶ O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.¹⁷ Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.¹⁸ O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses,

but for thy great mercies. ¹⁹ O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. ²⁰ And while I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God; ²¹ Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation. ²² And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. ²³ At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. ²⁴ Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. ²⁵ Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. ²⁶ And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. ²⁷ And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Nehemiah's prayer of intercession for Israel.

Nehemiah 1:3-11 ³ And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. ⁴ And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven, ⁵ And said, I beseech thee, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God, that keepeth covenant and mercy for them that love him and observe his commandments: ⁶ Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned. ⁷ We have dealt very corruptly against thee, and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the judgments, which thou commandedst thy servant Moses. ⁸ Remember, I beseech thee, the word that thou commandedst thy servant Moses, saying, If ye transgress, I will scatter you abroad among the nations ⁹ But if ye turn unto me, and keep my commandments, and do them; though there were of you cast out unto the uttermost part of the heaven, yet will I gather them from thence, and will bring them unto the place that I have chosen to set my name there. ¹⁰ Now these are thy servants and thy people, whom thou hast redeemed by thy great power, and by thy strong hand. ¹¹ O Lord, I beseech thee, let now thine ear be attentive to the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants, who desire to fear thy name; and prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day, and grant him mercy in the sight of this man. For I was the king's cupbearer.

Hezekiah's prayer of intercession for Israel.

Isaiah 37:14-38 ¹⁴ And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up unto the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. ¹⁵ And Hezekiah prayed unto the LORD, saying, ¹⁶ O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. ¹⁷ Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God. ¹⁸ Of a truth, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations, and their countries, ¹⁹ And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them. ²⁰ Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only. ²¹ Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent unto Hezekiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Whereas thou hast prayed to me against Sennacherib king of Assyria: ²² This is the word which the LORD hath spoken concerning him; The virgin, the daughter of Zion, hath despised thee, and laughed thee to scorn; the daughter of Jerusalem hath shaken her head at thee. ²³ Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel. ²⁴ By thy servants hast thou reproached the Lord, and hast said, By the multitude of my chariots am I come up to the height of the mountains, to the sides of Lebanon; and I will cut down the tall cedars thereof, and the choice fir trees thereof: and I will enter into the height of his border, and the forest of his Carmel. ²⁵ I have digged, and drunk water; and with the sole of my feet have I dried up all the rivers of the besieged places. ²⁶ Hast thou not heard long ago, how I have done it; and of ancient times, that I have formed it? now have I brought it to pass, that thou shouldst be to lay waste defenced cities into ruinous heaps. ²⁷ Therefore their inhabitants were of small power, they were dismayed and confounded: they were as the grass of the field, and as the green herb, as the grass on the housetops, and as corn blasted before it be grown up. ²⁸ But I know thy abode, and thy going out, and thy coming in, and thy rage against me. ²⁹ Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest. ³⁰ And this shall be a sign unto thee, Ye shall eat this year such as groweth of itself; and the second year that which springeth of the same: and in the third year sow ye, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat the fruit thereof. ³¹ And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. ³² For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this. ³³ Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. ³⁴ By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. ³⁵ For I will defend this city to save it for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake. ³⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went forth, and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold, they were all dead corpses. ³⁷ So Sennacherib king of Assyria departed, and went and returned, and dwelt at Nineveh. ³⁸ And it came to pass, as he was worshipping in the house of Nisroch his god, that Adrammelech and Sharezer his sons smote him with the sword; and they escaped into the land of Armenia: and Esar-haddon his son reigned in his stead.

The people of Nineveh cried out to God — God relented from His judgement and did not destroy them.

Jonah 3:4-10 ³ On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ⁶ When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. ⁷ Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. ⁸ But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. ⁹ Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish." ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

God told Jeremiah the prophet that He could use any means to accomplish His plans.

Jeremiah 18:5-8 ⁵ Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, ⁶ "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel. ⁷ "At one moment I might speak concerning a nation or concerning a kingdom to uproot, to pull down, or to destroy it; ⁸ if that nation against which I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent concerning the calamity I planned to bring on it.

Jesus' priestly prayer of intercession for his followers.

John 17 ¹ These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ² As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. ³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. ⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. ⁶ I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. ⁸ For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. ⁹ I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. ¹⁰ And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. ¹⁸ As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. ²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. ²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. ²⁴ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. ²⁶ And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Jesus' prayer for Peter when Satan asked to sift Peter like wheat.

Luke 22:31,32 ³¹“ Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; ³² but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

Jesus prayed forgiveness for those who were crucifying Him.

Luke 23:33,34 ³³ When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals — one on his right, the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Church members pray for Peter while he is in jail.

Acts 12:4 After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. ⁵ So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. ⁶ The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. ⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. “Quick, get up!” he said, and the chains fell off Peter’s wrists. ⁸ Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” And Peter did so. “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me,” the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. ¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating.” ¹² When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. ¹³ Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. ¹⁴ When she recognized Peter’s voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!” ¹⁵ “You’re out of your mind,” they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, “It must be his angel.” ¹⁶ But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. ¹⁷ Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. “Tell James and the brothers about this,” he said, and then he left for another place.

How did the New Testament writers pray (intercede) for others?

Matthew 6:13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’

- Pray that you would not be lead into temptation.
 - Pray for deliverance from the evil one.
-

Luke 6:28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

- Pray blessings for those who curse or mistreat you.
-

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak

- Pray that you and others would not fall into temptation.
-

John 17:15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

- Pray for protection for you and others from the evil one.
-

2 Corinthians 13:7 Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

- **Pray that you will not do anything wrong.**
-

Ephesians 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

- **Pray that the eyes of your heart will be enlightened.**
 - **Pray that you would know the hope to which He has called you.**
-

Ephesians 3:16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

- **Pray that others will be strengthened with God's power through the Holy Spirit.**
-

Ephesians 3:17,18 ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

- **Pray that our Christ would dwell in your hearts through faith.**
 - **Pray that you would be rooted and established in love.**
 - **Pray that others would pray in the Spirit on all occasions.**
 - **Pray that others would make all kinds of prayers and requests.**
 - **Pray that we would be alert and keep praying for all the saints.**
-

Philippians 1:4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

- **Pray with joy for others.**
-

Colossians 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

- **Pray giving thanks to God when you are praying for others.**
-

Colossians 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

- **Pray without ceasing.**
 - **Pray for God to fill others with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
-

Colossians 1:10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

- **Pray that others would live a life worthy of the Lord.**
 - **Pray for lives that would be pleasing to Him.**
 - **Pray for lives that would be bearing fruit.**
 - **Pray for lives that would be growing in the knowledge of Him.**
-

1Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually;

- **Pray continually.**
-

2Thessalonians 1:11,12 ¹¹ With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. ¹² We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Pray constantly for others.**
 - **Pray that God would count you worthy of His calling.**
 - **Pray that by God's power He would fulfill every good purpose of yours.**
 - **Pray that by God's power He would fulfill every act prompted by your faith.**
 - **Pray that Jesus would be glorified in your life — by God's grace.**
-

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.

- Pray for others.
 - Pray that the message of Jesus would spread rapidly.
 - Pray that the message of Jesus would be honored.
-

Philemon 4-6 ⁴ I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints. ⁶ I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

- Remember others in your prayers.
 - Pray that you would be active in sharing your faith.
-

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

- Confess sins to each other.
 - Pray for healing for one another.
-

3 John 2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

- Pray for good health.
-

Jude 20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

- Pray in the Holy Spirit.
-

Acts 10:4 Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, Lord?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

- Pray for the poor.
-

1 Timothy 2:1 I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone —

- Pray for everyone.
-

Hebrews 5:7 During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

- Pray with passion — tears and loud cries to God.
 - Pray in reverent submission.
-

Other prayer thoughts.

Revelation 5:8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- Kneel before the Lamb.
 - Worship/Sing when you pray. (Harp)
-

Pray God's promises for others. The spoken word is powerful.

God's Word is full of promises He has made to those who love Him. Ask God through prayer, to fulfill what He has promised. Take comfort in His Holy Word. God is not a man that He should lie.

Answered prayer.

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. ¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 16:24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

1John 5:14,15 ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: ¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Provision

Matthew 6:25-33 ²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack; but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Psalms 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Prosperity/success

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

Psalms 1:1-3 ¹ Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Peace

Philippians 4:6, 7 ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Everlasting Life

John 3:16,17 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** ¹⁷ For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name:

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.**

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1 John 5:11-13 ¹¹ And this is the record, that **God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.** ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.

Wisdom

James 1:5-7 ⁵ **If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.** ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷ For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

Deliverance

Psalms 41:1,2 ¹ Blessed is he that considereth the poor: **the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.** ² The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies.

Long life

Ephesians 6:1-3 ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. ² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) ³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Overcoming fear

Psalms 23:4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;** thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

2 Timothy 1:7 For **God hath not given us the spirit of fear;** but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Hebrews 13:6 So that we may boldly say, **The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.**

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

1 John 4:18 **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment.** He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

Fellowship with God

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

Faith (ask God for faith)

Ephesians 2:8 For by **grace are ye saved through faith;** and that not of yourselves: **it is the gift of God:**

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;** who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Direction

Proverbs 3:5,6 **Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.** **In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

Guidance

Joshua 1:8 **This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth;** but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for **then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

Psalms 119:104,105 ¹⁰⁴ Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵ **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.**

Psalms 32:8 **I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.**

Protection

Psalms 32:7 **Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.** Selah.

Psalms 23:1-6 ¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. ⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.** ⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalms 121:7 **The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.**

Matthew 6:13 And **lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

John 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest **keep them from the evil.**

Strength

Philippians 4:12,13 ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ **I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

Psalms 27:14 **Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and **he shall strengthen thine heart:** wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40:29 He **giveth power to the faint;** and to them that have no might **he increaseth strength.**

Isaiah 40:31 **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength;** they shall mount up with wings as eagles; **they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.**

Ephesians 6:10,11 ¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.** ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Power

Mark 2:10 But that ye may know that **the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,** (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)

Mark 3:13-15 ¹³ And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him. ¹⁴ And **he ordained twelve,** that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, ¹⁵ **And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:**

Mark 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and **gave them power over unclean spirits;**

John 1:12 But as many as received him, **to them gave he power to become the sons of God,** even to them that believe on his name:

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do;** because I go unto my Father.

Comfort

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: **for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.**

Isaiah 61:1 **The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;**

Jeremiah 29:11-13 ¹¹ **For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.** ¹² Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. ¹³ And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Matthew 5:4 **Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.**

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸ **Come unto me,** all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I will give you rest.** ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Psalms 27:14 **Wait on the LORD:** be of good courage, and **he shall strengthen thine heart: wait,** I say, on the LORD.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57 ⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:6,7 ⁶ Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: ⁷ **Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.**

Revelation 21:3,4 ³ And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴ **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.**

Companionship

Deuteronomy 4:30,31 ³⁰ When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; ³¹ (For the LORD thy God is a merciful God;) **he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.**

Revelation 3:20,21 ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he will with me.** ²¹ **To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne,** even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Matthew 18:19,20 ¹⁹ Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. ²⁰ **For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

Matthew 28:19,20 ¹⁹ **Go ye therefore,** and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.** Amen.

Why intercede for others?

- We are called to be like Jesus — He is interceding for us right now.
- Jesus told us to teach and do all things that He had done. (Matthew 28)

Who should we intercede for?

• The lost

Matthew 9:38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

• The hurting

• The sick

Matthew 25:34-36 ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

• The hungry

Matthew 25:34-36 ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

Isaiah 58:6,7 ⁶ “Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke? ⁷ “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

• The poor

Psalms 82:3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

• The widow

Isaiah 1:17 Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Psalms 68:5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

• The orphan

Psalms 68:5 Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

• The fatherless

Psalms 82:3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

• The weak

• The homeless

Isaiah 58:6,7 ⁶ “Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke? ⁷ “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

• The naked

Matthew 25:34-36 ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ ‘For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; ³⁶ naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’

• The stranger

Deuteronomy 10:17-19 ¹⁷ For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. ¹⁸ He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. ¹⁹ And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt.

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• The alien

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• The captives/prisoners

Psalms 146:7 Which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The LORD looseth the prisoners:

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Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

• The oppressed

Psalms 103:6 The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

Isaiah 58:6,7 ⁶ “Is this not the fast which I choose, To loosen the bonds of wickedness, To undo the bands of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke? ⁷ “Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry, And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?

- **Our family**

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; **your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son**, and you are to give him the name John.

- **Our neighbors**

Job 16:21 O that one might plead for a man with God, as **a man pleadeth for his neighbour!**

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt **love thy neighbour** as thyself.

- **Our enemies**

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and **pray for them** which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- **Those in authority**

1 Timothy 2:1-3 ¹ I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers, intercessions**, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; ² For **kings, and for all that are in authority**; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. ³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

Ezra 6:10 That they may offer sacrifices of sweet savours unto the God of heaven, and **pray for the life of the king, and of his sons.**

- **Cities**

Jeremiah 5:1 Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.

- **Jerusalem**

Psalms 122:6 **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem**: they shall prosper that love thee.

- **The nations**

Psalms 2:7,8 ⁷ "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, "Thou art My Son, Today I have begotten Thee. ⁸ **'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations** as Thine inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Thy possession.

Mark 13:10 "And **the gospel must first be preached to all the nations.**

What is needed for effective intercession?

- A heart that seeks to know God intimately
- A heart that is yielded to the lordship of Jesus Christ
- A passion for others
- Surrender
- A heart that seeks after the things of God
- A heart that desires to see God's will done here on earth
- A willingness to abide in God's Word
- A heart that longs to stay in the prayer closet
- A willing to be still
- A willingness to listen for the voice of God
- A willingness to ask God to reveal your sin to you, then confess and turn from your sin
- Unwavering faith in God

What will intercession cost you?

- Time
- Energy
- Sleep

- Money
- Self-pleasure
- Tears
- Emotion

What will intercession offer you?

- Closeness to God
- A renewed heart for the things of God
- A growing ability to hear God's voice
- Spiritual discipline
- Spiritual discernment
- Joy in serving the body
- Power as you yield to His strength
- The ability to see supernaturally (To see people and the world the way God sees them)
- The blessing of becoming Christ-like, as you pray for the needs of others
- An opportunity to be used by God
- Purpose

Suggested guidelines for a time of intercession

• **Before you start, find a quiet "secret" place where you will not be interrupted. Take your Bible, a globe, a list of people, places and nations that God has placed on your heart to pray for, plus a pen and some paper (notebook or journal) to write things that God brings to your mind as you pray.**

• **Start by coming into God's presence by praising and worshiping Him.**

Begin by praising, thanking God. Blessing His name. Try joyful singing or playing worship songs.

Psalm 100:0-5 ⁰ A Psalm for Thanksgiving. ¹ Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth. ² Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. ³ Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. ⁴ Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. ⁵ For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

• **Cleanse your heart by confession.**

Ask God to reveal any sin to you. Spend time confessing before you enter into supplication for others. Remember unconfessed sin separates us from God. Without confession, God will hide His face from us and not hear our prayers.

1 John 1:8-10 ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Psalm 51:7-11 ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸ Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Psalm 139:23,24 ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Isaiah 59:1,2 ¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

Psalm 103:11,12 ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

- **Ask God to speak to you. Be willing to be still and listen.**

Be still and wait for God to direct your thoughts. Ask Him to speak to you.

Psalm 37:7 Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.

Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

Numbers 9:8 Moses answered them, "Wait until I find out what the LORD commands concerning you."

Psalm 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

Psalm 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 37:34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

Psalm 38:15 I wait for you, O LORD; you will answer, O Lord my God.

Matthew 7:7-12 ⁷ "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! ¹² So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

- **Pray to God for that which He has shown you or placed on your heart.**

As God brings people, places and nations to your mind — begin praying for them. Ask God to bring to your mind scripture that you can use in your prayers.