

How to Pray for Others

Intercession - How to Pray for Others

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave Himself on the cross as intercessor for all men. Intercession is still His unceasing service and ministry to those who draw near to God through Him (Hebrews 7:25).

Next to worship, it is the highest form of service you can perform. "The greatest thing anyone can do for God and man is to pray. It is not the only thing, but it is the chief thing." (S.D. Gordon, Quiet Talks on Prayer.)

"Intercession is the link between man's impotence and God's omnipotence." – Andrew Murray

An intercessor is one with genuine concern for others, who stands in the gap between man and God making request before God or resisting the devil on man's behalf (Exodus 32:9-14; Psalm 106:23; Ezekiel 22:30,31; James 4:7,8).

As we come to God, we are requesting His hand to be moved on behalf of the person, nation, circumstance, and subject of our prayers. The enemy of men's souls is powerless against intercessory prayer.

We are directed by God's Word to intercede for others:

"First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

1. **Empathize** with those for whom you are praying.
2. Follow **scriptural prayer examples** as you intercede.
In the majority of Paul's prayers we see him praying specifically for the deepening and development of the spiritual character of those he loves rather than for the circumstances surrounding their lives. (See Ephesians 1:18- 20; 3:14-19; Philippians 1:9-11; Colossians 1:9-12). Our circumstances are constantly changing, but as our character develops, we will be *"perfect and complete, lacking nothing"* (James 1:4).
3. Pray for the **nations of the world**.
God desires all men to hear the truth of the gospel. *"Now bring us back to loving You, O Lord, so that Your anger will never need rise against us again. (Or: will You be always angry – on and on to distant*

generations?) Oh revive us! Then Your people can rejoice in You again. Pour out Your love and kindness on us, Lord, and grant us Your salvation. I am listening carefully to all the Lord is saying – for He speaks peace to His people, His saints, if they will only stop their sinning. Surely His salvation is near to those who reverence Him; our land will be filled with His glory” (Psalm 85:4-9, Living Bible).

- Pray that each government will allow Christians within the nation to freely share their faith (Psalm 33:12; Proverbs 14:34).
 - Specifically name those in positions of leadership as you pray (Proverbs 21:1; 29:2).
4. Pray for **events and circumstances** as well as for individuals. Use your daily newspaper and news-casts as sources for intercessory prayer.
 5. Claim the **supernatural resources of God to be released** in the lives of men and nations separated from God by unbelief and/or ignorance (Ephesians 6:10-20; Colossians 1:13,14). As God’s children, we have the responsibility to pray at all times and about all things (Luke 18:1,7).
 6. Pray for our **nation’s leaders** by name.

“I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil life in all godliness and dignity” (1 Timothy 2:2).

Federal Government Officials

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Defense
- Attorney General
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of Health & Human Services
- Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Veterans Affairs
- All Branches of the Armed Forces
- U.S. Supreme Court Justices

State Government Officials

Look up [www.state.\(two initials for your state\).us](http://www.state.(two initials for your state).us) to obtain names of your state officials.

Local Government Officials

Contact your local city hall to obtain names of your city officials.

Pray that our leaders will ...

- Seek guidance from God's Word (Romans 15:4).
- Honor God (Proverbs 3:6).
- Learn righteousness (Isaiah 26:9b).
- Be obedient to God's commandments (Matthew 8:20).
- Have teachable spirits (Psalm 2:10, 11).
- Be taught the way which is good and right (1 Samuel 12:23, 2 Samuel 23:3).
- Be full of the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3).
- Endeavor to restore families (Psalm 127, Ephesians 5:22-23).
- Be courageous and responsible to confront threats to the moral fabric of our nation (Isaiah 35:4, Romans 11:13-14).
- Have compassionate hearts for the poor and be charitable (Proverbs 29:14).
- Be kept from evil (John 17:15).
- Be faithful (Psalm 101:6).
- Be people of prayer (Luke 22:46).
- Humble themselves and lead us forth in the healing of our land (2 Chronicles 7:14).

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