

Why should I prayer for other people?

Session 3 on Prayer

Intercessory prayer involves praying to God on behalf of others. We have intimate and immediate access to God through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When we pray “in Jesus name” we trust in Jesus as our intercessor, the one who stands between us and the heavenly Father.

Intercession involves a notion of mediation which is difficult to understand when we trust that God is perfect and we are sinful. The roots of our intercession are nourished by the grace of Jesus.

1. Why do we trust that God will act on our behalf? (Romans 5:1-11)

2. Read John 17:6-19. The model of our intercessory prayer is Christ’s ministry.
 - a. For whom Does Jesus intercede? How does he emphasize this in verse 9?

 - b. In verses 11-12, what does Jesus say is about to happen? Why is he concerned?

 - c. How does Jesus use his name in verses 11-12?

 - d. What does Jesus pray for in verse 15 and 17?

3. Read John 17:20-26
 - a. For whom does Jesus intercede?

 - b. How does Jesus show intimacy for his followers in this prayer (vv. 21-23)?

 - c. What does God-given unity in the church mean for the church in this world? (v. 23)

- d. What work does Jesus promise to continue to do for us in v. 26?
4. Read Romans 8:31-39.
- a. What reassures you that no one can bring an accusation against you?

 - b. How does being in the love of Christ, shape your prayer life for other people

Christ was frequently rejected and still he continued to love the world. Christ “bore the sin of man and makes intercession for the transgressors” (Isaiah 53:12). A need for intercession implies that someone is in danger. Jesus’ intercessory prayer for you shows he sees your weakness and cares about you. Jesus kept his gaze upon those suffering. When we pray for others, we keep our gaze on those in need of love.

5. Read Matthew 8:5-13. What drew the centurion to seek help from Jesus?
6. Does intercessory prayer work? (2 Kings 19:14-19; Acts 12:5) What does it mean for prayer to work?
7. God can accomplish his plans for us and others even if we don’t intercede in prayer for that person. How do the following passages illustrate the purposes of praying for others?
- a. 2 Cor. 1:11

 - b. James 5:16-18

 - c. Philippians 1:18-21

 - d. Colossians 4:3-4
8. What happens to our love for others when we pray for their needs?
- a. Matthew 5:44-45

- b. Philippians 1:3-11
9. Read Ephesians 6:10-18.
- a. How is prayer an illustration that we have the full armor of God?

 - b. How aware are you that your prayer life is part of a greater spiritual battle?

 - c. Which part of the Lord's Prayer reminds you that there is a spiritual dimension to this world?
10. When we stand before God on behalf of the weak and the suffering, whose strength do we trust?