

#### **Message #4- Precepts Sermon Series- “Interceding for Others- Praying God’s Way”**

**Introduction: IL-** Paul Miller- survey among evangelicals- 90% of Christians do not have a meaningful, daily prayer life!”

We can intercede for others in powerful prayer IF we learn and apply two truths...

**The Holy Spirit helps us pray!** Romans 8: 26-28 Intercession means speaking to God on behalf of others.

My **inadequacy** in prayer- Asking for needs beyond human understanding- “I don’t know!” “How can I help?” What can I pray for you about?” “Will you pray for ME?”

My **intercessor** in prayer- Groaning done by the Spirit and heard by the Father! On the deepest level the Spirit groans- He cares about our hurts and burdens!

My **incentive** to pray- exposition of verse 28- “And we know that, for those that love God, all things work together for good for those who are called according to His purpose.”

#### **Humility in prayer honors the Lord Jesus!** Luke 18: 9-14

**Recognizing** my dependency- Persistence (widow) Position before God in Heaven. Pharisee and tax collector on opposite ends of social spectrum. Luke 16: 14-15- “The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things and ridiculed Him. And He said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts!’” Issue is not length of prayer but strength of faith! Recognize our weakness- Jesus said in John 15: 5- “Apart from Me you can do nothing!” Pharisee was SELF-focused, tax collector was mercy-focused! God hears those humble prayers!

**Realizing** my humility- Weak, then strong- 2 Corinthians 12: 9-10- “But He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness’. Most gladly therefore I will boast of my weaknesses so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” Pointless recitation or powerful response to the needs of others!?

**Revisiting** my pain- Not method (techniques) but sincere content! “Not lose heart” (verse 1) Insight into natural condition of our environment- sin-cursed world! **IL-** Our Daily Bread: Think of the needs of others and thank God for the resources He has given us to meet those needs.” Paul’s pain- Romans 9: 3- “For I could wish myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh.” Example- Epaphras in Colossians 4: 12- “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.”

**\*Practical help if you commit to praying God’s way:** Make use of His mighty Name! Example- El Elyon- the Most High God. Jehovah Rapha- The God who heals- Souls diseases and physical! Jehovah Shammah- the Lord who is There. Pray about divine appointments God may give you and others- Ephesians 6: 18, 19- “Praying at all times in the Spirit with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that that words may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the Gospel!” Pray for new converts and for unbelievers, for pastors and missionaries, for young families with children, for older folks and their many needs! And begin by actually praying! Start today praying every day. Ask others if you can pray for them. Remember: prayer is practiced in the sphere of holiness! And also know that discipline can become delight!

**Conclusion:** **IL-** Samuel Gordon from the late 1800’s- “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed! The greatest thing anyone can do for God and for men is to pray!” [35 devotional books including this one- “Quiet Talks on Prayer.”]

**Communion** with Scripture, then the song, “Lord, I Need You”