

# Intercessory Prayer Power

Evangelism Seminar - 3/21/26

Campus Bible Church

Laura Jones

- Finding purpose and joy in prayer
- Discovering foundational truths about prayer in scripture
- Increasing the effectiveness in praying for others
- Increase in prayer results by honing our prayer weapon

## 70.000 books on prayer and themes

- Pray Confidently and Consistently
- Fresh Start with God in Prayer
- Prayer is relationship, it's a lifestyle
- Pray the Scriptures
- Rekindle your Love for Prayer

## Classics

- Practicing the Presence of God (Brother Lawrence)
- The Way of the Heart (Henri Nouwen)
- With Christ in the School of Prayer (Andrew Murray)
- Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God (Tim Keller)
- The Power of Prayer (Charles Spurgeon)
- The Book of Prayer and Meditation (Louis of Granada)
- The Valley of Vision (Arthur Bennett)
- A Simple Way to Pray (Martin Luther)
- The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds

## Volumes of Prayer Themes

- Martin Luther: Often cited for linking prayer to daily life, such as, *"To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing"*.
- E.M. Bounds: A prolific writer on the subject, known for quotes like, *"Prayer is the greatest of all forces, because it honors God and brings him into active aid"*.
- C.S. Lewis: Known for focusing on prayer as aligning with God's will.
- Core concepts: Many famous quotes emphasize prayer as a form of *"breathing"* or *"conversation"* (Billy Graham),

- *“Prayer is a spiritual weapon or act of warfare” (D.L. Moody), and as a remedy for anxiety.*
- *“Do not pray for easy lives, Pray to be stronger men”*
- *“Prayer is the surge of the heart. It is a simple look turned toward heaven”*
- *“Prayer is the cord that attaches to God’s robe”*

## **Lighter Quotes**

*“A concentrated mind and sitting body make for better prayer than a kneeling body and a mind half asleep” CS Lewis*

*“I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time waking and sleeping” CS Lewis*

*“Dear God, thank you for today. Thank you for all you have blessed me with. I put all my worries and troubles in your hands. I know there is nothing You can’t do. Thank you.”  
Your friend Snoopy*

Prayer themes can be both serious and light, wordy and not so much Speaking and silent. God invites us into His presence and work thru prayer

## **Is there a need to study prayer?**

*“I urge therefore that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.” 1 Timothy 2: 1-2 ESV*

- **There are varying types of prayer in Scripture**
- **Prayer varies depending on situation focus and outcome desired**
- **Prayer is a weapon. We use different applications of prayer to reach the target**

## **Mystery of Prayer**

- All prayer starts with God. He has a desire
- He sets that desire in the hearts of His people
- We pray and God’s intentions are realized
- Prayer is about Kingdom work and purpose
- God meets our needs more than we can imagine
- God knows all our needs and “tells us to ask and knock” which tells us that prayer is a necessary part of divine interaction
- “Ask to receive” is spiritual law with promise

## Who can understand the mind of God? His ways are greater

- He chooses to work through our prayers rather than independently of them
- Some call this the laying down of the tracks for Him to move
- Prayer is unpredictable. He chooses how and when, but He hears and answers
- It is a POWERFUL spiritual force
- His ways go far beyond our timing and logic
- We need to let Him be God in prayer.
- Anna the prophetess prayed for 60 years

## God has big plans in prayer

- Prayer transforms you and I
- Prayer aligns us with God's heart.
- Prayer changes circumstances, nations and people and destinies

## What is the Great Mystery of Prayer?

*"Prayer is the means where God creates and shares His heart with us. When we join with Him in prayer, His desires become ours. The love that he has for others is expanded into our hearts. Prayer is where intimacy, connection, and surrender come together in unity with God. This is the abiding place where the mystery takes hold."*

*Laura Jones*

## This Type of Shared Prayer is called Intercession.

There are four types of Prayer

- 1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV): *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people"*
- [Ephesians 6:18](#) (NIV): *"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 Lord's people"*
- [Philippians 4:6](#) (NKJV): *"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God"*

Petitions/Supplication: specific requests or asking for needs for self

Intercessions: prayers made on behalf of others. Often no benefit directly to person

Prayers: general communication with God (written and spoken)

Thanksgiving: gratitude offered to God.

## What is the difference between prayer and petition and intercession?

- The main difference is their intensity. Petitioning God is a heavier term that conveys more urgency and is usually single focused and time sensitive.
- Definition: It is a form of prayer that asks for good things to be bestowed or deliverance from evil.
- Purpose: It is used to present specific requests to God, often focusing on provision, forgiveness, and guidance (Philippians 4:6).
- Examples in Scripture:
- [Hannah](#) (1 Samuel 1:17): A personal plea for a child that was granted Scripture shows us the intensity of her petitioning
- Other examples:

In the Bible, petitioning God is a personal request or plea for one's own needs or situation, focusing on personal, direct communication. Conversely, intercession is a specialized form of prayer on behalf of another person, group, or nation, where the believer stands in the gap to request God's intervention for them.

- Petition (Supplication): A specific, often earnest, request for God's help regarding personal matters like wisdom, finances, or health. It is generally focused on individual needs.
- [Intercession](#): A "petition on behalf of one's neighbor". It is a sacrificial, often intense type of prayer, where an intercessor carries the burden of others—similar to how Christ intercedes for believers.
- Key Distinction: Petition deals with personal need; Intercession deals with representing others before God.
- Biblical Example: Intercession is seen in Moses pleading for Israel
- He shows us the power of intercessory prayer and we see the change of events and history through their appeals.
- the saints praying for Peter's release Acts 12:8-12.
- Abraham pleads for Sodom Ge 18:16-33
- Jesus makes intercession for us Rom 8:34

(Jesus intercedes for us as an advocate and pleads our case. Through trials, temptations he stands in the gap. He also prays for our protection and sanctification)

- To become like Jesus to do the work He does. It is to become a person available for the Holy Spirit to use in intercession

- Priestly role to come before God on behalf of someone else, a nation. We come to seek mercy, forgiveness or help. We stand in the gap and seek God to order human needs with God's will and character.
- Both are types of prayer, but intercession carries a "governmental" function of holding back judgment or seeking God's will for a person or situation

### Intercession is

- full of purpose and fervency because God's heart and mind are involved
- It is selfless and passionate fueled by love for others
- Its only purpose is to see God's glory and transformation in the earth
- It is often urgent prayer
- Paul describes intercessory prayer as a type of travail
- Jesus interceded in the garden for himself and for the disciples.
- [Galatians 4:19](#) : "*My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*"
- [Isaiah 66:8](#): "*for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children*".
- [Romans 8:26](#): Describes the Spirit helping in weakness with groanings which cannot be uttered is often associated with this form of prayer.

Intercession as with all prayer, is Holy Spirit's work to bring about a purpose of God. The Word tells us that He aids us when we don't know what to pray. Sometimes our sighs and groans are prayers when the prayer is so deep there are no words. Romans 8:26.

### Prayer is the Work of the Church. It is also her Joy

*"I have come to seek and save the lost"* Luke 19:10

Praying for the lost is a primary mission of the church. Prayer is the means that opens the door for people to hear and respond to the gospel. This can be interceding for individuals, cities and nations.

## We can increase our fruitfulness in prayer

Prayer fruit is the result of Abiding in Christ (John 15)

- Prayer grows relationship with God that deepens and results in a rich prayer life towards others
- Our heart transforms to being focused on others. Love for others intensifies
- Prayer grows bold faith that enables us to ask for radical requests that align with God's purposes

## Partnering with Holy Spirit

- He is the one who initiates our prayer by bringing certain people or situations to
- mind.
- Then He guides us to pray in alignment with God's will
- He helps our weakness. We don't know how to pray for the lost. He helps us move thru situations we don't understand
- For we don't know what we should pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26
- When we pray, He goes into the situations and can release his presence to draw them thru conviction, break down their spiritual darkness and blindness
- Holy Spirit will give us boldness to share the gospel
- Holy Spirit gives us power as to how to pray to prepare hearts to receive the good news

**God is looking for believers who will stand in the gap  
and agree with him for His purposes**