



St. Joseph's
Episcopal Church

How to Pray Effectively: A Biblical Way to Pray for Results

Week 8 | Intercessory Prayers

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Prayer Before Bible Study

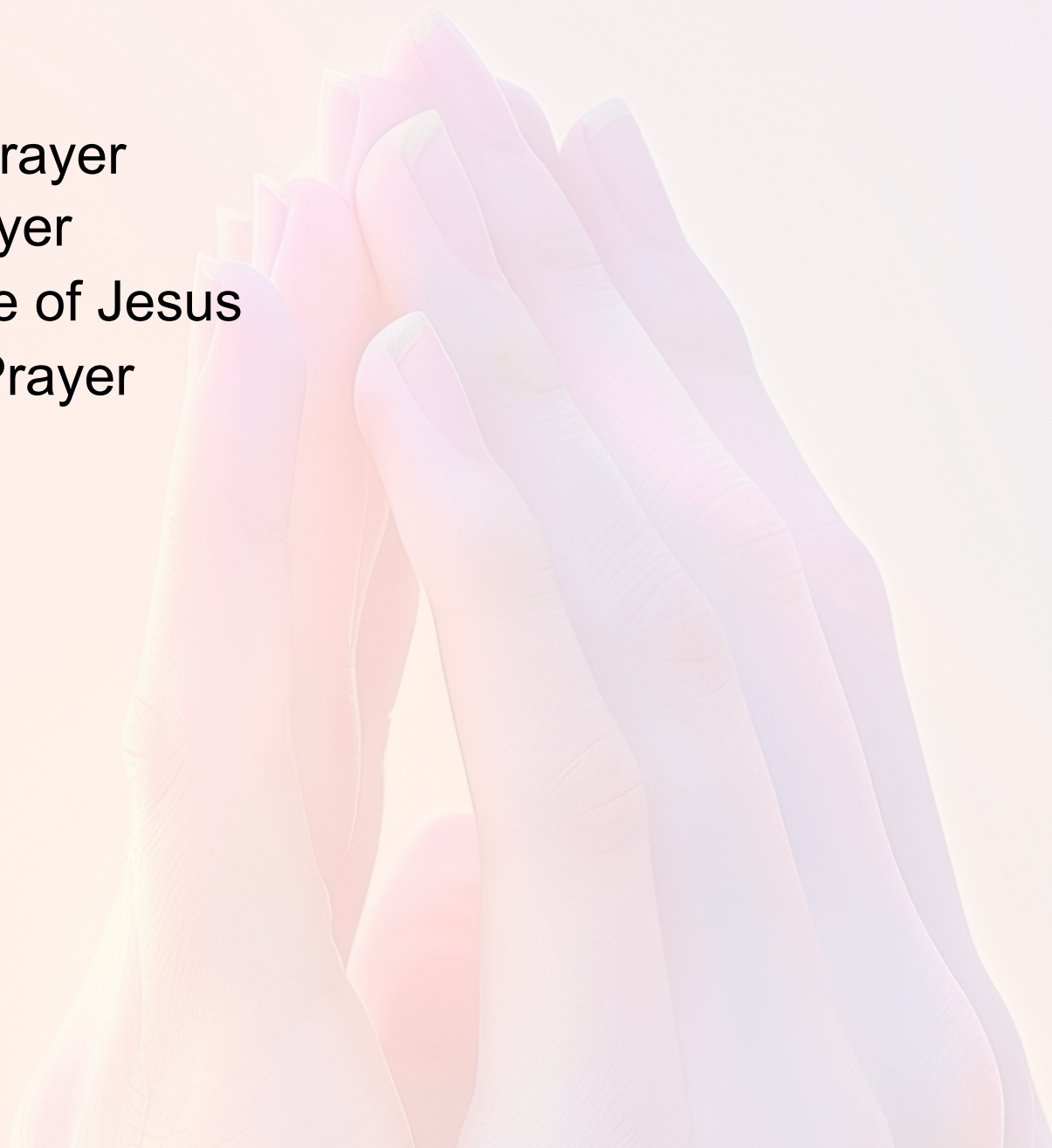
Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

— Collect for Proper 28:
Book of Common Prayer, p. 236)



Recap

1. Keys for Effective Prayer
2. Components of Prayer
3. Praying in the Name of Jesus
4. Using Scripture in Prayer
5. Prayer and Faith
6. Praying in the Spirit
7. Prayer and Fasting



Word of Thanks

Before we proceed to the new topic “Intercessory Prayers” may I pause to give thanks to some of you who sent a donation to this teaching ministry. Your donation will go to the Clergy Discretionary Fund, helping missionaries, causes, and people in need.



This course is free but if you are moved to support my teaching ministry at St. Joseph’s, you may donate by scanning this **QR Code**, sending payment **via Zelle to treasurer@stjosephqv.org**, or visiting our website at **www.stjosephqv.org/donate**



Intercessory prayer might be defined as loving our neighbor on our knees.

— Charles Bent



Intercession

derived from the Latin **intercedo** meaning

1. *: to come between*
2. *: to interpose on behalf of*
3. *: to intercede*

Intercession is prayer on behalf of others, i.e., a person, nation, the church, or the world. The person praying is called an intercessor.

The Need for Intercessory Prayers

1. God looks for intercessors

To pray for others helps us mirror Jesus' love and compassion for others and helps us align with God's will and purpose. It can also help us to see people and their needs with spiritual eyes.

And I sought for anyone among them who would repair the wall and stand in the breach before me on behalf of the land, so that I would not destroy it, but I found no one.

— Ezekiel 22:30

I believe it is at such a time as this, in this country, that God is seeking intercessors.



The Need for Intercessory Prayers

2. We need to pray for all people

Intercessory prayers can bless, heal, protect, guide, and transform others.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

— 1 Timothy 2:1-4

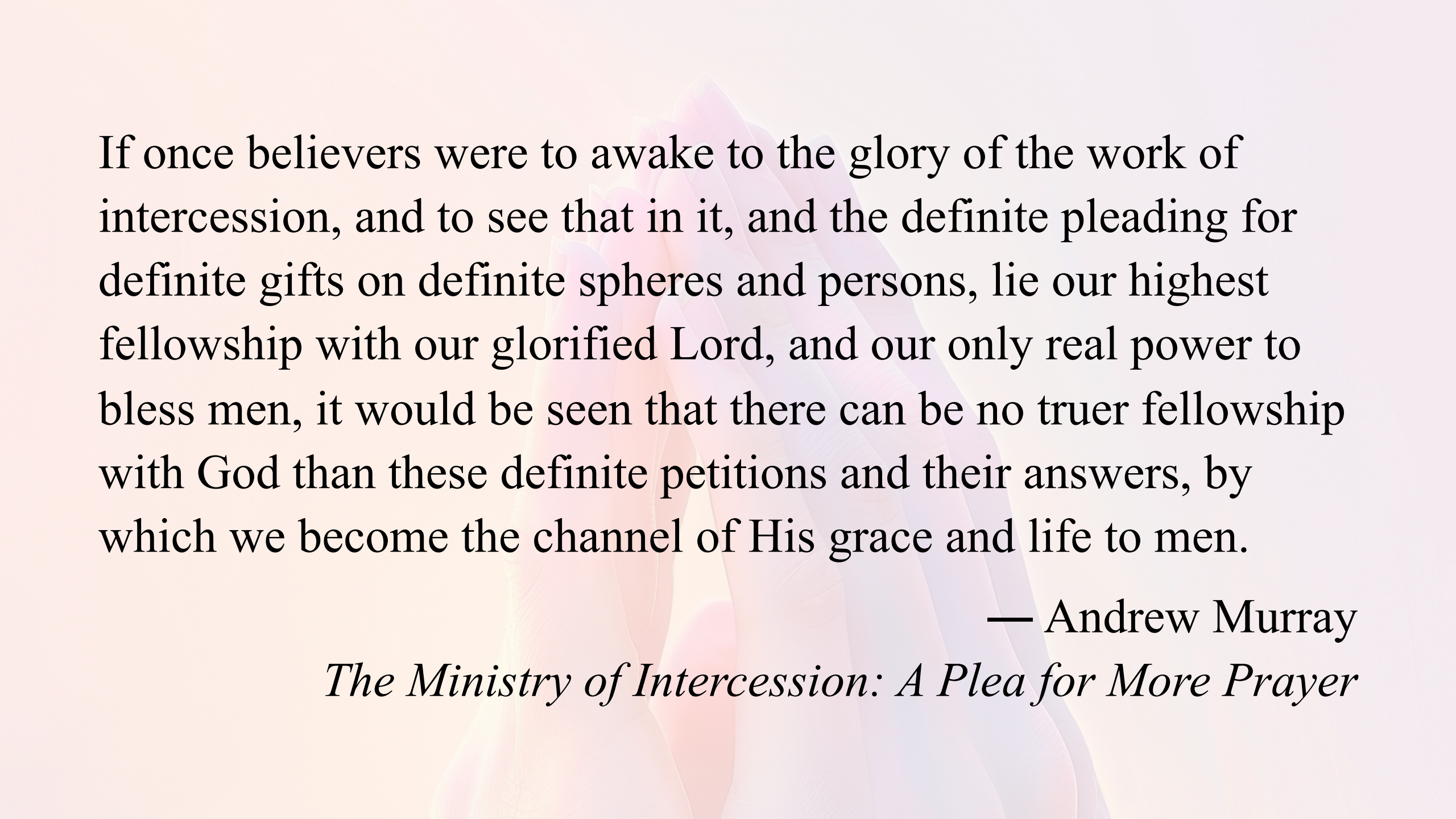


The Need for Intercessory Prayers

2. We need to pray for all people

So many lies have been peddled and are being peddled on the internet, social media, cable TV, and etc., so our prayers will help provide the direction towards the truth that sets us free, Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life.





If once believers were to awake to the glory of the work of intercession, and to see that in it, and the definite pleading for definite gifts on definite spheres and persons, lie our highest fellowship with our glorified Lord, and our only real power to bless men, it would be seen that there can be no truer fellowship with God than these definite petitions and their answers, by which we become the channel of His grace and life to men.

— Andrew Murray

The Ministry of Intercession: A Plea for More Prayer



Examples of Prayers

Examples of Intercessory Prayers

The Bible provides excellent examples of intercessory prayers including:

1. Jesus' Prayers on Behalf of Disciples and Believers | John 17

I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

continued



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

1. Jesus' Prayers on Behalf of Disciples and Believers | John 17

All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

— John 17:6-11



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

1. Jesus' Prayers on Behalf of Disciples and Believers | John 17

I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

— John 17:20-24



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

2. Abraham on Behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah

Then the Lord said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.”

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”

continued



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

2. Abraham on Behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah

And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.”

continued



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

2. Abraham on Behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah

Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the Lord went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

— Genesis 18:20-33

Note: Abraham was like a leader of a Labor Union standing on behalf of the workers.



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

3. Moses on Behalf of the Hebrews

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ”

continued



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

3. Moses on Behalf of the Hebrews

And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

— Exodus 32:11-14



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

4. Aaron on Behalf of the Hebrews

Then Moses and Aaron came to the front of the tent of meeting, and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Get away from this congregation, so that I may consume them in a moment.” And they fell on their faces. Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer, put fire on it from the altar and lay incense on it and carry it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them. For wrath has gone out from the Lord; the plague has begun.” So Aaron took it as Moses had ordered and ran into the middle of the assembly, where the plague had already begun among the people. He put on the incense and made atonement for the people.

continued



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

4. Aaron on Behalf of the Hebrews

He stood between the dead and the living, and the plague was stopped. Those who died by the plague were fourteen thousand seven hundred, besides those who died in the affair of Korah. When the plague was stopped, Aaron returned to Moses at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

— Numbers 16:43-50

Note: Was Covid-19 a plague from the *wrath of God*?



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

5. Paul on Behalf of Israel

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

— Romans 9:1-5



Examples of Intercessory Prayers

5. Paul on Behalf of Israel

What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith, but Israel, who did strive for the law of righteousness, did not attain that law. Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written,

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever trusts in him will not be put to shame.”

— Romans 9:30-33

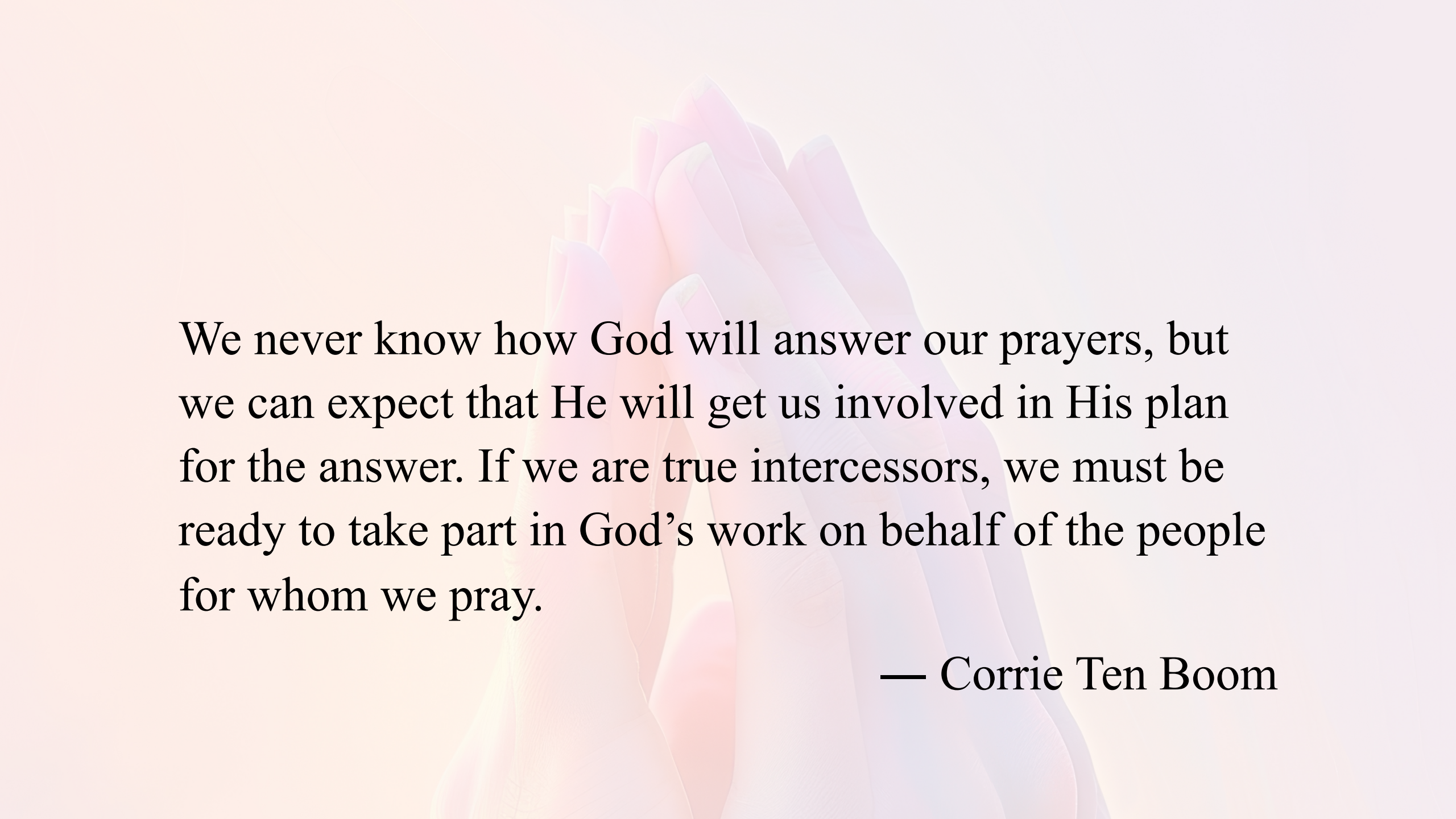


Examples of Intercessory Prayers

There are four virtues of these intercessors:

1. Absolute conviction of God's righteousness
2. Deep concern for the glory of God
3. Intimate relationship with God
4. Personal courage





We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.

— Corrie Ten Boom



Intercessions for our Needs



Intercessions for Our Current Needs

The Book of Common Prayer provides a framework for the intercessory prayers used during services and called the Prayers of the People. Prayer is offered with intercessions for:

- the universal Church, its members, and its mission
- the nation and all in authority
- the welfare of the world
- the concerns of the local community
- those who suffer and those in any trouble
- the departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)

— BCP page 383



Intercessions for Our Current Needs

Let us look at intercessions for our current needs

For the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church

a. Unity

I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

— John 17:20-21

b. Increase of Vocations

He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. — Luke 10:2

Intercessions for Our Current Needs

For the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church

c. Revival

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

— Isaiah 64:1-4



Intercessions for Our Current Needs

For the one holy, catholic, and apostolic Church

d. For Christian Workers

While Peter was in prison, the church fervently prayed for him.

— Acts 12:5

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you, and that we may be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

— 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5





Intercessions for Our Current Needs

For the Nation and the World

a. For all People

First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone. — 1 Timothy 2:1

b. For all Those in Authority

For kings and all those who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

— 1 Timothy 2:2

Intercessions for Our Current Needs

For the Nation and the World

c. For Family and Friends

if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

— 2 Chronicles 7:14

d. For all those in authority

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

— Joshua 24:15





Intercessions for Our Current Needs

For the Nation and the World

e. For Your Enemies

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; — Matthew 5:44 KJV

f. For the Sick and Suffering

Therefore confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

— James 5:16



Summary

Summary | Intercessory Prayers

Intercession is prayer on behalf of others, i.e., a person, nation, the church, or the world.

1. We need to make intercessory prayers because God looks for intercessors and because we need to pray for all people.
2. There are many examples of intercessory prayers in the Bible, such as Jesus praying for his disciples and for all believers in John 17.
3. When we make intercessory prayers for our current needs, we pray for the Church (for unity, increase in vocations, revival, and Christian workers); and for the nation and the world (for all people, those in authority, healing of the nation, family and friends, our enemies, and for the sick and the suffering).



Discussion Questions

Do you feel the urgent need to make intercessory prayers in these times?
If so, why and for whom?