

GOD NEEDS INTERCESSORS!

Becoming a Dispenser of the Grace of God!

God is an ever flowing fountain of pure love and blessedness. **Christ** is the reservoir wherein the fullness of God was made visible as grace, and has been opened for us. The **Holy Spirit** is the stream of living water that flows from under the throne of God and of the Lamb. The redeemed, God's believing children, are the channels through which the love of the Father, the grace of Christ, and the powerful operation of the Spirit are brought to the earth, there to be imparted to others. What an impression we gain here of the wonderful partnership into which God takes us up, **as dispensers of the grace of God!** Prayer, when we chiefly pray for ourselves, is but the beginning of the life of prayer. **The glory of prayer is that we have power as intercessors to bring the grace of Christ, and the energizing power of the Spirit, upon those souls which are still in darkness.**

Andrew Murray, *The Prayer Life*

God wondered that there was no intercessor in Israel.

Isa 59:15-16

15 Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no man, **and wondered that there was no intercessor**; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

The Lord made intercession for the transgressors.

Isa 53:12

12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because **He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

The Spirit makes intercession for us.

Rom 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us** with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession for the saints** according to the will of God.

Christ makes intercession for us.

Rom 8:33-34

33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us.**

Jesus makes intercession for us.

Heb 7:22-26

22 by so much more **Jesus** has become a surety of a better covenant. 23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.** 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.

Now we are exhorted to pray and intercede for all men.

1 Tim 2:1-4

2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that **supplications, prayers, intercessions**, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

The subject of prayer is a huge subject in the Bible. From Genesis to Revelation, hundreds of examples of prayer can be seen. The word **PRAY**, for example, is used 146 times in the New King James Version (NKJV) of the Bible; the word **PRAYED** is used 59 times; the word **PRAYER** 108 times; the word **PRAYERS** 27 times; the word **PRAYING** 25 times. When we include words such as **SUPPLICATIONS, INTERCESSIONS, DRAWING NEAR TO GOD, COMING FORWARD, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD, CRYING OUT TO THE LORD**, and so many more, the number of verses describing various forms of prayer get much bigger. This study covers only a small sample of verses, mostly in the New Testament, dealing with prayer in general.

Jesus had a regular prayer life with His Father.

Mark 1:35-38

35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; **and there He prayed.** 36 And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." 38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."

Luke 3:21-22

21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and **while He prayed**, the heaven was opened. 22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Luke 5:15-16

15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. 16 So **He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.**

Luke 6:12-16

12 Now it came to pass in those days **that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.** 13 And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles: 14 Simon, whom He also named Peter, and Andrew his brother; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; 15 Matthew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; 16 Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot who also became a traitor.

Luke 9:18

18 And it happened, **as He was alone praying,** that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

Luke 11:1

11:1 Now it came to pass, **as He was praying in a certain place,** when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, **teach us to pray.**"

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 **But I have prayed for you,** that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Luke 22:39-46

39 Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. 40 When He came to the place, He said to them, "**Pray that you may not enter into temptation.**" 41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and **He knelt down and prayed,** 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." 43 Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. 44 **And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly.** Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 **When He rose up from prayer,** and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. 46 Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? **Rise and pray,** lest you enter into temptation."

Matt 26:39-45

39 He went a little farther **and fell on His face, and prayed,** saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." 40 Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? 41 **Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation.** The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 Again, **a second time, He went away and prayed,** saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done." 43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. 44 So He left them, went away again, **and prayed the third time,** saying the same words. 45 Then He came to His disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners."

John 17 (read the whole chapter)

Jesus taught us to pray.

Matt 6:6-13

6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 7 And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 **In this manner, therefore, pray:** Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Mark 11:25-26

25 And **whenever you stand praying**, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Luke 18:1-8

18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, **that men always ought to pray and not lose heart**, 2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man. 3 Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.' 4 And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' " 6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said. 7 And shall God not avenge His own elect **who cry out day and night to Him**, though He bears long with them? 8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

Luke 18:9-14

9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 Two men went up to the temple **to pray**, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself**, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Luke 21:34-37

34 "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 **Watch therefore, and pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Examples and exhortations to pray.

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, **and in prayers.**

Acts 4:31

31 And **when they had prayed**, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 6:1-7

6:1 Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 **but we will give ourselves continually to prayer** and to the ministry of the word." 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and **when they had prayed**, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 9:11

11 So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, **he is praying.**

Acts 12:5

5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but **constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.**

Acts 12:11-12

11 And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." 12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, **where many were gathered together praying.**

Acts 14:21-23

21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." 23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, **and prayed with fasting**, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

Acts 16:24-26

24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were **praying and singing hymns to God**, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Acts 20:36-38

36 And when he had said these things, **he knelt down and prayed with them all.** 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Acts 21:5

5 When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And **we knelt down on the shore and prayed.**

Rom 1:9-10

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I **make mention of you always in my prayers,** 10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

Rom 12:9-13

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. 10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; 11 not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, **continuing steadfastly in prayer;** 13 distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Rom 15:30-32

30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, **that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,** 31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

Eph 6:17-20

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,** being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints-- 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Phil 1:3-6

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 **always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,** 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Phil 1:19

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance **through your prayer** and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Phil 4:6-7

6 Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;** 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Col 1:3-12

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you**, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Col 4:2-4

2 **Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving**; 3 **meanwhile praying also for us**, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Col 4:12

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, **always laboring fervently for you in prayers**, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

1 Thess 3:9-10

9 For what thanks can we render to God for you, for all the joy with which we rejoice for your sake before our God, 10 **night and day praying exceedingly** that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?

1 Thess 5:16-18

16 Rejoice always, 17 **pray without ceasing**, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Tim 2:8

8 I desire therefore that **the men pray everywhere**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

1 Tim 4:4-5

4 For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; 5 for it is sanctified by the word of God **and prayer**.

1 Tim 5:5

5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and **continues in supplications and prayers night and day**.

2 Tim 1:3-5

3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as **without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day**, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.

Philem 4-7

4 I thank my God, **making mention of you always in my prayers**, 5 hearing of your love and faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints, 6 that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.

Heb 5:7-8

7 who, in the days of His flesh, **when He had offered up prayers and supplications**, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, 8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

James 5:13-17

13 Is anyone among you suffering? **Let him pray**. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and **let them pray over him**, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And **the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up**. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and **pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much**. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and **he prayed earnestly** that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered**.

1 Peter 3:12

12 For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and **His ears are open to their prayers**; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.

1 Peter 4:7-9

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore **be serious and watchful in your prayers**. 8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Rev 5:8

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, **which are the prayers of the saints**.

Rev 8:2-4

2 And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets. 3 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. And he was given much incense, that he should offer it **with the prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne. 4 And the smoke of the incense, **with the prayers of the saints**, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

God cannot at times hear the prayer of your lips because the desires of your heart after the world cry out to Him much more strongly and loudly. A worldly life, a self-seeking life, makes prayer powerless and an answer impossible. With many Christians there is a conflict between the life and prayer, and the life holds the upper hand. But prayer can also exercise a mighty influence over the life. If I give myself entirely to God in prayer, then prayer can conquer the life of the flesh and sin. The entire life may be brought under the control of prayer. Prayer can change and renew the whole life, because prayer calls in and receives the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit to purify and sanctify the life. A.M.