



INTERCESSORY PRAYER TRAINING MANUAL

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The Doorkeepers is the intercessory prayer group for The Way Christian Ministries International, Detroit, Michigan.

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INTRODUCTION

Praying for others is not a routine task. The Christian should be a prayer warrior, often found interceding on behalf of others. We are admonished in James 5:16 to *“pray for one another”*. The Lord urges this upon us because He knows the power of prayer. We *need* to pray, not to impress God but because it strengthens us and increases our faith. Intercession helps us to see with spiritual eyesight, the needs of others and to lift our voices to God’s throne on behalf of others once we see that need.

Intercessory prayer is open and unselfish. Some people have a deep burden to pray for others; intercession is their gift. All believers have been called to pray and to pray often. Each time we send our petitions to God we are asking God to work in a way for that person that He might not otherwise work had we not asked. Our loved one, neighbors, coworkers, yes, even strangers we pass on the street need our prayers. Have you ever considered those who are unable to pray for themselves? They may be physically or mentally unable to pray. Others have spiritual discouragement that keep them from praying. Still others simply refuse to call on the name of the Lord. Regardless of the reason, each soul that has been laid upon our heart needs our prayers. Here are some reasons why we should engage in intercessory prayer:

- **We intercede because they are our brothers and sisters**
We pray for others because we are all God’s children. God is no respecter of persons and neither should we be. Everyone is a part of humanity, a tapestry of mankind woven together from all ages, cultures, and experiences. Our heart must learn to care for others and be receptive to their needs because they are a part of us. Acts 17:26 reminds us that God has made us *“of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth”*.
- **It gives us an opportunity to pray for those who may not think to pray for themselves.**
There are millions in the world who do not know God or know how to trust Him. They have not established a relationship with God; thus their minds do not naturally turn to Him. Many are independent and proud and look to themselves for answers to their problems. The Psalmist reminds us that *“the wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.”* (Ps. 10:4). Some people are too busy to pray. They need our prayers.
- **It moves the hand of God**
God is anxious to answer our prayers, especially when we pray for others. Even on a personal level we often lack because we fail to ask. In Matt.7:11, we see this promise: *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*. Be the need great or small, it is not beyond what He can provide. He is the Great Provider, Jehovah-Jireh. When you see a need that someone has, ask God to fill it for them. *“We have not because we ask not”* (James 4:2).

- **It enhances our own spiritual growth**

Intercessory prayer deepens our personal relationship with God. Praying for others causes us to become more like Christ, who spent many hours communing with His Father regarding His concern for others. We cannot pray for the Lord to strengthen others without ourselves being strengthened. We cannot ask for God to soften someone else's heart without our own heart being softened also. We bond closer and closer to God each time we pray for someone else, each time we enter their feelings, their fears, and their needs.

- **It enables us to focus on someone other than ourselves**

It is not uncommon for our personal prayers to be self-centered. Interceding for others forces us to take our minds off ourselves and turn them to others. True agape love always puts others first. Jesus was selfless, always preferring others above Himself, always praying for another person's needs.

- **It gives us an opportunity to thank and praise God for what He has done for others**

God is forever worthy to be praised. *"O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures forever"* (Psalms 106:1). It is so exciting to see the miraculous ways in which God answers the prayers we have prayed for others.

- **It brings us to the realms of heavenly places**

Prayer lifts us up to heavenly places. It brings us to the heart of One who sees all our needs, the One who never fails. It brings us into the presence of One who is our closest Friend. James 2:23 tells us that Abraham *"believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God"*.

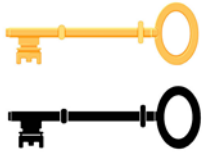
- **It teaches us to understand how Christ is interceding for us.**

Christ is always interceding for us. "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). Christ loves us dearly. He too sees the faults and failures of the ones we are praying for. He too knows their pain, their joys, and their desires. As our High Priest, He is in the heavenly Sanctuary interceding, praying for us just as He did for Peter (Luke 22:32).

Not only do we gain strength from intercessory prayer, but it brings us to the presence of the Lord. The beauty of intercession happens as we pray for the good of others. We do not look for reward when we intercede, and yet it comes, simply because we have taken a moment to solicit God's help on behalf of someone who may not even know we have called their name in prayer. It should be the desire of every Christian to be a skillful intercessor.

THE BASICS OF PRAYER

All prayer begins with our approach to God. We must approach the throne of the Lord with boldness, yet humility. Our reverence for the Lord in prayer enables us to receive His mercy, forgiveness, and opens a portal for us to be heard by the Lord.



Read the following verses: Ezekiel 22:20, Psalm 66:18, Hebrews 4:16, Matthew 6:5-18. What do each of the following teach us about prayer?

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The ACTS of prayer.

One of the easiest ways to develop a consistent prayer life is to pray according to the ACTS.

A - Adoration	Beginning in prayer by acknowledging God for who He is, what He has done, His power, might, and sovereignty. Praising Him for His mighty acts, greatness, love.
C – Confession	Asking the Lord to forgive for all sins, trespasses, and offenses against Him and against others.
T – Thanksgiving	Thanking the Lord for His goodness, kindness, prayers answered, blessings received, revelation regarding His will.
S – Supplication	Requests to God for self and others, intercession, specific and time sensitive prayers

Writing prayers.

Some people write prayers to help them stay focused. Writing prayers is not prohibited if prayer comes from the heart to the Lord's ears. The goal in teaching people to pray is to teach the relationship with Jesus. Prayer should be a type of communication between He and His children, open and honest dialogue that ushers us into the presence of the Lord. Eventually, God's people should be able to speak with Him without assistance.

Jesus' prayer of intercession.

There are several passages in scripture where we see Jesus praying, but one passage specifically records His prayer for us.

Read John 17. Who did Jesus pray for in this passage and why?

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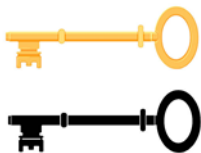
Make a prayer list and keep a prayer journal.

A prayer list are specific prayers for yourself and others. It is important to have a list so that your prayers are organized. It is also important to have a prayer journal so that you have an historical record of when the Lord has answered prayers. Also note that every prayer will not end in yes by the Lord. He will say no, or He may give no answer for an indefinite period. Prayer is part of our faith and to know the Lord means we know He answers every prayer according to His will. (1 John 4:14)

LESSON 2

THE ATTITUDE OF THE HEART

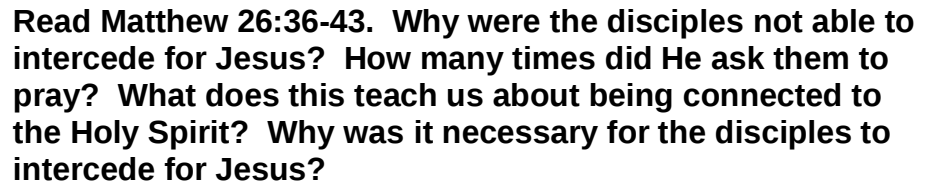
The Lord constantly looks at our heart when we pray. While our intentions may be good, there are issues of the heart that cloud our judgement, create biases, and prevent us from seeking the Lord earnestly.



Read Proverbs 21:2, Jeremiah 17:9, Luke 6:45. Proverbs 23:7. What do these passages reveal about the heart?

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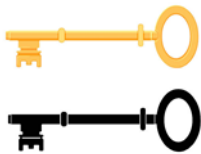
People are called to intercession. We are all called to prayer and prayer is to be a part of our daily relationship with the Lord; however, intercession requires us to be emotionally connected to the Holy Spirit. If we are not connected, our hearts will fail us when we are needed to pray.

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How the heart fails in prayer.

There are several ways in which the heart fails in prayer. Among them are,

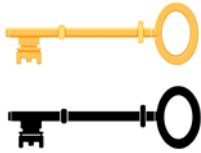
- Being consumed by worldly pressures.
- Carnal mindsets and beliefs.
- Sins of the flesh.
- Distractions by people, systems, deceits.
- Agreements with ungodly people.
- Entanglements and bondage.
- Relationship stress.
- Illness or sickness.
- Worry of loved ones.
- Lies and manipulations.
- Lack of focus.
- No commitment to worship or service in the local assembly.



Read Psalm 51:10-12, 19:14, Psalm 119:9-16. How does David suggest we keep our hearts pure?

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The Bible teaches us that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) This means our faith is strengthened every time we hear the Word of God. Hearing comes from external sources (preaching, teaching, prophecy, etc.) Hearing also comes from confession of the Word by our own lips. The more we confess our faith to the Lord, the more we see the Lord activate our confessions and answer prayers. Confessions will not manifest if not done in faith.



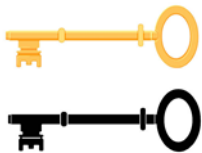
Read Romans 4:17; Hebrews 11. What do these passages teach us about faith?

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How faith is hindered.

Faith is the only action that please God. Faith can be hindered. The following are ways faith can be hindered; therefore, prayers can also be hindered.

- Doubt and unbelief.
- Selfish ambitions.
- Pride.
- Unforgiveness.
- No salvation or trust in the resurrection power of Jesus Christ.
- Hurt and brokenness.
- Belief only in self.
- Not reading the Word of God.
- No relationship with Jesus Christ.

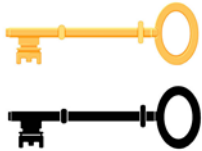


Read Matthew 21:11, James 4:2,3; James 1:6-8, Mark 11:23, John 20:24-29. What do these passages suggest regarding prayer and faith?

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Agreement and alignment.

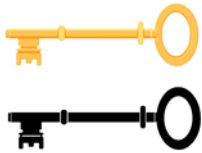
You will not have prayer answered if you pray with people who do not have faith. You will not have prayer answered if you pray with people who disagree with you. You will not have prayer answered if you pray with people who do not have a relationship with Jesus, nor seek Him regularly regarding His perfect will for their lives. Agreement is the fundamental link that enables us to have our prayers answered and for intercession to manifest.



Read Amos 3:3, Jeremiah 23:10, Matthew 18:19, II Corinthians 6:14-18, Acts 4:32,33. What do these passages suggest about the power of agreement? Why must we agree with each other if prayer is to be answered?

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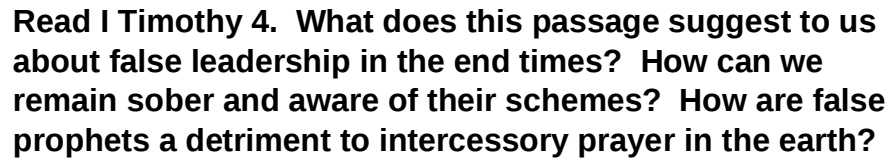
Intercessors can see into realms of the Spirit. All intercessors are not prophets, but intercessors will be used by the Lord to prophesy. The ability to see into kingdom realms is necessary to get revelation from the Lord regarding prayer emphasis, kingdom plans, the Lord's timing, and movements that align earth and heaven.



Read Jeremiah 1:11-16, Revelation 1:1-11, Habakkuk 2:1, Micah 4:8, Mark 13:32-37. What do these verses suggest about intercession and the prophetic?

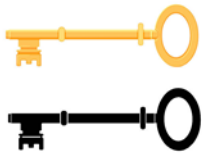
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The mark of a true prophet is that prophecy spoken comes to pass. Prophecy comes to individuals and nations to warn, rebuke, bring judgement, to encourage, and set on course. False prophets, who may also intercede, are deceitful and only concerned with promotion of self and the love of profit.

[illegible]

Trusting your sight.

The more closely you walk with the Lord the more readily He will reveal truth to you. Truth is needed to make people free. People who reject God's truth are evil and will cause others to fall away from the faith. Intercessors walk in a high level of truth because they hear from the Lord often and pray according to the specific will of the Father. Intercessors are also hunted by the enemy because they unlock doors and mysteries of the kingdom. While they cannot be destroyed, they can be intimidated. This intimidation prevents them from operating in their calling. It prevents the will of God from going throughout the earth. It prevents true breakthrough in the spirit.

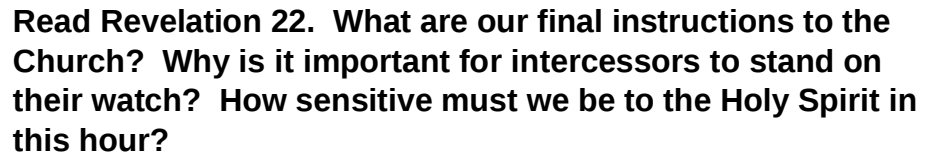


Read I Kings 19. How did the Lord minister to Elijah after his victory at Mt. Carmel (Read I Kings 18 for full context). What would be the role of Elisha in Elijah's ministry? How did the Lord strengthen Elijah when he was hunted by Jezebel?

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Intercessors have authority in the earth. They are assigned by the Holy Spirit to pray continually and to bring kingdom order to God's people. The following are assignments the Lord has given to intercessors.

- To bind and loose in earth and in heaven. Matthew 18:18
- To overthrow wicked kingdoms and systems. Jeremiah 1:9,10
- To disrupt natural events and occurrences. James 5:17
- To create an atmosphere for spiritual victory. Joshua 10:12-14
- To forgive sins and remove sickness. James 5:12-15
- To thwart the plans of the enemy. Matthew 6:13
- To usher in the presence of God. II Chronicles 7:1
- To activate the Holy Spirit. Judges 6:34
- To disrupt ungodly enterprise. Job 5:14
- To empower the weapons of spiritual warfare: Ephesians 6:18
- To bring God's people into alignment with His will. II Chronicles 7:14
- To provide supernatural strength. Mark 14:35,36
- To communicate with God without natural interference. Romans 8:26
- To warn of impending danger and the future. Revelation 4
- To dismantle ungodly leadership. Isaiah 34:1,2
- To pray continually for the church. I Thessalonians 5:17
- To refresh their souls in the presence of enemies. Psalm 42
- To engage the enemy with boldness in spiritual realms. Ephesians 6:12
- To release prophetic destiny and deliverance. I Samuel 1,2
- To stand in the gap for those who cannot pray. Hebrews 7:25
- To pray for the saints who serve. I Thessalonians 5:25
- To reveal the will of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:27
- To expose works of darkness. Ephesians 5:11
- To increase love in the earth. Song of Solomon 3:3
- To pray in righteousness with power and effectiveness. James 5:16
- To encourage the saints to pray. Acts 2:42
- To hear from God regarding spiritual assignments. Acts 13:1-3
- To be strong in prayer. Luke 18:1
- To be persistent until breakthrough occurs. Luke 18:2-8
- To warn God's leaders of spiritual attacks. I Samuel 15:30
- To raise armies for spiritual battle. Judges 7:13-15
- To plead mercy for the wicked. Genesis 18:27-33

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Challenges and blessings.

Intercessors in effect need people to intercede for them. They need people who will stand up like a wall of spiritual protection around them helping deflect some of the worst of the enemy's assaults. Your life be a target of enemy assault. You have antagonized the enemy and frustrated him.

Lifting the hands of an intercessor is a rewarding blessing. If someone asks you to intercede for him or her, consider that not just a great honor but a great access to blessing from the Lord. As an intercessor be aware that you are entering an area of ministry when you will need all the armor of God.

"*Thy Kingdom Come*" is not just a prayer call to bring down the manifest demonstration of God's power but also a call to intercession for God to override the kingdom of this world. There will be greater provocation to intercede when we realize the benefits of standing in the gap for others & the land.

1. You become **God's confidant**. Gen. 18:17-19. Abraham became God's "confidential secretary". He was not uninformed about what God was about to do.
2. You act as a **Mediator** for others. Gen.18:21-33; Ex. 32:9-14, Num. 14:11:19. Abraham and Moses were two people that *counseled* God through intercession. While Abraham stood in for Sodom and Gomorrah, Moses stood in for the Israelites.
3. You become an **Available Vessel**. Ezek. 22: 29-30. God is always seeking for "a man among them". Judges. 5:7. Deborah rose because there was no man.
4. You act as a **Watchman** (Security Guard) Ez. 3:16-17. To warn the people of any impending danger.
5. You are a **Mobilizer** of God's presence and power. Is. 62:6-7. God will do nothing until He finds someone who will invite Him to intervene.
6. You enjoy peculiar **Grace** of God. Zech. 12:10; Col. 4:12. You are sharper, strengthened to continue and pave way for other ministry gifts to manifest (especially the prophetic ministry)
7. You help to **Midwife** other people's dreams. Ex. 1:15-21. Like these two midwives, so is every true intercessor, helping to travail to birth God's purpose. Is. 66:8
8. You gain opportunity to **calibrate** your own spiritual fervency. Ps. 42:7. Every intercessor knows when he is spiritually dry
9. You are an **agent of revival**— Neh. 1:1-4, Dan.9:1-19; Luke10:2. Revival tarries because intercessors are scarce.
10. You help to **mature** the saints – Gal. 4:19; Col. 4:12. Young Christians grow through your ministry.

God's kingdom will manifest when intercessors take their place. The Lord is waiting for you.



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