



## The Practice of Intercessory Prayer

Intercessory prayer is prayer in which God prays **through** us **for** others. We intercede for others most effectively when we pray in answer to God's call (deep joy, or a burden, or constraint to pray) to pray for someone, some group, or for a certain cause. Because we believe that God is directing our growth as Christians we can be certain that God has issued each of us a call to pray for others. Intercessory prayer is most effective **when**:

1. **When we trust God.**
2. We believe that God's character is so good that God loves the individual for whom we are praying infinitely more than we.
3. We understand that even the limited love we feel for the individual for whom we are praying is God's own love in our hearts. Therefore, we are not begging God to decide to help someone increasing God's power to give the help which God is **already committed to give**.
4. We understand intercessory prayer is shared friendship with God.
5. We have no need to control God's response. Trusting God's gift is answer to our prayer will be much better for the individual than we can envision.
6. **We can trust God to translate** what may be a mistaken request on our part to become the prayer God would have wanted us to pray.

Our attitude is most effective toward those for whom we are praying when:

1. **We are open and accepting.**
2. We can **identify** with the person for whom we are praying to God so that God carries them for us, and therefore we have no ego investment in the outcome of our prayers.
3. We love the person for whom we are praying as Jesus does, so that we love instead of wanting to change the person.

To utilize intercessory prayer during group meetings or gatherings:

*Allow 5 minutes at the end of your meeting or gathering as a of time of intercession. Pray for each group member by imagining Jesus coming to them and placing a hand of blessing on their heads. You may want to pray silently in words about the concerns they shared with the group or you may want to pray about something God brings to your heart that an individual has shared with the group in trust.*

Examples: "Help \_\_\_\_\_ to be kinder to herself," "Come to \_\_\_\_\_ in the way you did earlier in her life."



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