



Intercessory Prayer
Following Jesus in Prayer (Part-7)
Sunday July 23, 2023

As we journey through this study on “Following Jesus in Prayer”, we will reflect on each of these 8 aspects of prayer. We trust that there will be much learning and growth in each of our personal prayer lives:

- 1) *Praying in secret*
- 2) *A pattern for personal prayer*
- 3) *Believing prayer*
- 4) *Persistent prayer*
- 5) *Prayer of submission and surrender*
- 6) *Intercessory prayer*
- 7) *Jesus’ teaching on prayer*
- 8) *His present ministry – our great High Priest*

As we examine the life, teaching and ministry of our Lord Jesus, we observe that He practiced and taught us to pray for others. We refer to praying for others as intercessory prayer. We will consider a few insights on intercessory prayer from the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus in this chapter and cover additional insights in subsequent chapters.

PRAY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST

Matthew 9:35-38

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."**

The Lord Jesus often used word pictures to describe crowds of people. He used pictures like sheep, or harvest to describe the condition of people. In describing people as harvest, He pointed to the need for laborers to work in the harvest fields. What do we do, when we see the need for more laborers. He taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest for more laborers to be sent into the fields to gather the harvest.



This is something we can all practice. If God places a community, city, nation, region on your heart, and you are moved by the spiritual condition and need of the people there, pray for laborers to be sent in to the harvest fields.

Till this point the Lord Jesus had crowds of people coming to Him. He had called some people specifically to follow Him. We can picture in our minds, the Lord Jesus Himself doing what He taught us to do – to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. The next thing we see in Matthew 10, is the Lord Jesus selecting and appointing 12 apostles with the purpose of doing what He was doing.

Even as we pray, see what God will have you do toward mobilizing laborers for the harvest. See how you can be involved in missions.

INTERCEDING FOR CITIES

Another observation in the Gospels, is that Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem.

Luke 19:41-44

41 Now as He drew near, **He saw the city and wept over it,**
42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially **in this your day, the things that make for your peace!** But now they are hidden from your eyes.
43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side,
44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation."**

Why did Jesus weep over the city of Jerusalem? What troubled Him about the city so much? Jesus wept over their spiritual condition. They were blinded and that caused them to miss what God was doing for them, for their good, for their peace and prosperity. They were unable to recognize the time of their visitation – when God was visiting them, in the person of Jesus Christ. Missing this spiritually, would also have its effect in the natural – the city would be razed to the ground.

While the Scriptures do not explicitly state this, we would be safe to assume that the Lord, so moved by the spiritual condition of the city, would have prayed to the Father for the people in the city.

Is your heart stirred about the spiritual condition of the city in which you live, work in or visit from time to time? Are you moved to weep over the city or community? Then take



this a step further and pray for the people in the city – for their eyes to be opened, for them to encounter Jesus Christ, to know the Savior and His salvation.

INTERCEDING TO THWART SATAN'S SCHEMES

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."

As the Lord Jesus was nearing the time of His arrest and crucifixion, Peter made this bold claim that he would never desert the Lord. At this time the Lord Jesus expressed through prophetic revelation what was happening in the unseen spiritual realm. He indicated that satan had intended (asked = requested or desired) to come against Peter in such a manner that he would be blown away in the wind (just as the chaff was blown away by the wind, when sifting wheat). It expresses satan's intent to get Peter far away from being where he was both in his proximity to Jesus and in his calling to serve Jesus. However, the Lord Jesus disallowed this, prevented this, through His prayer and intercession for Peter.

There are things we can learn and follow here. Through prophetic insight the Holy Spirit can reveal to us what is happening in the spiritual realm, especially the enemy's schemes and strategies. We can engage in prayer and intercession, to preempt and thwart what the enemy is attempting or planning to carry out against another believer.

INTERCEDING FOR BELIEVERS

Jesus prayed for His disciples and for all who would believe in Him (the church) in time to come. We have this recorded for us in John 17. We encourage you to read this chapter in entirety some time. We will draw out attention to a few "prayer points" – things that the Lord Jesus prayed for, when interceding for His disciples. We can pray for these same things for believers and the church today.

John 17

vs 9: Jesus prayed for those whom the Father had given Him. He acknowledged that these people belong to the Father.



vs 11: He prayed **for safety and unity**, "keep through Your name those whom You have given Me", and "that they may be one as We are"

vs 15: He prayed **for protection from the enemy**, "that You should keep them from the evil one."

vs 17: He prayed that **they would be set apart and holy**, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth."

vs 20: Jesus extended His prayer for those who would become believers in the future, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" **We too can pray and intercede for people and matters that are in the future.**

vs 21-23: Jesus prayed for future believers **for (a)our perfect unity, (b)for the world to believe through us, (c)for His glory in us and revealed through us (d)that the world would know that we are loved by God.**

vs 24: He prayed **for His disciples/believers to be with Him and see Him in His glory**, "they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me"

vs 26: He prayed that **we may have the Father's love in us**, and **experience Christ in us**, "that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them".

All of these are important "prayer points" or matters we can pray for other believers – individuals, churches or communities of believers.

INTERCEDING FOR SINNERS

In John 17, in His prayer, the Lord Jesus expressed His desire for the world to believe in Him, whom the Father had sent. And of course, Jesus went to the Cross to provide for salvation for all. His work on the Cross is referred to as a work of intercession.

Isaiah 53:12

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.



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intercession Hebrew 'paga' (a)to come in between, to intercede (b)to strike down as in to overcome an enemy, (c)to meet, to encounter.

He made intercession by actually doing something about the problem - bearing the sins of many.

Intercession for the sinner is dealing with the effects of sin and satan (a)in prayer before the Father and (b)by confronting and overthrowing satan through the finished work of the Cross, and (c)meeting and inviting the sinner to be reconciled to God.

PRAY LIKE JESUS

Let's follow Jesus in prayer.

Let's follow Jesus in intercessory prayer.

We pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest fields.

We pray over people in communities and cities for their eyes to be opened to see Jesus.

We pray and thwart satan's schemes against God's people.

We pray for believers and the Church for the same matters that Jesus prayed about.

We pray for the sinners (the lost) based on the finished work of the Cross.

There is more that the Lord Jesus taught about intercession. Jesus is our Great High Priest who lives to make intercession for us today, at the Father's right hand. We will consider these in a later chapter.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 22:31-32; John 17:1-26*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Q1, Reflect on the different aspects of intercessory prayer observed in the life, teachings and ministry of the Lord Jesus. Discuss how we can practice these, in our prayer lives.
We pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest fields.
We pray over people in communities and cities for their eyes to be opened to see Jesus.
We pray and thwart satan's schemes against God's people.
We pray for believers and the Church for the same matters that Jesus prayed about.
We pray for the sinners (the lost) based on the finished work of the Cross.



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If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

Prayer is an opportunity for us to partner with God to see His Kingdom come and His will be established here on earth. In this sermon series “Following Jesus in Prayer”, we examine the life, the practices, and teachings of Jesus in 8 important aspects of prayer: 1) Praying in secret, 2) A pattern for personal prayer, 3) Believing prayer, 4) Persistent prayer, 5) Prayer of submission and surrender, 6) Intercessory prayer, 7) Jesus’ teaching on prayer, 8) His present ministry – our great High Priest. Expect your prayer life to be enriched and strengthened as we learn to develop our prayer lives based on prayer life of Jesus Himself.

In Part-7 of this sermon series, in “Intercessory Prayer” we draw several insights from the life, teaching and ministry of Jesus on praying for others:

We pray for laborers to be sent into the harvest fields.

We pray over people in communities and cities for their eyes to be opened to see Jesus.

We pray and thwart satan’s schemes against God’s people.

We pray for believers and the Church for the same matters that Jesus prayed about.

We pray for the lost based on the finished work of the Cross.



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KEYWORDS

prayer, intercession, intercessory prayer, Jesus our intercessor, pray like Jesus, the prayer life of Jesus, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

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Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

Word Pictures in the New Testament. Archibald Thomas Robertson. Published in 1930-1933; public domain.

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