

All the prayers of God's People
Prayers for Intercession
6/23/20

This is being penned a day after we held intercessory prayer at Finlay Park where 10 different pastors from 10 different church cultures came together to pray for God's intercession in our community and world. Prayers were spoken on behalf of our nation, community, armed forces, police officers, politicians, protestors, for unity, for change, for understanding and hope, and for peace.

God has chosen intercession as one of our primary means of calling on God to help in times of trouble. Intercession is prayer that pleads with God for our needs and the needs of others. But it is also much more than that. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will and refusing to let go until that will comes to pass in our world.

We believe as followers that this relationship with God is paramount and that our prayers are heard and answered, even if we do not see them answered in the way we would wish or seemingly at all, (reminds me of Garth Brooks' song "I Thank God for Unanswered Prayers")! Our prayers are offered and echoed across the heavens until the answers come, in Godly timing.

Many believe that intercession is a type of spiritual warfare, the battle for God's Kingdom come, here on earth and in our lives. Scripture says, "We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and spiritual powers in the heavens above" (Eph. 6:12). As such, our prayers of intercession do specific things:

- Intercession causes us to internalize God's Word and changes us (Luke 22:32)
- Intercession unites our heart to people and places we pray for (Jeremiah 29:7)
- Intercession renews our hope and faith (Numbers 14:13-19)
- Intercession imparts life (John 6:63).
- Intercession makes a long-term impact beyond this age (Rev. 5:8, 8:1-6).
- Intercession humbles us (Matthew 5:44)
- Intercession changes the spiritual atmosphere of cities and nations (Nehemiah 1:4-11)

- Intercession causes multiple blessings to return to the intercessor (Luke 6:38).

Intercessory prayer then takes place in this spiritual world on behalf of God's work in our own lives, our families, our friends, enemies, our nation, and our human world. So, this week, you are invited to practice offering intercessory prayers each day, on behalf of yourself, those you love, and especially those situations which you don't fully understand. And let us then watch God move mountains.

Dear God Almighty, it saddens our hearts to see great suffering of your beloved children. We bring to mind all of those, known and unknown who find themselves in a hard place. We especially pray for those who suffer physically, and those who suffer mentally with depression, grief or anxiety. Lord, come breathe by your Holy Spirit and bring great love, hope and joy through us your church. Help us to minister to others through Your Spirit and to work in unity together. May we shine your glorious light into the darkness and remain steadfast and true to you.

Lord, it pains us when we see world leaders embracing division instead of unity, pursuing wealth instead justice and concealing lies instead of speaking out the truth. We lift all those in significant leadership to you. Come guide their thoughts, cover their actions and renew their minds. Protect them from the influence of the world and sweep away any corruption. We pray that you would lay out new paths of righteousness in troubled nations and lands.

Holy One, it is disturbing to see the difference between rich and poor widening. We lift all those in poverty to you and ask that our hearts be changed to meet you in moments of awareness with all your people. Come bring miracles of provision, healing and restoration. Speak into our lives so that we might play our part in changing the world.

*Alpha and Omega, we know you are the beginning and the end of our lives and every breath on earth. Lord, for those we love who cannot catch their breath or who face death's darkest corners, fill them Lord with a light of faith and understanding. Heal our beloved and help us, your church, to walk together sharing this joy with one another. We ask all this in the wonderful name of Jesus. Amen.*¹

¹ https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/i_pray_you_will.html