

# PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Text: Eph. 6:10–18

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## 1. Gallup Poll—only 1 group in the U.S. avoided 2020 Mental Health Decline

Poll released last week shows only “churchgoers,” Americans who regularly attend religious services were the only group who avoided mental health decline in 2020 (Gallup 12/7/20).

## 2. WHY? Christians have something special the world doesn’t have...

Something that offers peace that surpasses understanding, guarding our heart and minds

(Philippians 4:6–7) **Peace through the Power of Prayer**

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## I. WHAT: Intercessory Prayer

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### A. THE COMMAND TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

1. We Are Called to Pray for one another (James 5:14-16)
2. An Acronym for Prayer is A.C.T.S
  - a) Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication (Eph 6:18)
  - b) Supplication means, Making Request (Philippians 4:6)
3. The Command to Pray For One Another is called—Intercessory Prayer
  - a) Intercession is “to plead, or petition on someone’s behalf” (1 Timothy 2:1–4)
4. We Offer Intercessory Prayer when we Pray for Someone...
  - a) Someone Who is Sick... Someone facing a decisive decision...
  - b) Someone searching for the truth... Someone who needs spiritual strength...

### B. EXAMPLES OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

1. **MOSES** prayed to God for the people after they had worshipped a golden calf
2. **DANIEL:** Daniel prayed for the people, at risk of his own life!
  - a) The Babylonian Deep State wanted Daniel Dead, so they devised a plot
  - b) A “mandate” no one could pray for 30 days—Daniel prayed anyway.
  - c) He was cast to the lions den—but God was with him and spared his life!
  - d) The Plot was discovered by the king, who through the plotter & families in lions den
3. **JOB** prayed for his friends, because God told him too (Job 42:7–10)
4. **JEREMIAH** wanted to pray for Judah but God wouldn’t let him! (Jeremiah 7:16)

There comes a time when God has had enough (Jeremiah 14:11–12)
5. **THE CHURCH** prayed for Peter when he had been put in prison. God answered their prayer by sending an angel to free him so quickly they didn’t even open the door while Peter was knocking!
6. **ABRAHAM** We find many fascinating examples of Intercession in Bible...
  - a) Like when Abraham spoke directly to the Lord in an effort to save his nephew Lot.
  - b) The Lord agreed that He would not destroy the city for sake of ten righteous people.
  - c) Lot and His Family were barely saved... Except His Wife...
  - d) She hesitated and looked back—Jesus said, “Remember Lot’s Wife.”

**“A great civilization is not conquered from without until it has destroyed itself from within.” (Will Durant)**

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## II. WHY: The Need for Intercessory Prayer

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### A. PRAYER IS A PART OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

1. **Prayer is our offensive weapon against the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)**  
(esp. v. 18) "Each Piece of Armor—Put on with Prayer"
2. **We See This in Jesus' Model Prayer (Matthew 6:5–13)**
  - a) *"And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one."*
3. **'WARFARE PRAYER' — Prayer is a Part of the Spiritual Battle**

### B. WHICH IS WHY WE NEED TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER...

#### 1. FOR GUIDANCE

- a) **Queen Esther Realized she was facing a Decision of Major Implications...**
- b) The King of Persia had been tricked into giving a decree of Annihilation of the Jews
- c) Esther was the only one w/ access to the King—and didn't know what to do...
- d) IF she didn't handle it right—she would be killed w/ all the other jews (**Est. 4:13-16**)
- e) With Prayer and Courage—she revealed the Plot to the King...  
and Hamaan was Hung on the Gallows he built to kill Mordecai
- f) **We Too Need Guidance for Our Life Decisions...**  
*Ask and it will be given, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened*

#### 2. FOR PHYSICAL PROTECTION

- a) Ezra was a Priest and Teacher who was Tasked with Leading a Group Back from Babylonian Captivity to Restore the Temple in Jerusalem.
- b) He Considered Asking the King for an Armed Escort...  
But Had Already told the King that God Protects His People!
- c) So Rather than Ask for Armed Escort—They Prayed... (**Ezra 8:21–23**)
- d) **We Should Also Pray for Protection of the Saints**

#### 3. FOR SPIRITUAL PROTECTION

- a) The Perfect Storm Leading to Golgatha was going to change everything...  
and Satan Wanted to Sift Peter Like Wheat— (**Lk 22:31-34**)
- b) Jesus Knew Peter would Fail—But the Lord Prayed for Peter's FAITH,  
so that when Peter Recovered, he would strengthen the brethren!
- c) **Pray for Spiritual Protection as Jesus Did... to Protect us from the evil one**

#### 4. FOR SPIRITUAL WISDOM

- a) This is What Paul Prayed for Christians to Have (**Colossians 1:9**)
- b) That the Eyes of Our Understanding Be Opened! (**Eph 1:15-18**)
- c) **Wisdom can come the Easy way—or the Hard Way...**  
The Greek Poet Describes the Hard Way: Through Pain and Struggle...  
*"He who learns must suffer. / And even in our sleep / pain that cannot forget  
falls drop by drop upon the heart, / and in our own despair, against our will, /  
comes wisdom to us by the awful grace of God."* (Aeschylus 525–456 B.C.)
- d) **There is Another Way to Gain Wisdom... (James 1:5)**
  - (1) To Ask For Wisdom From God in Prayer, and then Seek it from God in His word.

## **5. FOR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

- a) Paul asked for prayers for Himself... **(1 Thessalonians 5:25)**
- b) If Paul Asked for prayers of the Saints—then We Should As Well!
- c) Pray for Spiritual Strength **(Ephesians 3:14-21)**

## **6. FOR FORGIVENESS**

- a) Forgiving Is Not Always Easy.... We need to Pray for One Another **(James 5:16-17)**
- b) There are times when we must pray for forgiveness, for ourselves or others
- c) Jesus includes this Critical aspect of Prayer **(Matthew 6:9-15)**

## **7. FOR ENEMIES, FOR LEADERS, FOR PEACE**

We Are instructed to Pray for our enemies...

To Pray for our Leaders, So We May Have Peace...

The Prayers of the Saints Affect the Whole World **(1 Timothy 2:1-2)**

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# **III. HOW: The Access Provided for Intercessory Prayer**

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## **A. NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF PROPER PRAYER**

### **1. The Prayer of Faith...**

- a) Prayer without Faith Won't Even Get Off the Ground....
- b) Faith is a Necessary Element of Prayer **(James 1:6; Mk 11:24)**
- c) The Faith to Move Mountains is not in your Will power, but in God's Power

### **2. The Will of God...**

- a) The supreme source of all power in prayer is Entirely in God **(1 Jn 5:14-15)**
- b) Paul prayed 3x asking for his thorn in the flesh be removed—Answer was NO
- c) What ever it was—it served a purpose in the Will of God—to keep Paul humble

### **3. The Heart Right with God...**

- a) There are some hindrances to Prayer... **(1 Peter 3:7)**
- b) Like an Arrogant Heart **(Prov. 28:9)**
- c) Or A Selfish Heart **(Jas. 4:3)**
- d) Or Even Secret Sin **(Psalm 66:18)**

### **4. The Name of Jesus...**

- a) We Must Ask in Jesus Name (By His Authority)... **(Jn 14:13-14)**

## **B. SEVERAL POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO PRAYER**

### **1. YES... 2. NO... 3. YES, But Not Yet... 4. YES, But Not The Way You Think...**

- a) In a Sense it Can Be Said All Prayers Are Answered—Just Not the Way We Want

### **2. Example: Poem: PRAYER, by a Civil War Soldier...**

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve, I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.

I asked for health, that I might do greater things, I was given infirmity that I might do better things.

I asked for riches, that I might be happy, I was given poverty, that I might be wise.

I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men, I was given weakness, that I might feel the need for God.

I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life, I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for.

Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am among all men, most richly blessed.”

- Written by an Unknown Civil War Confederate Soldier

## **C. JESUS BLOOD NOW PROVIDES ACCESS FOR PRAYER**

- 1. It Was the Blood of Jesus That Opened the Veil for Prayer (Heb. 10:19–20)**
  - a) The Veil was Torn Providing Access to go boldly before the throne (Heb. 4:15–16)
- 2. Even Before Going to the Cross—Jesus Interceded For Us in Prayer**
  - a) The Night of His Betrayal Jesus prayed for His disciples (John 17:14–17)
  - b) And Jesus Prayed for You and I (John 17:20-21)
- 3. What Would You Think if Jesus Was Praying for You?**
  - a) And He Intercedes Even Now for Us (Romans 8:34)
  - b) He Lives to Intercede for You! (Hebrews 7:25)

“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

- c) This Access Even Allows the Holy Spirit to Intercede for us! (Rom. 8:26-27)

### **One Glimpse Of Her In Prayer**

Once I suddenly opened the door of mother’s room, and saw her on her knees beside her chair, and heard her speak my name in prayer. I quickly and quietly withdrew, with a feeling of awe and reverence in my heart. Soon I went away from home to school, then to college, then into life’s sterner duties.

But I never forgot that one glimpse of my mother at prayer, nor the one word—my name—which I heard her utter. Well did I know what I had seen that day was but a glimpse of what was going on every day in that sacred closet of prayer and the consciousness strengthened me a thousand times in duty, in danger, and in struggle. And when death came, at length and sealed those lips, the sorest sense of loss that I felt was the knowledge that no more would my mother be praying for me.

—J. R. Miller

## **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. “What an individual is in secret, on his knees before God, that he is and no more.” (John Owen, 1616–1683)**
- 2. Pray For One Another**
  - a) So the Peace of God will Guard our hearts and Minds (Philippians 4:6–7)**