



2022 PRAYER GUIDE

WEEK FOUR

A CALL TO PRAYER

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14



Week 4: Intercession

Romans 8:26-28 - Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

Winter is a harsh season, even here in South Carolina. The trees have groaned under the weight of ice, under high winds, and flooding rains. Yet through that season of groaning, they are able to bring forth new life, becoming soft and brilliant with new buds on every branch.

When we are despairing and weak, unable to pray as we ought, "the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." This should not surprise us at all, as we are told of His overwhelming love in Ephesians 3:18-19. This love brought our God to earth as a flesh and blood human in the form of Jesus Christ. It should not surprise us that He would intercede on our behalf, when we are too weak to form the right words. We are blessed to have such a loving God!

Going into this week, let us emulate the Holy Spirit by interceding on behalf of others, remembering that "for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

Day 1

Colossians 1:9 - *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.*

E.M. Bounds writes that prayer is born from the spiritual compassion that comes from a renewed heart. This kind of compassion has in it a quality that moves the soul with tenderness and mercy and can only come from the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Mercy and love, tenderness and humility, compassion, and concern, are the feelings we must have when we are made aware of another person's trials or sorrows. Pray that the Spirit will empower you with a heart of tenderness and mercy, and then help you be perceptive, discerning the needs of others so that you can effectively pray for their needs.

God, please help us to have a heart that is willing to pray for others. Give us the wisdom and discernment, as well as the tenderness and mercy we need as we seek to serve other people who are in need. Help us to be people of compassion. Help us to reflect your love. Help us to be available for those who are in need. Amen.

Day 2

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way.

For many people around the world, peace and safety are unknown. Many of our brothers and sisters in Christ live in unsafe and dangerous conditions. Persecution and death are common.

We are blessed to live in a country where we are relatively safe and are able to worship, to some degree, without fear of persecution. Sadly, our comfort can bring complacency. In our complacency, it's easy to forget those around the world who are suffering. It's easy to forget those who cannot worship freely. It's easy to forget the one thing that we are commanded to do. Pray. I encourage you to pray for those who are sharing the gospel around the world. Pray for receptive hearts and pray for leaders and officials to be changed.

Lord, please forgive us in our complacency. You have blessed us in so many ways. Please care for those who are suffering persecution for their love of you. Please protect those pastors who boldly proclaim your Word. Please soften the hearts of those who hear the message, that they may come to you. Please, also soften the hearts of those leaders who are persecuting your people. Help them to see the truth. Amen.

Day 3

Ephesians 3:14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul prays for his brothers and sisters in Christ, that they will be strengthened so that Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith, so that they will have the strength to understand, along with all the saints, the immeasurable love of Christ. And to know this love, so that they may be filled with the FULLNESS OF GOD. We need to remember how overwhelming God's love is for His children; so much so that through the love and ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, we have salvation, we have eternal life with Jesus! Let us pray this prayer continually over ourselves and over our brothers and sisters in Christ, keeping in mind especially those who are persecuted all over the world. The strength and the love of Jesus Christ will bring the "peace that passes understanding" to our hearts. Keeping this prayer in our hearts and minds will keep us steady in our faith, and keep us overflowing with Jesus's love toward others – both believers and non-believers.

Heavenly Father, I pray that according to your riches in glory, that _____ may be strengthened with power through the Holy Spirit, knowing that he/she is rooted and grounded in love, as Christ dwells in his/her heart. I ask that _____ may be able to comprehend the breadth, length, height, and depth of Christ's love, receiving Your fullness. I thank You, Lord, that You continue to fill me with Your strength and Your love. You, Lord, are able to do exceeding, abundantly, more than we can ask or think or imagine. Your will be done, to Your glory, Amen.

Day 4

Luke 6:27-28 (NIV)

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.”

We pray for our friends, for members of our church, even for people we don't know as we become aware of their needs. How often, though, do we pray for our enemies, or for those who have hurt or wronged us? Today take some time to identify the person in your life who it is hardest to forgive. It may be an active enemy (one seeking to do you harm), or someone who has made you mad (through criticism or gossip), or even someone you just don't like.

Father, I confess I am upset with _____. Today I am going to obey you and pray for them, so please help me pray right. I ask first that You help them experience Your love today. Help them to see Your hand in all things. Help them to know more of You as they go through this day. Provide for their needs physically, emotionally, and most of all spiritually. Help them to set their mind on You today. I ask these things on their behalf, and in Your name. Amen.

Day 5

Psalm 34:17-18

*When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.*

*¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.*

Who do you know that is experiencing pain today? Because we live in a fallen world we face physical, financial, emotional, and relational, situations that bring us pain and break our hearts. As you reflect on the wonderful news that God hears our pleas and that God is always working for our good, pray for the one who is suffering. First, pray for righteousness – that they will trust in Jesus' righteousness and that they will be faithful to turn to God and obey Him in their struggles. Second, pray for deliverance. It is good to pray that God will remove the problem from them, or remove them from the problem. It is also important to know, however, that God often lets us face trials in order to strengthen us, so pray that God will use their pain to deepen their faith. I think it is also important to pray for comfort. "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted," so ask that they will turn to and trust in Him in the midst of their pain.

Father, thank You for the privilege of coming to You on behalf of _____ . I don't know all they are experiencing, but these are the things I do know (identify the need you are specifically praying for). I ask that you deliver them from their troubles. I pray that they will be faithful to You in their struggles. I ask that You be their strength, that You give them courage, that You grant them peace as they face this situation. Help them to know Your nearness today. Amen.