

## “I’ll Pray for You: How Prayer Changes Your World”

Greg Wendschlag March 8, 2020

What good are “thoughts and prayers” if you only think and don’t pray?

**Intercession** – action of intervening on behalf of another; the act of using your influence to make someone in authority forgive someone else or forgive them from punishment.

*“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.””*

*Then he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.’ Then the one inside answers, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.” Luke 11:1-8*

### 1. **Jesus is the Model of Intercession.**

*“Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.” Rom. 8:34*

- Jesus has the **position** of influence to intercede. Heb. 4:14-16
- Jesus has the **authority** to intercede. 1 Tim. 2:5-6
- Jesus took the **responsibility** to intercede. Heb. 7:25

*The most awe-inspiring image of the power of intercession is the cross.*

### 2. **The Church is Called to Intercede.**

*“For Christ’s love compels us...And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.” 2 Cor. 5:14-20*

- God’s method is **people**.
- We are Christ’s **Ambassadors**.
- God’s power is revealed in **partnership** with His church.

*God given desperate love is the motivation of intercession.*

### 3. How Does Intercession Work?

*"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed **earnestly** that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."* James 6:16-17

- We pray to **God** the Father by the **Holy Spirit** in the name of **Jesus**. John 14:12-14
- **Knowing God** and the power of Jesus' **name** is the key. James 5:16; Acts 19:13-16
- Intercession demands **spiritual discipline**. Matt. 17:14-21
- Refuse to settle for **earthly results**. John 14:14

*We are not perfect, but we pray in the name of the perfect and all powerful One.*