



**JOIN US FOR A 6-WEEK  
ZOOM BIBLE STUDY**

*A Guide on Getting to Know God*

**Tuesday Evenings @ 7:00 pm ~ November 10 - December 15**

For more Information and Registration  
[ChristianWorkingWoman.org](http://ChristianWorkingWoman.org)

## A Guide on Getting to Know God

Prayer Journal: Intercession

Zoom #5 – December 8, 2020

I welcome you back to our fifth lesson in a *Guide on Getting to Know God*. My purpose for this study is not to be legalistic, to lay down strict rules, nor to lay guilt trips. But truly just to give you help and encouragement if you've been struggling with getting to know God.

As we saw earlier, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray and he obliged them. Prayer is a spiritual discipline that we can learn; we can become better at praying—using our time and words to the greatest advantage because we are learning how to pray based on the format Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer.

Not only did Jesus give us a format in what we call The Lord's Prayer, we have his high priestly prayer recorded in John 17. We can learn much from paying attention to what and who Jesus prayed for and how he prayed for them.

How did Jesus pray for his followers in this prayer?

- He prayed for their protection and their unity: "I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one." (verse 11)
- He prayed that their joy would be full: "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them." (verse 13)
- He prayed for our protection from the enemy: "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." (verse 15)

- He prayed for our sanctification: “For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.” (verse 19)

This shows us the important things we need to pray for other believers.

Notice these following verses about prayer. What do we learn about prayer from each of these verses?

**James 5:16:** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Hebrews 5:7:** During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

**Matthew 6:5:** “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

**Mark 12:38 – 40:** As he taught, Jesus said, “Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.”

**Ephesians 6:18:** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.

**Colossians 4:12:** Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.

**1 Thessalonians 1:2:** We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

Can you see that there is much to learn about prayer? Learning to pray is a lifetime pursuit. You and I can get better and better at it, meaning we can become more effective, see more answers to prayer. Not because we are better than anyone else, but because we have intentionally set our minds to learn to pray.

The three verses that we have focused on so far in this study are:

Psalm 90:14:

Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.

Psalm 119:11:

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Psalm 34:1:

I will extol the Lord at all times. His praise will always be on my lips.

1 Corinthians 11:31:

But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment.

### Intercessory Prayer

If you've never learned to intercede for others, if you've never prayed beyond your own immediate family or close circle, you're going to discover an entirely new element to prayer. It is heavenly networking!

We should be as specific as possible when we pray for others. If you look at the prayers of Paul, you will see that he asked and prayed very specifically. How else will we know if God answers our prayers if we aren't specific?

You may think that God can't be bothered with all the little details of our lives. But remember, God has infinite capacity, he never gets tired or sleepy, and he has told us to bring everything to him in prayer—to cast *all* our cares on him because he cares for us.

### Praying Scripture for Others

Here are some prayers to pray for others.

**2 Thessalonians 3:1 – 2:** As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. <sup>2</sup> And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people, for not everyone has faith.

**Philippians 1:9 – 11:** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**Hebrews 13:20 – 21:** Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 3:16 – 19:** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

**Colossians 1:9 – 12:** 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, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

These are effective prayers for others. And there are many more. Use them in your intercessory praying.

You don't have to use a lot of words as you go through your list. God knows, and he's not necessarily impressed with a lot of words.

It's wonderful to see God answer your intercessory prayers, to have others report back to you how your prayers for them have been answered. To realize that God has used you to intercede on behalf of others, and to know that those prayers have been heard and answered – that is a wonderful spiritual experience.

In Romans we are told to weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice, and that's a part of intercessory prayer. We hang in with people in tough times and rejoice with them in good times.

Another great benefit of intercessory prayer is that it bonds you with people; it deepens your relationships.

## Who should we pray for?

1 Timothy 2:1: I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—

1 Timothy 2:2: for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:25: Brothers and sisters, pray for us.

James 5:15: And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.

Matthew 5:44: But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

## Praying for non-believers

Intercessory prayer certainly includes praying for those you know who have not as yet received Christ as their Savior. As I pray for non-believers, I ask God to do whatever is necessary in their lives to bring them to the realization of their need of Jesus Christ. I pray against the strongholds that are keeping them from Christ. I pray that the things which they are looking to for security and happiness will fail them completely. I pray that other Christians will come into their lives and sow seeds.

## Praying for Churches and Christian Ministries

Pray for your church in depth, by name, as much as you know. Pray for ministries you support; pray for those that are fighting abortion, pornography, human trafficking.

## Praying for Our Nation and the World

Intercessory prayer includes other nations of the world, as well as our own. If you know missionaries in other countries, pray specifically for them and the country they are serving.

## Organize your intercessory prayer time

Keeping a list will help you pray more effectively for others. Naming different days of the week for different categories really helped me.

Never glibly say, "I'll pray for you." If someone asks you to pray for them, either pray right at that moment with them or make a note to pray later. Don't promise if you're not going to do it.

## Conclusion

Praying for others is the greatest medicine I know of to lift yourself out of the blahs, to cure self-pity, to develop compassion and love for others, and to help you learn how to “consider others better than yourselves,” as we’re admonished to do in Philippians 2:3.

If you have not already discovered the joy of intercessory prayer, then you’re in for a blessing. It takes time—yes. It takes concentration—yes. It takes unselfishness—yes. But it yields great returns on your investment.

James 5:16b:

The prayer of a righteous man (or woman) is powerful and effective.

People I need to pray for:

Family

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Friends

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Non-believers

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Church—Pastors/Staff/Ministries

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Other Ministries/Missionaries

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Your Country

- President
- Congress
- Judges
- Governor
- Mayor

Those in Authority

- Your manager
- Executives of your company
- Your teachers or professors
- Anyone who has some authority over you

