

## USER-FRIENDLY INTERCESSION

### Partnering with God in Prayer

*“God wants to bless **you** through prayer. You don’t have to be a pastor or prophet. You don’t have to be Brother, or Sister Well Known. You don’t have to know Greek from Swahili. You simply have to be a believer in Jesus, one of His chosen representatives. God wants to release the work of Jesus through your prayers. The Holy Spirit wants to help you. Bethels are waiting to be discovered. Histories are waiting to be written, destinies shaped.”*

*(Intercessory Prayer, Dutch Sheets, p. 105)*

- I. HOW DO YOU DEFINE AND UNDERSTAND INTERCESSION?
- II. THE BASICS OF ABIDING, PRAYING, AND BEARING FRUIT (John 15:1-11)
  - A. The heart of Jesus’ teaching: bearing much fruit...
    - i. Glorifies God (15:8)
    - ii. Proves authentic discipleship (15:8)
    - iii. Releases joy (15:11)
  - B. We bear fruit by
    - i. **Abiding** in Jesus
      - a. Necessity (vs. 4 & 5)
      - b. Cost
        - 1) discipline: cleansing of sin (v. 3)
        - 2) pruning: cutting off hindrances (v. 2)
      - c. Rewards: pleasure to God, fullness of joy, fruit that lasts
    - ii. **Asking** according to Abba’s will

*Keys to effective praying:  
Being **near** and learning to **hear**.*
    - iii. **Available** for assignments (“obey my commands” v. 10)
- III. THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
  - A. A “counselor” who guides us into truth (16:13)
  - B. Makes Christ personally real to the disciple (16:14, 15)

***A theology that sells short the ministry of the Holy Spirit sets us up to strive for a standard of spiritual life we have no power to fulfill.***

IV. CHECKING OUR THEOLOGY OF PRAYER

- A. Does prayer truly influence God?
- B. Do I really believe prayer releases God's power?

V. CULTIVATING A HEARING HEART

- A. Fervent desire: having the spirit of Samuel (1 Sam. 3:1-10)
- B. Learn the discipline of meditation (soaking in truth)
- C. Learn the language of the Holy Spirit (Ro. 8:26, 27)
- D. Learn from mentors: trial and error apprenticeship
- E. Bring your mind, moods and lifestyle modes under the Spirit's control (Ps. 86:11, 12)
- F. Actively resist the enemy's accusations and interference

VI. PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

***“Touching heaven, changing earth”***

- A. Clean hands and a pure heart (Ps. 24:3, 4; 1 Tim. 2:8)
- B. Two ways to pray:
  - i. Pleading the principles and promises of the Word
  - ii. Praying the promptings of the Holy Spirit
- C. Be willing to sacrifice: availability of time, energy, fasting, and travail
- D. Bold faith: move in authority and anointing (Mk. 11:22-25)
- E. Persistence (Lu. 18:1-8)

VII. PRACTICING INTERCESSION IN THE FLOW OF EVERYDAY LIFE

***“Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the arm of omnipotence.”  
Jonathan Edwards***

- Pray at the start of your day: divine appointments and assignments
- Learn the supernaturally natural flow of “praying without ceasing”
- Learn the language of the Spirit and follow his promptings
- Watch and pray: look for cues in the news
  - Learn to process breaking news and daily events through your spirit instead of your mind alone***
- Watch for prayer assignment confirmations

SUGGESTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Daring to Draw Near*  
*Intercessory Prayer*  
*Love on Its Knees*  
*Quiet Talks on Prayer*  
*Intercession: Thrilling & Fulfilling*

John White  
Dutch Sheets  
Dick Eastman  
S. D. Gordon  
Joy Dawson

*Praying the Scriptures*  
*Essentials of Prayer*  
*Mighty Prevailing Prayer*  
*Prayer Shield*  
*Rees Howells, Intercessor*

Lee Brase  
E. M. Bounds  
W. Duewel  
Peter Wagner  
Norman Grubb