

Breakthrough, Inc.



Handbook
for
Intercessors

Breakthrough

Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Handbook for Intercessors

Bringing together anonymously
those needing prayer and Christians willing to pray for them;
calling, equipping and encouraging people for this work.

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James Version of the Bible.

Introduction

Since Breakthrough's founding in 1980, thousands of people all over the world have submitted prayer requests to this ministry. Each prayer request is prayed for by six intercessors for a prayer period of 21 days.

In April of 1981, Breakthrough began a publication called *The Intercessor* to advance the prayer ministry. Each issue contains teachings about intercessory prayer, encouragement for intercession, and stories by the intercessors themselves. The ministry offers additional help through other publications, book reviews and tapes. A conference on intercessory prayer sponsored by Breakthrough is held annually. Speakers are available for churches and prayer groups interested in the subject of intercession.

Breakthrough is a family; we learn from you and you learn from us. Intercession is not easy. As intercessors, we are literally putting ourselves in the place of another, taking on his or her conflict or condition as our own concern.

This handbook contains suggestions to help you. When you volunteer your time to be a Breakthrough intercessor, you are touching God on behalf of others.

SECTION I

How Breakthrough Works

Breakthrough provides as much anonymity as possible to persons requesting prayer. A requester's identity is protected to the degree that the intercessor is given only the individual's first name and the state or country where he lives.

Every prayer request that arrives at Breakthrough is read a minimum of three times during processing by staff members. We do not pray over stacks of mail; we pray for individuals and their specific needs. This is the part that makes Breakthrough unique. Those seeking prayer come to know that they are part of our "family."

Each prayer request is processed in the following way:

1. Someone, whom we call the "requester," notifies us of a need or crisis situation.
2. A staff member reads the request and a computer file is made for that person, if one does not already exist.

3. Another staff member reads the letter again, and each prayer request is highlighted with a red pen.
4. A notice is sent telling the requester the date of his three-week prayer period.
5. The Breakthrough staff then enters the request on the computer file and prepares prayer sheets to go to the intercessors.
6. The request is then sent to six intercessors for a three-week prayer period. No intercessor will receive a request from someone in his or her own geographical region, further assuring anonymity.
7. When the 21-day prayer cycle is complete, the intercessor is asked to forward any relevant scripture insights to the office. These verses are then forwarded on to the requester.

Using the Message Insight Form

Those needing prayer benefit greatly by hearing from their intercessors. When you receive your prayer assignment from Breakthrough, pray and ask God to reveal insights from scripture to help lead your prayers according to His will. Write your scripture insights on your prayer list.

It is best not to try to evaluate or interpret what you feel God is saying because He might be revealing something just to

you at this stage. If after several days, you continue to receive the same scripture and feel that God wants you to pass it along to the requester, send it to Breakthrough on the Message Insight Form. It is not necessary to write out the whole scripture. Just note the reference.

Why the Three-Week Prayer Period?

We ask our intercessors to pray for a period of three weeks for the petitions they receive from us. Daniel 10:2 states:

“In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.”

Daniel also fasted from certain food and drink during this time. At the end of the three-week period, he had a vision (Daniel 10:7) in which a heavenly messenger spoke to him and said: “ ...Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. But the Prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days....” (Daniel 10:12-13). Daniel prevailed in prayer for 21 days until God answered his petition.

How Responses Are Handled

1. When Breakthrough receives a response (an answer to prayer) from the requester, that response is forwarded to the intercessors.
2. When Breakthrough receives a message of insight from an intercessor, that scripture is forwarded to the requester.

These steps make communication between intercessor and requester possible while both parties retain their anonymity.

Time and Place

If you have answered God's call to intercession, we encourage you to set aside a special time each day to pray in a comfortable place free from distractions. Designate a specific place where your Bible, journal, prayer requests, a notebook, and pencils are readily available.

As an intercessor, you will probably prefer to pray alone, as Jesus often did. "Again, a second time, He went away and prayed...." (Matthew 26:42) "Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed." (Mark 1:35)

A Note About Fasting

Fasting, like prayer, should begin with God. You may be led by the Holy Spirit to fast. Seek the Lord's direction as to whether or not you should. It is wise to also consult a physician.

Jesus made several points about fasting: He said, " ...when you fast... " meaning there was no question about the need to fast. He also cautioned not to seek praise from men (Matthew 6:16). In other words, we are to fast quietly or in secret.

Fasting is done unto God (Zechariah 7:5). When Joel cried, "Consecrate a fast," he meant set it apart for God. Andrew Murray put it this way: "Fasting helps to express, to deepen, and to confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything to attain that which we seek in the Kingdom of God."

Principles of Intercession

by Joy Dawson

1. Make very sure your heart is clean before God by giving the Holy Spirit time to convict in case there is any unconfessed sin. (Psalm 66:18)
2. Acknowledge that you can't really pray without the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:26)
3. Die to your own imaginations, desires, and burdens for how you think you should pray. (Proverbs 3:5-6; Proverbs 28:26)
4. Ask God to bear positive witness with you by the Holy Spirit, and then thank Him in faith for doing so. (Ephesians 5:20)
5. Praise God in faith for the remarkable prayer time you are going to have. He is a remarkable God and will do something consistent with His character.
6. Deal aggressively with the enemy. Come against him in the all-powerful name of Jesus Christ, and with the sword of the Spirit. (James 4:7)

7. Wait in silent expectancy. Then in obedience and faith, utter what God brings to your mind, believing His Word, "My sheep hear My voice." Don't move to the next subject until God is through with that one.

8. Always have your Bible with you in the event God wants to give confirmation or direction. (Psalm 119:105)

9. When God ceases to bring things to your mind for which to pray, praise Him for what He is doing. Remind yourself that "to God alone is the glory."
(Romans 11:36)

Additional Suggestions

As you prepare to pray, quiet your heart and mind by reading scriptures (see page 15). Do not presume that a request is not worthy. Only God knows the complete situation. Your obedience to pray is the vehicle through which God's love will flow.

Try to put yourself in the place of the person for whom you are praying. Attempt to feel his or her needs and ask God to give you the compassion of Jesus. When you have offered your petitions, wait in silence to see what He may want to say to you. Be sensitive to any scripture verse that comes to mind.

After you have prayed, release your prayers to God. Do not try to carry the burdens on your own shoulders, and do not let the petitions drag you down, either spiritually or emotionally. Know that God already knows all the needs you lay before Him and awaits your prayers to release His answers. Praising God for the answers to your prayers will increase your faith to pray.

Should you at any time feel the need of a rest or sabbatical from this work, just inform us and you will be put on inactive status until you let us know differently.

Remember as you pray that ultimately the effectiveness of your prayers depends upon your relationship with the Lord; the prayer method is between you and God Himself.

SECTION II

Helps for Intercessors

Intercession is often hard work. This section is designed to help you overcome any obstacles that might keep you from interceding effectively.

What To Do During Dry Periods

Sometimes our intercessors experience “dry periods” or times when they feel far from God. According to an intercessor survey, there are at least five things that you can do during these times:

1. Wait patiently upon the Lord.
2. Praise Him.
3. Read the scriptures.
4. Sing, read or listen to favorite hymns.
5. And above all... keep praying!

Remember the words of our Lord:
“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”
(John 15:16).

Scriptures to Quiet Your Mind

“Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” (Psalm 46:10)

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” (John 10:27)

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.” (John 17:20)

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

See also Romans 8:26-39 and
Ephesians 1:17-23.

Spiritual Warfare

“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him.” Isaiah 59:19

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:26

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armor of light.” Romans 13:12

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to

quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Ephesians 6:10-18

"Now whom you forgive anything, I also forgive. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices."
2 Corinthians 2:10-11

"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."
2 Corinthians 3:17

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds." 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God." 1 John 4:1-2

2 Corinthians 10 (the entire chapter)

Praise

“Sing praises to the Lord, who dwells in Zion! Declare His deeds among the people.” Psalm 9:11

“Praise the Lord with the harp; make melody to Him with an instrument of ten strings. Sing to Him a new song: play skillfully with a shout of joy.” Psalm 33:2-3

“I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make its boast in the Lord; the humble shall hear of it and be glad. Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.” Psalm 34:1-3

“And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long.” Psalm 35:28

“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.” Psalm 51:15

“Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You.” Psalm 67:3

“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.” Psalm 104:33

"I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever."
Psalm 145:1

"And in that day you will say: 'O Lord, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me.' " Isaiah 12:1

"For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." Isaiah 55:12

"Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."
Luke 2:20

" ...to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen. "
Romans 16:27

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."
1 Timothy 1:17

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.... ” 1 Peter 2:9

See also Psalm 100; Psalm 104:1-5; Psalm 105:1-6; Psalm 106:1-2; Psalm 113:1-3; Ephesians 1:6-12.

When I Don't Know How to Respond

“Open my eyes that I may see wondrous things from Your law.” Psalm 119:18

“Let my cry come before You, O Lord; give me understanding according to Your Word.” Psalm 119:169

“ ...do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”
Matthew 10:19-20

“Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things.”
II Timothy 2:7

Overwhelmed

"Hear me, O Lord, for Your loving kindness is good; turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies. And do not hide Your face from Your servant.... "

Psalm 69:16-17

"O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me!"

Psalm 71:12

"I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live."

Psalm 116:1-2

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills -- from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

"In the day when I cried out, You answered me, and made me bold with strength in my soul." Psalm 138:3

"I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication. I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble. When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path.... "

Psalm 142:1-3

Prayers for Intercessors



Dear Lord,

I love You, I worship You, and I adore You. I praise Your holy name. Lord, it is my desire to stand in the gap on behalf of others. Therefore, I ask that You bring to my mind and heart those things for which I should thank You, praise You, and petition You. I desire to intercede for others. Please use me in this way, O Lord. This I ask in Your holy name.

Amen



Dear God,

Burden my heart with a desire to pray for others. Give me love for those in need and the grace to respond to Your command to pray for them. Help me to know that intercessory prayer is a central part of Your work in the body of Christ. Guard me against a lazy spirit that would neglect to pray for others. Add Your power and grace to my prayers and use me as an instrument of Your love. Help me to be faithful to intercede for all whom You bring before me in prayer. Help me to see that this is Your will for me. Thank You for calling me to this ministry. May every petition I bring before Your throne glorify You. In Jesus' name.

Amen



Lord,

I open myself to You now. Speak to my heart that I might pray with wisdom. O God, quiet my mind, open my ears, guide my prayers. Lord, I come to You full of myself. Cleanse me and fill me with Your presence, that I might pray with a new heart. Lord, I'm tired and overwhelmed, but You can restore me. Help me to pray with energy and faith and with Your guidance.


Amen



Dear Father God,

I come before You as an unclean vessel -- a common pot with holes in it. I acknowledge that my own walk with You is still a work in progress. But I am willing to be used and in that willingness and desire, I come before You on behalf of these, Your beloved children. I do not know the first thing about these children, but I trust You to reveal to me Your plan for each one and how I am to pray for them as I faithfully lift up their needs and wait expectantly before You. Thank You for the privilege of standing in this holy place of intercession and for allowing me to be used as the body of Christ was designed. Come Lord Jesus, come.

Amen



Heavenly Father,

You have sought an intercessor, as stated by Isaiah, the prophet. You responded to Moses who pleaded for the Hebrew people. Your son, Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, prayed for all persons who would respond to His message through His disciples. Paul exhorted all Christians to pray for others and stated that Jesus Christ stands as an intercessor for all sinners who come to God in His name. Therefore, the role of intercessor is one that I can take, knowing that You, God Almighty, hear the prayers of an intercessor. However, the battle is Yours, Lord. As an intercessor, I can relinquish all of these situations to You, Father, knowing both that Your arm is not shortened and You care for the sparrow which falls. So I lift up these prayers today to You in faith, knowing that You will hear them in the name of Jesus.

Amen

SECTION III

Message

Insight

Section

The following scriptures are categorized under common needs we see in the prayer requests. Though not exhaustive, they may be helpful in giving insight messages.

Addictions

“He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”
Psalm 107:20

“Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” Matthew 9:35

“But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing.”
Luke 9:11

When Suffering Grief or Feeling Abandoned

“Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one can take from you.”
John 16:22

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Finances

“And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you because you obey the voice of the Lord your God: blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out. The Lord will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The Lord will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the Lord your God is giving you.” Deuteronomy 28:2-8

“The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1

“Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the Lord of hosts, “if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10

“Therefore do not worry, saying ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added to you.”

Matthew 6:31-33

“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:38

“You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.” James 4:2-3

Backsliding, Tempted, Salvation

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction.... ”

Psalms 103:2-4

“ ‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ says the Lord, ‘though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.’ ” Isaiah 1:18

“No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.”
Hebrews 8:12

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

“My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”
1 John 2:1

Anxiety/Fear

“The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe.”
Proverbs 29:25

“In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.” Isaiah 54:14

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Matthew 6:33

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to You; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.... ” Philippians 4:6

Depression

“For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”
Psalm 30:5

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” Psalm 103:2

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”
Isaiah 43:2

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18

Forgiveness

“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins -- then He said to the paralytic, ‘Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ ”
Matthew 9:6

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Matthew 6:12

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14-15

“So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”
Matthew 18:35

“Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.” Acts 5:31

“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins.... ”
Acts 13:38

“ ...to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.” Acts 26:18

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” Ephesians 1:7

“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.” Colossians 3:12-13

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Relationships

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.”
Leviticus 19:18

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
Psalm 133:1

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
1 John 1:7

Reconciliation

“Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.” Matthew 5:23-24

“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs -- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” Romans 8:15-17

“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

“...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” Colossians 1:20

Doubt

“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, “be removed and be cast into the sea,” it will be done. And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.’ ”

Matthew 21:21-22

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:11-13

“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”

James 1:6

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”

1 John 4:4

Insecurity

"...The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety by Him, who shelters him all the day long; and he shall dwell between His shoulders." Deuteronomy 33:12

"But the salvation of the righteous is from the Lord; He is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them and deliver them; He shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in Him." Psalm 37:39-40

"His heart is established; he will not be afraid, until he sees his desire upon his enemies." Psalm 112:8

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

"This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil.... " Hebrews 6:19

Confusion

"Now acquaint yourself with Him, and be at peace; thereby good will come to you." Job 22:21

"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted

in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Psalm 46:10-11

"Therefore, having been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord
Jesus Christ, through whom also we have
access by faith into this grace in which we
stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of
God." Romans 5:1-2

"Finally, brethren, whatever things are true,
whatever things are noble, whatever things
are just, whatever things are pure, whatever
things are lovely, whatever things are of
good report, if there is any virtue and if
there is anything praiseworthy -- meditate
on these things. The things which you
learned and received and heard and saw in
me, these do, and the God of peace will be
with you." Philippians 4:8-9

Wisdom

"...behold, I have done according to your
words; see, I have given you a wise and
understanding heart.... " 1 Kings 3:12

"...Blessed be the name of God forever and
ever, for wisdom and might are His."
Daniel 2:20

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His
mouth come knowledge and understanding;
He stores up sound wisdom for the upright;
He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;
He guards the paths of justice, and pre-

serves the way of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path. When wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to your soul, discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you.... "

Proverbs 2:6-11

"When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom."

Proverbs 11:2

"The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones."

Proverbs 16:23-24

" ...for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit.... " 1 Corinthians 12:8

Spiritual Understanding

"Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; love her, and she will keep you. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom and in all your getting, get understanding. Exalt her, and she will promote you; she will bring you honor when you embrace her. She will place on your head an ornament of grace; a crown of glory she will deliver to you. Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, and

the years of your life will be many. I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble."

Proverbs 4:5-12

"There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.... " Isaiah 11:1-4

"For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them."
Matthew 13:15

" ...but as it is written: 'To whom He was not announced, they shall see; and those who have not heard shall understand.' "
Romans 15:21

"Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."
Ephesians 5:17

"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God,

that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For 'who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ."

1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Understanding God's Ways

"Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name." Psalm 86:11

"Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You. Blessed are You, O Lord! Teach me Your statutes. With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate on Your precepts and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your Word." Psalm 119:11-16

"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

“And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ... ” 1 John 5:20

When Faith Is Needed

“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, “Be removed and cast into the sea,” and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.’ ” Mark 11:22-23

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.”
John 14:1

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”
Ephesians 6:10

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

When Feeling Lonely or Alienated

"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God."

Psalms 40:17

"Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God."

Psalms 42:11

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

Sickness

"...If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." Exodus 15:26

"He sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions."

Psalms 107:20

"In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the Angel of His Presence saved them; in

His love and in His pity He redeemed them; and He bore them and carried them all the days of old." Isaiah 63:9

"Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise." Jeremiah 17:14

" 'For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,' says the Lord... " Jeremiah 30:17

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." James 5:14-15

" ...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed." 1 Peter 2:24

Patience

"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!" Psalm 27:14

"Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield." Psalm 33:20

"My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him." Psalm 62:5

“But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” Isaiah 40:31

“It is good that one should hope and wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.”
Lamentations 3:26

“For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”
Habakkuk 2:3

“And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”
Romans 5:3-5

“But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.”
Romans 8:25

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.... ”
Galatians 5:22-23

“ ...knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”
James 1:3-4

“Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” James 5:7-8

Anger/Bitterness

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

Psalms 103:8-10

“If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; for so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the Lord will reward you.”

Proverbs 25:21-22

“An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.”

Proverbs 29:22

“Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools.”

Ecclesiastes 7:9

“The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked.... ” Nahum 1:3

“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another”

other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”
Ephesians 4:31-32

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.... ”
Hebrews 12:14-15

“So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.”
James 1:19-20

“But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth.” James 3:14

Rebellion/Repentance

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction; for whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.”
Proverbs 3:11-12

“ ...Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.” Matthew 9:12-13

“Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

“Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?” Romans 2:4

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man’s obedience many will be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

“Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.” 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

“And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” 2 Timothy 2:24-26

“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9

Read all of Luke 15 (includes parables of the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the prodigal son).

Thankful/Praise

"Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Psalm 29:2

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."
Psalm 34:1

"Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name."
Psalm 100:4

"The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in mercy."
Psalm 103:8

"Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!"
Psalm 107:8

"And in that day you will say: 'Praise the Lord, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted.' " Isaiah 12:4

" ...Praise the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His mercy endures forever -- "
Jeremiah 33:11

" And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful." Colossians 3:15

"Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name." Hebrews 13:15

"...as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious." 1 Peter 2:2-3

God's Promise to Answer Prayer

"Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart."
Psalm 37:4

"He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him." Psalm 91:15

"The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them."
Psalm 145:18-19

"The Lord is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous."
Proverbs 15:29

"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Jeremiah 33:3

“But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.” Matthew 6:6

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”
Matthew 7:7-8

“Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
Matthew 18:19-20

“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” John 15:7

“And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.” John 16:23

“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”
Hebrews 4:16

“And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” 1 John 3:22

SECTION IV

Recommended Reading

Arthur, Kay -

Lord Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days

Bartow, Don -

Yes, Virginia, There Is a God Who Heals
Today

Bounds, E. M. -

The Necessity of Prayer

Chambers, Oswald -

Knocking at God's Door

If Ye Shall Ask

Prayer: A Holy Occupation

Christianson, Evelyn -

What Happens When Women Pray

Dawson, Joy -

Intercession: Thrilling & Fulfilling

Foster, Richard J. -

Prayer - Finding the Heart's True Home

Lawrence, Brother -

The Practice of the Presence of God

Lee, Betsy -

Prayer Is a Welcome Place

LeSourd, Leonard -

Touching the Heart of God

Marshall, Catherine -

The Helper

Beyond Ourselves

Adventures in Prayer

Something More
A Closer Walk
Meeting God at Every Turn

Morrissey, Kirkie -
On Holy Ground

Murray, Andrew -
With Christ In the School of Prayer
The Ministry of Intercession
Divine Healing
The Believer's School of Prayer
The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer

Nee, Watchman -
Let Us Pray

Omartian, Stormie -
The Power of a Praying Wife

Sanford, Agnes -
The Healing Light

Sherrer, Quin -
How to Pray for Your Children
How to Pray for Your Family and
Friends

Scherrer, Quin and Garlock, Ruthanne -
Grandma, I Need Your Prayers
Prayer Partnerships
Praying Prodigals Home

Sheets, Dutch -
Intercessory Prayer

Mission Statement

Breakthrough - bringing together anonymously those with needs and Christians willing to pray for them: calling and equipping people for this work.

Statement of Faith

1. We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. We confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is our personal Savior and Lord.
3. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
4. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
5. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
6. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTES

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