

**P R A Y
F I R S T**
**A PERSONAL
PRAYER GUIDE**

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Pray First

Dear Reader,

The Lord has set us on a new course and we have set our hearts to be a people of prayer and fasting. Our rally cry has simply been, to “P.U.S.H.”... to pray until something happens! In every situation, whether good or bad, we try to always pray until we see the miracle release for which we are hoping. Jesus was so concerned with our prayer persistence that He demanded in Scripture that we always pray and not grow weary. Furthermore, Jesus warns that sometimes prayer is not enough, we must also fast to achieve certain victories. Many times people start praying and then want God to bail them out of their situation so they stop praying, but prayer should be our first response, and not our last resort. It should be what we do no matter what. Likewise, fasting is not dieting; it is an act that commits our spiritual will to be in central focus, even above our physical needs.

Understanding the necessity of prayer and fasting is not enough. In order for it to become a part of our life, it needs to become something we look forward to doing with joy. I'm convinced most people don't enjoy praying and fasting because they have never been taught how to do it. That's where this simple prayer journal can help. Using several prayer models out of the Bible and having some guides to make prayer more personal, this booklet is designed to bring joy into your time with God. When you discover the beauty of daily conversation with Him and you learn HIS LANGUAGE, you'll experience the presence of God that will change your life forever.

Once you learn how to pray, prayer can become a part of everyday life. And then...

Prayer changes everything!
Before the day begins—
Before you go to bed—
Before you go to work or school—
Before you send that text—
Before you eat, drive or travel—
When bad things happen—
Before bad things happen—
In every situation ...
All the time - PRAY FIRST
Prayer changes everything!

Blessings,

De'Andre Salter

Lead Pastor | Impact Church

What is Prayer?

Communication with God. Because God is personal, all people can offer prayers. However, sinners who have not trusted Jesus Christ for their salvation remain alienated from God. While unbelievers may pray, they do not have the basis for rewarding fellowship with God. They have not met the conditions laid down in the Bible for effectiveness in prayer.

Prayers are not only a response to God's grace; they are also requests for our needs and the needs of others. For good reasons, God's holy and wise purpose does not permit Him to grant every petition just as it is asked.

Several hindrances to prayers being answered are mentioned in the Bible:

- Iniquity in the heart (Psalms 66:18)
 - Refusal to hear God's law (Proverbs 28:9)
 - An estranged heart (Isaiah 29:13)
 - Simple separation from God (Isaiah 59:2)
 - Waywardness (Jeremiah 14:10-12)
 - Offering unworthy sacrifices (Malachi 1:7-9)
 - Praying to be seen of men (Matthew 6:5-6)
 - Pride in fasting and tithing (Luke 18:1-14)
 - Lack of faith (Hebrews 11:6)
 - Doubting or double mindedness (James 4:3)
-

More positively, God has promised to answer our requests when we:

- Start helping the hungry and afflicted (Isaiah 58:9-10)
- Believe that we will receive what we ask (Mark 11: 22-24)
- Forgive others (Mark 11:25-27)
- Ask in Jesus' name (John 14:13-14)
- Abide in Christ and His Words (John 15:7)
- Pray in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:8)
- Obey the Lord's commandments (1 John 3:22)
- Are asking according to His will (1 John 5:14-15).

Until we have properly responded to God and His word, He cannot entrust us with His powerful resources. Therefore, some of our prayers will go unanswered.

Prayer is a request to a personal Lord Who answers as He, not we, knows best. We should not think that we will always have success in obtaining the things for which we ask. In His wisdom, God hears and answers in the way that is best. Scripture even speaks of the fact that sometimes our prayers miss the target because we pray for the wrong things.

Prayer requires faith in God and the Bible. The most meaningful prayer comes from a heart that places its trust in the God who has acted and spoken in teachings of the Bible. God speaks to us through the Bible, and we in turn speak to Him in trustful, believing prayer. Assured by the scripture that God is personal, living, active, all knowing, all wise, and all powerful, we know that God can hear and help us. A confident prayer life is built on the cornerstone of Christ's work and Word, which is shown by the prophets and apostles in the Spirit-inspired writings of the Bible.

Prayer must be effective. Prayer has power over everything. God can intelligently act in any part of the universe or human history. Although some people think prayer is a waste of time, the Bible declares that "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" (James 5:16).

Lifestyle Prayer

How do we make prayer a part of our everyday life? We can learn from three things that Jesus did...

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed (Mark 1:35).

- A CERTAIN TIME

Jesus got up very early in the morning to spend time with His Heavenly Father. In order for prayer to work, we should do the same. Make a daily appointment with God and keep it.

- A CERTAIN PLACE

Jesus had a prayer place. Your prayer place needs to be an undistracted environment where you can pray out loud and perhaps have some worship music playing in the background.

- A CERTAIN PLAN

Go into your prayer time with a plan. If it changes that's fine. When Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, He gave them a prayer outline. We call it the Lord's Prayer. This outline along with several other tools are available in this booklet.

The Lord's Prayer

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1).

*"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one, for yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever"
(Matthew 6:9-13).*

"Our Father in heaven..."

1. CONNECT WITH GOD RELATIONALLY

*You have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father"
(Romans 8:15, NLT).*

God loves for us to call Him our Father. Establish your intimate relationship with Him and thank Him for the relationship you have with Him.

"...Hallowed be Your Name..."

2. WORSHIP HIS NAME

God's name is a place of protection—the righteous can run there and be safe (Proverbs 18:10, MSG).

What are His Names?

Righteousness - He makes me clean

Sanctifier - He has called me and set me apart

Healer - He heals all my diseases

*Banner of Victory - He has defeated my enemy
Shepherd - He speaks to me and leads me
Peace - He is my peace in every storm
Provider - He supplies all of my needs*

“...Your Kingdom come, Your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven...”

3. PRAY HIS AGENDA FIRST

*He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the
Kingdom of God your primary concern
(Luke 12:31, TLB).*

God's priorities:

- *Saving the Lost*
- *Guiding those in authority - parental, spiritual, governmental, workplace*
- *His will in us*

“...Give us this day our daily bread...”

4. DEPEND ON HIM FOR EVERYTHING

*I look up to the mountains—does my help come from there? My help
comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! (Psalm 121:1-2, NLT).*

Ask God for what you want and need and then trust Him for the answer.

“...Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors...”

5. GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD AND PEOPLE

*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness
(1 John 1:9).*

Ask God to check your heart and motives. Receive His forgiveness for any
area that He brings to mind.

Forgive anyone who has offended you in any way. You can even forgive
people in advance.

“...And do not lead us into temptation
but deliver us from the evil one...”

6. ENGAGE IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:12).

Take your stand against the enemy and fight the good fight of faith. Every lie that the enemy has told you should be replaced with the truth of God's Word.

“...For yours is the Kingdom and the Power
and the Glory forever.”

7. EXPRESS FAITH IN GOD'S ABILITY

“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you” (Jeremiah 32:17).

End your prayer time by reminding yourself of God's ability. Return to praise and make your faith declarations.

- “Yours is the Kingdom” - all rule belongs to You
- “Yours is the Power” - all mightiness flows from You
- “Yours is the Glory” - Your victory shall be complete.

Tabernacle Prayer

The Tabernacle was the dwelling place of God where He met His people. As they entered the Tabernacle, they passed through seven stations as a protocol to God's presence. Today, these same steps can help us to connect with God and lead us through important elements of prayer.

1. THE OUTER COURT - THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name (Psalm 100:4).

As the people of God entered the Tabernacle, they came in with thanksgiving on their lips. Thanking God for all the blessings in your life is a great way to begin. Everyday, think of a fresh reason why you love and appreciate God.

2. THE BRAZEN ALTAR - THE CROSS OF JESUS

Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's (Psalm 103:2-5).

In the Old Testament, everyone who had committed sins had to bring animal sacrifices. Jesus paid for all your sins once and for all. You simply need to receive the benefits of what Jesus did for you.

- *Salvation - God forgives all my sin*
- *Healing - God heals all my diseases*
- *Redemption - God rescues me from every attack*
- *Transformation - God puts His love in me*
- *Provision - God provides everything I need*

3. THE LAVER - CLEANSING AND PREPARING

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1).

The next step in the Tabernacle was a bowl of water where people could wash. Checking your hearts and motives and then surrendering your life to God is an important part of daily prayer. Here are some ways to keep your heart right with God.

1. Repent from any known sin.
 2. Offer your body to God.
 - *Your tongue - to speak good and not evil*
 - *Your eyes - to see God and the needs of others*
 - *Your ears - to be sensitive to His voice*
 - *Your hands - to do good to others*
 - *Your feet - to walk in God's ways*
 3. Offer your mind to God (Philippians 4:8; Romans 12:2).
 4. Ask God to give you the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
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4. THE CANDLESTICK - THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD (Isaiah 11:2).

The next piece of furniture in the Tabernacle was a seven-branched golden candlestick. The fire represents the Holy Spirit. Everyday you should invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your life.

- *The Spirit of the Lord*
- *The Spirit of Wisdom*
- *The Spirit of Understanding*
- *The Spirit of Counsel*
- *The Spirit of Might*
- *The Spirit of Knowledge*
- *The Fear of the Lord*

You should also ask God to give you spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

5. THE TABLE OF SHEWBREAD - THE WORD OF GOD

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8).

A table with twelve loaves of bread represents the importance of reading God's Word for daily sustenance. With this in mind, here are ways to nourish your soul:

- *Read God's Word.*
 - *Claim His many great promises.*
 - *Ask for fresh revelation of the Word.*
 - *Take time to read and meditate on the Word.*
 - *Get a Word for the day.*
-

6. THE ALTAR OF INCENSE - WORSHIP

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe (Proverbs 18:10).

A small altar of burning incense stood at the entrance to the Holy of Holies, where God's presence dwelt. This altar represents worship. The people of God literally entered God's presence worshipping the Names of God, including:

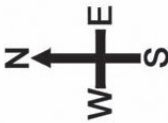
- *God is My Righteousness - Jeremiah 23:6*
- *God is My Sanctifier - Leviticus 20:7-8*
- *God is My Healer - Exodus 15:26*
- *God is My Provider - Genesis 22:14*
- *God is My Banner of Victory - Exodus 17:15*
- *God is My Peace - Judges 6:24*
- *God is My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1*
- *God is Always There - Ezekiel 48:35*

7. THE ARK OF THE COVENANT - INTERCESSION

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

The final place in the Tabernacle was the place where God's presence dwelt. It was there that the priest interceded on behalf of the people. In the New Testament, you and I are all called priests and instructed to intercede for others:

- *Those in authority - spiritual, civil, family, and workplace*
- *My family*
- *My church - pastor, small group, members, and vision/mission*
- *My city, nation, and world*
- *My needs.*



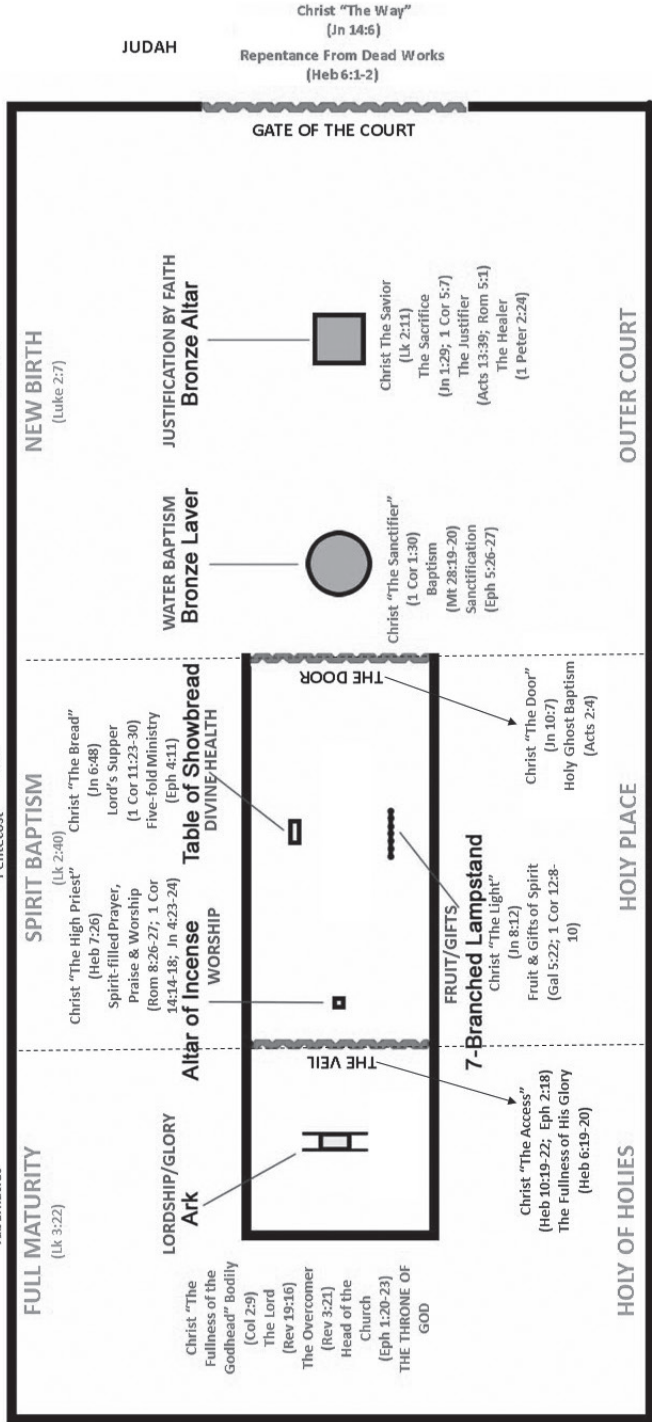
TABERNACLE TYPES AND MEANINGS BY DE'ANDRE SALTER

**For The High Priest
Shall Be Saved**
First Fruit
Perfect Will
Father
Gold Vessels
Tabernacles

**For The Priest
Are Being Saved**
Bulk of Harvest
Permissive Will
Young Men
Silver Vessels
Pentecost

**For All Israel
Have Been Saved**
Gleanings of Harvest
Good Will of God (Ro 12:2)
Little Children (1.Jn 2:12-14)
Brass Vessels (Ezra 1:10)
Passover

"Three times in a
year..."
Deut 16:16)



3 = Agreement, i.e. Crosses (Tribes, Priests, Furniture) Heb 10:5-7

Prayer and Scripture Devotional

This is a great prayer outline mixed with Scripture readings. Simply walk through the outline while you look up the passages of Scripture.

1. THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE - PRESENT YOURSELF TO GOD (MARK 12:30)

Think of a fresh reason to thank Him (Psalm 100:4, 118:24).

Present your body in worship (Romans 12:1; Psalm 63:3-4) by:

- *Kneeling before Him as your Lord*
- *Lifting your hands to Him as your Source*
- *Standing in praise before Him as your King*
- *Clapping your hands with rejoicing*
- *Dancing with joy as a child*
- *Bowing your head in humility*

Sing a new song to Him (Psalm 96:1-2; Colossians 3:16).

Invite Holy Spirit assisted praise (Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:15).

2. CONFESSION AND CLEANSING - PRESENT YOUR HEART TO GOD (PROVERBS 4:23)

Ask God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24) for:

- *Sin - receive cleansing and righteousness*
- *Selfishness - receive holiness and sanctification*
- *Stress - receive life and power*
- *Sickness - receive healing and strength*

Remember the danger of self-deception (Jeremiah 17:9; 1 John 1:6-10).

Set a monitor on your mouth and heart (Psalm 19:14, 49:3).

*Ask God to help you keep His purposes and goals in view
(Psalm 90:12; Philippians 3:13-14).*

3. ORDER AND OBEDIENCE - PRESENT YOUR DAY TO GOD (PSALM 37:5)

*Present the day's details
(Psalm 37:4-5, 31:14-15; Deuteronomy 33:25):*

*Choose the fear of the Lord.
Commit your works to God.*

*Indicate your dependence upon God
(Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 131:1-3).*

*Request specific direction for actions and decisions
(Psalm 25:4-5; Isaiah 30:21).*

Choose to obey God's explicit instructions in the Word of God
by choosing to do His Will
(Matthew 6:11, 7:7-8).

Warfare Prayers

Prayer is not only communion with God; it is confrontation with the enemy. These prayers are very helpful in spiritual warfare.

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the Gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. 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 (Ephesians 6:11-18).

THE ARMOR OF GOD

(based on Ephesians 6:13-17)

"Thank You, Lord, for my salvation. I receive it in a new and fresh way from You and I declare that nothing can separate me from the love of Christ and the place I have in Your Kingdom. I wear Your righteousness today against all condemnation and corruption. Cover me with Your holiness and purity—defend me from all assaults against my heart. Lord, I put on the belt of truth. I choose a lifestyle of honesty and integrity. Expose the lies I have believed, and show me the truths I need today. I choose to live for the Gospel in every moment. Show me where You are working and lead me to it. Give me strength to walk daily with You. I believe that You are powerful against every lie and assault of the enemy. You have good in store for me. Nothing is coming today that can overcome me because You are with me. Holy Spirit, show me the truths of the Word of God that I will need to counter the traps of the enemy. Bring those Scriptures to mind today. Finally, Holy Spirit, I agree to walk in step with You in everything as my spirit communes with You in prayer throughout the day."

THE WEAPONS OF WARFARE

(based on 2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

“Father, Your Word says that no weapon formed against me shall prosper (Isaiah 54:17). Therefore I declare that no weapon formed against me prospers this day or any day to come in Jesus’ name. Your Word says that trouble will not arise a second time (Nahum 1:9). Therefore I declare that Satan cannot make trouble for me again, in this manner, as he did in the past in Jesus’ name. I declare all of these prayers accomplished and brought to pass by trusting you through faith and expectation in the name of Jesus.

Lord Jesus, I confess to You all of my sins this day, yesterday and every day past. I repent and renounce them, those known and unknown, those of omission and commission, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. I lay down at Your feet all of the sins of the flesh, the tongue, and of the heart, and all unholy thoughts and actions. Thank You, Lord, for shedding Your precious blood for me.

I stand on Your Word. The enemy is driven out from before me, above me, around me, and below me; from my home, workplace, church and its ministries, children, and loved ones; from my works and labors, land, and my presence. I declare that he is not able to stand against me, and his works are taken captive and destroyed. No weapon formed against me will prosper, for the Spirit of the Lord shall raise a standard against them. I declare all of these things accomplished by Your Word. Jesus, my Lord, I give You thanksgiving, praise, glory, honor and worship for Your righteousness and holiness given to me by Your Word on my behalf.”

PROTECTION PRAYER

(based on 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:3-5; Romans 12:1-2)

“Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I submit myself only to the true and living God and refuse any involvement of the enemy in my life. I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind. I pull down every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of Christ. I pray and thank you for a sound mind, the mind of Christ.

Today and every day I ask for protection over my spouse; each of my children; our immediate family members, relatives, friends, acquaintances and myself. I also ask today for protection during all of our travels; for our provision, finances, possessions, health, safety, and welfare. I put all of

these things under the covering of Your precious blood and declare that Satan cannot touch them, on this day or any day to come.”

GENERAL CONFESSION PRAYER

(based on Romans 10:10; James 5:16; 1 John 1:7-9, 3:8)

“Lord Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God. You are the Messiah, come in the flesh to destroy the works of the devil. You died on the cross for my sins and rose again the third day from the dead. I now confess all my sins and repent. I receive your forgiveness and ask you to cleanse me from all sin. Thank You for redeeming me, cleansing me, justifying me, and sanctifying me in Your blood.”

FORGIVENESS PRAYER

(based on Matthew 6:14-15; Leviticus 19:18)

“Lord, I have a confession to make. I have not loved, but have resented certain people and have unforgiveness in my heart. I call upon You, Lord, to help me forgive them. I do now forgive (name them). I also forgive and accept myself in the name of Jesus Christ.”

PRIDE PRAYER

(based on Proverbs 11:2, 16:18, 26:12; 1 Timothy 3:6)

“Father, I come to You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I know pride is an abomination to You. I renounce anything that would cause me to have pride in my heart in dealing with other people. I renounce these and turn away from them. I humble myself before You and come to You as a little child.”

Study Proverbs 6:16-19 and remember that fasting is a means by which a person humbles himself before the Lord.

GENERATIONAL BONDAGE PRAYER

(based on Exodus 20:4-6, 34:7; Numbers 14:18)

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I now renounce, break, and loose myself from all bondages or bonds of physical or mental illness upon me, my family or family line as the result of parents or any other ancestors. I thank You, Lord, for setting me free.”

Ministry of Intercession

(Job 22:30, AMP) He will even deliver the one [for whom you intercede] who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.

Jesus said, “When you pray”, not “if you pray” (Luke 11)

DEFINITION

To intervene or pray to God on behalf of another

DESCRIPTION

The ministry of intercession is praying for extended periods of time on a regular basis on behalf of others, and seeing frequent and specific answers to your prayers.

Nothing in scripture calls intercession a spiritual gift, but intercessors are a gift to me, and I have noticed that the gifts of the Holy Spirit readily flow through them.

USUALLY

- Prayerful
 - Available
 - Sincere
 - Spiritual
 - Caring
 - Sensitive
 - Confident
 - Trustworthy
-

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES

1. Anna

*(Luke 2:26-38) Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but **served God with fastings and prayers night and day.***

And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

2. Abraham – interceding in behalf of Sodom (Genesis 16-33)

3. Moses – identifying with his people and interceding for them

(Exodus 32:30) Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! “Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”

4. Jesus – taking our place on the cross

(Mark 1:35) In the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. (Hebrews 7:25) Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. They pray longer than most – minimum of one hour a day but can average 2-5 hours a day
2. They identify with, agonize and take authority for those they are interceding for
3. They identify with someone’s need and intercede with faith and perseverance for that need
4. They pray with more intensity
5. They enjoy prayer more and get great personal satisfaction from praying
6. They hear from God more regularly and more accurately
7. They feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause
8. They have a daily awareness of the spiritual battle being waged in such a way that they feel drawn to lift up prayers

9. They are convinced that God moves in direct response to the fervent prayer
 10. They pray in response to the leading of the Spirit, whether they understand it or not.
-

MISUSE OF MINISTRY

1. By calling it a gift some could excuse their lack of prayer.

A not so recent survey of "Evangelical Pastors" revealed that the average pastor in America prays around five minutes per day. If this be true then we can imagine how little the average Christian is praying per day.

2. Avoid sharing everything God reveals to you in prayer.

Some things are for you personally and are never to be shared. Some things that need to be shared require a proper timing and tact. Someone has said, *"Seasoned intercessors learn to hold 80% of what they receive from God and reveal 20%. Prayer partners with the Father are in a place of hiddenness, and the majority of assignments should be carried out in the prayer closet."*

3. Avoid developing a religious spirit, "holier than thou" attitude, being hyper-spiritual, excessively loud, too long, and draw attention to yourself.

(Matthew 6:5-6) "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "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."

4. Avoid feeling performance driven in a corporate prayer meeting. Be genuine and simple.

5. Avoid thinking that God is impressed with your many and repeated words and prayers; He responds to faith.

Matthew 6:7-8 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

6. Avoid using prayer as an escape from fulfilling responsibilities.

7. Avoid speaking gloom and doom and prophesying the pastor out of the church.

You have power as an intercessor because you bless, not because you curse.

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES

1. Be alert at all times to the opportunities to help others. When given a prayer request, pray in that moment.

2. Ask Holy Spirit to show you what or who to intercede for.

3. Attend prayer meetings and learn from others, but also participate.

4. Encourage other people to pray, “Would you pray about this ...”.

5. Have a dedicated daily time of personal prayer.

6. Plead God’s mercy for those you pray for.

(James 2:13) For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

7. Expect God to reveal things to you, but please avoid the big head, when He does.

(Psalm 25:14) The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

8. When your mind doesn’t know what to pray, pray in the Spirit.

(Romans 8:26-27) 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 which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

CHALLENGES TO INTERCESSION

- Prayer circles: “I don’t like to pray in front of others.”
- Private devotional: “I don’t like to get up early. It will interfere with ...”
- Church-Wide Fast: “I don’t like to fast. I need my food.”
- Prayer meetings: “I can’t do my thing. I don’t like the way others lead the meeting.”

- Early Morning Prayer: “It messes my day up.”; “I don’t feel led.”.

Prayer is inconvenient for your schedule and a sacrifice to your flesh, but nothing brings greater satisfaction and reward!

COMPLIMENTING GIFTS

- Exhortation
 - Word of wisdom
 - Discerning of Spirits
 - Giving
 - Word of knowledge
 - Tongues and interpretation
-

MINISTRIES

- Prayer leader
 - Church elder
 - Fasting
 - Hospital visitation
 - Discipleship
-

SCRIPTURES

(Isaiah 59:16) He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor;

(Ezekiel 22:30) “So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

(Acts 6:2-4) Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.”³ “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;⁴ “but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

(Ephesians 6:18) praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

(Colossians 1:9-11) For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

(Colossians 4:2-3) Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³ meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

(Colossians 4:12-13) Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

(1 Timothy 2:1) Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,

(James 5:16b-17) The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. ¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

New Testament Prayers

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>Matthew 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <i>c/r Luke 6:28</i></p>	<p>Matthew 9:38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." <i>c/r Luke 10:2</i></p>	<p>Matthew 14:23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.</p>	<p>Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.</p>
<p>Matthew 6:5-15 [The Model Prayer] "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <i>c/r Luke 11:1-4</i></p>	<p>Matthew 17:21 However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." <i>c/r Mark 9:29</i></p>	<p>Matthew 19:13 [<i>Jesus Blesses Little Children</i>] Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them.</p>	<p>Acts 10:9 [<i>Peter's Vision</i>] The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.</p>

**c/r* = cross reference

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>Matthew 24:20 And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. <i>c/r Mark 13:18,33; Luke 21:36</i></p>	<p>Matthew 21:22 And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” <i>c/r Mark 11:24</i></p>	<p>Matthew 26:36-45 [<i>The Prayer in the Garden</i>] Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” <i>c/r Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46</i></p>	<p>Acts 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Matthew 26:41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” <i>c/r Mark 14:38; Luke 22:46</i></p>	<p>Luke 1:10 And the whole multitude of the people was praying outside at the hour of incense.</p>	<p>Mark 1:35 [Preaching in Galilee] Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.</p>	<p>Acts 13:3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.</p>
<p>Mark 11:25 [<i>Forgiveness and Prayer</i>] “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.</p>	<p>Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.</p>	<p>Mark 6:46 And when He had sent them away, He departed to the mountain to pray.</p>	<p>Acts 14:23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.</p>
<p>Luke 2:37 And this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.</p>	<p>Acts 1:24 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen</p>	<p>Luke 3:21 [<i>John Baptizes Jesus</i>] When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.</p>	<p>Acts 16:13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.</p>

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>Luke 18:1 <i>[The Parable of the Persistent Widow]</i> Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,</p>	<p>Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.</p>	<p>Luke 5:16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.</p>	<p>Acts 16:16 <i>[Paul and Silas Imprisoned]</i> Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling.</p>
<p>John 14:12 <i>[The Answered Prayer]</i> "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.</p>	<p>Acts 3:1 <i>[A Lame Man Healed]</i> Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.</p>	<p>Luke 6:12 <i>[The Twelve Apostles]</i> Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.</p>	<p>Acts 16:25 <i>[The Philippian Jailer Saved]</i> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.</p>
<p>John 16:26 In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;</p>	<p>Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.</p>	<p>Luke 9:18 <i>[Peter Confesses Jesus as the Christ]</i> And it happened, as He was alone praying, that His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"</p>	<p>Acts 22:17 "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance.</p>

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>Acts 10:4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.</p>	<p>Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."</p>	<p>Luke 9:28-29 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray.</p>	<p>Acts 28:8 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.</p>
<p>Romans 8:26 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 which cannot be uttered.</p>	<p>Acts 6:6 Whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.</p>	<p>Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."</p>	<p>Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,</p>
<p>Romans 12:12 rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;</p>	<p>Acts 12:5 <i>[Peter Freed from Prison]</i> Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.</p>	<p>John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—</p>	<p>Romans 10:1 <i>[Israel Needs the Gospel]</i> Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 7:5 Do not deprive one another except with consent for a time, that you may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again so that Satan does not tempt you because of your lack of self-control.</p>	<p>Acts 12:12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.</p>	<p>John 17:1-26 <i>[Jesus Prays for Himself]</i> Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 13:7 <i>[Paul Prefers Gentleness]</i> Now I pray to God that you do no evil, not that we should appear approved, but that you should do what is honorable, though we may seem disqualified.</p>

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>1 Corinthians 11:4 -516 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head.</p>	<p>Acts 20:36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.</p>		<p>2 Corinthians 13:9 For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. And this also we pray, that you may be made complete.</p>
<p>1 Corinthians 14:13-15 Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret.</p>	<p>Acts 21:5 When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.</p>		<p>Ephesians 1:16 Do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:</p>
<p>Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—</p>	<p>Acts 27:29 Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come.</p>		<p>Philippians 1:3-4 <i>[Thankfulness and Prayer]</i> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,</p>
<p>1 Timothy 5:5 Now she who is really a widow, and left alone, trusts in God and continues in supplications and prayers night and day.</p>	<p>Romans 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,</p>		<p>Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,</p>

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>1 Peter 4:7 <i>[Serving for God's Glory]</i> But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.</p>	<p>Philippians 1:19 <i>[To Live Is Christ]</i> For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,</p>		<p>1 Thessalonians 1:2 <i>[Their Good Example]</i> We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,</p>
<p>1 John 5:14-16 <i>[Confidence and Compassion in Prayer]</i> Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.</p>	<p>Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;</p>		<p>1 Thessalonians 3:10-11 Night and day praying exceedingly that we may see your face and perfect what is lacking in your faith?</p>
<p>Jude 1:20 <i>[Maintain Your Life with God]</i> But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,</p>	<p>Colossians 4:2-3 <i>[Christian Graces]</i> Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;</p>		<p>2 Thessalonians 1:11 Therefore we also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power,</p>
<p>Revelation 5:8 <i>[Worthy Is the Lamb]</i> Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 5:17 Pray without ceasing,</p>		<p>2 Thessalonians 3:1 <i>[Pray for Us]</i> Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you,</p>

PRAYERS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT			
PERSONAL	THE CHURCH	JESUS	APOSTLES
<p>Revelation 8:3-4 Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.</p>	<p>1 Thessalonians 5:25 Brethren, pray for us.</p>		<p>1 Timothy 2:1 <i>[Pray for All Men]</i> Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men,</p>
	<p>1 Timothy 2:8 <i>[Men and Women in the Church]</i> I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;</p>		<p>2 Timothy 1:3 <i>[Timothy's Faith and Heritage]</i> I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day,</p>
	<p>1 Timothy 4:5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.</p>		<p>Philemon 1:4 <i>[Philemon's Love and Faith]</i> I thank my God, making mention of you always in my prayers,</p>
	<p>Philemon 1:22 But, meanwhile, also prepare a guest room for me, for I trust that through your prayers I shall be granted to you.</p>		<p>3 John 1:2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.</p>
	<p>Hebrews 13:18 <i>[Prayer Requested]</i> Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.</p>		

Personal Prayer Targets

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

Pray for those in authority and those under your authority.

MY GOVERNMENT

President

National leaders

State leaders

City leaders

MY FAMILY

Spouse

Children

Parents

Siblings

Extended family

MY CHURCH

Pastor

Small group leader

Small group members

MY LIFE

Employer

Co-workers

Employees

Teachers/Professors

THOSE I INFLUENCE

Close friends

THOSE WHO NEED GOD

1. PRAY THAT THE FATHER WOULD DRAW THEM TO JESUS

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him (John 6:44).

2. BIND THE SPIRIT THAT BLINDS THEIR MINDS

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (2 Corinthians 4:4).

3. LOOSE THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION (SONSHIP)

For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father" (Romans 8:15).

4. PRAY THAT OTHER BELIEVERS WILL CROSS THEIR PATHS AND ENTER INTO POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEM

Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field (Matthew 9:38).

5. LOOSE THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION ON THEM SO THEY MAY KNOW GOD BETTER

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better (Ephesians 1:17).

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