

The disciples witnessed every miracle that Jesus worked
They heard every message that He ever preached
They witnessed every deliverance and observed every prayer

Yet, they never asked Him to teach them to heal, prophecy, or do miracles. They asked, *“Lord, teach us to pray”* (Luke 11:1)

“So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.” (Luke 11:2, NKJV)

- We would think that if an all-knowing, all-seeing God wanted His will to come forth on the earth then it would happen
- God Needs Our Help!

It is no small task to represent God

- Image – *“shadow, phantom, or illusion”* – Genesis 1:27
- *“Glory”* – *“Heavy or weighty”* – Psalm 8:5
- Adam carried a lot of weight or **clout**

When creation saw Adam they were supposed to see God – and they did until Adam fell

- God was no longer recognized in fallen human-kind
- We must be changed back into God’s image – In Christ!

*“But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the **same image** from **glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”*

(2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV)

Intercede – *“to go or pass between; to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to interpose; to mediate or make intercession; mediation.”* – Webster’s

- Adam was to be God’s representative to represent God’s will on the earth
- Of course, we all know Adam failed
- God became flesh and dwelt among us enabling us to be ministers of reconciliation between God and man

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 2:5, NKJV)

Because Jesus, the perfect Mediator/Intercessor has made us one with Himself and made us new creations in Him we can now intercede on behalf of mankind with all authority and glory!
– in Jesus’ Name! – 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; John 17

*“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has **declared Him.**”*

(John 1:18, NKJV)

We are the “sent” ones – representing Jesus

*“So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! **As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**”* (John 20:21, NKJV)

- Everything we do is under the authority of Jesus
- He fulfilled His part and defeated the enemy *legally*, we do our part enforcing His work, *literally* – Psalm 110:1-3
- We are the army of God policing a war Zone, enforcing His Law until Government Rule is established

God's plan for redeeming mankind is not a formula it is a Person

“In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the Father for you;” (John 16:26, NKJV)

- Remember we pray to the Father in Jesus' Name
- He is interceding for us, legally permitting us to approach the Throne
- It's not just a formula it is based on His Truth
- He is the Way the Truth and the Life – **John 14:6**
- We enter because of Him – **Hebrews 10:19**
- He is our Advocate – **1 John 2:1**
- He is our mediator – **1 Timothy 2:5**

Everything God can give us or do for us is based on the finished work of Jesus Christ

- We can only enter into a relationship with our Father because of His legal sacrifice
- It is impossible for God to relate to us any other way

“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.” (Acts 3:16, NKJV)

- All of Jerusalem was amazed at this lame man receiving healing
- Peter answered the crowd that it was done through faith in the Name of Jesus

Intercession is really about establishing boundaries

- One boundary that God is concerned with is our destinies
- Destiny – from the Greek word, *horizon* – *the farthest limit of sight*
- Our destiny is our God-given horizon or boundary
- He has predestined the plans and purposes He has for each of our lives
- Before we were born

“My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.” (Psalm 139:15–16, NKJV)

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11, NKJV)

Remember *intercession* means *creating a meeting*

- Christ’s intercession created a meeting connecting heaven and earth
- Making His plans, purposes, and destinies a reality in the hearts of people

If we miss the God of meetings, we miss the God of the Bible

- He met with Adam and Eve in the cool of the day to commune with them
- He met with Abraham to covenant with him and become his friend
- He met with Moses on the mountain and in the tabernacle to impart wisdom for leading a nation
- He met with David on the hills around Bethlehem to make him a lion, bear, and giant killer, and to put in him the qualities of a king
- He met with Mary to make her the mother of God
- He met with many sick and diseased people to heal their bodies
- He met with the 12 to shape them into apostles
- He met with the 120 in the upper room to make them “*little Christs,*” which is the meaning of the word Christians

Everything changes when people meet with God!

An immoral woman with five failed marriages became an evangelist after an encounter with Christ – **John 4**

“Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” (**John 4:29, NKJV**)

A Jewish Zealot, who persecuted the early Church, met the Lord on the road to Damascus

- Because of that meeting, we are well acquainted with the apostle Paul – **Acts 9:1-9**

The greatest meeting that can happen is for someone to come to Christ

- This meeting will forever change a person's destiny
- As well as your destiny and eternal reward
- People will be in heaven because of your prayers and intercession
- The enemy will try to convince you that your prayers don't matter – but he is a liar!

“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.” (Acts 10:4, NKJV)

“and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God.’ (Acts 10:31, NKJV)

- Here we see that the angel declared that Cornelious' intercession had come up as a memorial before God
- His giving and prayer were remembered before God

His intercession led to a meeting between Cornelious and Peter, Cornelious and God, and ultimately God and other people

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” (Acts 10:44, NKJV)

- God is willing that all are saved – **1 Timothy 2:4**
- God will hear your prayers and set up meetings
- Pray for all men – **1 Timothy 2:1**

Six Things to Ask For as We Intercede for the Lost

Pray for their spiritual eyes to be opened to the Gospel

“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, NKJV)

“whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

(2 Corinthians 4:4, NKJV)

- There is a veil covering their spiritual eyes
 - *2 Corinthians 4:3*
- They are unable to understand the spiritual realm
 - *1 Corinthians 2:14*
- Pray that the veil is lifted and that they have a supernatural revelation

Pray that all deception be broken off

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down **strongholds**, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”*
(2 Corinthians 10:4–5, NKJV)

- Speculation – (NASB) – *logic, philosophy, or belief system*

These mindsets can be caused by what is being repeatedly taught, such as doctrines, religions, atheism, or any other number of beliefs

- More than what they believe, it is why they believe something
- Not just how someone acts but why they act that way

Also caused by...

- Sexual fantasies, perversions, rejection, witchcraft, prejudices, etc.
- Anything that creates a pattern of thinking through repetition
- Many times people are unaware of the underlying system

Pray that the belief systems of unbelievers that contradict the Word of God will be overcome

Pray that the logic of God's Word will become clear and irresistible to them

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving; praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.” (Colossians 4:2–4, NASB95)

- See also – **Ephesians 6:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:1**

Pray that the stronghold of pride will be broken

2 Corinthians 4:4 – “*Blinded*” – has the concept of self-conceit or pride

- Pride blinds us to our true condition
- This came to humans at the fall when we surrendered to Lucifer
- Pride always leads to rebellion
- It takes on many forms
- We have the authority to tear down this stronghold

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – “*High thing*” or “*Lofty*” – the condition of the human race that causes us to want to be our own boss

- Quite simply, pride

Through our spiritual weapons of prayer, we can demolish this stronghold of unbelievers

Pray that all of the plans of the enemy will fail

2 Corinthians 10:5 – “*thought*” – a plan, plot scheme, or device

- Not just our own thoughts but praying for the thoughts of others
- We are to war against every thought that would keep others from coming to Christ
- In short, to pray that all of the schemes of the enemy will fail

Ask for workers (*harvesters*) to be sent to unbelievers

“But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.” (Matthew 9:36–38, NKJV)

Because God has chosen to work through humanity’s prayers and actions here on the earth, even laborers can not be taken for granted

Wycliffe Bible Translators:

It took six months to impart to the tribe what the girls were really after. One day an elderly man could restrain his curiosity no longer. Shyly, he came up to say, “Mama Marilyn, what are you carving on that banana leaf with that thorn?” Patiently, Marilyn replied, “With this thorn, we are carving your talk on this banana leaf so we can learn your talk and teach your people to carve it. Later we will give you God’s talk on this banana leaf, just as He speaks it—and in your language.” Incredulous, the old man gently touched the paper and said, “You mean that God’s talk and our talk can be carved on the banana leaf for us to see and understand?” Assured that this was so, he turned away, hesitated a moment to shake his head, then said softly, “Why did it take you so long to come?”

- I know one reason – our prayers are a critical factor
- We are told to ask for laborers

Pray that the Holy Spirit would hover around an unsaved person with His power and love

The Holy Spirit is the birthing agent of the triune God

– **John 3:3-8** “*born of the Spirit*”

- He is the one who *hovered* over the earth at creation
– **Genesis 1:2; Psalm 90:2**
- Our prayers of intercession release the Holy Spirit into a person's life
- Paul prayed for the Galatians, causing their birth into God's family

“My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,” (**Galatians 4:19, NKJV**)

“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, NKJV**)

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.” (**John 6:44, NKJV**)

- We must ask Holy Spirit to *hover* around them, breaking strongholds, pride, and every demonic thought
- Ask Him to release revelation into their lives, causing them to believe in Christ – **Ephesians 1:17-19**

The Holy Spirit is God's Birthing Agent

God wants to go forth and *hover* around individuals, releasing His power to convict, break bondage, bring revelation, and draw them to Himself

- We don't give birth to anything spiritually
 - The Holy Spirit does
- He is the birthing agent of the Godhead
 - **Luke 1:34-35; John 3:3-8**
- He is the power source of the Godhead
 - **Acts 1:8; 10:38; Luke 4:14, 18**
- He is also the power behind creation – **Genesis 1**
- He is the One who supplies power to God's will, giving it life and substance
- He gives birth to the will of God
- He is the One who breathes life into God's people, bringing physical and spiritual life
 - **Genesis 2:7; Ezekiel 37:9-10, 14; Acts 2:1-4**
- Concerning salvation, we call this the new birth, or the new creation

In these verses and others, you see the words used are, *moving, hovering, brooding and fertilizing, to travail or to give birth*

All these words are used to give the idea of the Holy Spirit fertilizing or giving birth to something, whether physical or spiritual

“Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.” (Isaiah 66:8, NKJV)

- The same word is used in **Genesis 1:2, Psalm 90:2**
- Giving “*birth*” is not always a physical birth when this word is used
- But often used in creating something
- Often translated, “*bring forth*”, “*give birth to*” or “*travail*”

*“And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will **overshadow** you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35, NKJV)*

- Overshadow – the Greek counterpart to the Hebrew word *hover* – “*To cast shade upon; to envelope in a haze of brilliancy*”

“so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.” (Acts 5:15, NKJV)

- Same word as in **Luke 1:35**
- Ever wondered why Peter’s shadow could heal anyone – It couldn’t
- It was actually the Holy Spirit “*moving*” out from Peter
- When individuals stepped into the cloud they were healed
- Have you ever felt God “*moving*” in a meeting?