

PART III: Intercessory Prayer



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@November 9, 2022

BEGIN IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP.

Pray asking the Holy Spirit to direct and guide your time together.

TALK ABOUT SUNDAY'S TEACHING.

- What did you think of last Sunday's teaching?
- What were some challenges or distractions you had when you were doing The Prayer of Exam and the Lord's Prayer?
- Would anyone like to share in any way they are growing in prayer?
- What do you think of the idea that your prayers do make a difference?

READ THIS SUMMARY.

Intercession is a word that often gets lost in translation. Most think that it is simply about surrendering our wishes and desires to God. But the reality is that it is much more.

This form of prayer finds its home in our desperation and desire to see God move radically, to change both lives and the circumstances around us. Simply put, **intercession is the place where we join Jesus in prayer for God's will to be done in the lives and circumstances of those we love "on earth as it is in heaven."**

In this practice you are bringing people, including yourself, and circumstances before God, and then you wait. We wait for the Holy Spirit to show us how to pray so that we can pray the will of God. We ask the Spirit to still our perspective and desires, as they are so much smaller than God's, and we allow Jesus to shape the reality in which we pray. It is in this space that we pray: "your will be done" (Matthew 6:10)

Remember that God's will always looks like heaven on earth: life over death, healing over sickness, freedom over slavery, etc.

But this practice does not stop there. Intercession sometimes means that we contend or wrestle with God in prayer until we "win" or until we see the result we desire. To be

clear, contending doesn't mean we always get what we want, but if we truly believe that prayer moves the hand of God, then we have to press into this reality and trust that God will hear and answer us.

This practice is not easy because it requires faith, persistence and daring. It will require that we pray from a place of trust in God and his ability not only to fix things, but to redeem them completely. But, it is through this type of prayer that we see miracles happen, freedom given and lives rescued and forever changed.

This week we will introduce a new exercise: prayer cards, and we will continue to build our daily rhythm of prayer.

READ THE BIBLE TOGETHER.

Read Luke 11:9-13

- Why do you think Jesus spent **a good amount of time teaching about prayer?**
 - Why do you think intercessory prayer is **important?**
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DO THIS PRACTICE AS A COMMUNITY RIGHT NOW.

- We are going to divide into the groups of three or four that we have been doing the last few weeks.

DAILY PRAYER RHYTHM. (5 MINUTES)

- In the groups ask yourselves these questions and each one answers as honestly as possible.
 - How have you been with the Lord's Prayer in the mornings?
 - How has he been doing with The Prayer of Examen at night?
 - What changes could you make in order to be more constant in your daily rhythm of prayer?

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION.

Now in the same groups, we are going to practice intercessory prayer.

We are going to read the instructions of the first point and then we are going to give a few minutes to do it. Then the second, and the third, and so on until the end.

1. In your small group, make a prayer card together: a short list of people or circumstances in which you want to see God radically move.

- Any crisis or emergency in your community (Grupo Evidencias)
- Any illness, financial need, etc. in your Community.
- Any area where people need healing in their marriage or in their families.
- Let each person say at least one.

2. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and teach you how to pray...

- Someone in the group pray a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit to teach them to pray for these requests.

3. Spend just one minute in silence as a group.

- Let your mind calm down and focus on what we are doing.
- Spend a few moments "being with" God.
- Be attentive to what the Holy Spirit may be telling you regarding these requests.

4. Give thanks to God for these three realities.

- **God is your "Father"**. He has good intentions towards you. He cares about everything in your life, big and small.
- **God is "in heaven"** - here, now, as close as the air we breathe.
- Your prayers **do make a difference**.

5. Pray the points on the prayer cards.

- Ask each person in the community to pray for at least one petition.

6. End by praying in gratitude and anticipation for what is to come.

- Pray giving thanks to God because he heard us.
 - Give thanks for the requests as if God had already answered them.
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READ THE PRACTICE FOR THIS WEEK.

- Basically, this week's practice is to do exactly the same as above, but alone.

1. Pull out a prayer card (at your prayer time) and make a short list of people (including yourself) or circumstances where you want to see God radically move.

- Any illness, financial need, etc.
- Any area that needs healing (health, relationships, separated family, friendships, marriages, etc.)
- Any area that needs freedom (addiction, bondage, habitual sin, etc.)
- Next, put away your phone or any other distractions, and get into a comfortable but alert position.

2. Invite the Holy Spirit to come and teach you how to pray.

3. Spend a moment in silence.

- Let your mind calm down.
- Spend a few moments "being with" God.
- Be attentive to what the Holy Spirit may be telling you regarding these requests.

4. Give thanks to God for these three realities.

- **God is your “Father”**. He has good intentions towards you. He cares about everything in your life, big and small.
- **God is "in heaven"** - here, now, as close as the air we breathe.
- Your prayers **really make a difference**.

5. **Pray the points on the prayer cards.**

6. **Close by praying in thanksgiving and anticipation for what is to come.**

Note: One thing you can do is pray the Lord’s Prayer, and when you get to the **“give us our daily bread,”** you can pray through your prayer cards.

PRAY BASED ON THE PRACTICE TO END.