

When you pray . . .

“Intercession is one of the most unselfish things that Christians do. No one knows, and no recognition is being given. Of all Christian disciplines it is, perhaps the most Christlike.” --Don Jacobsen

“Jesus will add His intercession to your prayers, and claim for the sinner the gift of the Holy Spirit, and pour it upon his soul. And there will be joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.” --Ellen White, Sons & Daughters of God, pg. 274

“You can do more than pray after you have prayed; but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed.” --A.J. Gordon

“God does nothing except in response to believing prayer.” --John Wesley

“The story of every great Christian achievement is the history of answered prayer.” --E.M. Bounds

“Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is powerful on his knees.” --Corrie ten Boom

“Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse where are treasured the boundless resources of omnipotence.” --Ellen White, Steps to Christ, 94-95.

Need Help?

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Prayer Ministry

How to establish a prayer ministry in your church or neighborhood.

“I urge you first of all to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them.”

1 Timothy 2:1



Ten Steps

Step 1: Ask yourself this question: “Do I believe prayer is the most important thing I can do as a Christian?”, and then ask, “am I willing to put forth persistent effort until a prayer ministry is established?” Luke 18:1, and Gal. 6:9.

Step 2: Make an appointment to speak with your pastor and share your burden for prayer ministry with him. Discover how he or she is able to participate in prayer ministry. The involvement of the pastor is extremely important. As John Maxwell often has said, “everything rises and falls on leadership.”

Step 3: Decide upon a place and time for a weekly prayer gathering. A home is a good place to meet, and often better than the church because of the more casual and inviting atmosphere.

Step 4: Begin to advertise the prayer meeting. Start by contacting people you know to be spiritual people. Then, prayerfully, invite others personally. In addition be sure to put the time and place of your meeting in the church bulletin, and then determine to keep contacting people on a regular basis. It often takes repeated invitations to see people show up.

Step 5: Your first meeting will probably be small in the number of people attending. This is often the case. But remember this: “The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place. When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife. Those who have not been living in Christian fellowship will draw close to one another. **One member working in right lines will lead other members to unite with him** in making intercession for the revelation of the Holy Spirit.” Ellen White, Testimonies Vol. 8, pg. 251. Determine that no matter what you will not give up. The great Welsh revival started with a small group of people meeting in a home.

Step 6: Have a plan, or format in mind for each prayer meeting. You may wish to utilize an acronym such as ACTS (adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication). Another good plan is to pray through scripture using the great prayers in the Bible. There are 150 prayers in the book of Psalms alone. Allow the participants to make a group prayer list, and then keep a journal to document answers to prayer. This will encourage the group, and you will also have something to report to the church. When praying for physical things, such as healing, always pray “His

will be done.” Have some olive oil available for those who may wish to be anointed.

Step 7: Invite people to come and lead in some singing. Many songs are really prayers. It is always nice to mingle singing with group prayer. Do not allow the prayer time to be consumed with singing, but think of it like sprinkling salt over a vegetable dish. A little bit makes a big difference, but too much ruins the dish. You may find it helpful to have song sheets, or chorus books handy.

Step 8: Provide resource materials to encourage prayer in your prayer ministry group and also in the church such as books, magazine articles, website links and prayer journals.

Step 9: Plan to participate in larger prayer ministry events such as local, regional and national prayer conferences. As you take part in these prayer gatherings you will gain experience in the Lord, be inspired by the testimonies of others and glean good ideas.

Step 10: Make your prayer group evangelistic. Get involved with other Christians in your community when appropriate. Organize prayer walks in neighborhoods, and visit local community leaders, including the pastors of the churches to pray with them.