

SEVEN WAYS TO PRAY FOR OTHERS



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"For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light." Col. 1:9-12

I. LIST AT LEAST SEVEN PRAYER REQUESTS IN THE ABOVE PASSAGE

1. Pray that they would _____.
2. Pray that they would _____.
3. Pray that they would _____.
4. Pray that they would _____.
5. Pray that they their _____.
6. Pray that they would _____.
7. Pray that they would _____.

II. EXERCISE

- A. If someone was going through a physically difficult time, how could you pray for them based on Col. 1:9-11?
- B. If someone was experiencing a relatively smooth period in their life how could you pray for them based on Col. 1:9-11?
- C. What conclusions can you reach about when and how to pray according to Col. 1:9-11?

III. HOW TO OFFER A REQUEST TO GOD

A. You must be willing to let God answer in His own time.

- Notice the timing of Jesus' response when he heard about Lazarus (John 11:1-44).
- Why was Jesus' timing better than Martha's?

B. You must be willing to let God answer in His own wisdom.

- We often ask for too little and don't ask BIG requests (Eph. 3:20-21).
- God sometimes answers our big requests gradually so we are not overwhelmed by the answer.

C. You must be willing to let God answer for His own purpose.

- Why is Isaiah 55:8-9 important to remember when offering a request to God?

IV. REMEMBER

- ❖ When your request is not right—God says, "No."
- ❖ When you are not right—God says "Grow."
- ❖ When you pray and the timing is not right—God says "Slow."
- ❖ When everything is in place – God says, "Go."

V. OTHER KEY VERSES REGARDING PRAYER

- ✓ Psa. 34:15. "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry."
- ✓ Heb. 4:15-16. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."
- ✓ Rom. 8:26. "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."
- ✓ Luke 18:1. "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up."
- ✓ Psa. 142:2. "I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble."
- ✓ 1 Pet. 5:6-7. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you."
- ✓ Phil. 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."