

Guidelines for effective intercession

Many intercessors want to pray for their ministers or a missionary but do not always know what to pray for or how to pray. These guide-lines will help intercessors to pray more objectively than merely saying "Lord please bless my minister, Amen"

For their health

One of the most effective ways in which the devil can impede missionary and spiritual work is by assaulting spiritual workers physically in order to restrict their usefulness and effectiveness.

- Remember that it is the Lord's will that his children should be healthy and strong enough to do their work (3 John 2).

"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health..."

- Pray the Lord's protection over the spiritual worker's body so that he can do his work effectively (Ps 91)

"Surely He will save you ... from the deadly pestilence ... You will not fear the terror of night nor the arrow that flies by day nor the plague that destroys at midday. If you make the Most High your dwelling, even the Lord who is my refuge then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent."

- Practice your God-given authority to bind the devil and resist the evil one so that the spiritual worker may be free to do His work.
- Pray that the Lord will remind the spiritual worker of his promises.

For the spiritual worker's spiritual health and state of mind

The weather, evil onslaughts, conditions at work, continuous criticism, little visible progress, misunderstanding etc, all contribute to stress, depression and despondency. Because of onslaughts by the forces of darkness, spiritual work is not only difficult but also enervating. Furthermore the sins and hardening of people's hearts makes spiritual work extremely difficult.

- Claim the Lord's protection over the spiritual worker's mind (2 Tim.1:7). Pray that he will rest in Christ and experience the peace of Christ and knowing that he can be completely delivered from fear, uncertainty and anxiety (John 14:27).

"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline". (2 Tim.1:7) "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you, I do not give you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid" (John 14:27).

- Pray that the spiritual worker will refuse to listen to any accusations from the devil against a fellow worker (Zech. 7: 10b). By spreading suspicion of believing brothers/sisters or a fellow worker, Satan can cause immeasurable damage to the Lord's work.

- Pray for the Lord's continuous reassurance (encouragement) and support. Pray also for like-minded persons and friends with whom the spiritual worker can build an open relationship.

"Be strong and take heart all you who hope in the Lord." (Ps.31:25)

- Pray that the spiritual worker will learn to offer resistance to Satan and to prevail over the powers of evil from his position of authority in Christ and refuse anything that comes from the devil. ... (1 Pet.5:8-9; Luke 10:19)
- "The accuser of the brothers" is always ready to tempt the spiritual worker and to accuse him of failure or not being in God's Will (Rev.12:10)

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the Faith..." (1 Pet.5:8-9)

"I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you" (Luk.10:19)

- Pray that the Lord will fill him with peace and happiness (Neh.8:10; Deut.12:18) irrespective of the circumstances. "... the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Neh.8:10) "... and you are to rejoice before the Lord your God in everything you put your hand to". (Deut.12:18)

That the spiritual worker's heart be filled with the love of God

Sometimes spiritual workers live in abnormal conditions; situations when natural love is not enough. This can cause unapproachability, impatience, harsh words, anger and sometimes also bitterness in the spiritual worker. Do not forget that the spiritual worker is a human being who is also subjected to sin.

- Pray that he will be able to demonstrate the love of Christ to his fellow workers. It is sometimes more difficult to love a fellow worker who lives or works with you, than the unbelievers and/or church members who you only see for a few hours per week. The Lord's richest blessings are experienced when there is love between spiritual workers.

"... because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us" (Rom.5:5)

- Pray that he will be able to display the love of Christ to unbelievers. People often do not recognize and appreciate the work spiritual workers do or acknowledge their sacrifices. Pray that the spiritual worker will not look for acknowledgement and appreciation from people. But do pray that the people being ministered to will be appreciative and grateful to the spiritual worker.

Pray that the spiritual worker will be humble and live a holy and sanctified life

- Pray that the spiritual worker will not indulge in known, unconfessed sin. Pray also that he will not become haughty because of his spiritual knowledge and that he will be the servant God wants him to be.

"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who... made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness" (Phil.2:5-7).

- Pray especially that the spiritual worker will not be critical or cynical because this does extensive harm to the work of the Lord.
- Pray for his testimony among unbelievers. A fierce, unapproachable attitude when preaching will often harden a sinner's heart, while love and sincere concern will often soften a hardened heart.

Pray that God Himself will equip the spiritual worker for his task

A general fatal mistake people make is to try to rely on their own power, wisdom and abilities. Pray that the spiritual worker will only rely on the power of the Lord in everything he embarks upon.

- There can be lasting fruit when the spiritual worker is filled with the Holy Spirit. Pray for the filling with and also the anointing of the Holy Spirit so that he can do his work effectively.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal Scripture to the spiritual worker so that he can understand it better and or the ability to communicate it to people correctly and effectively.
- Pray for wisdom and patience to deal with difficult people and situations. Pray for wisdom and discernment to be able to do his work spiritually.
- Pray that the Lord will give him boldness to share the Word and that the Holy Spirit will give him the correct words.
- Pray that he will discern what the Lord's will is in every situation.

That the spiritual worker will know how to exercise his authority over the devil

Christ won the complete Victory on Calvary. It is the responsibility of the spiritual worker to exercise this authority over the forces of evil. Pray that the Lord will enable the spiritual worker to accomplish this boldly and with spiritual wisdom.

For the household/family of the spiritual worker

The well-being of the spiritual worker's family is crucial if he wants to do his work effectively. The onslaughts in this area are numerous and make high demands on his family.

- Pray for the spiritual worker's wife/husband and that nothing will come between them to cause separation between them. The bond of marriage is of paramount importance. People often pray for the husband but the spouse of the spiritual worker is forgotten. Pray for their marriage generally. Pray that:
 - the husband will love his wife as Christ loved his Church
 - the wife will be submissive to her husband in everything as Christ is submissive to his Church, and
 - that the children will obey their parents and be God fearing as well.
- Pray for the children - for wisdom to raise them properly and that the children will receive enough love and attention.

For the necessary provisions and finances

- Pray for financial support. Many spiritual workers suffer want as a result of low funds and many have to leave their ministry because there is just not enough money to buy the necessary provisions.
- Pray for protection of their early possessions. Pray against theft and accidents.

Revival

More can be accomplished during a few weeks of revival than in a year of regular ministry. The Lord promised to pour his Spirit on all flesh in the last days; pray for the fulfillment of this promise.

"If my people who are called by my Name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chron.7:14)

"And afterwards I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servant, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days". (Joel 2:28-29)

- Pray that he may be continuously renewed spiritually and for personal revival.
- Pray the same for his co-workers and colleagues.

More labourers

An urgent need exists for more spiritual workers in existing mission fields as well as in parts not yet reached by God's Word. There is a need for spiritual workers in all areas. Pray that more Christians will realize that they have a spiritual responsibility and that they are co-workers in the Kingdom of God.

"Then He said to his disciples: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matt.9:37-38)

Weekly prayer schedule

The following two prayer schedules can be used to pray for the spiritual worker every day of the week. Alternate them and eventually work out a schedule that suits you best. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead you. Although He will sometimes lead you to pray for strange things you must obey. However, there are important matters which need prayer regularly. The important thing is to pray regularly and objectively. Pray even when you don't feel like it. Too many spiritual workers pray inconsistently or only to ease their conscience.

Week 1:

Day 1 - The spiritual worker's personal relationship with God.

Day 2 - The spiritual worker's physical and emotional life.

Day 3 - The spiritual worker's family.

Day 4 - The spiritual worker's ability to communicate.

- Day 5 - The spiritual worker's ministry.
- Day 6 - The spiritual worker's co-workers.
- Day 7 - The spiritual worker's area of ministry.

Week 2:

- Day 1 - Favour with God - grace/mercy.
- Day 2 - Favour with men - authority, pure preaching and proclamation of Scripture.
- Day 3 - For a pure vision, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, clearer revelation of Who God is.
- Day 4 - Strengthening: spirit, soul and body; Spirit-controlled and pure life-style.
- Day 5 - Protection against assaults (Ps.91); resisting the devil. Pray for the disruption of demonic assaults.
- Day 6 - Priorities, human relations
- Day 7 - Family, household, marriage, finances

For more information consult the following sources:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Prayer Shield | | C Peter Wagner |
| Warfare Prayer | - | C Peter Wagner |
| Engaging the enemy | | C Peter Wagner |
| Possessing the gates of the enemy | | Cindy Jacobs |
| Love on its Knees | - | Dick Eastman |