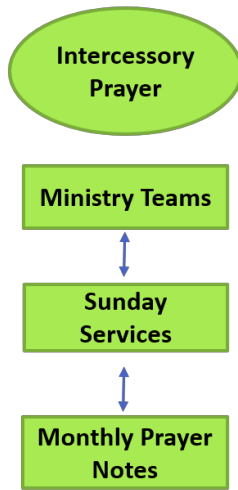


## Intercessory Prayer - What is it?



Quite simply, intercessory prayer is the act of praying on behalf of others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. One study Bible defines intercession as "holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention."

God instructed us to pray not only for our own personal needs but to reach out and pray for others as well.

In 1 Timothy 2:1-6 we are told to pray and make intercession for all people

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—<sup>2</sup>for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup>This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, <sup>4</sup>who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.*

The Greek noun, "enteuxis" in the Bible is the word for "intercession". It basically means a "meeting with", a conversation, or "petition rendered" on the behalf of others. Intercessory prayer, then, is seeking the presence and audience of God on behalf of someone else.

When we pray for the needs of others it is called "intercession", or we are said to be "interceding" for them.

It is also very important to note that Christ is pictured in the New Testament as the ultimate intercessor, and because of this, all Christian prayer becomes intercession since it is offered to God through and by Christ.

Jesus bridged the gap between us and God when He died on the cross. Because of Jesus' mediation, we can now intercede in prayer on behalf of other Christians or for the lost, asking God to grant their requests according to His will.

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5).*

And as Romans 8:34 says

*"Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."*

We should also note that the Bible is clear that all Christians are called to be intercessors.

As Christians, we all have the Holy Spirit in us and, just as He intercedes for us in accordance with God's will (Romans 8:26-27), we are to intercede for one another.

This is not a privilege limited to an exclusive Christian elite.

