

# Interceding Together

By: Karen Martell

**Prayer is the measurable dynamic act that determines a Christian's spiritual state.**  
(Robert O'Bakke)

## What is Intercession?

**Prayer for others is a gift of obedience and sacrifice I give to God.  
Prayer for myself prepares me to pray for others.**

**I pray for myself, (petitions):** I ask for the heart of Jesus and for the Holy Spirit to impress me with what I should be praying about. I listen and I wait. I commit and I submit to God's will.

**I pray for others, (intercession):** *"Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you."* 1 Samuel 12:23

**Intercession releases God's power and grace** into the lives of those for whom you are praying. *"I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it"* (John 14:13). Meditate on these words in Scripture. Ask God for His direction and will regarding the prayers you pray. Intercession is about wanting what Jesus wants for others, having His heart, His desires, His burdens, His purpose and His passion for the brokenhearted, the hungry, and the lost. It is about coming to Him boldly with confidence and eager expectation that He hears and answers the prayers of His people. God may require you to follow up and be the answer to your prayers. Be obedient. See 1 John 5:14-15.

## The Call to Intercession

**"If you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God"** (James 5:10-20, The Message).

**"Great Revivals always begin** in the hearts of a few men and women whom God arouses by His Spirit to believe in Him as a living God. They believe He is a God who answers prayer. Upon their heart He lays a burden from which no rest can be found except in persistent crying unto God." R.A.Torrey.

**"Oh, that we would turn eye and heart** from everything else and fix them upon this God who hears prayer until the magnificence of His promises and His power and His purpose of love overwhelmed us." Andrew Murray

**"If several should meet together with one accord** with hearts burdened for perishing souls, and should offer earnest, fervent prayer, they would be effectual." Review & Herald, August, 1892

More Prayer Coordinator Resources are available at:  
[www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer](http://www.ministerialassociation.org/prayer)

**“The Savior often left** his disciples for seasons of prayer with His Father. At these times He poured out His soul in strong crying and tears for those He had come to save, and for power and grace to carry out the great plan of redeeming the world. His example in prayer Christ desired could be a lesson to His disciples in all ages.” Lake Union Herald, November 17, 1909

**“Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit, with all their quickening, recuperative, and transforming power, may fall like an electric shock on the palsy stricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly state to spiritual soundness.”** Testimonies, Vol. 5, p. 267

**“Prayer is heaven’s ordained means for success in the conflict with sin and the development of a Christian character ... For any gift He has promised we may ask - and the promise is, You shall receive.”** Ellen White, Prayer, p. 1

## Is Your Church a Praying Church?

Statistics on prayer in the Adventist Church from studies done and reported by Joseph Kidder in his book “The Big Four” show that there are three main types of churches.

- Fifteen percent (15%) of all Seventh-day Adventist Churches are zipper churches - they open and close with prayer.
- Eighty percent (80%) of all Seventh-day Adventist Churches consider prayer an important part of church life.
- Five percent (5%) of all Seventh-day Adventist Churches actually are houses of prayer —where prayer saturates every aspect of the church’s life. These are the growing churches.

***Reflect:*** What is the culture of prayer in your church? How might you make it better with intercessory prayer?

## Ways to Intercede Together

- Find prayer partners to pray with you for the name/situation that God gives you.
- Join a prayer team or small group -- look for creative ways to pray together with others.
- Encourage corporate prayer in your church—it promotes unity and agreement with God.
- Encourage confession of sin. This can be done silently if you are in a group .....or there may be a time where public confession of personal sin is necessary. It may be necessary to make restitution if possible for the wrong.
- Be forgiving if you have been wronged. Pray for your enemies. It can bring healing.

- Prayer-walk your neighborhood, your church, and your city.
- Persist when the answer does not come. Luke 11:5-8. Be willing to look for what God may be doing in the short time as He answers your prayer over time.
- Ask for Scripture and Holy Spirit's direction as you pray. Focus on the Word of God.  
*Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:17-18*
- What are you willing to do to give the kind of help/support that might need?
- Pray over these texts: Ezekiel 22:30-31; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 10:1; John 16:24; Zechariah 12:10
- Document your prayer prayed, answer's received and Scripture that the Lord has impressed on you to use for the individual or circumstance.