

# Prayer as Evangelism

## I. Prayer is a vital part of a Christian's ministry

*"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).*

"Prayer is a necessity in our labor for the salvation of souls. God alone can give the increase of the seed we sow" (4T 528).

"Only the work accomplished with much prayer, and sanctified by the merit of Christ, will in the end prove to have been efficient for good" (DA 362).

**NOTE:** For the full impact of the preceding statement, study it in its context in the Desire of Ages chapter entitled "Come Rest Awhile."

## II. The Bible supports prayer as a type of ministry.

- **Jesus for Peter** – Luke 22:31-32
- **The church for Peter** – Acts 12
- **Paul for his converts** – Colossians 1:9-14
- **Paul's converts for him** – 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2
- **Timothy for all men** – 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- **Jesus for all His followers** – John 17:20, 21

In particular, notice the specific blessings Paul requested for the Colossian converts in Colossians 1:9-14. Compare the King James Version with one or more of the modern versions. When you read John 17:20-21, see 4T 529-530 for a comment that shows how in His garden prayer, Jesus included all His children until the end of time.

## III. The Spirit of Prophecy supports prayer as a type of ministry.

- **Church members for their ministers and leaders**  
"Happy is the minister who has a faithful Aaron and Hur to strengthen his hands when they become weary and to hold them up by faith and prayer. Such a support is a powerful aid to the servant of Christ in his work and will often make the cause of truth to triumph gloriously" (4T 531).
- **Pastors for their flock**  
"Following the example of Christ, he should intercede with God for the people of his care till he sees that his prayers are answered" (4T 267).
- **Church members for publishing houses, overseas work, etc.**  
"Sustain the publishing institution with your prayers and your means. Pray every morning and evening that it may receive God's richest blessings" (7T 182).

“All who could not personally engage in the work in mission lands would yet sustain it with their means, their sympathy, and their prayers” (SC 81, emphasis added).

- **Hospital workers (and others) for the sick**

“When you neglect to pray for the sick, you deprive them of great blessings; for angels of God are waiting to minister to these souls in response to your petitions” (MR 195).

- **Workers for fellow laborers (2 Timothy 1-3)**

“Too often we forget that our fellow laborers are in need of strength and cheer. Take care to assure them of your interest and sympathy. Help the fellow-workers by your prayers, and let them know that you do it” (MH 492).

#### **IV. Ten Ways the Holy Spirit Works Through Our Prayers to Evangelize the Community**

1. Imparts compassion for the lost.
2. Brings repentance to the church and community.
3. Teaches us how to reach our community effectively.
4. Empowers Christians to witness.
5. Grants laborers for the harvest.
6. Guides our outreach.
7. Gives means and resources.
8. Gives vitality and life to the church.
9. Brings unity.
10. Fills us with the love of God.

#### **V. 10 Ways the Holy Spirit Works in the Lives of Unbelievers**

1. It woos or draws to Jesus
2. It sends witnesses to testify to and unbeliever
3. It convicts of sin and guilt
4. It convinces unbelievers of truth
5. It opens the heart to believe on Christ
6. It regenerates or changes the thoughts and emotions
7. It seals us in Christ
8. It gives new believers assurance
9. It develops the character of Jesus in the New Believer
10. It incorporates people into the body of Christ