

How To Pray



Lake Erie Church

How To Pray For Others

January 15, 2023

This month we are focused on Prayer, Scripture Reading and Devotion to God. We have one more week in our fasting campaign and if you have not yet joined, consider joining this week to fast as you pray and read the Scripture. Included in your packet today we have put some resources to help you in pursuing God.

- A Prayer Wheel that contains 12 topics for prayer that you can use to organize your prayer time
- A 14 Day Fasting Guide if you are choosing to join the church in a time of dedicated fasting for spiritual devotion.
- A 31 day Bible Reading Challenge with selected Scriptures to read each day in January.
- The sermon notes for today.
*Write down everything God is saying to you—if He is not saying anything to you today—then you are probably not focused on listening to him!

(Matthew 15:22-38)

Then Jesus left Galilee and went north to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Gentile woman who lived there came to him, pleading, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! For my daughter is possessed by a demon that torments her severely.” But Jesus gave her no reply, not even a word. Then his disciples urged him to send her away. “Tell her to go away,” they said. “She is bothering us with all her begging.” Then Jesus said to the woman, “I was sent only to help God’s lost sheep—the people of Israel.” But she came and worshiped him, pleading again, “Lord, help me!” Jesus responded, “It isn’t right to take food from the children and throw it to the dogs.” She replied, “That’s true, Lord, but even dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall beneath their masters’ table.” “Dear woman,” Jesus said to her, “your faith is great. Your request is granted.” And her daughter was instantly healed.

Today we are looking at our prayer life in behalf of others—another word for this is INTERCESSION.

- People still need us to P_____ for them.
- More than you know, people B_____ in our prayers.

How do we prepare to be the intercessors for those who need us to pray for them?

Your Prayers Are P_____ With God

Intercession requires my center of gravity to shift away from my own personal needs toward those of others.

- Why would God, the creator of the universe, need us to "advocate" or ask for things on behalf of other people?

- If God is in control of everything why does He invite us to pray over things/people?

God does not need our prayers to O_____.

"We are not merely passive set pieces in a prearranged cosmic drama, but we are active participants with God in the writing, directing, design, and action that unfolds. Prayer, therefore, is much more than asking God for this or that outcome. It is drawing into communion with him and there taking up our privileged role as his people. In prayer, we are invited to join him in directing the course of his world." (Skye Jethani)

The key is C_____...our relationship to God through prayer makes us partners with God.

"Intercessory prayer is spiritual defiance of what is in the way of what God has promised. (Walter Wink)

- Prayer is NOT the persuasion or coercing of an indecisive Creator
- Prayer IS a Battle of Wills
 "Some wills are bent in the direction of God the Father, and towards all that is good and beautiful and true. Other of those wills are bent in flat out rebellion against God, and towards death and mayhem and destruction." (John Mark Comer)

So how do become partners with God in praying for others?

Get I_____ About What Is Going On

- This is a prayer I pray often... *"Lord, help me be sensitive to what is going on around me"*

Get I_____ By The Possibilities

- What happens when a whole church, a whole community decides to pray for God's purposes?
- What happens in your home when prayer becomes the centerpiece of how we function as a family?
- What happens in your life when you get serious about your prayer life and start really talking and listening to God?

Get E_____ With Your Heart

- There's a strange thing that can happen when you really lay hold of God's promises and begin to see his intended future for a contested person or place.

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

If my people, which are called by my name, shall 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.

Get Into A _____ With Other Saints

- One of the keys to successful asking in prayer, according to Jesus, is agreement with other people.
 - We say Amen—“So be it”—when we pray: It’s a way of expressing our agreement.

Conclusion:

There is a unique power vested in the united intercession of God’s people.

As you pray ask how can we make a difference?

What do you want me personally to do in response to this need?

Ask God to help you be the answer to your own prayers?