

Re-Learning The Discipline of Prayer

A Prayer Strategy



From 60 Seconds to 60 Minutes in Prayer

Part II

Intercession

by Richard W. LaFountain

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Step 7: Pray For Lost Souls

(His Condition - God's Work in Him - Pray Scriptures - Pray Thankfully - Make a 10 Most Wanted List - Build Bridges To Him)

Praying for the salvation of the unsaved around us should really be one of our greatest efforts in prayer. After all life is short and all that really matters when all is said and done is whether or not they received Jesus Christ as Savior.

Perhaps we subconsciously struggle with needing to pray for the lost at all, or maybe we struggle with the Sovereignty of God and our prayers. Isn't God the one who saves? Is not He more concerned with the lost than we? Can not He do this work without our praying for Him to do it? There are some things that we do not know nor will we ever know. God sovereignly saves whom he chooses, but he also tells us that he is not willing that any should perish, and that we should pray for the salvation of souls.

The same God who sovereignly chooses to save, chooses also the MEANS by which he will do so. He chooses NOT to do it without us. We must PREACH and we must PRAY!

How do we pray for the salvation of someone? Typically we hear: *"Dear Lord, please save John Doe, Jane Doe, Joe Shmoe, and Tom Moe. In Jesus name, Amen."*

Is there more to praying for the lost than this? I think so! We will pray better and more wisely when we remember the PROCESS by which anyone comes to Christ and his CONDITION before he is born again.

PRAY FOR HIS CONDITION: A MAN BEFORE SALVATION

1. He has a sin nature I Corinthians 2:14
2. He has rejected, ignored, or neglected God's presence. Romans 1:18-20
3. He is dead in sins and trespasses. Ephesians 2:1
4. He willfully walks in disobedience, obeying the prince of darkness. Ephesians 2:2
5. He serves his own desires of the mind and body. Ephesians 2:3
6. He is separated from God, alienated by sin. Ephesians 2:12
7. He is blinded to the Gospel by Satan. II Corinthians 4:4-4
8. He is a slave to sin. John 8:34
9. He has no faith. Ephesians 2:8-9
10. He needs the grace of God to lead him to repentance John 6:44
11. He does not see his sin as very sinful. John 16:8-11
12. He chokes out the Word with other interests. Luke 8:12-14

PRAY FOR GOD'S WORK IN HIM

As we pray for lost people it is good to remember that it is God's passion to seek and to save that which is lost. He is more concerned about them than we are. Seek then to pray His heart and His plan for them.

1. CONVICTION - John 16:8-11

"He (Spirit) shall convict the world of sin...righteousness and judgement"

2. QUICKENING - John 6:63

"It is the Spirit that quickens the flesh profits nothing."

3. FAITH - Eph. 2:8

"It (faith) is a gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."

4. EYES TO OPEN - II Cor. 4:4-6

"In whom the god of this world has blinded the eyes...God who commands light to shine in the darkness has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God..."

5. EARS TO HEAR - Rev. 3:20

"Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in."

6. WORD TO PENETRATE - Hebrews 4:12

"The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.."

7. WORD TO MELT & BREAK - Jeremiah 23:29

"Is not my Word like a fire. It is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces."

8. WILL TO BE BROKEN - John 7:17

"If any man wills to do his will he shall know of the doctrine..."

9. BONDAGE TO SIN BROKEN - John 8:36

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

10. FATHER TO DRAW HIM - John 6:44

"No man can come to me, except the Father...draw him"

11. FATHER TO CALL HIM - John 6:37

"All that the Father gives me shall come to me..."

12. FATHER TO SHOW MERCY - Romans 9:16

"It is not of him that wills nor of him that runs but God, which shows mercy."

PRAY SCRIPTURES FOR LOST SOULS

It is not an easy task to remain faithful in prayer for a lost soul. Though we may know the need, feel the burden, and even have some indication of what God must do in order for them to come to Christ, it still is a difficult task to keep at it and not grow weary, or bored in the task. After perhaps a week of prayer we all begin to wonder "What more can we pray for?"

The following is a helpful guide for praying for a lost soul by reading, reviewing, and reusing Scriptures in your prayer for the one on your Most Wanted List. It is in the format of a daily devotional to help direct your thinking. There are eight points. You may want to choose seven, one for each day of the week to keep you focused and intense in your prevailing prayers for the lost. Pray for your most wanted people daily using this to guide your praying.

Monday - His WHEREABOUTS led by God

Tuesday - His CIRCUMSTANCES controlled by God

Wednesday - His INNER EMPTINESS amplified by God

Thursday - A FAITHFUL WITNESS to encounter him daily

Friday - The HOLY SPIRIT to influence his heart

Saturday - The WORD OF GOD to affect him dramatically

Sunday - An ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

Notes:

Monday - His WHEREABOUTS led by God

We know that the Lord is able to influence time and space and move people into the right place at the right time as illustrated and taught in these Scriptures:

- Acts 8:26- Phillip and the Ethiopian Eunuch
- Acts 16:13-14 Lydia down by the river side
- John 4:5-8 The woman at the well
- Psalm 139:5-11 No hiding place down here
- Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus up a tree
- Luke 15:9-6,10 Lost sheep he will pursue!

Tuesday - HIS CIRCUMSTANCES controlled by God

God is able to stop time, turn the sun back 10 degrees, send a storm, calm the sea, or prepare a whale, or whatever else is necessary to bring a man to himself.

- Acts 9:1-6 Paul met on the Road to Damascus
- Luke 15:11-32 The Prodigal son met in a pig pen
- Hosea 2:6 Hosea's prostitute wife hindered from finding lovers
- Psalm 107:23-30 God even brings ship in storms to haven of rest

Wednesday - HIS INNER EMPTINESS amplified by God

God has created man with a God consciousness. Man seeks to fill the emptiness with other garbage, but only the Lord can satisfy that desire. Augustine said, "Our souls are restless 'til they rest in thee."

- Psalm 42:1-2 Heart pants thirsty after God.
- Psalm 42:3 Tears are daily and nightly evidenced
- Psalm 42:5 Fears accompany this loneliness without God
- Hebrews 2:14-15 The fear of death binds them
- Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 Money, fame, and success cannot satisfy
- Ecclesiastes 5:10 Silver and gold will bring no happiness

Thursday - A FAITHFUL WITNESS to encounter him daily

God has an immense plan of the ages to use people like you and me, his servants which he places in points of opportunity, as with Esther "For such a time as this..."

- Esther 4:14 Esther placed in the palace
- Acts 8:26-39 Phillip was the preacher in the desert
- Acts 16:25-33 Paul and Silas were in prison to lead a jailer to Christ
- Ephesians 6:17-18 Pray for boldness in those special witnesses
- Isaiah 50:4 Pray for wisdom of speech for Gods special agents
- Romans 10:14-15 Be the preacher in the place God puts you for someone.

Friday - THE HOLY SPIRIT to influence his heart

There is a process at work in the heart of everyone who comes to Christ. Sometimes that process begins in childhood with the Word sown in a VBS program or on a mother's lap. The Holy Spirit is present in the life of the unbeliever to bring about the conversion at the appointed time. That work of the Holy Spirit takes place WITHOUT our help, but we are involved in resisting the Resistor, Satan who opposes all that God wills to do. He seeks to QUENCH the Holy Spirit, GRIEVE the Spirit, HINDER the Spirit's work, and to snatch away the life of the unbeliever before he is converted. Pray for the Spirit's work to be accomplished.

- John 16:8-14 He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgement to come
- John 15:26-27 He shows the things of Christ, witnessing to the truth
- John 4:10,13-14 He creates thirst for things of God
- John 6:35 He creates spiritual hunger for the Bread of Life
- John 6:44 He draws men to Christ (Says "COME" Revelation 22:17)
- John 6:63 He quickens (makes alive) the Words of Jesus
- John 8:12 He opens eyes to the LIGHT that gives life (2Cor.4:4)
- John 8:12 He breaks the bondage to sin

Saturday - THE WORD OF GOD to affect him dramatically

Peter emphasizes that we are born again BY THE WORD of God which lives and abides forever. We cannot over emphasize the importance of the Word of God in the process of the sinner being saved.

- I Peter 1:23 Born again by Word
- Hebrews 4:12 Heart thoughts penetrated and revealed by Word
- Jeremiah 23:29 The heart is melted and broken by the Word
- 2 Thessalonians 3:1 Pray for the Word to have free course
- 2 Timothy 2:9 The Word of God is not bound
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 Word is sown, watered but God gives the increase!
- Romans 10:17 The Word brings Faith

Sunday - AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

Jesus in the first, center, and last of the Gospel. Without him no one can be saved. HE ALONE is the way, the truth and the life, no man comes to the father BUT by HIM."

- John 14:6 No other way
- Acts 4:12 No other name
- John 12:32 When he is LIFTED UP he will draw men to himself
- John 20:31-32 Doubting Thomas believed when he saw Jesus
- John 12:20-22 The unsaved requested the essential thing --to see Jesus
- Acts 9:1-6 Paul believed when he saw Jesus on the Damascus Road
- John 18:6 His would-be assailants fell backward upon seeing him.

PRAY THANKFULLY (BELIEVING PRAYER)

Pray this: "I thank you Lord that...

1. You are able to do exceeding abundantly above all I ask or think. (Eph 3:20)
2. You are able to save to the uttermost. (Heb. 7:25)
3. You are not willing that any should perish. (2 Peter 3:9)
4. You open the eyes of the blind, and deaf ears. (Is. 35:5)
5. You have mercy on the sinner. (Titus 3:5/ Lam 3:22)
6. You are still the Savior! (Is. 43:3/ Acts 4:12)
7. You draw men to yourself. (John 6:44/ 12:32)
8. You melt the heart of stone. (Jer. 23:29)
9. You call men by your grace. (Eph. 2:8-9)
10. You have chosen those that are yours. (Eph. 1:4)
11. You convict of sin, righteousness, and judgement. (John 16:8-11)
12. You spare men in your mercy. (Malachi 3:17)
13. You pull men out of the fire. (Jude 1:23)
14. You transform lives. (2 Cor. 5:17)
15. You reveal yourself. (John 15:26-27)
16. You reveal the thoughts and intents of hearts. (Heb. 4:12)
17. You loose the captive sinner. (John 8:34, 36)
18. You make sin appear exceeding sinful. (Romans 7:13)
19. You reconcile men to yourself. (2 Cor. 5:18)
20. You deliver men from the power of darkness. (Col. 1:13)
21. Your Word is not bound! (2 Tim. 2:9)
22. Your arm is not shortened that it can not save. (Is. 59:1)
23. All that the Father gives you WILL come to you. (John 6:37)

TARGET A SOUL FOR CHRIST

Choose A “Most Wanted” Person (Make a “10 Most Wanted List”)

There are literally millions and billions of people in the world that do not know Christ. There are 100’s and 1000’s within your neighborhoods cities, schools, and malls. There are dozens that you come in contact with every day, or every week. How then do you target a few people that God wants you to reach?

1. They must be within your reach. That means, they must be within your target area, places you go. It is your Jerusalem first then the rest of the world.
2. You should have a burden for them. A burden is . . .
 - a) A VISION of their need.
 - b) A DEEP CONCERN for their soul
 - c) A WILLINGNESS to do whatever necessary to bring them to Christ.
3. You must have contact with them during the week. Don't target someone who you don't even know, or don't rub shoulders with, or don't relate to, or don't have anything in common with, or don't speak to.
4. Make a list of all people who fit this category. It may be 3, 5, 10, 20 or more, but make the list of people you are concerned about.
5. Target the top three people with . . .
 - a) INTENSE INTERCESSION
 - b) EAGER ENTHUSIASM
 - c) AGGRESSIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Notes:

BUILD BRIDGES TO YOUR MOST WANTED PERSON

Jesus approached the woman at the well with a natural bridge for conversation -- the water and a need for a drink. Andrew went and dragged his brothers to hear Christ for themselves. Paul went to the highways and hedges...he went after them in business places, in market places, in social settings, and in recreational areas. All had definite strategies and plans for reaching out to unreached people. What is your plan?

1. List all the ways you can think of to . . . make contact, have conversations, build friendships, socialize, get alone with your target person.
2. Pray for clear direction . . . from the Lord on what tactics to use. Adopt a strategy by a certain date. Write it down in your personal diary or journal. Calendar the activities that will be bridge builders.
3. Start with just one person. Give yourself one month, at least four weeks, to start implementing your plan. If you find it is not working or the person is not responding to you friendship, then move on to the next person on your list.
4. Pray every day for your target person. Pray for 2 areas of the Holy Spirit's work each day for six days a week. Use the prayer guide to pray for Conviction, Faith, Eyes opened, etc.
5. Praise and Thank the Lord for His work . . . already begun in these target people. The Lord is not slack in his concern or his promises concerning them. Give it time. Give it believing prayer! Just as the Lord was at work in you long before your salvation so he is at work in them -- to will and to do His good pleasure.

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. A picture is worth a thousand words. Keep that person's picture in your wallet or purse. For your prayer closet make up a photo album of 10 photos of each of your 10 Most Wanted. Cycle through each one as you pray.
2. Many people find it difficult to pray for ten people with passion. If that is your case then make your list of ten, then prioritize the list placing them in order of your heart's desperation. I did this last year only to find that my top 3 were saved in the same year!
3. Refrigerator magnets are wonderful things. Since we approach the refrigerator far more often than we do the throne of grace, place a small photo of your top three Most Wanted. It is a solemn reminder to seek their salvation as one who hungers for food that perishes.
4. A computer wallpaper program can be a useful tool. Set yours up to place the picture of one of your most wanted each day of the week, or to randomly change throughout the day. An inconspicuous way to do this is to paste their photo onto your normal wallpaper photo. This is easily done with any graphics program.

Step 8... Pray for Saints

Who and what are saints?

Saints are not dead people who lived godly lives, but living people who have received Christ as their Savior and Lord. Paul calls all believers "saints and faithful brethren." A good way to start your prayer burden for people of your congregation is to assume they are indeed "saints and faithful brethren."

How to pray for people:

Study the prayers of the Apostle Paul as he lists what he prays for concerning each congregation. You can mirror his prayers by taking notes on what and how he prayed. Then outline your prayer so it is easy to remember.

Get to know people:

Get to know the people of your church. When at church, in the sanctuary, walk up and down the isles stopping at pews to pray for individuals and families who sit there. It is better to pray specifically for two or three families than to pray generally for dozens by just listing their names. As you meet people and speak with them ask the Lord to show you how and what to pray for them.

WHAT WE ARE TO PRAY FOR:

1. "Pray one for another" (James 5:16) so that you can be healed. The passage generally refers to physical healing, BUT the prayer for one another is about our mutual weaknesses, faults, and sins. Job was not healed himself until he prayed for his friends who had treated him unfairly. (Job 42:10)
2. "Pray to forgive" those who trespass against us, those who don't like us, those who spiteful use us, those who don't or won't talk to us, those who make angry us, those who snub us, and those who are not yet our friends. Jesus said when we pray we should for it regularly. (Mat. 6:14-15)
3. "Pray for the stranger within our gates", that is the visitors that drop in to our church, and new families that appear once in a while among us. (3 John 1:5)
4. "Pray for the fatherless and widow(ers)", that is, those bereaved by a recent loss. Pray for the elderly who have lost a life long partner in the last year or two. Pray for families who have had a recent loss of a parent, child, or relative. For mothers who have had miscarriages. (James 1:27)
5. "Pray for prosperity and blessing" on our brothers and sisters in Christ. (3 John 1:2) Pray for financial blessings, for restored losses, for jobs, promotions, and success

6. Pray for "a hedge of protection" about believers against sickness, spiritual attack from the enemy, temptation, accidents, etc. (Ezekiel 22:30)
7. Pray for "marriages that are troubled," young couples contemplating marriage, young people to be kept pure. (1Pet. 3:7, 1 Corinthians 7:1-40)
8. Pray for the "spiritual growth" of our brothers in Christ. Paul often included outlines of the prayers he made for spiritual maturity of believers. Study them. Imitate them. (Eph. 1:16-19/ 3:14-19/ Philip. 1:9-10/ Col. 1:9-12)
9. Pray for the "backslider", the prodigal sons and daughters, people who used to walk close to God, those overtaken in a fault, a vice, or a temptation. (1 John 5:16)
10. Pray for "gifts to be manifest" in the church, and pray God to bring in other gifts and gifted people to strengthen the church. (Eph 4:11-16)

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Pray for people by name - almost every church provides an updated name and address list for members of the congregation. Use this list to pray for one another. Begin by asking the Holy Spirit to guide you and give heart-burdens for each person you pray over.
2. Pray for people by face - some churches have pictorial directories that are a good way to get familiar with the congregation. Use the directory as you pray the same as you would for the name and address list, but with the benefit of seeing them. I find it helpful especially when praying for children in each family.

Notes:

Step 9: Pray For The Sick

James 5:13-16/ Matt. 8:16-17

Traditional Prayers

So often the majority of the prayers we pray in any church prayer meeting lamentably are not prayers for the spiritual well-being of others, but for physical healing. These are often perfunctory prayers that exercise not real faith. In fact, rarely do churches every report back on the results of their prayers. It is as if it does not really matter whether God heals or not. We are just throwing our coins into the wishing well of heaven. Real prayer for the sick is heart felt and deep discerning "prayers of faith." (James 5:14) As with all prayers, the prayer for healing and health should be believing prayers. It is not about what you are asking God to do. It is about **WHAT YOU ARE BELIEVING GOD TO DO!**

Examples

Jesus instructions to the disciples when he sent them out two by two was very specific. They were to preach the Gospel and heal the sick by praying for them. The disciples continued to do this after the ascension of Jesus, as did the members of the early church. It is the right thing to do! It gives God opportunity to respond showing His great power and confirming the Word of God that is preached.

Purpose of Healing

The purpose of all divine healing is always to glorify Jesus. His touch is a miracle of the resurrected Lord Jesus who has power over ALL the work of the devil. The purpose of God's touch is also to bring us strength and health for continued service. He does not heal us just to make us feel good. He does not intend to heal us so we can go on sinning, and serving self and the devil with renewed vigor.

Ask Discerning Questions

I have learned from men of God to ask probing questions before anointing with oil, laying on hands, and praying for the sick. One question that needs to be asked of every person seeking healing is, "How will you glorify God with this healing?" "What will you do with this healing if God grants it?" If healing is for the purpose of God's glory we must be sure that it is not just a self-satisfying prayer to escape some discomfort, pain or inconvenience. Healing is about Jesus, not about you!

Seeing this is true let us dramatically change our prayers for the sick.

HOW TO PRAY FOR THE SICK

1. Pray for the suffering and pain to cease. Hebrews 4:15-16 Lamentations 3:32-33
2. Pray for the disease to be removed from the body! Matthew 14:36
3. Pray against the bondage to the "spirit of infirmity." Luke 13:11
4. Pray for the spiritual life of the sick. For faith, patience, and joy. I Peter 1:6-7
5. Pray for discernment of the illness. (John 9:3)

SEEK TO DISCERN THE NATURE OF THE SICKNESS!

1. Some sickness is for the glory of God. (John 9:3)
2. Some sickness is because of disobedience. (I Corinthians 11:30)
3. Some sickness is consequences of actions or lifestyle. ()
4. Some sicknesses are unto death. (John 11:4)
5. Some sicknesses are trials of our faith. (1 Peter 1:7)
6. Some sicknesses a natural part of the Fall. (Genesis 3)
7. Some sicknesses are attacks of the devil. (Job 2:7)
8. Some sicknesses are for God's grace to shine. (II Corinthians 12:9)
9. Some sicknesses are family inheritances (Exodus 20:5)
10. Some sicknesses are chastisements to lead us back to God. (Hebrews 12:8)

HELPFUL HINTS:

Put feet to your prayers . We are not only to pray FOR the sick in a prayer meeting, and in private prayer times but we are to actively pray for them - person to person. We are to pray WITH the sick and afflicted.

1. Call a sick person and pray together over the phone.
2. Visit a sick person in the hospital.
3. Read a Scriptural promise to the sick and claim it with them.
4. Give a word of encouragement and comfort to the weary and infirm.
5. Lay hands on the sick and pray together with 2-3 persons.
6. Pray specifically together asking what they want God to do.

Notes:

Step 10: Pray For Those Who Minister

Pray for the ministry and those who minister in the church. Paul urged praying Christians to intercede on his behalf. While Moses interceded for the battle with his hands raised he needed helpers in intercession to UPHOLD him, his arms, in prayer. No man is an island no man stands alone. We are to pray for the ministries and ministers of the house of God.

"Not as though we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God: Who also that made us ABLE MINISTERS of the New Testament."
2 Corinthians 3:5-6

Pray for People Who Minister:

The Elders and their families
The Deacons
The Deaconesses
The Sun. School Superintendent
The Officers, treasurers etc.
The Musicians
The Sunday School Teachers
The Youth Leaders
The W.M.P.F. President
The Alliance Men President
The Trustees
The Greeters
The Visitation People

Pray for the Ministries:

The Shut in Ministry
The Preaching Ministry
The Prayer Ministries
The VBS program
The Upcoming Special Services
The Missions Conference
The Governing Board Decisions
The Counseling Ministries
The Music Committee
The Evangelism Committee
The Bylaw Committee
The Christ. Ed. Committee
The Missions Committee
The Janitors
The Quiz Teams

The Church Office Staff
The Sound & Tape Ministry
The Greeter Ministry
The New Converts
The Nursery Ministry
The Junior Church Ministry

Pray for the Needs of the Church:

The Children's Club program
The Visitors & New Families
The Community Outreach
The Growth Strategies & Plans
The Financial needs
The Equipment Needs
The Building & Property needs
The Parking problem
The Future
The Future Staff/Pastors
The Retreat Ministries
The Discipleship Ministries
The College Ministries
The Baptismal candidates
The Visitation Teams
The Bible Study groups
The Evangelistic outreach
The New Members Applicants
The Attendance Growth
The Church Advertising
The Literature Ministry
A Church Planting Ministry
Men's Missions Tours
Youth Missions Tours

HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR PASTOR

Pastors are normal everyday people just like you and me. They are human and with that humanity comes all the frailties of humanity. The Word of God says that even godly Elijah “was a man subject to like passions as we are.” The word “like passions” in Greek means “*homoioopathes*” means “human feelings or affections.” Men of God don’t lose their humanness, nor do they lose their natural inclinations to sin. Every pastor is assaulted daily with his humanity. Every pastor needs a “hedge of protection” or a prayer shield supplied by a prayer warriors.

For His Personal Life

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. His thought life | 10. His spiritual life |
| 2. His temptations | 11. His prayer life |
| 3. His attitude | 12. His finances |
| 4. His emotions | 13. His worries |
| 5. His patience | 14. His anxieties |
| 6. His family | 15. His weaknesses |
| 7. His marriage | 16. His failures in ministry |
| 8. His children | 17. His faithfulness to God |
| 9. His health | 18. His stress management |

For His Ministries

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Souls to be saved | 11. Discouragement |
| 2. Strength | 12. His preaching |
| 3. Wisdom | 13. Disobedient children |
| 4. Language ability | 14. Spiritual life |
| 5. Health | 15. Supplies and equipment |
| 6. Safety in danger | 16. Preaching ability |
| 7. Finances | 17. His people skills |
| 8. Satanic Attacks | 18. His wisdom in counseling |
| 9. Temptations | 19. His study and preparations |
| 10. Family unity | 20. Training of leaders |

Notes:

Step 11: Pray For Missionaries

The Apostle Paul was a missionary and he encouraged people to prevail in prayer for him and the ministry committed to him.

"Brethren pray for us that the word of God may have free course and be glorified."
2 Thessalonians 3:1

Beware lest we become weak prayers who only ask God to "bless the missionaries." We are to prevail in prayer. That means we must hold the ropes for them as they enter Satan's territory. We are to lift them up continually before our Father in heaven. To do so most effectively we must make it our business to know missionaries by name and by face. Here are some of the things we should be praying for...

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Souls to be saved | 11. Discouragement |
| 2. Strength | 12. Loneliness |
| 3. Wisdom | 13. Separation from children |
| 4. Language ability | 14. Children in MK schools |
| 5. Health | 15. Visas to be granted |
| 6. Safety in danger | 16. Spiritual life |
| 7. Finances | 17. Supplies and equipment |
| 8. Satanic Attacks | 18. Furloughing missionaries |
| 9. Temptations | 19. Preaching ability |
| 10. Family unity | 20. Training of nationals |

Not only should we pray for missionaries, but we should be praying for the people to whom they are sent. We should pray for the souls of people of many nations. Dr. A.B. Simpson, the founder of The Christian and Missionary Alliance, often prayed with his arms wrapped around the globe, weeping for lost tribes of men and women. Pray for unreached people groups of the world. Pray for resistant peoples. Pray for whole countries. Pray for far off forgotten places.

"Other sheep I have that are not of this fold, them also I must bring." John 10:16

In prayer we are not limited by time, space, distance, or language. We can go anywhere on the globe in intercessory prayer and know that it is as effective as going there in person. Become a world Christian. Catch a vision of the world.

HELPFUL HINTS:

1. Spread a world map before you on the floor or table as you pray.
2. Place your finger on a particular country as you pray.
3. Hold a globe in your arms and pray for nations.
4. Use a bulletin board display of missionary pictures as you pray.
Keep informed on a country by newspaper and magazine articles
5. Compile a photo album of missionaries.
6. Write your missionary after you have carried a particular burden. Short e-mail messages to and from your missionary are best.
7. Study a country. Plan a trip there either as part of a vacation or as a mission work trip.
8. Learn some of their language, their hardships, their resistance to the Gospel. Learn to say “Good morning, Good Evening, How are you?”
9. Adopt a mission field as your own. It will help you keep focused and direct your passionate prayer if you have one country or people group as your focus.
10. Adopt a missionary family. Send them care packages and fun things they cannot get in their country.
11. Adopt an unreached people group, a tribe, or language group. It will help you keep focused and direct your passionate prayer if you have one country or people group as your focus.

Notes:

Step 12: Pray For Magistrates

(1 Timothy 2:1-4)

The last step in our intercessory discipline is to pray for those who are over us politically. The apostle Paul exhorts Timothy, and the church to pray and give thanks first of all for all men, especially for those in authority over us such as kings, and government officials. The political world Paul was referring to was far from pleasant. It would be only a few years and Paul would be executed by order of the Emperor of Rome. I am sure Paul would not have voted for Nero to be emperor of Rome, nevertheless he maintained his perspective of God's Sovereignty even in dictatorships.

Paul was fully aware of the tendency of Christians to complain about politicians and taxes the governmental bureaucracy and the military. Complaining doesn't cut it in Paul's world view. The best way to change a bad situation is to PRAY FOR THE LEADERS. His reasoning for prayer for the kings and authorities is given in Romans 13:1-4.

Finally the example of Samuel's attitude of prayer for King Saul. Although Saul was in an unremorseful sinful, backslidden condition, Samuel nonetheless recognized that it was incumbent on him to continue to pray for the King. "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." 1Samuel 12:23. Daniel also under adverse kings who did not honor God, prayed for them and God wrought wonders.

The scope of our prayers, intercessions, supplications and giving of thanks should certainly be wider than our own government. We should be praying for the world political systems. We are exhorted to: "PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM."

1. We are to pray for Israel and God's people everywhere and for the governments that oppress them.
2. We should be praying diligently for the dictators, oppressors, and persecutors of the world. (For the Saddam Husseins, for rebel troops, terrorists, all over the world.)
3. We should be prevail in prayer for countries under communist rule such as China, where the Gospel is repressed and God's people persecuted and imprisoned.
4. We should pray for the United Nations, and for troops on battle grounds across the globe.
5. We should be praying for countries that are suppliers of illegal drugs, where drug cartels oppress, and drug wars rage.
6. We should pray for prisons and prisoners and their salvation and transformation.
7. We should pray for our military leaders and soldiers in the field. We should pray for our police system.

(by Charles Stanley)

- HELPFUL HINTS:

- Notes: