

In this week's lesson, we will examine the ministry of intercessory prayer and the effect this type of prayer has on a church and a city. A key component of this prayer ministry is the willingness to join with the heart of God by making ourselves available to share His burden for the lost.

➤ **Foundational Truth: God Has Done His Part...**

Acts 10:1-6 (NKJV)

1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment,

2 A devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always.

3 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

4 And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?" So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God.

5 Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter.

6 He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do."

➤ **Two Important Questions:**

- Why didn't the _____ himself tell Cornelius how to be saved?
- Why was it _____ for _____ to be the one who preached the gospel to Cornelius?

➤ **Two things God *Won't* Do for Us:**

- God won't do our _____ for us.
- God won't do our _____ for us.

➤ **Two Things God *Will* Do for Us**

- God _____ get directly involved in our _____ to reach the _____.
- God _____ get directly involved in our _____.

➤ **Jesus' Response to the Multitudes**

Matthew 9:35-38 (NKJV)

35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

- Jesus felt great _____ for the lost... and we must as well.
- According to Jesus, the _____ in reaching the lost is _____.
- By giving Himself the title, "The _____", Jesus identified Himself with the _____ of reaching the unsaved.

➤ **Review: How We Pray**

James 5:16 (NKJV)

16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Jude 1:20 (NKJV)

20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit

1 Timothy 2:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men

- Intense, emotional, passionate prayers are _____.
- We have the ability to pray “_____.”
- _____ prayers should be offered to God on behalf of others.

➤ **The Heart of Jesus**

- When we feel the _____ compassion that Jesus feels for the lost, we will:
 1. Pray _____ prayers.
 2. Allow the Spirit to _____ our prayers; we will pray by the _____ of the Spirit.
 3. _____ for others.
 - Image 1: *The Power of Prayer (as an individual)*
 - Image 2: *The Power of Prayer Multiplied (as a church)*
 - Image 3: *The Power of Intercessory Prayer (as an individual)*
 - Image 4: *The Power of Intercessory Prayer Multiplied (as the church)*

➤ **A Command and a Promise**

Mark 16:15-20 (NKJV)

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.

- Jesus _____ them to share the Gospel with the _____ world.
- Jesus _____ supernatural empowerment.
- The _____ preached the Gospel.
- Jesus _____ in their efforts by confirming His word.
- Just as God became directly involved in the church's efforts to evangelize, He will get directly involved in the church's efforts to engage in intercessory prayer.
- He will share His burden with us... we will feel His heartbeat.
- When we engage in intercessory prayer, we become vessels who will pray prayers that:
 - Express God's desire (His heart)
 - Take dominion over spiritual opposition (spiritual warfare)
 - Bring liberty to God's people

➤ **Working Together**

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV)

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

- God _____ to work _____ us and God _____ to work _____ us.
- Are we giving Him anything to work with... are we doing anything that He can work through?

➤ **Two Things God Will Do for Us**

- God _____ get directly involved in our _____ to reach the _____.
- God _____ get directly involved in our _____.

➤ **Homework Assignment:**

Part 1: For the next week, ask the Lord to share His heart for this church and this city with you; ask to feel what He feels and to see what He sees when He looks at the church and the present condition of this world.

Part 2: As He shares His burden(s) with you, allow the Spirit to lead you to a place of intercession. Do not quench the intensity of the Spirit; rather, allow the Spirit to drive you to pray intense intercessory prayers.