

Spurgeon & Intercessory Prayer

This resource is two-fold. The first section is a brief teaching and an example of prayer by Charles Spurgeon. The second part is a 30-minute prayer guide to help you intercede for your campus fellowship, university, and the world.

The memory of Charles Haddon Spurgeon has been cherished among evangelical Christians for over the past 100 years. Many Christian leaders consider him to be the greatest preacher England ever produced. He is commonly hailed as the "Prince of Preachers". Over 63 volumes of published sermons still bear witness to the richness and success of C. H. Spurgeon's ministry. Though known as a great preacher, it was not preaching that made Spurgeon great. Mr. Spurgeon repeatedly acknowledged his success as the direct result of his congregation's faithful prayers. "It has often been remarked that the whole church helped produce Spurgeon." When visitors would come to Spurgeon's church he would take them to the basement prayer-room where people were always on their knees interceding. Then Spurgeon would declare, "Here is the powerhouse of this church."

First, then, BY WAY OF COMMENDING THE EXERCISE, let me remind you that intercessory prayer has been practiced by all the best of God's saints. We may not find instances of it appended to every saint's name, but beyond a doubt, there has never been a man or woman eminent for piety personally, who has not always been pre-eminent in his anxious desires for the good of others, and in his prayers for that end.

But further, while we might commend this duty by quoting innumerable examples from the lives of eminent saints, it is enough for the disciple of Christ if we say that Christ in His holy gospel has made it your duty and your privilege to intercede for others. When he taught us to pray, he said, "Our Father," and the expressions which follow are not in the singular but in the plural—"Give us this day our daily bread." "Forgive us our debts"; "Lead us not into temptation"; evidently intending to set forth that none of us are to pray for ourselves alone, that while we may have sometimes prayers so bitter that they must be personal like the Saviour's own—"Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me"; yet, as a rule, our prayers should be public prayers, though offered in private; and even in secret we should not forget the church of the living God.

Intercessory prayer has stayed plagues. It removed the darkness which rested over Egypt; it drove away the frogs which leaped upon the land; it scattered the lice and locusts which plagued the inhabitants of Zoar; it removed the murrain, and the thunder, and the lightning; it stayed all the ravages which God's avenging hand did upon Pharaoh and his people. Intercessory prayer has healed diseases; —we know it did in the early church. We have evidence of it in old Mosaic times. When Miriam was smitten with leprosy, Moses prayed, and the leprosy was removed. It has restored withered limbs. When the king's arm was withered, he said to the prophet, "Pray for me," and his arm was restored as it was before. Intercessory prayer has raised the dead, for Elias stretched himself upon the child seven times, and the child sneezed, and the child's soul returned. As to how many souls intercessory prayer has instrumentally saved, recording angel, thou canst tell! Eternity, thou shalt reveal! There is nothing which intercessory prayer cannot do. Oh! believer, you have a mighty engine in your hand, use it well, use it constantly, use it now with faith, and thou shalt surely prevail.

And, O God, lend us thy strength now, that this duty may come forcibly home to our conscience, and we may at once engage in this exercise! Brethren, I have to EXHORT YOU TO PRAY FOR OTHERS. Before I do it, I will ask you a personal question. Do you always pray for others? Guilty or not guilty, here? Do you think you have taken the case of your children, your church, your neighbourhood, and the ungodly world before God as you ought to have done? If you have, I have not. For I stand here a chief culprit before the Master to make confession of the sin; and while I shall exhort you to practice what is undoubtedly a noble privilege, I shall be most of all exhorting myself.

Spurgeon, C.H. "Intercessory Prayer" delivered on August 11, 1861 <http://www.spurgeon.org/sermons/0404.htm>

Intercessory Prayer Guide

(30 minutes total)

PERSONAL PRAYER TIME: Preparing our hearts (10 minutes)

- Proclaim His greatness
 - Matthew 6:9 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name”
 - Psalm 8:1-2
- Pray a prayer of repentance
 - 1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”
- Pray a prayer of consecration for the semester
 - Joshua 3:5 “Consecrate yourself for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you”
- Pray for a fresh work of the Spirit in your life
 - Galatians 5:22-25, 1 Corinthians 14:1, Acts 1:8
- Thank God for who He is and what He’s done
 - grace, salvation, provision, etc.

CONNECT: Praying for Core groups and community (5 minutes)

- love one another (John 13:35 - this command comes 16 times)
- be devoted to one another (Romans 12:10)
- honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- be like-minded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
- accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- forgive one another (Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13)
- be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- consider others better than yourselves (Philippians 2:3)
- look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:18)
- encourage one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- stir up one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- pray for one another (James 5:16) confess our faults to one another (James 5:16)
- be honest with one another (Colossians 3:9)

GROW: Praying for growth in quantity and quality (5 minutes)

- Ephesians 1:15-23

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped **giving thanks for you**, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the **eyes of your**

heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

REACH: Pray for reaching out into the world (10 minutes total)

- Colossians 4:3-6

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that **God may open a door for our message**, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. **Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.** Let your **conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt**, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

- Fellowship-wide (Psalm 67)

- Pray for the gracious hand of our God to rest upon us (Ezra 8:20, Neh 2:8, Neh 2:20)
- Pray for main weekly meetings of the semester
 - Pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the messages and the worship. Pray for salvations. Pray for freedom in people's life from strongholds. Pray our hearts to be renewed. Pray for visitors to feel loved. Pray that people who grow as worshippers of God. Pray for God to be glorified.
- Pray for the retreats
 - Pray for salvations. Pray for the registration and administrative details. Pray for God to speak to us. Pray for the speaker(s). Pray for safe travel.
- Pray for social events on the calendar
 - Pray that they will be used to reach. Pray that they would be used to form deep relationships. Pray for safe travel.
- Pray for the Spring Break trips
 - Pray for people to raise money. Pray for God to bless the outreaches. Pray for safety. Pray for unity. Pray for deep relationships to form.
- Pray for Holy Spirit to have His way in our fellowship. (1 Thess 5:19-21)
- Pray for 4th years
 - Their transition into the marketplace. Pray for job provision. Pray for peace.
- Pray our fellowship would be protected from schemes of the evil one. (Matt 6:13, Eph 6)

- University-wide

- Pray for the non-Christians at our university
 - Pray for the blinders to be removed from their eyes (2 Cor 4:4). Pray for the conviction of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7,14). Pray for people to share the gospel with lost people (Matt 9:36-37). Pray for Divine appointments. Pray for people to put their trust in Christ. (Jn 1:12, John 5:24)
- Pray for other Christian fellowships
- Pray for specific people groups (e.g. sororities, athletics, internationals)
- Pray for the faculty and staff

- World-wide

- Pray for a couple of specific nations.
- Pray for the international students
- Pray for people you know who are serving overseas.
- Pray with the Bible in one hand and newspaper in the other.