

God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:6

When we pray for others, we pray as ambassadors of Christ, and our prayer to God can help shape the future of other people's lives.

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.' "Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs. "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Luke 11:5-10

When we hear of what seems like impossible situations what can we do in these instances?

We can pray:

We remember the goodness of our heavenly Father
We remember that he helped me, healed me, and forgave me
So we can confidently and boldly pray on the behalf of others
They need help!

God will hear that prayer and do what we could never do in our own strength.

2018-03-18
Before Amen Part 3

They Need Help

Father,

You are good.

I need help.

Heal me.

Forgive me.

They need help.

Thank you.

In Jesus' name, amen.

An intercessor is one who intercedes on the behalf of someone else. They are an advocate or a campaigner who pleads the cause of another person to God.

"**They need help**" is an intercessory prayer that God hears --- and God answers.

1. Intercessory prayer is Not Rocket Science

There is freedom in knowing that when I simply mention other people and their needs to God – I am interceding for them.

2. Intercessory Prayer Pleases God

God delights to answer our prayers for others even before we pray.

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:13

Bringing people's needs to Jesus, in prayer, means we believe in Jesus' goodness and that we are depending on his power.

The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met Jesus. A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."

Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. Luke 9:37-43

Unbelief is attempting to help others without calling on Jesus first.

Belief is: pounding on God's door at midnight. Doing whatever it takes to present people to Jesus in prayer.

To intercede for others is to trust God's great ability in the face of our deep inability.

Lord, they need help.

3. Intercessory Prayer Influences God to Act

God's character and purpose are unchangeable

BUT

You can change the mind of God!

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They

have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.' "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.' " Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened. Exodus 32:7-14

Moses interceded on their behalf and changed the mind of God.

"This is the promise of prayer! We can change God's mind. His ultimate will is inflexible, but the implantation of his will is not. He does not change in his character and purpose, but he does alter his strategy because of the appeals of his children. We do not change his intention, but we can influence his actions." Max Lucado

4. Intercessory Prayer Changes People's Lives

"We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us". 2 Corinthians 5:20