

A Intercessory prayer:

❖ **Praying in conflict.**

- We live in a conflict with cosmic extent. A conflict between good and evil, between Christ and Satan. Every person is serving in one side, and most people are dithering.
- There's no "compulsory military service" in Christ's side. He doesn't force anyone to follow Him. He doesn't intervene if we don't allow Him.
- Intercessory prayer is the way we "let" God intervene in the lives of those we pray for.
- God honors our choice to pray for them and works even more powerfully in their behalf.

❖ **Praying for specific people.**

- Jesus didn't rely on His own strength to overcome the hosts of evil. He always depended on the strength of the Omnipotent through prayer.
- He left an example of praying for specific people, as He did for Peter. Jesus knew that Peter wasn't aware he needed help on that night. Therefore, Jesus interceded on his behalf.
- God encourages us to bring specific people to His throne and leave them on His hands. We must persist until we see the result.

❖ **Praying for other believers.**

- Paul used to pray for other believers. What did he ask for? See Ephesians 1:17-23.
- Paul also used to thank for the spiritual growth of his brothers and sisters, as in his prayer in Philippians 1:3-11. He prayed for them to continue their progress in the faith.
- We should pray for our brothers and sisters as Paul did, so they may be strengthened and encouraged in their Christian journey.

B God hears our prayers.

- ❖ Daniel was worried about the situation of those who had returned from Babylon to Jerusalem. Daniel was upset and prayed for them for 21 days.
- ❖ God sent a vision to the distraught prophet in the most appropriate moment. He assured Daniel that his prayers had been listened since the first one.
- ❖ God had been working in other aspects of the battle before answering Daniel's prayer. He listens to every intercessory prayer, although we may have to wait for His answer.

C How to pray.

- ❖ Our intercessory prayers should be fervent, sincere and specific.
- ❖ Paul prayed for specific people (e.g. his collaborators) and specific churches (e.g. Ephesus or Philippi). He also asked the church to pray for his liberation or for his preaching to be strengthened (Philippians 1:19; Colossians 4:3).
- ❖ We should pray for those who we know haven't meet their Savior yet (John 17:20), for the believers to be strengthened (Ephesians 3:14-16), for God to extend His forgiveness (1 John 5:16), for the protection of those going through hard times (Acts 12:12)...
- ❖ When we pray for others, we become a channel of God's blessing to them.