



# A CALL TO PRAYER

"With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit ..." - Ephesians 6:18a

## FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

### 01 SUPPLICATE

Make intense supplication. This means to be in earnest. In Ex. 9:28, 10:17 & Job 33:26, we see the intensity of prayer. If we're engaged in warfare, we don't engage with a lax, indifferent or passive attitude.

### 02 INTERCEDE

"To entreat," in the King James. We see it 84 times in the Old Testament: to entreat, to intercede. We are people who are called to intercede for others.

### 03 INQUIRE

Look at this word in Daniel - it was used only of Daniel to seek from a king. Daniel would go to the king and inquire of the king. Do we not go to the ultimate King of kings and Lord of lords? We are going to the ultimate King to say, "We need Your help. You are the only one with the resources. You are the sovereign over all things."

### 04 BEND, BOW, HUMBLY SUBMIT

We see this in Ezra 16 and in Daniel: to bow down, to humbly submit to something - this is important.

### 05 PONDER

Ponder deeply and intensely. Psalm 119:15, "I will meditate on all Your precepts and regard Your ways." (See also vv 23, 27, 48, 78, 97 & 148.) This sense of meditation should be a part of our reflection upon the living God in our time with Him.

### 06 REQUEST

In 1 Samuel 8 & 12:1 the people request a king. There's specificity that's involved in it. When we go to God, we can be very specific in the things that we ask of Him.

### 07 REVERE

We need a reverent heart before we go before this awesome God. In Exodus 33, Moses is before God, and he asks of God, "Let me see Your glory." When we go to prayer, we should be thinking about the awesomeness of God, that we can even engage with this God.

### 08 IMPLORE

In Job 19:16, Job uses the word to implore his servant to respond to his wishes. It communicates intensity because Job is not viewed favorably.

## 09 COME

Come, apart from human strength. This is close to "entreat." More than half the occurrences of this word are found in the Psalms. You often see the Psalmist crying out to the Lord, "God, I don't have the strength. God, my enemies are too much for me. God, the circumstances are too much for me. I need You to intervene." That's really prayer in a nutshell: "God, I don't have any strength. God, I don't have any resources. God, I don't have any answers. There is no way I can change their hearts. There is no way I can cause my son, or my daughter or my grandchild to come to You. You have to open their heart. God, I can't force them not to take that path that they're on; only You can turn them away from that. God, help me forgive this person." And whatever your request may be, "God, here are my needs. I come to You and I'm not sure how this can be resolved." We come to the living God apart from human strength.

## 10 WORSHIP

Prayer is the outpouring of worshipful praise to the living God. It is communion and conversation with Him. We are to be thankful to Him (Ps. 100).

## A HEART FOR PRAYER

- 01 **HAVE AN ADEQUATE VIEW OF GOD:** Spend time meditating on the greatness of God. Study God.
- 02 **TRULY UNDERSTAND PRAYER:** Increase your knowledge of prayer by reading and listening about it.
- 03 **HAVE A PASSION FOR GOD & COMMUNICATING WITH HIM:** Pray throughout the day (e.g. Daniel). Find a place of solace, and spend time with God (e.g. Jesus).
- 04 **BATTLE TO DISCIPLINE THE MIND:** Fight the wandering mind with lists of what to pray about, pictures of people, and notes that you've taken from someone else. Put that in front of you and pray through it.

- 05 **PERSEVERE:** Get a prayer partner. Keep each other accountable. Use technology to log requests, have reminders etc. Start with a reasonable amount of time. Never lose heart. (Matt. 26:36-46; Lk. 18:1-8).
- 06 **LOVE OTHERS:** Think about others more than yourself; intervene and intercede for them.
- 07 **DON'T UNDERESTIMATE THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE:** Eph. 6:10-20

## PRAY

### 01 SCRIPTURE

Examples: Eph. 1:15-19; 3:14-21, Phil. 1:3-11, Col. 1:3-12 etc.

### 02 IN THE SPIRIT

Live a life consistent with the Spirit of God and pray according to the Spirit. Have prayers that are controlled and influenced by a spiritual mindset (Rom. 12:1-2).

### 03 FOR ONE ANOTHER

Examples: for the body of Christ (members of your church, believers around the world, other churches), for leaders and rulers (1 Tim. 2:1-2) etc. Develop a tender heart by praying through tragic news.

### 04 FOR THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL

Examples: for boldness (Eph. 6:19-20), for labourers (Matt. 9:36-38), for God's will (Matt. 6:5-13) etc.

### 05 FOR THE CHURCH

That the church would be: prayerful, evangelistic, hospitable, influential, Bible-teaching, gossip-free, financially responsible, glorying to God in time spent with one another, morally pure, doctrinally sound, etc.

This document is based on "A Call to Prayer" (sermon by Carl Hargrove, 2017).

GRACEFELLOWSHIPCHILLIWACK.COM