

# Prayer Possibilities

## *Preferred Passion for Prayer*

---

One of the best ways to focus your prayer life is to identify the passion for which you may be called to intercede. God has already planted this in your heart. As one grows in a life of prayer, the desire to pray beyond one's needs increases. This tool is a guide showing that God scripts us to pray for specific needs and issues. Listen to your heart and identify which area best describes your passion to pray.

### **General Intercessor**

Demonstrates...

- a heart for people
- persistence in situations
- tears
- compassion for strangers
- a compelling desire to pray for the sick
- attention to prayers for daily needs that arise

### **Social/Justice Intercessor**

Compassion for those afflicted by...

- violence and war
- injustice
- prejudice
- inequality
- domestic violence
- drug abuse
- land, water and creation issues

### **Evangelism Intercessor**

A heart to pray for...

- missionaries
- non-believers
- seekers
- neighbors
- salvation of the world (nations)

### **Local Congregational Intercessor**

A passion to pray for...

- pastors
- congregational leaders
- worship services
- Sunday School
- various ministries
- congregational members

### **Specific Group Intercessor**

Compelled to pray for...

- marriages
- children
- youth
- college students
- single adults
- two-parent families
- single parent families
- unborn children

## *Unpacking Your Preferred Passion for Prayer*

---

### **General Intercessor**

Possessing a heart for people, a general intercessor prays with compassion for the needs and suffering of others. Oftentimes, tears flow for strangers whose story moves the heart of the intercessor to seek God's blessing on that individual's life.

### **Social Justice Intercessor**

Moved by the issues of the day that oppress and retain power over individuals and groups, social justice intercessors take action in standing up against the oppressive forces and will spiritually engage in battle on their behalf. Common prayer activities may include praying the newspaper, prayer walking in areas of violence, and engaging prayer as a regular part of social action.

### **Evangelism Intercessor**

With a heart for those who live apart from an active faith in Jesus Christ, evangelism intercessors will actively pray for those who do not live for and serve Jesus. The primary focus of this prayer is to open their hearts and provide the right opportunity for them to come to faith in Jesus.

### **Local Congregation Intercessor**

Out of a powerful love and appreciation for their congregation and its mission, local intercessors find it an honor to pray for their pastor and the congregational leaders. Some intercessors gather with the pastor an hour before worship and pray for her/him and upcoming worship services. Others may walk through the worship space and ask God to bless each person who will sit in that space. The same may be done in each classroom prior to Sunday School.

### **Specific Group Intercessor**

Driven by specific areas of interest, these intercessors are willing to pray and do whatever is necessary to bring God's blessings to that group. They may be individual intercessors or have found a group of like-minded people in the community.

# Prayer Possibilities

## *Ten Keys to a Successful Personal Prayer Plan*

---

- 1. Schedule time to pray each day.** The earlier in the day, the better for your day.
- 2. Select a location that inspires you to pray.** Make it a creative, restful and quiet place. It may be as small as a corner with a shelf in your bedroom or a corner of your yard.
- 3. Set aside a niche for collecting small items that remind you of significant times with God.** If you are new to this, the collection can be as simple as a seashell, a rock, or a dried flower.
- 4. Select a few Christian symbols to inspire you** such as a cross, a candle or a Bible.
- 5. Remove distractions.** Tell others that you want 15 minutes alone. You do not need to answer the telephone, pager, or doorbell during this time.
- 6. Start small, like 15 minutes a day, so that you do not get discouraged.** Once you discover the value of this time, you will want to expand it.
- 7. Try different ways to pray until you find a structure that works for you.** Some people like more structure than others.
- 8. If you have a day where you do not keep your prayer time, do not allow guilt to bury you.** Simply plan to pray again tomorrow.
- 9. Many people find an advantage in being accountable to another person about their prayer plan.** Weekly check-ins can help to keep you focused and prevent legalism or apathy.
- 10. Schedule your prayer time for tomorrow at the end of today's prayers.** This helps to prevent you from forgetting this priority in your life.