

IT DOES NOT HAVE TO BE THE WAY THEY SAY

I urge you, **first of all**, to (1) pray for all people. (2) Ask God to help them; (3) intercede on their behalf, and (4) give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Saviour who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. *1 Timothy 2.1*

1 Timothy 2: reveals different kinds of prayer

1. Three levels of prayer, from Luke 11, “Lord, teach us how to pray is” answered by the Lord’s Prayer, a lesson on the need to persevere and:

Ask and receive, easy for everyone, terms and conditions apply.

Seek and find, where we seek Jesus to be with Him not to ask for anything, quietness where the terms and conditions are explained.

Knock and door opened, where you are invited in to the room of the Head of the Church not to ‘get’ but to give by praying with Jesus because “He ever lives to intercede,” Hebrews 7.25, his role to this very day.

Christ is *the* Intercessor, Romans 8.34.

My Intercessor is my friend, on behalf of man He pleads with God, Job 16.20

So if you do not know what to pray - agree with Him and His prayer, choose His will which is good, pleasing and perfect, Romans 12.2 and because He is the way, truth and life choose to go His way, believe His word as truth, embrace His life and then - let Him work it all out.

2. The story of the 1985 week then year of prayer for world mission.

The accidental starting point for DCI 1985-2011. Rees Howells, Intercessor book talks about an intercession won, which is what happened for DCI.

3. Intercession means . .

First known use of word in 15th century, from Latin into old French, English:

1. A petition, or entreaty in favour of another. 2. A pleading on behalf of another person. 3. A prayer to God on behalf of another and underline this:
4. From Roman History, intercede meant the proclamation of a veto, a No, as by Senate or a tribune.

Story of 3 text messages at midnight from a mentally unstable young man threatening suicide 300 miles away, then silence. You quickly learn all about intercession because that is all you have left, the Roman veto, the No.

Is it a special **gift** to be an *intercessor* ? No, I don't think so.

Is it a **call** to stand in the gap between a soul and the attacks of this world, the flesh and the devil and say you will not advance, this far and no further?
- Yes, I think it is, and the grace comes with the call.

If you say Yes to Christ's invitation you may never be called to spend hours, nights and days alone in prayer, as monks do, but you when you say Yes you are giving the Holy Spirit permission to interrupt or disturb you at any time day or night with a name, a face, a thought and a call to pray.

Is the call to be an *intercessor* a guarantee of answers, or hearing right, or knowing God's will at all times, or having a hot line to heaven, or enjoying exclusive privileges, and having infallible words for the pastor – categorically **No**, - but this is a call to a very beautiful ministry and one of the most powerful ones, and a call that is open to everyone who is **available**, young or older, being available and willing is the only qualification.

4. MAKING A START

Understand that it does not have to be the way they say, the future is not fixed, and on occasions even God can be persuaded to change His mind:-

Gen. 18,20: Abraham's interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah, 50 – 10.

Amos 7 – Amos twice interceded for Israel, have mercy, he is so small.

Isaiah 38: Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, remember, healed +15 yrs.

Acts 12.5: Peter in jail, the church prayed, Peter freed during prayer time.

Rose: After intercession her cancer moved, a later infection extinguished.

Say yes to the call and in a *divine waltz* let Jesus lead the steps.

When the invitation to pray comes, make time, stop soon.

Invite the Holy Spirit, because we do not know how to pray, Romans 8,28.

Wait and pray when you are ready, let prayer emerge from heart not head.

If possible find a friend or two, because with 2 or 3 present and Jesus with you, you are always in the majority.

See how far the Lord's Prayer takes you, first worship then ask "Where must His Kingdom come, who needs His will to be done, who needs daily bread, who needs leading out of temptation, who needs delivering from evil ? Name names, visit your own soul, your family, the nation, the church and the world. An hour or more soon passes. Persevere.