

## Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study “Intercessory Prayer”

### I. What is intercessory prayer?

Intercessory prayer is the act of praying on behalf of somebody or something else.

### II. What is the purpose of intercessory prayer?

The purpose of intercessory prayer is to ask for or try to discover God’s plan?

### III. What is the basic element of intercessory prayer?

Prayer (petitioning God)

### IV. What is the second element of intercessory prayer?

Listening for God’s response – Asking God for something requires that we listen to what God says to us.

### V. What is the third element of intercessory prayer?

Carrying out God’s plan – Once we receive God’s response to our prayer, we are responsible for carrying out the plan God gives in the way that God commands.

### VI. What are three true facts about intercessory prayer?

- Intercessory prayer is about *God*.
- Intercessory prayer is *not* about the person who intercedes.
- Everybody can intercede.

### VII. Who always intercedes on our behalf?

the Holy Spirit // “...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts, knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will.” - Romans 8: 26, 27

When faced with problems Christians have a tendency to feel we have to deal with the problems alone. This scripture from Roman shows us that we are not left alone to deal with anything. Since God knows what always happens in our life and what we need, the Holy Spirit prays *for* us. When we can see what’s happening in our life and believe we know the right or best words to say in our prayers, the Holy Spirit prays *with* us.

### VIII. For whom should Christians intercede?

- **All persons:**  
I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone ... (1 Timothy 2:1)

- **All persons in positions of authority:**  
... for kings and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (1 Timothy 2:2)
- **Christians:**  
And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)
- **Children:**  
... Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession. (Matthew 15: 21, 22)
- **The Church:**  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May those who love you be secure. May there be peace within your walls and prosperity within your citadels. (Psalm 122:6)
- **Enemies:**  
Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I carried you into exile. (Jeremiah 29:7)
- **Friends:**  
So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. (Job 42:8)
- **Citizens of our Country:**  
Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)
- **Ministers:**  
[Paul wrote] ... for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. (Philippians 1:19)
- **Persecutors:**  
But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. (Matthew 5:44)
- **Servants:**  
There a centurion’s servant, whom his master valued highly was sick and about to die. The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. (Luke 7: 2, 3)
- **The Sick:**  
Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil. (James 5:14)
- **The Envious:**  
Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife ... “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” ... At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the Tent of Meeting, all three of you.” ... The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left. ... When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam – leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; and he said to Moses. “Please, my lord, do not hold

against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away." So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O, God, please heal her!" (Numbers 12:1...13)

- **Those Who Speak Against God:**

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the LORD, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the LORD burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. (Numbers 11:1, 2)

**IX. What is a 'fringe benefit' of interceding for others?**

The intercessor receives a blessing.

After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. (Job 42:10)

**X. What are some examples of Jesus as an intercessor?**

- *Prayed for Peter, assuring him Peter's faith would be restored:*

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. (Luke 22:31, 32a)

- *Prayed for those who were crucifying him:*

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

- *Prayed for his disciples:*

"I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (John 17: 6-19)

- *Prayed for persons who would become believers:*

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. (John 17: 20-24)

**XI. Join Union Bethel as we intercede for:**

- Union Bethel AME Church, Brandywine and Temple Hills, MD
- Pastor Seawright and Family
- Church Officers
- Church Ministerial Staff
- Church Administrative Staff
- The Sick
- Ministries
- Our Country and Our Government Leaders
- Christians
- Supervisors & Employers
- The Unsaved
- Community Outreach
- Unity Economic Development Corporation
- FOCUS, Inc.
- Bethel House, Inc.
- Business Owners