

# Intercessory prayer – What do you do when nobody shows up to your prayer meeting?

Ezekiel 22:30 "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one."

Mark 14:27-43

<sup>27</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written:

'I will strike the Shepherd,  
And the sheep will be scattered.'

<sup>28</sup> "But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

<sup>29</sup> Peter said to Him, "Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be."

<sup>30</sup> Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that today, even this night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

<sup>31</sup> But he spoke more vehemently, "If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!"

And they all said likewise.

<sup>32</sup> Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. <sup>34</sup> Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch."

<sup>35</sup> He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. <sup>36</sup> And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will."

<sup>37</sup> Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour?" <sup>38</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

<sup>39</sup> Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. <sup>40</sup> And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

<sup>41</sup> Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Rise, let us be going. See, My betrayer is at hand."

<sup>43</sup> And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

## Top 10 Reasons Christians don't show up to prayer meetings

1. I need to make a living	With God's guidance you will do a better job of it
2. I need time with my family	Your family would benefit if you would pray
3. I don't know how to pray	The best way to learn is to be around people who do
4. I pray all day	An attitude of prayer is sustained all day by having dedicated times of prayer
5. I'm not a morning or evening person	Who is?
6. I prefer to pray in quiet by myself	That's good for personal prayer
7. I have kids	That is why you should pray all the more
8. It's inconvenient	Jesus didn't say it would be easy
9. I need my sleep. I'll pray at home.	Flesh promises to pray later
10. I don't believe it will make any change in me, others, or the church body	Matthew 19:26 "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"

Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

- Imagine how you would feel if you asked people to stand in prayer with you but they fall asleep.
- Reason Jesus called a prayer meeting not for his benefit only, but also for their benefit – That their faith would not fail.

## Prayer of consecration: Dying to your own will

- Jesus needed prayer to die to His flesh and he never sinned.
- How to die to the flesh – Deny yourself, not my will be done.
- Greatest battle in prayer is not the devil, it is our self will.
- Intercession leads to death of your plans, and confirms God's will.
- It is unscriptural to have others pray that God will be closer to me, no "Draw near to God."
  - Conditional promise.

Jesus went out of His way to invite people to pray. He had a burden, and urged others to be with Him. He tried to convince them they needed it



## People need prayer to sustain their commitment.

I know all of you wants to know God and seek Him in prayer. The reality is that we spend more time feeding our flesh, watching TV, sitting in front of our computers, listening to radios, talking on the cell phone.

Peter affirmed his love for Jesus, but he didn't stand with him in prayer, and have strength to finish.

## Battle of flesh: Prayer is boring to the flesh

### Benefits to the spirit:

- Overcome temptations
- Protects us from being sifted by satan, and ruled by our emotions
  - Peter led by his emotions:



to overcoming the flesh:

**Discipline**

### Requirement for an intercessor:

1. Show up & do what you say you are going to do

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.

## How are you going to respond if no one else shows up to the prayer meeting but you?

- Pray anyway. Revival may be dependant on your prayer