

pray for the lost to be saved. Assert your authority over Satan in the name of Jesus. He must obey. He must yield. God will raise up witnesses in answer to your praying. The Spirit of God will convict and draw the lost and grant repentance. Jesus will knock at the door of his heart if you will ask him.

Pray for Other Believers. — The best person of all to instruct us as to how to pray for one another is the Prince of Prayers, the Apostle Paul. His letters are filled with prayers for other people. He wrote in his letter to Timothy that we are to pray that men might *"come unto the knowledge of the truth."* This is for Christians.

Pray for Other Believers. — When you begin to pray for the other members of your family, for other members of your church, and for friends and neighbors who are Christians, you can pray, *"Lord, Father, in the name of Jesus, would you give to them a spirit of revelation. Would you open their eyes that they might know what is the hope of your calling, the joy of being a Christian, and to know what is your inheritance and your power that is working in them"* (Based on Ephesians 1:16-19). When one of your brothers in Christ is going through a time of trial and difficulty and the devil is oppressing him, you need to pray that God would open his eyes so that he might know the exceeding power that worketh in him.

Pray for Other Believers. — Do you pray for your Sunday School teacher, for your brothers and sisters in Christ? Do you pray, *"Lord, I pray that you would strengthen them with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may be at home in their hearts, that they may be able to comprehend the love of Christ"* (Based on Ephesians 3:14-16). Can you imagine what would happen to your church if you began to pray like that and if people all over the congregation would begin to comprehend the love of Christ? That's biblical praying.

Pray for Other Believers. — Do you know a member of your church that isn't lovely? A little cantankerous and touchy? And you've shared with your spouse, *"You know so-and-so, he's (deleted)."* Why don't you pray for his love, that it may abound (Philippians 1:9-11)? That would be the best thing. Yet have you noticed how Paul is never satisfied? These people have already been saved, but he says, *"I'm praying...that you may approve things that are excel-*

lent." Sometimes we criticize our young people because we think they don't exercise good judgment or sense. *"Lord, give them the ability to test things."* Do you pray like that?

Pray for Other Believers. — Paul did not found the church in Colosse; he never won anyone to the Lord in that church. Yet after Epaphras, one of his fellow-laborers came back and told him about them, he wrote, *"I do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness"* (Colossians 1:9-11). You, too, can pray that they might be fruitful in every good work; pray that they might be increased in the knowledge of God; pray that they might be strengthened with all might. Praying for others can become a full-time job.

Based on two messages by Rev. Ronald L. Dunn, Pastor of the MacArthur Boulevard Baptist Church, Irving, Texas.

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Pray for Other People. — *"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."*

(I Timothy 2:1,2)

Pray for Other People. — This little letter to Timothy is Paul's pastoral course. He is instructing this young minister how to conduct church services. And he says that the first thing you ought to do when your church comes together to worship, the first order of business, the primary purpose, the most important thing, is to pray. That's what he means when he says, *"first of all,"* the exhortation. We come together to pray first of all, that supplications and prayers and intercession and giving of thanks be made for all men.

Pray for Other People. — As I began to pray and to more earnestly learn to pray, I realized under the guidance of God, that so much of my praying was for myself. Now it takes a lot of praying to get me where God wants me to be but there was a great imbalance over against praying for myself and praying for others. And as I read the New Testament, I discovered that primarily prayer is to be made in behalf of other people. So let me make this suggestion. Before you come together as a group to pray, you should have already taken care of your own personal needs, and you come together to pray for other people.

Pray for Those in Authority. — Do you know who the first person is on God's prayer list? For kings and for all who are in authority. The first names on Paul's prayer list are those in authority — our national leaders. They are the first ones we ought to pray for. Paul is saying to Timothy, when you come together as a congregation, the most important thing you can do is to pray for other people, and first of all, for the leaders of your country.

Pray for Those in Authority. — Now I have to make a confession to you. I do not pray for my government as I ought. Do you? If I were to ask how many of you have prayed for our President this week, how many of us could honestly say we have done that. We criticize our politicians and maybe a lot of them do need to be criticized. But the Word of God

says that we're to pray for them; we're to pray for the leaders of our government; we're to pray that God will work in government.

Pray for Those in Authority. — Paul says we are to pray for kings and for all men in authority in order that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Can we do that in the United States? There was a time when people in America could lead a quiet and peaceable life; when women could walk down the main street during daylight or even at night without worrying; when you didn't have to worry about your children walking just three blocks home from school, wondering if they were going to make it. There was a time in our country when we did lead a quiet and peaceable life in all honesty and godliness. It's not so today. If God's people had been praying and interceding half as much as they have been criticizing, our country would be in better shape.

Pray for Your Spiritual Leaders. — We are to pray for our spiritual leaders. These include not only your pastor but anybody who is in a place of leadership as far as spiritual things are concerned. The Apostle Paul asked for prayer, *"that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak"* (Ephesians 6:19,20). You should pray for your church staff and for your pastor and for your missionaries that God would give them doors of utterance. And when those doors are opened, that they would know what to say that they might make known the mystery of the gospel. You ought to pray that God would do a work so that the preaching of the gospel would be clear and effective.

Pray for Your Spiritual Leaders. — Pray especially for your pastor that God would deliver him from unprincipled and wicked men (II Thessalonians 3:2). His ministry would be hindered if he fell into the hands of unprincipled men. Entire ministries have been destroyed by just one word of criticism or accusation. It would be so easy for the devil, if you do not pray for your pastor, to destroy his ministry just by raising up someone to attack him. Do you pray for your pastor? You need to build a wall of protection around your pastor and other spiritual leaders by intercession for them.

Pray for the Lost. — Good government is God's will. Why is it God's will? Paul wrote Timothy, *"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth"* (I Timothy 2:3,4). It's easier to preach the gospel in a country where there is good government, where you can lead a quiet and peaceable life in all honesty and godliness. We must pray for good government in order that it will be easy to spread the gospel.

Pray for the Lost. — There are three directions that our praying for the lost should take. Our praying for the lost should first of all be in the direction of Satan. A primary target therefore in evangelism is not the sinner; it is the devil, the power that holds the sinner. The sinner is bound by the devil (II Timothy 2:25,26), and he is blind to the gospel (II Corinthians 4:3,4). Two things must happen before a lost man can be saved. There must be emancipation (II Corinthians 10:4) and there must be enlightenment (I Corinthians 2:14). The binding and blinding of Satan must be torn down, and we can accomplish that through the means of intercessory prayer.

Pray for the Lost. — Our praying for the lost should also be in the direction of Christians. First of all, God prepares a sinner. Then He reaches over and gets an evangelist or soul winner and brings them together. Jesus said to His disciples, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest"* (Matthew 9:37,38). We should not only pray against Satan but we should pray that God would raise up someone to witness to the unsaved. That's the way God operates.

Pray for the Lost. — Then lastly, our praying ought to be directed toward our Savior. Jesus said, *"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day"* (John 6:44). A lost man will never escape the snare of the devil until God grants repentance (II Timothy 2:25,26). Ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to his heart to draw him and ask the Heavenly Father to grant him repentance. Then pray to Jesus to go and stand at the door of his heart and knock and knock and speak to him (Revelation 3:20).

Pray for the Lost. — This is the way we ought to