

# Explorers in Prayer – Lesson Nine Handout

## The Place of Intercession in Prayer - Praying out of a heart of love

- 1) Our capacity to love is central to our Christian faith - firstly our love for God, then for others and ourselves.
- 2) It was out of love that God spoke and life came into being. It was out of love that Jesus spoke and the dead were raised, people were healed and creation order was restored (calming the storm on the sea of Galilee – Matthew 8: 23-27). So, like Jesus, our prayers must also come from a heart of love.
- 3) As we grow in love so the nature of our prayers will change and become more effective.
- 4) We can grow in love by: asking God to increase our capacity to love; learning to love those things which are right to love, and turning our hearts away from those things (idols) that we should not love; and by doing small acts of practical love for God and for one another.
- 5) It is because of God's extraordinary love for us that we can come boldly, like a little child, into the presence of our heavenly father with those requests which are on our heart.

### *The Prayer Song*

Set these people free.  
Let them know your peace.  
Give them hearts that long for you and lives that never cease.

**Individual Exercise:** Each day spend the 15 minutes thinking about the people you are most likely to meet that day and asking God to give you someone to pray for. By this I mean actually asking someone if you can pray for them out loud, there and then! Like the exercise that Brother Andrew did, this exercise is intended to take you right outside your comfort zone! Here are two thoughts you may find helpful: 1) No one has ever declined an offer by me to pray for them, and they always seem to have appreciated it when I have. 2) Some people who have done this exercise have found it helpful to tell people they are doing a course on prayer, and have to do this exercise, so would they mind being prayed for in this way?

The key thing is to keep praying for a God-given opportunity to pray for someone in this way, and then try to be sensitive to the moment. Unless you're exceptional, you may only get one or two chances to pray for someone during the week, but see how you get on. Those who have done it have returned the following week with wonderful stories to tell about how God has used their prayers.

Read chapters 15 & 17 of the course book.

**Prayer Triplet Exercise:** Share prayer needs for other people and pray for them. You might like to invite someone from outside the course to come and be prayed for, or visit someone to pray for them.

George Mueller – *Persevere on prayer*

Pastor Charles R. Parsons in an hour's interview with George Mueller towards the close of his life asked him if he spent much time on his knees in prayer.

"Hours every day. But I live in the spirit of prayer; I pray as I walk, when I lie down, and when I rise. And the answers are always coming. Tens of thousands of times my prayers have been answered. When once I am persuaded a thing is right, I go on praying for it until the end comes. I never give up!"

"In answer to my prayers, thousands of souls have been saved," he went on. "I shall meet tens of thousands of them in Heaven."

There was another pause. I made no remark and he continued: "The great point is to never give up until the answer comes. I have been praying every day for fifty-two years for two men, sons of a friend of my youth. They are not converted yet, but they will be! How can it be otherwise? There is the unchanging promise of Jehovah, and on that I rest. The great fault of the children of God is that they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything of God's glory, they should pray until they get it.

"Oh, how good, kind, gracious, and condescending is the One with whom we have to do! He has given me, unworthy as I am, immeasurably above all I have asked or thought! I am only a poor, frail, sinful man, but He has heard my prayers tens of thousands of times and used me as the means of bringing tens of thousands of souls into the way of truth in this and other lands. These unworthy lips have proclaimed salvation to great multitudes, and very many people have believed unto eternal life."

"Seek to depend entirely on God for everything," he answered. "Put yourself and your work into His hands. When thinking of any new undertaking, ask, Is this agreeable to the mind of God? Is it for His glory? If it is not for His glory, it is not for your good, and you must have nothing to do with it. Mind that! Having settled that a certain course is for the glory of God, begin it in His name and continue in it to the end. Undertake it in prayer and faith, and never give up!"

"And do not regard iniquity in your heart. If you do, the Lord will not hear you. Keep that before you always. Then trust in God. Depend only on Him. Wait on Him. Believe on Him. Expect great things from Him. Faint not if the blessing tarries. And above all, rely only on the merits of our adorable Lord and Saviour, so that according to them and to nothing of your own, the prayers you offer and the work you do will be accepted."