



**Valley Forge Baptist • April 28, 2024**  
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**The Abraham's Ministry of Intercessory Prayer**  
**Genesis 18:16-23**

There are two ways you can discover your spiritual gift.

#1 – Start serving.

#2 – Take the spiritual gifts test. Go to [valleyforgeconnect.org](http://valleyforgeconnect.org) and click  
 “Find your Ministry Shape.”

How to Become a Disciple (3 Instructional messages):

Go to [www.valleyforgebaptist.org/discipleship](http://www.valleyforgebaptist.org/discipleship)

***What does the word “intercession” mean?***

The act of interceding on another’s behalf. Intercessory prayer is interceding between God and someone else. We all need and want others praying for us.

Abraham is an example of someone who intercedes in prayer for others – for family and neighbors.

In light of the awful sin in America today, we, too, need to follow Abraham’s example and pray for our family and neighbors. Over the last 260 years, millions of Christians have prayed for our nation.

***National Day of Prayer – Thursday, May 2, 2024***

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance designated by Congress in 1952 that on the 1st Thursday of May people are asked, “To turn to God in prayer.”

\* Continental Congress in 1775 issued a proclamation for “a day of public humiliation, fasting, and prayer be observed by the Colonies.” They did this every year until 1787.

\* As Governor of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson enacted a day of prayer and thanksgiving in December 1779.

\* Many presidents have called for a day of prayer: Washington, Adams, Lincoln, Truman, and Reagan. Since 1952, every president is required by law to sign a proclamation encouraging all Americans to pray.

• ***What is intercessory prayer?***

Praying for others to \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and walk with God.

• ***Who needs intercessory prayer?***

Myself, my family, pastors, friends, teachers, leaders (people of influence), new Christians, weak Christians, our nation, and unbelievers.

• ***Do you believe that God hears and answers prayer?***

God invites us to pray. God promises that things change for the better when we pray, James 4:2-3, Matthew 7:7-11.

***Prayer Changes Things!***  
***Prayer Changes \_\_\_\_\_!***

I have seen God answer prayer in my life and for our church. You are literally worshipping today on property that God designed for us as a church to have. When we bought this property, it wasn't even for sale.

## 1. What are the Qualities of an Intercessor?

A. A \_\_\_\_\_ *walk with God, v. 16-18*

Abraham had a close relationship with God because of faith.

*“Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”*

**James 2:23**

B. \_\_\_\_\_ *– yet willing to make Bold Requests,*  
*v. 23-25*

Abraham understands that God has the power to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness, yet he prays, “Lord, will you spare the city if there are 50 godly residents of Sodom?”

C. \_\_\_\_\_ *God, v. 25*

He knew God was just and righteous and He will not make a bad decision. God has never made a mistake, and He never will! I may not understand what He does, but He cannot make a mistake.

## D. Makes \_\_\_\_\_ Requests, v. 27-32

"How about: 50 righteous? 45? 40? 30? 20? 10?"

In praying for the unsaved, we are going to have to persistently knock on that door and ask the Holy Spirit to draw them into God's family.

Only God can open a door, but only we can knock!

## 2. What is our Authority as Intercessors (prayer warriors)?

A. God is pursuing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none."*

**Ezekiel 22:30**

B. Should I really pray for people to be saved? Yes!

*"We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God"*

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

C. Pray for God to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

*"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"*

**Matthew 7:7**

What a beautiful picture of prayer – we are knocking on the door of heaven and God is answering. A door is used as a metaphor as the entrance into any spiritual experience or opportunity. Jesus said, "I am the Door of salvation."

*"Furthermore, when I came to Troas to preach Christ's gospel, and a door was opened unto me of the Lord."*

**2 Corinthians 2:12**

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."*

**Revelation 3:20**

Today, if you do not know if you will go to heaven when you die, God is knocking on the door of your heart to be saved. The only people going to heaven are those whose sins are forgiven. How can you have your sins forgiven. Receive God's gift of salvation.

*"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

**Romans 10:9**

Going through a door means we will face spiritual battles from Satanic forces.

*"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."*

**I Corinthians 16:9**

### 3. How can I become an Intercessor?

*A. Make time to pray for yourself and others.*

If you do not already do this, start small - 15-20 minutes of Bible reading and prayer.

*B. Make a Prayer List (or use the Wednesday night list).*

Use the Acrostic ACTS as a guide for your prayer time:

A - Adoration - Praise God for who He is.

C - Confession - Ask God to forgive you of your sins.

T - Thanksgiving - Thank God for all He has done.

S - Supplication - Ask God to help others follow Him.

Pray from a prayer list. You can pray as you have contact with people - before and after a phone call, a text, or an email.

*C. Pray \_\_\_\_\_.*

Sometimes you can just turn off the radio when you are driving alone. It's a great time to talk with God when you are driving alone, or exercising, or even working.

*D. Pray \_\_\_\_\_.*

We learn from Jesus' example who prayed, "Not My will, but thine be done."

There are some blessings that God will not give us unless we ask Him. Our country needs intercessors for our families, our church, and our nation. Would you join in this ministry and say, "I want to begin praying for our pastors, our church, our school teachers, our deacons, and our missionaries?"

Did God answer Abraham's prayer? Yes, He sent the 2 angels to deliver Lot and his family before the destruction came. All of America might not be saved, but don't you want God to use you to pray and persuade one more to come to Christ, to avoid the great destruction coming in the Tribulation time. It's time to pray and live a \_\_\_\_\_.