

## PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Samuel's prayer: *'As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.'* (1 Samuel 12:23)

### 1. Through prayer for others we obey God

Scripture tells us plainly to pray always for all the saints (Eph 6:18)

### 2. Through prayer for others we live peaceably

'For kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness' (1 Timothy 2:2)

- Political leaders? (Prime Minister; Premier; Leaders of the Opposition)
- Church leaders? (Denominational heads; apostles; prophets; evangelists; pastors; teachers)

'This is good and pleases God our Saviour' (1 Timothy 2:3)

### 3. Through prayer we give thanks for one another

Do we regularly thank God for one another? (even those who annoy us!) See Romans 1:8; 1 Corinthians 1:14; Philippians 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

Prayers of thanksgiving --

- Are a recognition that all blessings come from God
- Result in a growing appreciation for those for whom we give thanks

### 4. Through prayer we develop fellowship with one another

- When we pray for others, we develop a fellowship in prayer. Even though we don't see them, we feel closer to them and in fellowship with them. A prayer diary helps us to do this. Remember 1 Samuel 12:23.
- We become one with those we pray for
- As we pray for each other we actually share in one another's needs.
- As a result we identify with them in their lives and work.

### 5. Through prayer we share in the suffering of others

Paul wrote – 'I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company' (Romans 15:30-32, ESV).

Prayer for others in need is not just a pious exercise: we actually share their hurts and ease their burdens by our praying

6. Through prayer we undergird the ministry of others

Paul asked believers to pray for him for four things in particular—

1. That the Word would be given to him *constantly* (Ephesians 6:19, 20). Through prayer we undergird the ministry of others.
2. That the Word would be preached *fearlessly* (Ephesians 6:19, 20).
3. That the Word would be preached *clearly* (Colossians 4:2-4).
4. That the Word would go forth *speedily* (2 Thessalonians 3:1-2).

7. Through prayer we keep our attitudes right

The best thing we can do for our enemies is pray for them (Matthew 5:43-48).

‘You may talk about me as much as you please  
I’ll talk about you down on my knees.’

- Think of people who have hurt us or misused us. Are we genuinely praying for God to bless them and be kind to them?
- Too often we nurse and cultivate our hurts and nurture them until we become bitter and resentful. It is impossible to remain bitter towards people we pray for!
- Difficulties can make us either ‘bitter’ or ‘better.’ Which will it be?
- If we are to be ‘perfect’ we need to forgive (Matthew 5:48).

8. Through prayer for others we act like Jesus

Jesus prayed for his disciples and for those who would believe through them – that is for us! (John 17:13ff). Even in the most extenuating circumstances, Jesus still thought of others. On the cross he prayed, ‘Father, forgive them...’ (Lk 23:34).

Prayer for others is the first step towards forgiving them

Challenge

What has the Lord been saying to us today?

Which of these has the Spirit been impressing on us? Praying for—

- family and friends
- those who are suffering
- those in the ministry
- those who have hurt us

We need to repent of our failures in these areas. We need to spend more time before the Lord.

Let’s resolve *by faith* to upgrade our prayer for others today.

When we step out, God steps in!

Samuel’s prayer

‘As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you.’

(1 Samuel 12:23)

## SOMETHING TO THINK OR TALK ABOUT

**Remember:** You don't have to answer all the questions; Choose those that seem most relevant.

### Biblical

1. Imagine you are Paul the apostle. If you were writing letters to churches, what would you ask them to pray about for your ministry?
2. Read Romans 15:31-32; Ephesians 6:19, 20; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1, 2 and see what Paul actually asked people to pray for. Make a list.
3. Read Job 42:10. Do you think this just applied to Job or might it apply to us, too? Why or why not?
4. Read Ephesians 6:18 (ESV). Compare the four 'alls' here. Which of them is the most important? Why?

### Personal and practical

5. Thinking about the pastors and leaders in your church—what do you think you or your group should be praying about for them? What would be the best things to ask for? (Their needs may be different from those of an itinerant evangelist/apostle like Paul.)
6. Think about the idea of a prayer diary. Which groups of people would you or do you include in your prayer diary and why?
7. Regarding missionaries—which missionaries can you pray for on a regular basis and why?
8. Read 1 Samuel 12:23. As a judge and prophet, Samuel was responsible to pray for the nation of Israel. We can't pray for everyone, but there are some people we are responsible to pray for. Who would they be in your life?
9. Memorise 1 Samuel 12:23a (ie the first half of the verse).
10. A suggestion: For your own personal challenge read pages 1-71 of B Chant *Praying in the Spirit* (Sovereign World, 2002).

## About Dr Barry Chant

Barry Chant is Senior Pastor of the Wesley International Congregation in Sydney, Australia. He is a regular speaker at church services, seminars, conferences and conventions. Hundreds of thousands of his books have been sold around the world. He has degrees in arts, theology and ministry, a diploma in education and a PhD in history. He was the initiator and former president of Tabor College, Australia.

## Terms of Use

This material is not for sale. You are free to download and reproduce it for personal use or for free distribution to groups such as your local church Bible study group or Christian fellowship. Please include the following acknowledgement:

‘This study is copyright © Barry Chant 2006. Reproduced with permission from [www.barrychant.com](http://www.barrychant.com).’

This study is one of a series of seven studies on this theme. The rest can be found at [www.barrychant.com](http://www.barrychant.com).