**By DE & CQ**

**Topic 14:** Prayer, personal, connecting; the importance of prayer, intercessory prayer; fighting in prayer, united prayer for deliverance

**(5 short prophecy messages from Jesus to children, on the subject.)**

1. (Jesus says :) When you stop to talk to Me, I listen closely. Do you know what I notice the most about a prayer? When your heart is filled with love for Me and others, and you are praying for others. When you know you can’t do something on your own and you humbly ask Me for help, that makes Me want to rush to help. It makes Me happy when you pray for others--or even if it’s something you want Me to do for you--if you ask humbly and in faith. That’s what pleases Me and I always take action in one way or another.

2. When you feel no one’s listening and no one seems to care, just come to Me. Pour out your heart and tell Me how you feel about things. Then stop and ask Me what I think. Just say, “Please show me, Jesus. If I’m not seeing things the right way, please show me how I should see them.” I’m your best Friend and I’m just waiting to help you. I love to spend time with you, talking to you and holding you close. I love to take care of you and help you. Just come to Me and I will give you the answers you need.

3. Remember how I wept for people? I wept for Lazarus. I was moved with compassion for people when they were hungry or sick on. I wept and my tears spurred me how to pray desperately for those I loved. Through my prayers, I was able to partake of Heaven’s power. My Father worked through Me and miracles happened. Lazarus came back to life, people were healed, and thousands were fed. My faith was the victory that overcame the world, and now My faith lives on in you. So pray, beloved! Every prayer is answered when you believe!

4. My dear one, don’t you know your prayers reach the halls of Heaven? I always hear the cries of My children, and I answer in the way that’s best. You have not chosen Me but I have chosen you so that you may bring forth fruit and that whatever you ask of the Father in My Name, He will give it to you. Please have patience and wait for the windows of Heaven to be opened to you. I see your tears, I hear your prayers, and I will answer you. Keep on believing ‘cause the answer is on its way.

5. Taking time with Me is a test, I know. It’s difficult to stop everything. Remember, I had exactly the same trials and tests you are having. It was just as hard for Me. But remember what I did. I made a point of getting away to pray, even getting up early. I will bless whatever time you set aside for Me. It doesn’t have to be long. I will honour any effort you make to spend time with Me. I will bless you with strength and comfort for honouring Me. Just a few minutes with Me on a regular basis will renew your faith and soothe your worries, and heal all wounds.

**(5 Short true stories object lessons or reflections on the subject.)**

1. In Acts 12, Peter was in prison and the church had gathered to pray for him. An angel miraculously set Peter free from prison. So he went to the house where everyone had gathered to pray for him. Peter knocked on the gate, and a servant named Rhoda went to answer the door. When she saw Peter, she was so overjoyed that she ran back without opening the gate. She exclaimed, “Peter is at the door!”

“You’re out of your mind,” they told Rhoda. But she insisted it was Peter, so they said, “It must be his angel.” Peter kept knocking, and when they finally opened the door and saw him, everyone was astonished.

This is a funny story about intercessory prayer.  Rhoda and everyone else was praying so hard for Peter but when he showed up at the gate, they could hardly believe their prayers had been answered. So they left poor Peter outside, still knocking! Let’s not be like those incredulous early Christians!

2. In Genesis 18, Abraham had a long conversational prayer with God about Sodom and Gomorrah because he knew God was going to destroy the cities ([Genesis 18:23-32](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2018.23-25)). Abraham wanted God to spare the people of Sodom and Gomorrah because Abraham’s nephew, Lot and his family lived in Sodom. First Abraham asked if God would spare the cities if there were 100 righteous people, then 50, then 25. Finally Abraham asked God to spare the city if there were only ten righteous people. It seems that there weren’t even ten righteous people, because God did destroy both cities. He only spared Lot and his two daughters. He would have spared Mrs. Lot, too, but she disobeyed God and looked back.
Abraham had so much compassion for people that he was even bargaining with God to try to save them. Like Abraham, we are can intercede in prayer for others, too.

3. Once there was a little girl who was so weak and crippled, she had to stay in bed all the time. She was discouraged because she didn’t have anything to do. One day, her pastor visited her and encouraged her that she could pray for others from her sickbed. Not long after, a religious awakening took place in the village and nightly, people were getting saved. When the little crippled girl heard about the revival, she asked for the names of the saved. A few weeks later, the little girl died. When they looked under her pillow, they found a long list of names. Fifty-six of the names had a little cross be them. The little girl had marked off the names of all the people who had gotten saved that she had been praying for.

4. Prayer is like pulling out the antenna on a TV to get better reception. Your spirit is your prayer antenna. When you’re praying, your spirit starts seeking the Lord. In a sense, your spirit comes out and reaches out for the Lord. The minute you start thinking about the Lord and get spiritually sensitive, your antenna goes up. As it does, it starts getting impressions and impulses and that is the Spirit. God has made it that way. When you’re quiet or alone, it seems like your spiritual antenna can go up a little higher and get better reception. –David Brandt Berg

5. Two friends stood in a large railway station and watched an express train go thundering by. “What a powerful engine!” exclaimed one man.

“Yes,” said the other man. “On the rails it is powerful. But off the rails, it is the weakest thing in the world.”

“That’s just like Christians!” marvelled the first man. “Our power is in communion with the Lord. But when we leave the path of prayer, we become the weakest people in the world.”

**(5 Prayers & praises on the subject.)**

1. Thank You, Jesus, for all the ways You show Your love for me. You know I have my daily battles and life doesn’t always run smoothly. But that’s because You’re trying to teach me to be a fighter and to go to You for answers and help. Thank You that I can always reach out and touch You through prayer. Thank You that You always hear my prayers. As soon as I start to pray, I know that You come swiftly to my side to help me. All I have to do is ask. Thank You, Jesus!

2. Thank You for being such a good friend, Jesus. You’re always there when I need You. I can spill out my thoughts and tell You everything. You listen and You never get angry or criticize and condemn me. I want to be more like You, Jesus. I know, the more I spend time with You, the more You rub off on me. –Just like best friends! I love You, Jesus! Thanks for being my best friend.

3. Thank You, Jesus, that when I hear Your still, small voice in my heart, You’re not speaking harsh words or rebuking me. You’re speaking words of love and joy and forgiveness and hope. You gently show me the places where I need to change and do better but You never condemn me. You’re always so patient with me, Jesus. You give me so many words of love and encouragement whenever I reach out for You.

4. Thank You, Jesus, for the gift of prayer. Thank You that You hear my prayers and that they reach right up to Your throne in Heaven. Help me to have a heart for others so that I can understand what they need and how to pray for them. Thank You that You give me this important responsibility of praying for others. Thank You that I can be a channel, just like a telephone operator, to connect those in need with Your blessings and answers. Help me to be a faithful operator!

5. Jesus, You told us to put on the armour of God and fight a good warfare. Thank You for the weapon of prayer so I can fight off all the fiery darts of the Devil. Thank You that the weapon of prayer is like a light sabre when it is lit up with Your power. Help me to be a warrior for You and fight in prayer for the things and the people that need it.

 **(5 Quotation from others, hymn or poem portions on the subject—names of who wrote it, or “author unknown” if don’t know.)**

1. Wrestling prayer can wonders do,
Bring relief in deepest straits;
Prayer can force a passage through
Iron bars and brazen gates.

 --John Newton

2. “When you pray for others, God listens and blesses them. So when you are safe and happy, remember that someone is praying for you.” -- Author Unknown

3. “People say intercession is, “putting yourself in someone else’s place.” That is not true! Intercession is putting yourself in **God’**s place; it is having His mind and His perspective.” ― Oswald Chambers

4. For the Christian, intercession is truly universal work. No place is closed to intercessory prayer: no continent, no nation, no city, no organization, no office. No power on earth can keep out intercessory prayer.” Richard Halverson

5. True intercession means bringing the person, or the circumstances, that seem to be crashing in on you before God, until you are changed by His attitude toward that person or circumstance.—Oswald Chambers

**(10 Bible verses or portions on the subject)**

1. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. --Ephesians 6:18

2. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. --James 5:16

3. Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men. -- I Timothy2:1

4. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you. -- Matthew 5:44

5. And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. --Job 42:10

6. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. --Galatians 6:2

7. You also helping by prayer for us, so that many will give thanks on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:11

8. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Colossians 4:3-4

9. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren. Acts 1:14

10. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which Thou hast given me; for they are Thine.  John 17:9