

# Prayer Ministry

*Biblical Partners in Prayer*

Lesson 8

- I. Opening
- II. Ministry Prayer
- III. Lesson: Developing Intentional Prayer Partners

## Opening Prayer

Introduction: *The key idea is that united prayer brings increased power and authority and unity in prayer.*

2 Chronicles 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 19:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

What evidence, if any, can you give of the accuracy of the following statement?

The closer the bond,  
the more powerful the prayer;  
the higher the unity,  
the greater the prayer.

*Consider the answers of God to your prayers or to the answer to the prayers of others. Then write them down*

Today you will understand the value of praying together with others and demonstrate your appreciation for united prayer by enlisting a prayer partner.

## Paul and Silas -- Bible Prayer Partners

What were Paul and Silas according to Acts 16:25? *They were "prayer partners." Luke does not tell us the content of their prayer, but the earthquake and the loosing of their bonds led to the conversion of the Philippians jailer and his household. The first church in Europe had a remarkable beginning, and the two prayer partners had a remarkable answer to prayer.*

Pretend that you are Silas in the Philippian jail with Paul. Read the account of this experience in Acts 16:6-40. think about what you (as Silas) and Paul would pray about in such circumstances. List some of the things you would pray about if you were in Silas' position..

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In this experience, would you prefer to be praying with Paul or alone?

\_\_\_\_\_ I would rather be praying with Paul.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would rather be alone.

### Reasons We Need to Pray with Others

Read the following passages and write a statement about what is common to all of them: Ephesians 6:18-19; Colossians 4:3; 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

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Paul asked the churches of his time to pray with him, to pray for him. But we have questions such as:

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*Someone might ask "Why must we ask someone else to pray for us? Why should we ask someone to pray with us? Does not God hear the prayer of each one of His children? Would He not hear my prayer for myself?"*

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There are at least two reasons you would want others to pray with you:

- 1) *The prayer of others strengthens your prayers* \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) *Others see factors you may fail to see.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) *Strengthens your faith* \_\_\_\_\_
  - b) *Broadens your prayer concerns* \_\_\_\_\_
  - c) *Add a special accountability to your prayer* \_\_\_\_\_

Read Matthew 18:19-20 and summarize why there is value in praying with others.

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When you pray, ask God to reveal to you ways you can pray with and for others.

More Bible Prayer Partners:

2 Chronicles 32:20-21 *Hezekiah and Isaiah became prayer partners when Sennacherib threatened Judah. God answered them when the national ruler and the national prophet united in prayer.*

Numbers 27:1-11 *God also answered when larger groups joined in partnership and prayed together. Who joined together here as prayer partners?*

1 Chronicles 5:20 *In a war with a coalition of alien tribes, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of*

*Manasseh "Cried to God in the battle, and He was entreated of them; because they put their trust in Him" There were only five daughters of Zelophehad who prayed together, but a group of tribes also sought and found an answer to prayer. The size of the group does not matter. What God is seeking is the unity of praying together.*

*2 Corinthians 1:11 Praying together provides a help that can only be secured through mutuality. Even Jesus appealed to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. And He was kind of insistent upon that prayer support. Even Paul recognized this help that can come only through mutual prayer.*

*Conclusion: God wanted Israel to pray as a nation. He wanted groups of any size to pray together. This conviction affected the thinking of the apostles. Then they were distracted from their appointed ministry in the early church, they led the church to appoint seven men to take their places in serving tables. Acts 6:4. They felt the urgent need to pray together, and evidently the ministry of the Word depended on that joint prayer.*

Enlist a Prayer Partner.

Next Month: Orientation for Asking