

SUPPLICATION  
BEING MINDFUL TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER – for SALVATION

We make our beginning in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
Dear Lord God, Sanctify us in Your truth, Your Word is truth. (John 17:17)  
We ask that Your Word would be a blessing to our lives. Amen.

In several recent Bible studies, with the theme of *Who is Praying*, we looked at various prayers in the Bible and saw how we can use those Biblical prayers in our own prayers. They were prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

For a mini review, here is a verse or two for each of the A C T S of prayer: (let's pray them)

A - Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! **Revelation 7:11-12**

C - God, be merciful to me, a sinner! **Luke 18:13**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. **Psalms 19:14**

T - Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! **Psalms 106:1**

S - O LORD, open his eyes so that he may see. **2 Kings 6:17**

The last prayer is the foundation of this Bible study. **O LORD, open his eyes so that he may see.**

To understand the background of this verse, let's look at **2 Kings 6:15-17**. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

This took place when the king of Syria was at war against Israel. Several times, when the king of Syria had planned an attack against Israel in a specific location, God revealed those plans to Elisha who then warned the king of Israel to stay away from that particular place. In this way, because of God's intervention, Elisha 'miraculously' prevented two Syrian attacks against Israel. Elisha's information was so accurate that the king of Syria was convinced there was a traitor among his servants or that an Israelite spy had infiltrated his government. When the king of Syria was advised that the man of God, Elisha, was the informer, he commanded his army to find and seize Elisha. A great army with horses and chariots came by night and surrounded the city of Dothan where Elisha was. When Elisha's servant arose in the morning, he was alarmed by what he saw with his natural eyesight.

Elisha prayed that God would open the eyes of his servant so he could see the army of God which had also surrounded the city. The eyes of Elisha's servant were immediately opened. He could see that the hills all around them were full of horses and chariots of fire! He could see the spiritual army of God. He couldn't have seen the army of God with his natural eyes but God enabled him to see the spiritual reality with his newly opened spiritual eyes. Elisha explained to his servant that there was no need to be afraid because "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." With his natural eyes, Elisha's servant could only see what was in the natural physical world around him, but with eyes that were opened by God, Elisha's servant could see spiritual things that were from God, he could see things that were of a spiritual nature.

Let's look at a few other Bible verses that speak about 'spiritual' sight:

As written in **Job 1:1**, Job was described as "blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil." In today's language, Job would be described as a 'good Christian'. This description of Job was written before he experienced severe trials and calamities. After Job had endured much suffering, after his faith had been severely tested, and after he had questioned God's actions, he finally came to the understanding that, although God, according to human standards, may appear to be unfair in His dealings with mankind, He always acts according to His own mysterious, yet good and trustworthy purposes.

Job said in **Job 42:5** "I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you." Before his trials, Job trusted in the Lord, but his knowledge of the Lord had been like hearsay. He had lived according to the Word which he had learned and believed. Now, however, having been put through and endured the whirlwind, he saw, with spiritual eyes, the Lord's might and mercy. Through his trials, hardships, testing and sufferings, God gave Job a greater and deeper spiritual insight to see, know, understand and trust the ways of the Almighty God. Job's faith had become deeper and stronger because of the testing which God had permitted to come his way. Job's knowledge of God had moved from his mind, deep into his heart and soul.

Next let's look at **Numbers 22:31**. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And Balaam bowed down and fell on his face.

This event happened during the time of the Exodus when the children of Israel were traveling to the Promised Land in Canaan. As they were nearing the land of Moab, the king of Moab was terrified of the great multitude of people who wanted to pass through his land. He wanted Balaam to put a curse on the children of Israel but God warned Balaam not to curse His people because God had already blessed them. But Balaam went with the princes of Moab and, as he was riding his donkey, an angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him. Amazingly, Balaam's donkey was able to see the angel and refused to move ahead, so Balaam beat his donkey. This happened three times. In addition to opening the eyes of the donkey to enable it to see the angel of God, the LORD then also opened the donkey's mouth, enabling it to speak. The donkey spoke to Balaam and asked for an explanation of those three beatings. "Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, with his drawn sword in his hand. And Balaam bowed down and fell on his face."

Notice in these verses that God gave spiritual sight both to a donkey and to Balaam.

Now let's look at **Luke 24:28-31**. This is the account of the two men on the road to Emmaus after Jesus' death and resurrection. "So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, but they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight."

Here again, with their own natural eyes, these two men did not recognize Jesus. But when God opened their eyes, when God gave them spiritual sight, they saw and recognized Jesus.

Now let's look at a few verses to answer the question, 'What is God's greatest desire?'

**1 Timothy 2:1-4** First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

Here's a quote from Dr. Ralph Mayan, president of Lutheran Church Canada from 1996 – 2008, taken from the July/August 2014 edition of The Canadian Lutheran, on page 13. His remarks are based on these same verses from 1 Timothy. "It is the Church's job to pray for 'all people'. No one is to be excluded from the Church's prayer list. Our God is a God who wants to save all people ... We pray for all people because God wants to save all people. Pray for the world, pray for the mission of the Church. Pray for our missionaries, in country and out of country. It pleases God, because our God is a God who desires to save all people."

Here's the next idea I want to share with you – you can 'pray the Bible'. Some of you are familiar with the Christian author Stormie Omartian. She's written numerous books about prayer. One of her books has the title Praying the Bible Into Your Life. She presents a Bible verse or two, then she shares a prayer which is based on those verses, thus incorporating the Bible into your own prayers. It's a neat and very helpful concept to use God's own Word when we pray.

How do we combine all these different concepts which we have looked at tonight: praying for one another; opening our spiritual eyes; God's desire to save sinners; and praying the Bible?

Before we put all these concepts together, I have an activity for you which is strictly voluntary. The activity is based on Supplication – praying for one another. To enable us to pray for one another, I thought it would be good for us to share the names of our family members. If you're not comfortable with sharing this information, you do not have to. With your consent, I will make a chart for next month that includes the names of those in our immediate families. The chart can be used as we continue to pray for each other and our families. If you prefer not to include your family names, if you don't want to do this, please leave your paper blank. The chart will only have room to list our closest family members but when we close with prayer tonight, and during our own personal prayer time when we pray for all our loved ones, we can remember and pray for all the people whom we hold dear, family and relatives, friends and neighbors.

Some of our loved ones may not be fully committed in their Christian faith, some may have lost their love of God and wandered away from Him, some may not be friendly at all to the idea of this sin-thing or to faith in a God who loves them and died to forgive their sins. Our closing prayer is based on asking God to open their spiritual eyes that they may see Him clearly.

Our closing prayer also focuses on our loved ones who are not living in God's will, who are not living in faith. When we pray for one another, that our unsaved loved ones would be brought to faith, this is definitely praying according to God's will whose greatest desire is to save sinners.

Some of our loved ones may seem like they have a heart of stone towards God. They may seem completely indifferent about God and about spiritual faith. But look at what God says in **Ezekiel 36:26-27**. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Only the Holy Spirit can give someone a new heart and a new spirit that recognizes His truth, responds to God in faith, and moves them to walk in His ways. Only the Holy Spirit can open someone's eyes to see His presence in this world and all around them, and to see that His ways are good and trustworthy. Only the Holy Spirit can open the eyes of someone's mind and heart to clearly see and understand the spiritual truths of our Almighty God, to see and understand that His love for us is perfect. Only the Holy Spirit can remove a heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh. Only the Holy Spirit can create within our loved ones a clean heart and a right spirit. Only the Holy Spirit can open someone's eyes to see that faith and trust in God is vitally and eternally important. Only the Holy Spirit, the Great Physician, can accomplish the supernatural gift of a 'heart transplant' for our loved ones who have 'heart' trouble.

**Prayer:** Dear Father, who created us and all our loved ones; Dear Jesus, who redeemed all of mankind from the power of sin, death and the devil; Dear Holy Spirit, who sanctifies us – We lift our hearts and hands to you in prayer for our loved ones who need salvation.

We are so thankful that you desire all people to be saved, to come to the knowledge of the truth and to come to repentance.

We pray for all our loved ones, all those we name and hold in our hearts. We ask you to open their eyes so they can see the spiritual reality of your love and truth. As you opened the eyes of Balaam's donkey, we ask you to give spiritual sight to all our loved ones who are stubbornly resisting your grace and mercy so they may truly know you, not just know about you.

We ask you to give our loved ones your Spirit of wisdom and revelation so they may know you better. Speak to each of our loved ones, pull at their heartstrings in whatever way that will draw them to you in faith. We ask you to enlighten the eyes of their heart that they would truly see you with eyes of faith.

We ask you to remove the hearts of stone from those who ignore you, discredit you or do not value you. Give them a heart of flesh that is filled with love for you, that hungers and thirsts for you. Bless our loved ones with hearts that know and trust you.

We ask you to open their eyes so they can see that they have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, for without knowledge of their own sin, they will not know their need for a Savior who forgives all their sin. For our loved ones who have known you in the past but have left you, we pray that they would examine their ways and return to you.

Open their eyes, give them spiritual sight, so they can see the abundance of your love, your mercy, your grace, and your forgiveness.

We commend to You all those for whom we pray. We entrust them to your care and your mercy. Draw them to you. O LORD, open their eyes so they may see You.

"Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the LORD". (**Nehemiah 9:5b-6a**) We pray all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Several Bible verses, as well as the next two verses, were 'prayed' and included in our prayer:

**Ephesians 1:17-18** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened ...

**Lamentations 3:40-41** Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the LORD! Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven.

Alfred Tennyson wrote, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of."

But we must not make the mistake of thinking our prayers are powerful, because it is God who hears and answers our prayers - it is God who is powerful.

**Closing Hymn** 779 in the Lutheran Service Book Come, My Soul, with Every Care (verses 1 & 2)

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Names \_\_\_\_\_  
In-Law's Names \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

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Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

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Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

Your Child \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
Their Children \_\_\_\_\_

PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

Person & Spouse	Names of Parents	Names of In-Laws	Child, Spouse, Children	Child, Spouse, Children	Child, Spouse, Children	Child, Spouse, Children