

Intercessory Prayer

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Hebrews 12:1)

Lots of intercessory prayers are with you.

1) Relatives

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. (Hosea 11:4)

Just remember how your mother/father/husband/wife/children prayed and are praying for you.

I know that my brothers and sisters and my close family members pray for me and sometimes remind me of their prayers for me.

2) Those that are not now on earth

Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm—may he bless these boys”. Then Israel said to Joseph, “I am about to die, but God will be with you”. (Genesis 48: 15-16, 21)

I have been reminded your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (2 Timothy 1:5-6)

Just remember how your grand parents (daada/daadi/nana/nani) prayed for you. At old age usually most people don't have much activity to do, but only to pray for their children and grand children.

From the Law of Conservation of Energy—Energy cannot be created, nor destroyed. So once a prayer (sound energy from the mouth) uttered, it remains forever in this universe.

Still I remember that my Mom and Dad and Nani used to pray for me and sometime used to tell that they prayed for me.

3) Church Group

So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. Then Peter came to himself and said, “Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches”. (Acts 12:5,11)

Just remember how your pastors/ministers/elders/congregation members/church prayer groups pray for you sometimes collectively and sometimes specifically by name.

Still I remember when I came first time in Canada on June 24, 1993, I was sent from Pakistan with a cluster of prayers which helped me to go on right path (Acts 13:3-4) and blocked my way from the wrong one (Hosea 2:6).

4) Christian Friends

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again. (Job 42:10)

Just remember how your Christian friends and acquaintances pray for you and sometimes remind you of their prayerful help!

Sometimes my friends meet with me, eat with me, have fellowship and we pray for each other before close of the meeting.

5) Saints/Missionaries

*I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea. (Colossians 2:1)
The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. (Revelation 8:4)*

In early 1960s a Christian Village Martin Pur (Shaikhupura, Pakistan) was surrounded by non-Christians. They were equipped with weapons. Later on it was witnessed by many that they were blinded as the Village was protected by fiery wall. [cf. 2Kings 6:15-17] due to the supporting prayers of many missionaries who planted that Christian Village.

Still I remember that how some missionaries (such as, Rev. S.H. Iggulden from Australia and Rev. Don McCurry from America) talked with me and used to pray for me.

6) Strangers' Prayers

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. (1 Timothy 2:1)

Have you ever encountered with some passenger sitting beside your seat during your journey? And that person asked or did sympathy or prayed for you?

In summer 1995, I was walking and heading to a Church in Winnipeg, an old woman named Edith encountered me and requested me to remember her in my prayer in the Church. And Edith is still in my daily prayer list up till now.

7) Biblical Prayers for you

Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love. (Ephesians 6:23-24)

The Bible is a living Word. God through His Word speaks us today.

Sometimes God speaks with me through His Word. For example, God told me, *I have swept away your offences like a cloud, ... Return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isaiah 44:22).
I know you by name. (Exodus 33:12)*

8) Jesus' Prayer for you

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through that message. (John 17:20)

Jesus used future tense. As he already knew that for *the generations to come* (Leviticus 7:36) you will believe in him.

Once Sadhu (Saint) Sundar Singh was thrown by non-Christians into a cistern and his arm was broken. After a while a person came and picked him up outside that cistern then after a while that person vanished and Sadhu noted that his arm was healed. So he knew that Jesus himself came to help him. And he wrote that Jesus still working today on the earth among his believers.

In October 1967 I accepted Jesus as my Lord and personal Saviour. After that, sometimes I can feel Jesus' guidance and help for me.

9) Your Own Personal Prayers

*I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. (Psalm 40:1)
Yet this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope. Let him sit alone in silence. (Lamentations 3:21, 28)*

Once in a cold winter night I was shivering and finding a house in the dark streets of Islamabad, Pakistan. When my energies exhausted then I prayed that 'Oh Lord I cannot go further', immediately a person came on a bicycle and I asked about that house and he said 'I am also going in that house and please follow me'! Then I knew that God helps and answers our prayers when we say, *I have had enough, Lord.* (1 Kings 19:4) and completely depend upon Him.

10) Un-noticed Prayers

*but they did not realize (Hosea 11:3)
I want you to know how much I am struggling for you,and for all who have not met me personally. (Colossians 2:1)*

I have read in the prayer list of one of the church (St. Paul's Anglican Church, Winnipeg, Canada), "Lord we pray for those who do not have any person to pray". In this way there are many agencies/persons who pray for you but you don't know.

Since 45 years there are many names in my daily prayer list. And majority of them don't know that I am remembering them daily in my prayers.

No need to update/delete the names!

When I read the story of David's prayer for his kid (2 Samuel 12:16-22). I interpret this story in a different way. David prayed and the child died but (I think) that prayer is answered/transferred to another son, Solomon, who afterwards became a wise and mighty King Solomon. So when I say my daily one hour intercessory prayer (started since 1967) at the end I say, "Lord if some person who is on the list is no more on this earth, bless their family".

The **transmitter** (e.g. radio or TV or cell phone) transmits its specific waves and if the **receiver** is properly tuned then the reception will be good otherwise bad or no reception. Similarly lots of prayers are after a person, and question arises how much portion is effective?

For you, there is **no idea to worry** even for a minor thing, as *we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses.*

To **balance** a little bit, is it not good that you should also pray for others?