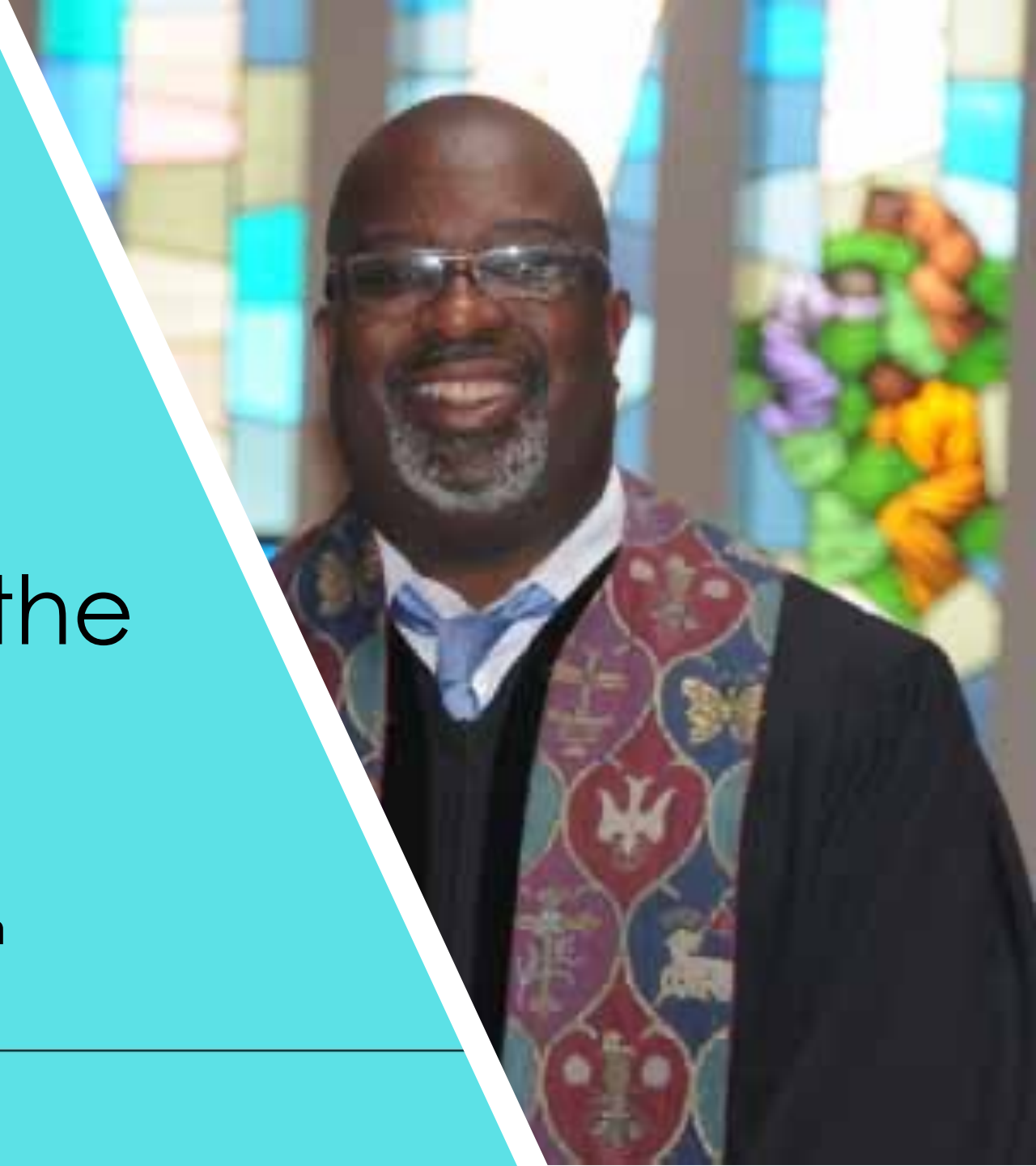


Breakout Session

Conversations With God on Behalf of the Community, and for the Family—Intercession

Rev. Theophous H. Reagans, Esq.
Associate Minister Allen Temple Baptist Church



“Intercession or intercessory prayer is the act of praying to God on behalf of others.”

Rev. Jeff Rollins on immediate deliverance from addiction. (The Question)!



Prayers from the Heart

As disciples of Jesus Christ, our prayers for others begin as we recognize that other believers/disciples have prayed for us first. We are recipients of prayer. As we prepare to pray for others, we should think about how the prayers of others on our behalf impacted us.

How did you feel when somebody prayed for you? Our prayers begin not with our words, but with our hearts.

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Ephesians 1:15-20 - Sample Intercessory Prayer

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance

among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put his power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



Ephesians 3:15-21 - Sample Intercessory Prayer

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches in glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with

all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who, by the power at work within us, is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



Ephesians 3:16-21

Petition

May God strengthen your inner person by His Spirit (3:16a)

Strength in the inner being (3:16)

May you be anchored in love (3:17b)

Doxology

Purpose

so that you can comprehend and experience Christ's love (3:18-19a) (spiritual growth)

so that God may strengthen you with power through God's Spirit in your inner being. Tarrying with God and God's people in prayer and worship to reach a goal—salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, justice (transformation and spiritual growth).

so that you may be filled with God's fullness (3:19b) (transformation)

so that you might understand the limitless power of God working within, and ultimately, so that God may be glorified (3:20-21) (transformation and spiritual growth)

Paul's Prayer for Transformation:

- That God would open the eyes of the heart of the Ephesians.
 - That the Ephesians would know hope which refers to an expectation of what will happen—look forward with confidence.
 - That the Ephesians would know the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power.
 - That the Ephesians would know God's incomparably great power.
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Pauline Prayers

Why did Paul pray for enlightenment, for spiritual growth, for revelation, and transformation rather than petitioning God for more specific situational things like salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, justice?



Paul's Prayers of Transformation and Our Ancestors

I wonder what these Pauline type prayers meant to our ancestors. My mother was born during the year of the Red Summer. What did these prayers mean to her?

Could it be that these prayers were what sustained our ancestors through slavery, Jim Crow, white supremacy, and dreams deferred?

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Paul's Prayer of Transformation and Our Youth

I also wonder what these Pauline prayers for transformation might mean to our young people who have been protesting across the globe and shouting “I can’t breathe” and Black Lives Matter. I wonder if hearing intercessory prayers, prayed to ask God to strengthen their inner being, actually has any transformative impact on young listeners of these prayers?

One of my preacher friends was in Ferguson during the protests following the murder of Michael Brown—she was praying an intercessory prayer and the young people told her that’s enough praying. Why? Were our youth asking for action along with the praying?

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Put Wings and Feet on Your Prayers

Give us grace, O God, to dare to do the deed which we well know cries to be done. Let us not hesitate because of ease, or the words of men's mouths, or our own lives. Mighty causes are calling us—the freeing of women, the training of children, the putting down of hate and murder and poverty—all these and more.

But they call with voices that mean work and sacrifice and death. Mercifully grant us, O Lord, the spirit of Esther, that we say: I will go unto the King and if I perish, I perish—Amen.

—William Edward Burghardt Du Bois.

Prayer for Guidance

Mother Teresa is quoted as saying she used to pray that God would feed the hungry or do this or that, but she later began to pray that God would guide her to do whatever she was supposed to do, whatever she could do.



Paul Also Prayed Intercessory Prayers for God's Direct Intervention

“We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of the affliction we experienced in Asia, for we were so utterly, unbearably crushed that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death so that we would rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He who rescued us from so deadly a peril will continue to rescue us; on him we have set our

hope that he will rescue us again, as you also join in helping us by your prayers, so that many will give thank you on our behalf for the blessing granted us through the prayers of many.”

2 Corinthians 1:8-11

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Praying for the Community—Sample Prayer

God, the prayer that Paul prayed for the church of Ephesus is the prayer that I pray for my community and especially the younger generation. Lord, I will not cease to give thanks for the blessing of my community that prayed for me and supported me and helped me through their faith in you to be delivered and to prosper. I pray that you give my community the spirit of wisdom and revelation—the wisdom to know who you are, and that their hearts, their understanding would be opened to know that You are their hope, our hope even in these challenging times of a worldwide

pandemic and death; even in these times of police murders and so many other injustices. I pray that You would open their minds and especially their hearts to know that even in these times, You are our hope, and that they know and are confident in your riches, your power and your promises. I pray that they will believe that You yet have blessings in store that are yet unimagined by their minds and not seen by their eyes. I pray that they come to know about your exceeding power and greatness toward us.



**When Making
Intercession for others,
Pray For:**

- **Deliverance.**
- **Protection.**
- **Peace.**
- **Healing.**
- **Prosperity.**

Summary

When Making Intercession for Others, Remember To:

- Remind the listeners of God's power.
- Express thanksgiving for the listeners so they know they are loved.
- Give the listeners hope by reminding them of God's love and promises.
- Make the prayer personal for the listeners.
- Make reference in your prayer to familiar scripture that relates to the intercession and to the listeners.

Example

She chose to live her life in service to others rather than seek fame or fortune, which, in my opinion, was a wonderful example of Godliness and an example for all of us to emulate.

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul wrote, "I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I have been reminded of 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. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and self-discipline."

2 Timothy 1:3-7

Tiara and Mandela

God, we lament the tears of her children, Tiara and Mandela, and I long to see them, for that would bring me joy. But I pray that they can remember the faith, kindness, and strength in their grandmother, Hattie, and their mother, Cheryl. For I am persuaded

that the same faith, kindness, and strength reside in them. They are their legacy. I pray that you enable them to stand firm in their faith so that you God, the God of their grandmother, and the God of their mother, will lift your heads and guide their hearts and lives.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

And God will supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge—
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
May we ever, Lord, be bringing
All to Thee in earnest prayer.

Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
There will be no need for prayer—
Rapture, praise, and endless worship
Will be our sweet portion there.