

The Flow of Oil (Spirit of God) of Intercessory Prayer

I learned a valuable lesson long ago about the value of lubricating oil in an automobile. It was my first automobile, a 1951 Mercury and I kept putting gasoline in it and driving it. One Sunday on my way to church, I heard a knocking sound coming from the engine. I stopped at a gasoline station and checked the oil dipstick. It was dry. As I recall, we had to put in 3 or 4 quarts of oil to get it to a normal level. After that the engine quieted down and ran efficiently.

The Church is the Body of Christ and will work efficiently when carnality and self are under control. When people do not pray, carnality will prevail and the engine of progress in the Church comes to a halt and freezes up. Intercessory prayer is unselfish praying and self is not on the throne. Intercessory prayer places others first and then we can pray for our own needs. The motto rings true, much prayer, much power, little prayer, little power, no prayer, no power.

The Spirit of God is likened to oil in scripture and the flow of the Spirit (oil) will keep things running smoothly without friction.

Let us consider some areas of intercessory prayer in a local church.

1. Pray for the pastor and his family. There is an old expression, "kill the king," that refers to medieval battles. If the leader (the king) is killed, there is mass confusion, and the enemy overtakes and wins the battle. Our pastors and their families are favorite targets of the enemy. The scripture reads, "Smite the shepherd," which illustrates the focus plan of our adversary.
2. Pray for the assistants and leadership in our local churches. A pastor needs a team unified with the same vision and burden to be victorious. They also are targets of the enemy.
3. Pray offensively against principalities and strongholds of spirits that control cities that do not want revival to weaken their positions of power in cities.
4. Pray for one another. As members of the Body of Christ, we share in our brothers' and sisters' burdens and victories. If one suffers, we all suffer. As in our natural, fleshly body, when our finger or toes hurt, our entire body is in compassion and sympathy.
5. Pray for the local outreach efforts. We receive power when we are filled with the Holy Ghost. To keep a full reservoir of power, we must keep the oil of the Holy Ghost filled in our vessels. The oil reduces friction so there is no loss of power. This gives our witnessing unction and power. If we are called upon to pray for someone, our vessels are full of Holy Ghost power.
6. Pray for world and North American Missions. We are all connected in the Body of Christ. God only has one Church, whether it is in another part of our districts and cities or on another continent. The same Spirit of God (oil) flows throughout the entire body. We unselfishly intercede for others.
7. Pray especially when you have a prayer burden. Many times, God places an intense burden to pray for a situation or someone and we allow the oil of the Spirit of God to flow through us as we intercede for that burden we feel. Many times, we don't even know who we are praying for as the Spirit of God flows through us and we pray in the Spirit in tongues or as the Spirit directs us.
8. Pray for revelation of truth that souls will come to an understanding of the doctrine. There are many denominations throughout our nation and on foreign fields with a measure of truth that need to gain a revelation of oneness and baptism in Jesus' Name. We desire that they will come to an understanding of truth.
9. Pray for others that they might receive physical healing. It seems that we hear often of prayer requests for physical healing across our fellowship. We hear of those with serious devastating diseases that need healing. We are our brothers' keeper and have compassion for them.

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