

INTERCESSION

The gift of intercession, not specifically identified as a spiritual gift in the New Testament, could be considered an element of the gifts of service or faith. Praying for others is one of the most important ministries in the Body of Christ, and some are called to devote their ministries to intercession. Praying for others is something all Christians do, but some are gifted in a way that makes them particularly effective as prayer warriors. *Colossians 4:2-4; 12-13.*

The gift of intercession can be used, for example, to pray for individuals, nations, the church and organizations; to lead prayer groups; to organize prayer vigils or prayer chains; and to alert others to the need for prayer.

CHARACTERISTICS

1. Having a deep conviction to pray on behalf of others and/or ministries.
2. Being faithful and consistent in remembering to pray for others and their needs.
3. A deeper than usual realization of the power there is in prayer.
4. Knowing that praying is a course of action, not a passive response.
5. A willingness to spend extra time praying, being patient and persistent in prayer when circumstances do not seem to change for the better.

CAUTIONS

1. Using prayer as an escape from fulfilling responsibilities to act. Considering practical suggestions unspiritual as compared to the more spiritual pursuit of praying about something. There is a time to get up and do something about the needs that have been taken to the Lord in prayer, and sometimes intercessors get stuck on their knees. *Joshua 7:10-12*
2. Becoming discouraged when nothing changes over a long period of time. Even the most dedicated prayer warriors want to see signs that the Lord is hearing their prayers.
3. Becoming critical of others who spend less time praying, taking a certain pride in their own prayer habits, perhaps developing a holier than thou attitude as a result of extended prayer times.
4. Neglecting Bible study in favor of spending more time praying, forgetting that increased understanding would help in knowing how to pray more effectively.