



***Resourcing for Prayer Network
Guidelines***

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE (6)

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Remembering in Prayer - Interceding by Name

Interceding for others is most meaningful whenever a personal link has been established and we are able to name particular people in our prayers and bring them and their need to the Lord.

The Importance of Names

Our Lord is always encouraging us to call on his Name in prayer and to remember him daily and in all circumstances. And he also encourages us to name others as we pray for them.

Psalm 147 and Isaiah 40.26 even tell us that he personally named the stars as he so valued his links with them. We know too that he calls each of us by name and John chapter 10 shows how the Good Shepherd is concerned for all the needs of his sheep. What better example could we be given of personally lifting up by name those for whom we are praying?

Naming Others

At this time of year particularly we are reminded of the importance of remembering others in prayer. Last month was Remembrance Day when many were specifically named as they were remembered by family and friends and it was particularly poignant for those who had lost loved ones in armed conflict. But it was equally important to remember others who are currently in similar circumstances, those who are still suffering from the after effects of war - as well as those who continue to support them. To be able to lift named people up in prayer to our Lord has great significance.

As we draw near to Christmas I expect we all make the effort to get in touch with old friends who we may only hear from once a year. In our household as we write our annual cards and letters at this time we make a point of pausing on each friend and lifting them up to our Father, remembering our links with them and their current circumstances and offering up a prayer for their well-being. I imagine you do the same.

Value of Naming

We personally have always been uplifted by the prayers of our prayer partners for us and for this ministry which we are privileged to serve. But during this last month we have appreciated it even

more as you have let us know that you are praying and thinking of us. We have been very humbled not only to have been on the receiving end of so much prayer from our prayer partners but it has so greatly encouraged us that we want to encourage others too, so we are now praying for those we know are praying for us. We all have needs and to be able to share them with others lifts the burden from each one of us.

We send out information for prayer on a regular basis to a large number of people and appreciate hearing that this is helpful to you in your prayers - and that you are praying for the work and for us. Now instead of just praying for those we hear from, we have started to lift up in prayer by name and remembrance a specific number from this list each week. Where possible we let them know ahead of time that we are doing this - and asking if there is anything specific to pray for. And we also appreciate so much hearing of answers to prayer.

Exhortations to Name - and Remember

There are a number of lessons which we can learn from references to the naming of people in the Bible in various ways. The names of the sons of Israel are engraved on the Ephod (Exodus 28.9) and one of the most lovely promises of God is that he has OUR names engraved on the palms of his hands so that we are never forgotten (this is described in Isaiah 49.16). Praising God and praying for others by lifting up our hands (palms upwards) lifts others into the presence of the Lord and is a good way of following this practice.

The Jews learned so much on how they were to survive in Exile. The Holiness Code which was a scroll Ezekiel had, helped them focus on their relationship with God. Without the Temple they were constantly reminded to remember and name all that the Lord had done for them in the past (Deuteronomy 6.4-9 is worth reading and digesting). There is great value in passing this on to others so that their prayers can also include thanksgiving.

Overcoming

The Letters to the Churches named in Revelation show how the Overcomers who stand firm in their faith will be rewarded by being named. Those in Pergamum were promised 'a white stone with their name written on it'; those in Philadelphia would also 'have a new name written on them'; those in Sardis would never have their names blotted out of the Book of Life. Much is made of ensuring that your name is written in the Book of Life.

What can we do?

I felt there were some important spiritual guidelines here for our Intercessory Prayer Groups which might be worth sharing.

1. In your groups you may be able to make your prayers more personal.
2. Pray for each other by name -
 - a. pray for those with whom you work and for others in your immediate circle
 - b. also pray for others particularly those in public office - both locally and farther afield.
3. And let them know that you are praying for them - and when you are doing this!
4. Then do more than just pray for what you feel they may need, but ask them if they have anything specific that they would like you to pray for. It will surprise you how much this is appreciated - and you will also be building up a relationship with those for whom you are praying.
5. So follow up and ask them if things are changing. Prayer does change things!!

Watch for the results! And thank the Lord for the opportunities he gives us.

This paper comes to you as part of the Issachar Ministries *Resourcing for Prayer* e-letter November 2013

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