

## **PRAYING FOR YOUR UNSAVED FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

### **Why Is It So Hard For Some People To Come To Jesus?**

No doubt you have asked yourself this question many times if you have spent much time evangelizing. Some of these people are members of your own family – others are your neighbors, friends or co-workers.

In Scripture, it is very clear why some people are resistant to the Gospel:

- **Blinded Eyes:** In 2 Corinthians 4:4, we read, "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ who is the image of God."
- **Until we accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, we are set up against the plans of God.** This puts us in a position against the Lord where the enemy of our souls has a great freedom to manipulate us: Ephesians 2:2 states, "...in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."
- **Satan snatches the Word away:** Consider Matthew 13:4,19 which says, "As he was scattering the seed, some fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up...When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart."

Because of these stumbling blocks set up by the enemy to slow down our efforts at reaching those who need to know Christ, we need to do more than be prepared scripturally with a polished presentation of the Gospel. It is just not enough to simply proclaim the message – we need to prepare in PRAYER!

## **PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PRAY FOR THE UNSAVED** (Adapted from material by author, Tom White)

- **Believe that their salvation is possible:** "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God" (Matthew 10:27).
- **Present their names before the throne of God:** "I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and for all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time" (1 Timothy 2:1-6).
- **Pray for a stirring of the Spirit:** "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).
- **Pray for conviction:** "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment..." (John 16:8).
- **Pray for revelation:** "For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:5-6).
- **Pray with precise prayers of authority:** "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every

thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

- Praise God for His victory over the power of the enemy: "You are my King and my God, who decrees victories for Jacob. Through you we push back our enemies; through your name we trample our foes. I do not trust in my bow, my sword does not bring me victory; but you give us victory over our enemies, you put our adversaries to shame. In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever" (Psalm 44:4-8).

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33)! May your prayers for the salvation of unsaved family and friends go forward in His divine power!

## **PRAYING FOR THOSE YOU KNOW WELL**

### **1. Look for negative or sinful habits in the person's life.**

Pray against the hold these habits have. Pray that he or she will be convicted by the Holy Spirit to repent of these things and become a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

### **2. If the person associates with people** who affect his/her life negatively, pray for the breaking up of this influence/friendship/relationship that draws or keeps the person away from Christ. (2 Corinthians 6:14)

### **3. If there are certain activities that influence** the person's life in a negative way, pray that they will be replaced with positive activities and/or that the negative influence becomes powerless. (Galatians 5:1)

**4. Pray that any negative experiences** from the person's past will be healed in such a way that Christ's power is evident. (Romans 6:1-4)

**5. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bring** just the right individual(s) into his or her life to speak about Christ (realizing that it might be YOU)!

### **IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT ALL PEOPLE SHOULD BE SAVED!**

- "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live" (Ezekiel 18:23)?
- "In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (Matthew 18:14).
- "If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life" (1 John 5:16).
- "The Lord is not slow in keeping the promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).
- "This is good and pleases God, our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:3-4).