

How to Pray for God's Saints (Numbers 6:24-26)

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During June of 2013, many news broadcasts across the country featured a little boy named Grayson Clamp, who was doing something he had never done before. The three-year-old was born without the auditory nerves that carry sound to the brain. Attempts to restore his hearing with a cochlear implant were unsuccessful, so doctors at the University of North Carolina tried an experimental procedure to implant an auditory nerve directly into Grayson's brain. This procedure proved successful, and millions of people enjoyed seeing the look of wonder and joy on the little boy's face when he heard his father's voice for the first time. Being able to communicate with his father was very important to this young boy.

Is communicating with the heavenly Father important to us? Has God the Father recently heard our voice in prayer (Ps. 5:3)? When was the last time we prayed to God? And why do we pray? Certainly it is not to inform God of what we need. He already knows everything about our situation (Matt. 6:8), and, far better than we could devise, He knows the answer that will be best for us. Prayer is meant in part to remind us of how dependent on God we truly are. But prayer is not just for our benefit. It should be for the benefit and welfare of others as well! This is why we should keep talking to the Lord through prayer and stay connected to Him on a daily basis. Remember the old chorus:

“Whisper a prayer in the morning,
Whisper a prayer at noon,
Whisper a prayer in the evening,
To keep your heart in tune.

God answers prayer in the morning,
God answers prayer at noon.
God answers prayer in the evening,
So keep your heart in tune.”

We need to be keeping our hearts in tune through prayer but we can also keep the hearts of others in tune with God as we pray for them. I would like to investigate a prayer that is often overlooked in the book of Numbers. It's a prayer that we can actually pray for others. This is why I entitled this study: "How to Pray for Others."

Numbers 6:24-26

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

God gives us some prayer guidelines in these verses that we can actually use as we pray for others. The closing verses of chapter 6 gives the very lovely and familiar blessing that Aaron and his sons were to use to bless the people of Israel. In Numbers 6:23 God says to Moses: "Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel." This is certainly a prayer and blessing that can be applied to God's people today. It's a prayer that we can actually pray for one another. Numbers 6:24-26 is a prayer that we can plug in to our prayer routine, as we think of other Christians who need prayer for victory, power, strength, and peace.

The great evangelist D. L. Moody appreciated this prayer very much. He wrote: "Here is a benediction that can go all the world over, and can give all the time without being impoverished (exhausted or overdone). Every heart may utter it: it is the speech of God: every letter may conclude with it; every day may begin with it; every night may be sanctified by it. Here is blessing—keeping—shining—the uplifting upon our poor life of all heaven's glad morning. It is the Lord himself who brings this bar of music from heaven's infinite anthems."

God wants us to pray for the saints.

Our prayer for others should revolve around six requests.

1. The blessing of God - "The LORD bless thee"

When I have God's blessing upon my life, I have a true blessing. I don't want some kind of artificial or manipulated blessing conjured up by man. There are plenty of these alleged types of blessings going around today such as asking God to give us threefold return on our money or asking God to pay off our mortgage and debt. Have you ever seen those TV programs which have a mile-high stack of mortgage papers and they claim that they are going to burn them for they know that God is going to pay them off? Of course, God could do this if He chooses, but 99.9 percent of the time He wants you to pay off your own mortgage. You got it, you are to be responsible for it, you must pay for it! Don't fall for these artificial blessings.

We have heard the expression a lot lately – fake news! Well, there are many fake blessings floating around as well. Don't get caught up in them! Friend, I don't want a phony blessing or some kind of artificial blessing. I want the true blessing of God upon my life! "The LORD bless thee." You know, many times it's not the Lord blessing us but ourselves. This is because we are seeking our own will and getting what we want all because we are greedy, misinformed, and even manipulated. I want God's true blessing upon my life. A blessing that comes from God is the best type of blessing we could ever receive since it is a genuine blessing. God blesses our lives by providing all of our truest needs – both physical and spiritual.

Philippians 4:19

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

This verse is talking about the true blessing of God upon our lives. The Philippians had met Paul's needs and now God would meet theirs. This promise of God blessing us is actually placed in the context of meeting Paul's needs. In essence, Paul said to these believers: "You met my need, and now God is going to meet your need. You met one need that I have, but my God will meet all of your needs. You gave out of your poverty, but God will supply your needs out of His riches in glory!"

This reminds us that God does sometimes choose to bless our lives in direct proportion to how we give to God's work and cause. However, we should not think that God wants us to give to get financially rich. That is certainly not what Paul is talking about here. He is simply saying in a general way, as we live for God and do

what is right, such as giving to God's cause, we can be assured of His true blessing upon our life. Again, we must be careful that we do not use this verse as a way to fulfill our greed instead of receiving the true blessing of God upon our life. God supplies our NEEDS – not our GREEDS!

William MacDonald said:

“How easy it is to take this verse out of context and use it as a soft pillow for Christians who are squandering their money on themselves with seldom a thought for the work of God! And we tell them: ‘That’s all right. God will supply all your need.’”

Paul is basically teaching us that when we are not living for God, we cannot expect the blessing of God upon our life.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 reveals this same principle:

“And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.”

We should pray that God's people would live for Him, and in doing so, experience His blessing upon their lives. As we pray for others, we can pray that the Lord will come to the aid of His people, who knows everyone individually and the kind of blessing they really need. We should ask God to give them a blessing to pick up their spirits and encourage them in life. God knows how to tailor-make blessings. He knows our truest needs and what blessing we need.

This verse in Philippians reveals that God would not only bless the saints “out of” or “from” His bounty but also in “accordance with” (kata) His abundance, or according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. It has often been said that God supplies the needs of His people, not out of His riches, but according to His riches. If a millionaire gave a dime to a child, he would be giving out of his riches. But if he gave a hundred thousand dollars to some worthy cause, he would be giving according to his riches. God's supply is according to His riches in glory by Christ

Jesus. This means He wants to lavishly bless our lives and pour out His blessing upon us in many different ways!

What do you need today? Or should I ask, what do you really need today? Sometimes we think that we know exactly what we need but God surely knows better than we do. Again, when praying for the saints, we need to pray that God would give them the specific blessing that they need for the situation they are facing and the day that they are having. The specific way God chooses to bless someone is His business since He knows what each person really needs. As we pray for the blessing of God upon the lives of others, He chooses to bless them in His own providential way and according to His own purpose.

We should pray that God would bring His blessing upon others! The blessing of God can consist of many things such as physical healing, spiritual healing, emotional healing, inner healing, forgiveness, revival, victory, power, strength, and peace. These are just some of the blessings that we can think about as we pray this prayer for others. But we can never be sure in what way God may choose to bless someone. This is because He is in charge of the blessing. The Lord bless thee! When we pray this prayer on the behalf of others, we must leave the blessing in God's hands, since He is the Real Blessor, and since He knows the specific way He wants to bless each saint.

Psalm 29:11

“The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.”

Psalm 115:13 adds:

“He will bless them that fear the LORD, *both* small and great.”

God wants to bless our lives as we yield our lives to Him in a greater way. One thing is certain, God fills and fulfills us with His abundant showers of blessings!

“There shall be showers of blessing:
This is the promise of love;
There shall be seasons refreshing,
Sent from the Savior above.

Showers of blessing,
Showers of blessing we need:
Mercy-drops round us are falling,
But for the showers we plead.”

Sadly, we can miss God’s blessing upon our life, when we are not looking for it, or when we are looking for something else that God has not chosen to give to us. Mendelssohn once visited the cathedral at Fribourg, and having heard the great organ, went into the organ loft and asked to be allowed to play it. The old organist, in jealousy for his instrument, at first refused, but was afterward prevailed on to allow the great German composer to try the colossal “thunderer” of the cathedral. After standing by in an ecstasy of delight and amazement for a few moments, he suddenly laid his hands on the shoulders of the musician and exclaimed: “Who are you? What is your name?” “Mendelssohn,” replied the player. “And can it be that I had so nearly refused to let Mendelssohn touch this organ!”

Here is the point. Christians often refuse to let God have His way in their life because they are afraid of the outcome. Little do they know, that if they would let God do as He sees fit, the outcome would be much greater than anything they could dream about.

We can pray for God to bring His special, tailor-made blessings upon His people. So, let’s get praying!

2. The safety of God – “and keep thee”

The word “keep” (Numb. 6:24) in the Hebrew lexicons means to “to hedge about” and “guard and protect.” It speaks of God’s safety and preservation. God keeps us in various ways. Sometimes He keeps us physically safe and other times He keeps us spiritually safe. In other words, He defends us by not allowing us to be overcome by evil. This is a wonderful and comforting truth.

- a. We can pray for the physical safety of God’s people.

God can use our prayers to bring about His providential safety in the lives of His people.

Proverbs 21:31

“The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* of the LORD. The horse *is* prepared against the day of battle: but safety *is* of the LORD.”

In other words, we can do everything that we need to do to maintain our own physical safety, but it's the Lord who actually gives us physical safety. He is the One who blesses us with safety! We should thank God every time for the safety He does give to us. Of course, this does not mean that I will never be involved in an accident or pass through a medical crisis. What this means is that whenever I experience safety and protection, I can know that it comes from God! God blesses us in this way many times. So, I can pray for the physical safety and wellbeing of others.

We support and often pray for the “Wylers on Wheels” family who has an evangelistic ministry and outreach to children. They are constantly traveling about the country. We ask God to watch over them and take care of them from a physical standpoint in their travels. We can pray for the physical safety and wellbeing of others.

I'm reminded of a medical missionary captured by bandits in China, informed that he was to be shot at a spot ten minutes' distance away, tells how a terrible fear and helplessness came over him at the thought of such a death so far away from his native country, from his friends and his family. But he had strength enough to pray. This was his prayer: "My Lord God, have mercy on me, and give me strength for this trial. Take away all fear, and if I have to die, let me die like a man." Instantly, he said, his terrible fear began to disappear. By the time he had reached the gorge where he was to be shot he felt perfectly calm and unafraid. At the last moment, however, the bandits relented and his life was spared. In the days which followed, full of danger and suffering, the memory of this experience was cherished more and more.

b. We can pray for the spiritual safety of God's people.

God also wants to keep us from evil and in doing so, keep us spiritually safe from the enemy. Jesus prayed this way for each one of us when we examine the true Lord's prayer.

John 17:15

"I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil."

If we want to be more like Jesus in our praying, then we should pray for the spiritual safety of other saints. We should pray for their victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. We should pray for their spiritual growth in grace.

Matthew 6:13 records the disciple's prayer:

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen."

The idea of this prayer ("lead us not into temptation") is that God would not allow us to even be tempted to do evil so that we might not be overcome with the temptation and evil. This is how much we should want to live in victory! Of course, God in His sovereignty does allow us to enter temptation many times. But what a prayer this is. We can pray that we might bypass temptation and in doing so, remain on the victory side. Praying that God's saints would be delivered from evil means that we do not want them to be overcome by the world, the flesh, and the devil. This is an important prayer that relates to God's spiritual blessing.

Ephesians 6:18 is placed in the context of the armor of God and praying for victory for the saints. It reminds us to keep "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." We are to pray that other saints will be kept spiritually safe from the enemy and live victoriously.

Harold Dixon was one of the three men on a raft who drifted for thirty-four days a thousand miles in their rubber raft, eight feet by four, with no food and no water. He spoke of the prayer meetings which they held every night, said: "There was a comfort in passing our burden to someone bigger than we in this empty vastness.

Our common devotion to God drew us together, since it seemed we no longer depended entirely upon each other, but could appeal simultaneously to a Fourth person that we three held equally in reverence."

This reference to a "Fourth" with them in that raft makes me think of those three Hebrew lads in the fiery furnace who prayed to God and put their trust in God. Remember that Nebuchadnezzar came to look into the fiery furnace to see what had happened to them, he saw that they were unharmed by the flames, and lo, in the midst of them, he saw the form of a Fourth, like unto the Son of Man!

Folks, we can pray for the physical and spiritual safety of God's people. Let's get praying!

3. The presence of God – "The LORD make his face shine upon thee"

I had to take some time looking at this Hebrew expression to try and decipher what its exact meaning was. The face of God is speaking about a special manifestation of the presence of God upon our life. It's when we experience the wonder and amazement of God's presence in our life. In short, we have an encounter with God! A similar expression occurs elsewhere. Let's look at this one as well.

Psalm 67:1

"God be merciful unto us, and bless us; *and* cause his face to shine upon us; Selah."

When God causes His face shines upon us, it means that He is manifesting Himself to us in a magnificent way. We sense His presence in an awesome way and the experience has a profound difference in our life. We come away from our time with God being overcome by His presence and strengthened and invigorated for our journey.

The words "make his face shine upon you" or "cause his face to shine upon us" takes us back to the experience of Moses on Mount Sinai. There the theophany of the Lord appeared to Moses. And what happened to Moses is an illustration of what it means when the face of God shines upon us.

Exodus 34:29-35

“And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not (knew not) that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai. And *till* Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face. But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded. And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.”

Moses experienced God's presence in a dramatic and direct manner. How did others know it? His face was shining! This reminds us that when we are in God's presence, experience His fellowship and blessing upon our life, others will see it and know it! Apparently the shining face of God left its imprint upon the face of Moses for his face was also shining.

The face of God shining upon us speaks of being in the presence of God, enjoying His presence, being overtaken by His presence, and demonstrating to others by our life that “we have been with Jesus!”

Acts 4:13 declares:

“Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.”

God does not manifest His visual presence today in a glory cloud of light. However, as God's presence and glory caused Moses' face to shine, so the Lord desires to make His presence known to his people today through communing and fellowshiping with them on a daily basis. There is still a “glow of glory” (a radiant

display of God's life in us) when we are living in His presence, practicing the presence of God, or experiencing the presence of God in our lives.

Peter talked about this in 1 Peter 1:8:

“Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.”

God's face speaks of the revelation of His presence and personality (nature) to people. It's a revelation of God's personal presence and fellowship that results in great joy overflowing in our hearts. God's glory will be transferred to us and expressed in a life of joy and fulfillment.

“It is glory just to walk with Him whose blood has ransomed me;

It is rapture for my soul each day.

It is joy divine to feel Him near where'er my path may be.

Bless the Lord, it's glory all the way!

It is glory when the shadows fall, to know that He is near.

Oh, what joy to simply trust and pray!

It is glory to abide in Him when skies above are clear.

Yes, with Him, it's glory all the way!

It is glory just to walk with Him.

It is glory just to walk with Him.

He will guide my steps aright,

Thro' the vale and o'er the height.

It is glory just to walk with Him.”

We can pray that God's face would shine on His people. Let's get praying!

4. The grace of God – “and be gracious unto thee”

The idea of God being gracious to His people speaks of the kindness of God being showered upon His saints. The Hebrew word literally means “to bend or stoop in kindness, to express favor.” This is the kind of God we have and serve as Christians! He is a gracious God! There are many ways that God can express kindness to His

people but the repeated concept in the Bible is that God's loving compassion, or the expression of His mercy and pity, is a key way in which He manifests kindness toward His people. He is a God who shows and showers His repeated mercies upon the lives of His children and in this way expresses His graciousness or acts of kindness toward His beloved saints.

Many times we find the Psalmist combining together the thought of God's compassion (pity and mercy) with His graciousness (kindness). This is because God's compassion is evidenced as an expression of His kindness that He manifests toward His people. God's graciousness (kindness) and compassion are often combined together in Scripture.

Psalm 86:15

"But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth."

Psalm 103:8

"The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy."

Psalm 111:4-5

"He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD *is* gracious and full of compassion. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant."

Psalm 145:8

The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Exodus 34:6 says:

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth

God's graciousness or kindness is repeatedly linked to His compassion, which is the outflow of His pity and mercy that He extends to our hearts and lives on a daily basis.

Charles Spurgeon once said:

“God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart.”

God is a wonderfully kind and gracious God. We ought to thank Him every day for His acts of kindness rendered unto us. As we pray for others, we can pray that they would appreciate and experience His loving kindness, His acts of compassion, mercy, and pity being showered upon their daily lives. We can pray that His people would experience God’s loving care and compassion in a new and fresh way in their hearts and lives.

Lamentations 3:22-23

“It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

We can pray that God would be gracious or kind to His people through expressing His compassion to them in some loving and special way, during their physical or spiritual trials. We can pray that God’s graciousness would be made real to His people as He reveals His merciful kindness to them by healing them physically, spiritually, or emotionally and meeting their deepest and innermost needs in life. Let’s get praying!

5. The smile of God – “The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee”

This in some ways explains the last point, while at the same time, adding some more important truth to what was previously said. The countenance speaks of God’s face. A face reveals many things. We can tell when someone is sad, mad, or happy with us. We can tell what they are feeling many times by their countenance.

A countenance that is lifted up speaks of a happy and smiling face. This terminology of “lift up his countenance” has the functional equivalent of the word “smile.” In essence, God’s people should be led to pray that He (God) will turn his face toward them in a gracious smile! We might translate this text: “May Yahweh smile on you, and may he grant you well-being!”

What does it mean when God smiles at us? Expressing His countenance toward us (the smile of God) means that He favors us and loves us, and expresses this to us on a daily basis. God is smiling at us and He is saying, "I love you." The expression "lift up his countenance" suggests God's pleasure and affection toward His people. The idea of invoking God's smile (His affection and love) on His people should mean something to us today! We need God's embrace, His love, and His deep affection extended toward our life. We need God to love on us!

Psalm 4:6 is a similar verse:

"There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us."

This is a wonderful prayer that we can direct toward God's saints who might downhearted and discouraged in life. You know, those who have the Elijah syndrome.

1 Kings 19:4-7 reminds us Elijah's experience:

"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee."

We can pray for those people who are down and out and who need God's special smile (countenance) upon their life. In other words, they need a real sense of God's love and mercies to be lavished upon their hurting soul. This is what it means to experience God's countenance. It speaks of passing through the caring and compassionate touch of God upon one's life. It means to experience God's special compassion and love upon one's life, to be showered with His loving compassions and kindness.

I need to experience God's smile upon my life! I need to experience His loving embrace, His arms around me, His tender affection which He extends to me.

Psalm 43:5 asks us:

“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted (troubled) within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.”

When God’s countenance (His smile and love) is experienced in our own hearts and lives, it’s then that we can possess a healthy countenance, or outward expression that reflects spiritual and godly virtues, in our own life and walk.

How wonderful that we can pray in this way for someone: “God would you smile on this person. Would you express your loving compassion to them in a very real and precious way? Would you give them Your loving touch and make them whole again? Would you change their heart and life and refresh them once again?”

“He touched me, Oh He touched me,
And oh the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened and now I know,
He touched me and made me whole.”

We need this loving touch even in the Christian life. And we can pray that His people would experience the deep and profound love and favor that God has for them!

Jude 1:21

“Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

We might compare God’s love to the sunshine. The sun is always shining. But when something comes between us and the sun, we are no longer in the sunshine. This is the way it is with the love of God. It is always beaming down upon us. But if sin comes between us and the Lord, then we are no longer enjoying His love in a practical way within our life. We can keep ourselves in His love, experiencing the sunshine of God’s love, by living a holy and godly life, by confession our sins as they invade our life, and by walking in communion with God. The secret is to let nothing come between us and God. The secret is to keep the sun shining in your heart and life.

We can pray that God's saints would walk in the light of God's love, His tender love and acceptance of them, and His loving compassion. We can pray that they would experience the loving smile or countenance of God as they move throughout their days. Let's get praying!

6. The peace of God – “and give thee peace.”

Peace (shalom) is one of the great words in the Hebrew vocabulary and it means much more than the absence of storm and trouble around us. It involves quietness of heart within us, spiritual health, adequacy for the demands of life, and the kind of spiritual well-being that rises above our circumstances.

George Morrison defined peace in this way:
“The possession of adequate resources.”

This is what Paul had in mind when he wrote Philippians 4:6–20 and spoke of God's supernatural provision and peace.

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 4:9

“Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

Isaiah 26:3

“Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose* mind *is* stayed *on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.”

God wants us to experience perfect peace (inner tranquility) in our daily lives and we can pray this way for one another. We can pray that God's people would experience His inner peace and quietness during their storms of life and in their everyday living. I can think of no greater way to intercede for someone than to pray for their inner peace. Let's get praying!

“Far away in the depths of my spirit tonight
Rolls a melody sweeter than psalm;
In celestial like strains it unceasingly falls
O'er my soul like an infinite calm.

What a treasure I have in this wonderful peace,
Buried deep in the heart of my soul;
So secure that no power can mine it away,
While the years of eternity roll!

Peace! peace! wonderful peace,
Coming down from the Father above;
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray,
In fathomless billows of love.”

This is what God's people need today. They need His inner calmness or peace! They need to “lie down in the green pastures” and spend time “beside the still waters” as they allow their Great Shepherd to lead them (Psalms 23).

In Numbers 6:24-26, God gives us some prayer guidelines that we can use as we pray for others. It's our joy and responsibility to be praying for others by incorporating these very things in our time of prayer, as we lift up the names of God's people before the throne or grace. We need to pray for one another!

1 Samuel 12:23

“Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.”

It's wrong when we stop praying for others! So, let's keep interceding for one other. It's wonderful that God's Word gives us some general ways that we can pray for His people. We can pray for God's special and tailor-made blessings to fall upon their lives. In reconfirming what we have studied, we can pray for the physical and spiritual safety or wellbeing of God's people. We can also pray for a special manifestation of the Lord's presence and fellowship in their lives and that they would experience God's grace and kindness extended to them through His daily

compassions and mercies. We can pray that they would sense God's loving smile, embrace, and acceptance, and experience His wonderful calmness and peace in their hearts.

The power of intercessory prayer and promise of answered prayer is seen in the words of the old hymn:

“Brethren, we have met to worship
And adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power,
While we try to preach the word?
All is vain unless the Spirit
Of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna
Will be showered all around.”

What we need today is the holy manna being experienced in the lives of God's saints.

Let's close our study in prayer:

“The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”