

FOLLOWING A SILENT EXAMPLE

Jesus no longer walks the earth, but He prays for us who do.

- **He still INTERCEDES for us**

Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (Rom 8:34)

- **He calls us to INTERCEDE for others**

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone. (1Tim 2:1)

You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. (John Bunyan, Puritan author)

Prayer for others is a form of petitional prayer that makes deep demands on the faith of an individualistic generation that has so largely lost its sense of inner community. Yet, at no point, do we touch the inner springs of prayer more vitally than here. (Douglas V. Steere, *The Inner Springs of Prayer*)

- **INTERCEDING takes us deeper with God and others**

I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. (Rom 15:30)

No human activity draws us more deeply into the heart of God than prayer. And no way of prayer places us more solidly into the affairs of human life than intercessory prayer. This is as it should be. Love of God, of necessity, leads to love of neighbor. They are not two commands, but one. (Richard Foster, *Devotional Classics*)

A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner. This is a happy discovery for the Christian who begins to pray for others. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as our prayer for him. (William Law, 18th century English author)

- **INTERCEDING changes...us**

Epaphras...sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. (Col 4:12)

Even when we are praying for or about things other than our own spiritual needs and growth, the effect of conversing with God cannot fail to have a pervasive and spiritually strengthening effect on all aspects of our personality. (Dallas Willard, *Spirit of the Disciplines*)

As in all petitional prayer, the one who really prays must be ready to yield. You may pray for the release of some area of life in a friend and find that you are called upon to set right something in your own life that has acted as a stumbling block to him. You may pray that your friend be given courage to endure certain hardships and find that you are drawn to pack your bag and go and join him or that you are to give up your pocket money for the next month or even perhaps to give a fortnight's or a month's salary to help along his cause. In intercessory prayer one seldom ends where one began. (Douglas V. Steere, *The Inner Springs of Prayer*)

- **So, let's INTERCEDE...**

It is good to debate the mysteries of prayer, to ponder the profundities of prayer, to learn the methods of prayer. It is better to pray. (Richard Foster, *Devotional Classics*)