

Shoulder to Shoulder
Bible Study
Lesson 7

The On Purpose Prayer Partner

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church
We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!

Pastor Ken Patterson, Ph.D.



Book: *Shoulder to Shoulder: Strengthening Your Church
by Supporting Your Pastor*
By
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Facilitators

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Introduction: I recently had a conversation with a member who had taken hold of the ideas of the study we are in regarding standing shoulder to shoulder with the pastor. Before reading chapter 7, the member asked a very pointed question. *“Pastor Ken, do you have a team of people who pray for you?”* This pertinent question was somewhat unsettling because I spend a significant amount of time praying for others and I ask individual people to pray for me. I had not considered the importance of a team of people whose ministry purpose is to pray for me specifically. The idea, however, makes sense. Of all the empowering tools a pastor can utilize (i. e. study time, time to be quiet with God, relaxation) prayer must have a pre-eminent role. However, this is not the quick drive by prayer where we scatter shot throw things out there and hope something relates to your pastor. These are prayers that are specific, personally focused, intentional, and uplifting for the purpose of empowering the pastor to fulfill his mission for God’s people.

The Importance of Prayer

Have you ever considered that of all the things Jesus did with his disciples, there was only 1 time they asked him to teach them something. In Luke 11: 1-13, Jesus is asked by one of the disciples...*Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.*



- **Why would the disciples ask this?** This issue relates to the actual title of disciple. The term disciple means “learner”. In Matthew 28:19-20, you remember that Jesus said for us to “Go...teach...baptize...” If you are reading the KJV you will see that the text says go and teach all nations. The NIV says go and make disciples of all nations. In other words, go and make them learners. Then in verse 20 you will note that we are to teach them....They are learners.....we who know Christ are teachers and learners.

When the disciples (Jesus’ learners) ask him to teach them to pray, they are wanting to learn the “Jesus’ method of prayer” because it was common during that day for religious leaders to teacher their followers to pray in the

way that they pray. Literally, pray in a specific word order, format, or structure.



The Prayer Partner Job Description!

Required Qualifications!

1. Must have your own consistent prayer life!
 - a. If you want to be a great partner in something, you will be better at it if you are growing in that area! This is not about perfection; it is about you growing in this area.
 - b. Remember, prayer is a chance for you to build a relationship with him. This requires daily time with him. Remember last week, we talked about 10 minutes a day!
2. Must be one who meditates to hear God speaking.
 - a. God not only listens but wants to speak! Did you know that part of your growth as a Christian should move you beyond simply talking to God!?
 - i. Why? Because a healthy relationship requires you to listen as well as talk.
3. Must have a growing faith!
 - a. This simply means, you must be trying God. As you try God and follow his directions, you will find that you are growing and can be more effective as a prayer partner.

The Power of Prayer

1. New Territory- Deuteronomy 4: 1-2
2. New Tasks-When we have a new task to accomplish prayer can focus us into that new space.

