

*"Men and women are at their noblest and best when  
they are on their knees before God in prayer. . . .  
To pray is not only to be truly godly;  
it is also to be truly human."*

**JOHN STOTT**

## PRAYER PARTNERS

<b>Desire</b>	to share the journey of prayer with a trusted companion
<b>Definition</b>	Prayer partners agree to support one another and pray together for their own concerns as well as world affairs. They engage in regular and consistent times of shared intercession.
<b>Scripture</b>	<p>"Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire." (Mark 14:38 <i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ." (Colossians 4:3)</p> <p>"Brothers, pray for us." (1 Thessalonians 5:25)</p> <p>"Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. . . . And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. . . . Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:13, 15-16)</p>
<b>Practice Includes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting regularly to pray for personal as well as global concerns</li> <li>• confessing sin and praying for strength to face trials</li> <li>• using <i>Operation World</i> as part of the prayer practice</li> <li>• giving thanks for answers to prayer</li> <li>• praying for particular events, mission endeavors, schools, churches, etc.</li> <li>• participating in Moms in Prayer</li> </ul>
<b>God-Given Fruit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keeping company with Jesus by sharing prayers with him and others</li> <li>• growing in bringing all aspects of your life to God in prayer</li> <li>• sharing your journey and burdens with another in prayer</li> <li>• developing a rhythm of prayer with others</li> <li>• learning to pray out loud</li> <li>• practicing thankfulness</li> <li>• sharing joy over answered prayer with another</li> </ul>

## PRAYER PARTNERS

**SOME PEOPLE DO THEIR BEST PRAYING** with others. Some do their best praying alone. If praying with others helps you to concentrate and be consistent in prayer, then prayer partnerships can be a wonderful way of encountering God and offering your concerns to him. Prayer partnerships may be established around shared concerns regarding the workplace, school and family issues. But prayer partnerships may also evolve as two people discover they both care about particular missionaries or a particular part of the world. The partnership may form for a short period of time, or it may last over decades.

Prayer partners meet together regularly to share prayer requests and pray. Prayer partnerships are more than chat sessions with a brief prayer tacked on at the end. Prayer and thanksgiving for answered prayer is the essential stuff of the gathering. Some prayer partners agree to pray at certain times of the day even though they are not together. This common discipline becomes a thread they share until their next meeting. Prayer partnerships can also be done over the phone (see also "Intercessory Prayer," "Fasting" and "Prayer Walking").

ACTS is a simple acronym to serve as a framework for your prayers:

A—adoration of God and his character; plans and purposes

C—confession of anything in us that has broken relationships; naming anything in our lives that would hinder serving God in prayer

T—thanksgiving for God's presence, blessings, Word and goodness

S—supplication for the world, ourselves and those whose lives are closely linked with ours

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What is it like for you to pray with others?
2. What are your rhythms of corporate prayer and private prayer?
3. How do you meet God differently in each of these kinds of prayer?
4. How do you pray about personal concerns that bring you constant anxiety?
5. How might sharing prayer concerns with another help you bear your anxieties differently?

### SPIRITUAL EXERCISES

1. Pray for a prayer partner. Listen to who God might bring to mind. Approach them about

becoming a prayer partner for the next six weeks. At the end of six weeks determine if you will continue.

2. Where do you feel a deep desire to pray for a particular need surfacing in your life? Consider if there is anyone else who shares your desire. If God brings a name to mind, contact that person and see if they would be willing to join you in prayer twice a month. What is this experience like for you?
3. Become a prayer partner with someone in your immediate family. Form a partnership with a child or a spouse for a particular situation and season. When the concern is answered, spend time talking about what it was like to share prayer concerns. What sense of trust developed?
4. Form a prayer partnership in which you experiment with the various types of prayer disciplines described in this book. Spend several weeks on each prayer discipline. • What is it like for you? Is one style of prayer easier for you than another? For your prayer partner? • What do you learn about God in these prayer settings?

## RESOURCES ON PRAYER PARTNERS

*Listen In: Building Faith and Friendships Through Conversations That Matter* by Rachael Crabb, Sonya Reeder and Diana Calvin

Moms in Prayer International, [www.momsinprayer.org](http://www.momsinprayer.org)