

Pray for 5: Preparing the Ground for Kingdom Impact

Based on materials supplied by Phil Alessi (www.catalyzedmm.com) and originating with Roy Godwin's books "The Grace Outpouring" and "The Way of Blessing".

5 people – 5 minutes – 5 days a week – 5 weeks

In John 10:10 we read these words from Jesus, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."* In the teaching that we call, the Lord's Prayer, Jesus instructed us to seek the release of the Kingdom of God in our midst. *"Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* Speaking blessings over people in our lives who don't know Jesus is one way to see His Kingdom come in greater measure.

With this in mind, can I encourage you to take the following practical steps.

1. Make a list of people you would like to see come to Jesus. Consider things like:
 - Who do I naturally see often?
 - Who is easy to have a coffee / catch up with?
 - Who is the most unlikely person to become a Christian?
 - Who would take the tiniest nudge to become a Christian?
 - Who are my neighbours, friends, or colleagues who don't know Jesus?
2. Ask God which 5 people He would like you to pray for. They could be on your list or He might bring someone new to mind. Write down the names of your 5 people.
3. Pray for these 5 people for 5 days a week for 5 minutes (ie 5 minutes for the whole list, not 5 minutes each) for 5 weeks. If you would like, pray one letter of the BLESS prayer each day.
 - Day 1: Body – health, protection, strength
 - Day 2: Labour – work, reward, security, provision
 - Day 3: Emotional – joy, peace, hope
 - Day 4: Social – love, marriage / dating relationship, family, friends
 - Day 5: Spiritual – salvation, revelation, faith, grace
4. Every 5 weeks do a review and evaluation. Ask yourself:
 - Am I faithful in doing my 5-5-5-5?
 - Am I asking the Holy Spirit to keep me focussed and fresh
 - Do I sense a lack of movement toward Jesus for anyone on my list as I pray for them?
 - If so, put this person into a "To be revisited" folder and replace him or her with someone new for the next 5 week cycle. God may prompt you to put this person back on your list of 5 at a later time.
 - Am I aware of any green shoots (movement toward Jesus) yet? Bless the green shoots.
 - Am I really praying in faith for Kingdom breakthrough in the lives of my 5.

A note on Blessing

Blessing prayer differs from intercession in that we are not speaking to God about a person; rather we are speaking to a person and calling down the rule and presence of God over that person in Jesus' name. We do this through the authority Jesus has given us. Here's an example: "In Jesus' name, I bless [my coworkers, my family, my neighbour's etc] with peace, hope, faith and generosity. I bless their families to flourish, their work to be fruitful, and their lives to be a blessing to those around them."