



HOW TO
INTERCEDE FOR
THE LOST ...

HAVE YOU PRAYED FOR YOUR LOVED ONES, AND NOT HAD ANY RESULTS?

Every time you pray, you try and find the **words** to pray — “*LORD, save them; LORD get them!*” — but you’re not sure exactly how to pray, prayer that will be effective.

One of the biggest *weapons* the enemy uses to keep people in *darkness* — to keep them from coming to and *knowing* Y’shua¹ (Jesus) as their Saviour and KING — is to *blind* their eyes and hearts to the TRUTH, to *veil* them from SEEING ...



- The word for *blinded* used in the New Testament is **tuphloo (Strong’s G5186)** — meaning to “make blind, to obscure”. It comes from the root word **tuphlos**, which means to “make smoky or opaque”. Inherent in the meaning of this word is self-conceit or pride. It entered the human race at the fall and that is when the veil came. (men vs. women.)

How does the enemy keep unbelievers **blinded**? With **plans** and **schemes**.

2 Corinthians 2:11 “Lest satan should take **advantage** of us; for we are not **ignorant** of his **devices**.”

¹ *Y’shua* (Hebrew) is Jesus’ real name, which means “Salvation”. We have no problem with the name “Jesus” — it is merely the Greek transliteration of “Y’shua”. Jesus is the name most of us grew up with. Remember though, Y’shua was a Jew, of the Tribe of Judah, not a Greek. It’s sort of like this ... when you come to know someone’s real name, you want to use it, hence the use of *Y’shua* instead of Jesus. Another powerful reason to use Y’shua is that every time you say His Name, you are proclaiming “Salvation”. You will also note in some places, we have used the real Name of the FATHER, YHVH. The Name is made up of the Hebrew letters, **Yod-Hey-Vav-Hey**, and is most commonly pronounced “Yahweh” or “Jehovah”. Again, we have chosen to use this, as YHVH is the FATHER’S Name.

Let's look at some of the key words used in this passage:

- **ADVANTAGE:**
 - *Pleonekteo* (Strong's G4122) — meaning to “**covet; want more; wants the most**; to have more than another; to have or to hold the bigger portion of something”. Through our ignorance of satan's way of scheming, planning and plotting, he will get the bigger portion of certain areas in our lives — and control those areas.
- **IGNORANT:**
 - *Agnoeo* (Strong's G50) — meaning “**unacquainted with; without knowledge or understanding**”. Don't be without understanding on how the enemy operates in people's lives.
- **DEVICES:**
 - *Noema* (Strong's G3540) — meaning “schemes; a device (a plan, a trick) a thought; a concept of the mind; contrivance (deceitful practice)”. Again, if we do not know how satan operates, he holds the bigger portion of the way we think — this is especially true for those who are not believers and walking after Y'shua (Jesus), lovingly obeying GOD's Commandments.

“**Do not be ignorant**” — this means GOD is willing to show us how the enemy operates, so that we can intercede and change that. For example — if you are:

- **Ignorant in marriage**, satan will get **the bigger portion**.
- **Ignorant in/of politics and education**, satan gets the bigger portion.

Satan covets all we have, then he schemes and knives to get the bigger portion.

Satan understands **culture, human nature**, how to work on the human mind, and how to **build strongholds** — individually and as well as in cultures/societies. **He is an EXPERT in scheming and planning to enslave people.**

If we know his schemes, we will know how to pray — *to intercede* — to **take away his advantage** ... and get RESULTS.

The Hebrew word for *intercession* is **PAGA²** (Strong's H6293), meaning “to fall, to attack, to intercede, reached, strike the mark, touched, and reached”.

² As used in Isaiah 53:12

P-(a)-G-A is spelt:

- **PEY** = mouth, to speak, open, to reveal.
- **GIMMEL** = camel, to lift up.
- **AYIN** = to see or experience.

From the Hebrew letter-picture we get: *“The mouth that opens to speak and lift up GOD’s Heart, will see His Glory revealed”.*

THREE PRINCIPLES ON HOW TO PRAY AND INTERCEDE FOR THE UNSAVED.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 *“But if our gospel is **veiled**, it is veiled IN them that are lost — in whom the god of this world has **blinded** the minds of the unbelievers, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, Who is the **Image** of GOD, should shine unto them. Why can’t they see the gospel? They cannot understand.”*



The gospel is *veiled in* unbelievers — this happened at the fall. People do not understand because they *cannot* — they have a covering, a *veil* over their understanding which has to be *removed or demolished* by an intercessor.

The word for VEILED is **kalupto (Strong’s G2572)**, meaning *“to hide or cover; to envelop; wrap around as bark, skin, shell or plaster”*. By implication, to hide or cover up in a way that it cannot be seen. Keep in mind, information does not change us until it becomes REVELATION.

1 Corinthians 2:14 *“But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of GOD, for they are **foolishness (folly, meaningless nonsense)** to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.*

The word “foolishness” used here is the GREEK word (Strong’s G3472) **mória**, meaning “folly, dull, lacking sharpness”. It is a related word to **móros** (Strong’s G3474), the Greek word translated into English as “moron”.

Let’s look at the HEBREW letter-picture for FOOLISHNESS ...

There are TWO Hebrew words for fool/foolishness:

1. Strong's H191 — “EVIL” — as used in:

Proverbs 15:2 “2 The tongue of the wise utters knowledge rightly, but the mouth of the [self-confident] fool pours out **folly**.”

Psalms 69:5 “5 O God, You know my **folly** and blundering; my sins and my guilt are not hidden from You.”

2. Strong's H5528 — “SAKAL” — related word used in:

Ecclesiastes 7:25 “25 I turned about [penitent] and my heart was set to know and to search out and to seek [true] wisdom and the reason of things, and to know that wickedness is **folly** and that **foolishness** is madness [and what had led me into such wickedness and madness].”

Both these Hebrew words point in the direction of a lack of wisdom and foolish behavior ... however, for the letter-picture, we will use SAKAL (Strong's H5528).

S-(a)-K-(a)-L is spelt:

- **SAMEKH** = support, twist slowly, turn.
- **KAF** = a palm, to open, cover.
- **LAMED** = authority, control, tongue.

The picture we get from the letters is: “*Words that twist the truth slowly cover the True Authority of GOD*”.

After the fall, we lost the ability to relate to GOD — the TRUTH was twisted, and deception came in. The things of GOD became foolish/moronic. We have to have a **revelation** — “*I never saw this before!!!*” — the lifting of the veil.

INFORMATION VS. REVELATION

Information is simply data in the mind. Information must be *transformed* into REVELATION-TRUTH, in our hearts. Information (like quoting Scriptures/etc.) will not change us nor others alike, until it becomes *revelation* — until the LIGHT of truth penetrates darkness — and by the Spirit of GOD, the seeds (quoting Scriptures/etc.) germinate and bring LIFE.

These germinated seeds must then be mixed with Biblical FAITH and a SH'MA³ response ... with the continual study of GOD's Word.

All information comes to us as SEED. REVELATION is the *experiential* knowledge of truth. *Experiential* knowledge is intimate, progressive, and effectual — it is what is referenced in:



John 8:32 “32 And you will **know** the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.”

- **KNOW**

- *Ginóskó* (Strong's G1097) — meaning “to come to know, recognize, perceive”. HELPS Word-Studies expounds: “**1097 ginóskō** — properly, *to know*, especially through *personal experience* (*first-hand* acquaintance). 1097/*ginóskō* (‘experientially know’) is used for example in Luke 1:34, ‘And Mary [a virgin] said to the angel, ‘How will this be since I do not *know* (1097/*ginóskō* = sexual intimacy) a man?’”
- This word is closely related to the HEBREW word “yada” (Strong's H3045), used in when “Adam knew Eve” — however, this is the same word GOD used in his relationship with Abraham (Genesis 18:19). It is an intimate knowing/relationship. There is much more depth to be discovered, and encourage the reader to do further study.

Many people can *tell* you about Y'shua (Jesus) — Who He is, what He did on the cross, etc. — but until the veil is lifted, and TRUTH is *experienced/revealed* — information will not *penetrate* the heart.

The Greek word for revelation is “photoso”, meaning “enlightenment”.

Ephesians 1:17-18 “[For I always pray to] the GOD of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, that He may grant you a **spirit of wisdom and revelation** [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, by having the **eyes of your heart flooded with light**, so that you can **know** and **understand** the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His Glorious Inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones).”

³ The Hebrew word meaning to “HEAR and DO”. For additional study, see [“SH'MA - A Hebraic Concept Everyone Can Embrace”](#).

An example of “photoso” is when a camera shutter opens and allows light to come in. If the shutter does not open, you do not get a picture. Likewise, if the **veil** is not removed from a person’s eyes/heart, the LIGHT and TRUTH of GOD’s Word and the Gospel doesn’t get in.

THE HEARTS OF MEN VS. WOMEN

MANY people have experienced that it is easier for *women* to come to Y’shua (Jesus), than men. Women are more sensitive and emotional (right-brained), and so tend to be more open to the supernatural and the moving of the Spirit.

On the other hand, men tend to be more logical and “left-brained” — more skeptical and closed to the Spirit. GOD gave men the desire/calling to protect, cover, nurture, bless, and care for someone else ... however, this became perverted and INWARD/self-focused at the fall ... and turned to PRIDE and EGO!!

More women are open to counselling than men, because it is harder for men to say: “I need help; I was wrong; I want to give up the leadership/control of my life over to Someone else”.

The same applies to teenagers. Their natural development (growing-up) is to find themselves at this stage. They will tend to have much pride and much rebellion.

- Parents: “When are you going to start going to church?”
- Teenager: “NEVER! — (Pride) — Nobody is going to tell me what to do!”

Do not try to convince people in a *human* way — be careful not to reason with them, argue, on your own strength. Be led by the Holy Spirit on how to share the Truth with someone, and what to say.

Sometimes, for some people, this will be sharing more information/facts/Scriptures ... for others, it will be saying less, and just planting little seeds. ***Always remember!! It is your LOVE, lifestyle, and ACTIONS that speak louder than any words/facts/info.*** Be sure to also use GOD’s Weapons:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not **carnal**, but **mighty** through GOD to the **pulling down of strongholds**; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of GOD, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

Let’s look at some of the words used here ...

- **CARNAL**
 - You CANNOT do this from a human perspective — relying on our OWN strength has the opposite effect ... **pride** kicks in. You will never reach a person with natural means alone (depending on the person), arguments, or reasoning — YOU must rely on the Power of the Holy Spirit, to give you the right words, at the right time ... and that the Spirit draw the person and open their eyes/heart.
- **MIGHTY**
 - *Dunatos* (Strong's G1415) — meaning “miracle power in action; powerful or capable (literally or figuratively); neuter possible — able, could, (that is) mighty (man), possible, power, strong”.
- **PULLING DOWN**
 - *Kathairesis* (Strong's G2506) — meaning “to cast down; demolition; destruction of a fortress; figuratively of religious knowledge or experience”.
- **STRONGHOLD**
 - *Ochuroma* (Strong's G3794) — meaning “fortress; castle; prison; used metaphorically of any strong points or arguments in which one trusts”.
 - HELPS Word-Studies expounds: “**3794** *oxýrōma* (from the root *oxyroō*, “fortify”) — a fortified, military stronghold; a strong-walled fortress (A-S), used only in 2 Cor 10:4. Here 3794/*oxýrōma* (“a heavily-fortified containment”) is used figuratively of a *false argument* in which a person seeks “shelter” (“a safe place”) to *escape reality*. [3794 (*oxýrōma*) is also used for a *prison* in antiquity (BAGD). “The word is not common in Classical Greek, but occurs frequently in the Apocrypha. In its use here there may lie a reminiscence of the rock-forts on the coast of Paul’s native Cilicia, which were pulled down by the Romans in their attacks on the Cilician pirates. Pompey inflicted a crushing defeat upon their navy off the rocky stronghold of Coracesium on the confines of Cilicia and Pisidia” (WS, 833).]
 - Satan is ruling sinners from strongholds within them, and these must be demolished.

Besides the demonic/spiritual forces at work within people, to keep them bound — what else makes up these strongholds that need to be demolished?

- Opinions,
- Generational and emotional lie-based thinking,
- Worldviews,
- Mindsets,
- “Life commandments” deeply ingrained in our thinking ...



These are some of the *strongest* strongholds⁴. When *any* information comes to you — generally before you can even think about it in your *conscious* mind, the information is filtered, categorized, and analyzed by your *subconscious* mind ... before you even think about it, you have an opinion about what you’ve heard. It is a **LEARNED** skill to **NOT** react from the filters of our subconscious mind, but to instead be open, and consider/judge/discern the information ...

This is what is involved in the word “imagination” used in verse five:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through **GOD** to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down **imagination**s, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of **GOD**, and bringing into captivity every **thought** to the obedience of Christ.”

- **IMAGINATIONS**
 - *Logismos* (Strong’s G3053) — meaning “computation, i.e. (figuratively) reasoning (conscience, conceit) — imagination, thought”. But as HELPS Word-Studies expounds, this is more than thoughts — it is “‘bottom-line’ reasoning that reflects someone’s values, i.e. how they *personally* assign *weight* in determining what *they find reasonable*”. These imaginations are the **belief system** inside — a **paradigm**, a **philosophy**, a **worldview**. It’s not just what the person thinks, but **WHY** they think it. This is what has been **put into them all their lives** by what they have been **taught** or have **experienced** (e.g. rejection).

⁴ NOTE!! These strongholds not only keep *unbelievers* blinded and bound — but are the bondages/hindrances that **BELIEVERS** *must* also deal with and cast down, in order to walk in greater intimacy with **GOD**, and fullness of the Spirit. For more info, see our J2F8 materials, as well as our J2W series.

This flows on into the understanding of the word “thought” used later in the passage:

- **THOUGHT**

- *Noema* (Strong’s G3540) — meaning “a thought; a concept of the mind; a **scheme**; a **device** (a plan or trick); contrivance (deceitful practise)”.
- HELPS Word-Studies expounds: “**3540** *nóēma* (a neuter noun, derived from 3539/*noiéō*, ‘to exert *mental* effort’) — properly, the *mind*, especially its *final output* (systematic understanding, *TDNT*). Note the *-ma* suffix which underlines the *result* of the thinking, i.e. the *personal* verdict that comes out of using the mind”.

Lastly, let’s look at the meaning of the following words used in the passage:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through GOD to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations, and every **high thing** that exalts itself against the **knowledge** of GOD, and bringing into captivity every **thought** to the obedience of Christ.”

- **HIGH THING**

- *Hupsoma* (Strong’s G5313) — meaning “something made high; elevated; figuratively of a **proud** adversary, a **lofty** tower **proudly** built up by the enemy; pride; **any exalted thing that exalts itself above GOD**. This the stronghold of **pride**, satan’s original sin in heaven. It keeps a person from submitting to Y’shua (Jesus). In intercession, **use your weapons** (the Name of Y’shua/Jesus, the Power of Holy Spirit, the Word of GOD) to come against the **root of pride** in the person’s life that is keeping them from submitting to Y’shua (Jesus).

- **KNOWLEDGE [OF GOD]**

- *Gnósis* (Strong’s G1108). The word used here is actually a cognate (a word related to) of the Greek word previously discussed, which means “experiential knowledge”.
- HELPS Word-Studies expounds: “**Cognate: 1108** *gnósis* (a feminine noun derived from 1097/*ginóskō*, ‘experientially know’) — *functional* (‘working’) knowledge gleaned from first-hand (personal) experience, connecting theory to application; ‘application-knowledge’, gained in (by) a direct relationship.”

- Again, we see in interceding for the lost, we need to pray against those things — thoughts, perceptions, worldviews, paradigms, etc. — that keep the person from a real, intimate, experiential relationship with GOD.

SAMPLE PRAYER

The following points are based on the above study of 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

ABBA FATHER, I lift up _____ to you. I pray and ask that You would open _____'s eyes and heart, to Your Light and TRUTH ... that the veil over _____'s eyes/heart begin to be removed.

I pray that Your Spirit would enable _____ to SEE ... that _____ be given REVELATION and UNDERSTANDING.

ABBA, would You draw _____, and soften _____'s heart to You and Your Spirit.

- **Praying against HINDRANCES and STRONGHOLDS:**

I pray that every HINDRANCE — un-Godly mindsets, lies/perceptions, belief systems, etc. that have been formed in _____ since birth — begin to be BROUGHT DOWN by Your Spirit, by the TRUTH.

I ask you FATHER, that these things will no longer keep _____ in bondage to lies and deception, and away from knowing the You ABBA FATHER, and following Y'shua (Jesus). I ask You ABBA FATHER, that You please release the POWER of Your Spirit to systematically demolish these strongholds, hindrances, and un-Godly mind sets in _____.

- **Praying against a root of PRIDE:**

In the Name of Y'shua (Jesus), I resist the root of pride in _____'s life that is keeping him/her from submitting to Y'shua (Jesus) as KING. I ask, ABA FATHER, that Your Holy Spirit will systematically destroy and pull up the root of pride that is established in _____'s life.

- **Praying against the ENEMY and his SCHEMES**

FATHER, I ask that satan's schemes and plans against _____ be resisted and cut off. I bind satan's thoughts and deceitful practises in _____'s life. I bind satan's activity in _____'s mind and declare that it is being demolished.

I ask You FATHER, that Your Spirit remove the veil that covers _____'s mind, so that he/she may see and understand the TRUTH of the gospel.

I pray _____ see Y'shua (Jesus) for Who He is — and met you ABBA FATHER, in a real/personal way.

AMEN!

NOTE!! The above prayer is merely a guideline in some of the points to pray in intercessory warfare for your family and friends. There are general strongholds that keep every unbeliever bound — however, every person is also UNIQUE ... you will NEED to be led by the Holy Spirit when you pray. Ask Him to show you a specific strategy on how to pray for the person you feel burdened for. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what are the mindsets, false religions, emotional/childhood wounds, etc. to pray against.



We encourage you to pray for the person(s) DAILY. We also encourage you to ask the Holy Spirit to show you WHO to pray for — at WHEN. If you are going to commit to intercede for someone, and are new to this (not a seasoned prayer warrior), we would encourage you to focus on ONE person — and to pray for them faithfully every day, until your prayers are answered, or the Holy Spirit puts someone else on your heart.

Sometimes, it can take YEARS for the person to come to Y'shua (Jesus) — keep praying!! Don't give up ... be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.