

Embracing the World through Prayer

Do we pray for *all* of the saints all of the time?

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for *all* the saints. (Ephesians 6:18, NIV, emphasis added)

Most of us don't pray for all of the saints even some of the time. But we can, and according to the Apostle Paul, we should. One way to begin expanding our prayers is to simply add a line something like this to our daily prayers for specific needs:

"Father, I pray not only for the healing Bob needs, but for others in the body of Christ who are ill today...."

"Father, as I pray for the lost in my family, I ask you to include the lost in the families of all those in the body of Christ...."

"Father, I pray for Mary, that she will abide in Christ, and I include all those in the body of Christ—that we may all abide...."

God isn't limited by the people we know—

Jesus not only prayed for Peter specifically (Luke 22:32), but our Lord also prayed for His disciples who were with Him physically at that moment and the generations who would follow (John 17:20). God knows the numbers of hairs on everyone's head (Matthew 10:30). He knows all their thoughts (Psalm 139:2) and the motives of their hearts (Proverbs 16:2). Why not let Jesus be our model and our guide?