

August 25

Intensive Prayer Unit

Let them pray for him continually; let them bless him all day long.

Psalm 72:15

If there's one thing Barbara and I have learned during our many years of raising children, it's that prayer is indispensable. Irreplaceable. Life giving. That's why we went before God often with our children's personal matters in mind. And we urge you to do the same, being careful to do the following:

Pray offensively. Pray for your children's peer groups—that they will each have at least one strong Christian friend they can count on through the years. Ask God to protect your children daily from those who would be an evil influence. Also consider asking God to help you catch your children doing things right so that you can encourage them in making good choices.

Pray defensively. From time to time we felt that a child might be deceiving us, but we could never be absolutely certain. In those situations, we asked God to help us catch the child if he or she was doing something wrong. God seems to honor parents who pray this prayer!

Pray intensely. One of the most misunderstood spiritual disciplines of the Christian life is prayer accompanied by fasting (the giving up of food or something that you love for a prescribed period of time). According to the Scriptures, God assumes that we will fast and pray (see Matthew 6:16-18), and He promises to reward us if we do it with a pure heart and motive. We know one couple that set aside each Monday to fast, from sunrise to sundown, praying for their struggling teenager.

Any time God brings your children to mind is the perfect moment to bring their names and needs back before Him. As James 5:16 tells us, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much."

God delights in hearing the prayers of the "helpless parent."

Discuss

What are the top needs of each of your children?

Pray

Make your prayer time today focused on each of your children. If you don't have children, consider praying for a niece or nephew.

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