



A 4-step plan to build your personal prayer team

1) Select your prayer partners carefully

Whether you have one intercessor or three or seven or ten is up to you. The number isn't quite as critical as your choices.

Selecting your prayer partners isn't about spiritual superiority, it's about spiritual strategy.

There is a spiritual battle in play and it's serious. Just like you choose carefully who is on your worship team or your staff, your intercessors are just as important.

There are many who will pray for you on occasion, and that is great. It's needed. God may prompt one person to pray for you that you've never met, and that prayer can be life changing.

Your personal prayer team, however, has truly got your back on a consistent basis.

Your prayer partner(s) should be:

- A person who is called and committed to pray for you. (Your invitation may unearth their calling.)
- A person who loves to pray and has a track record of a strong prayer life.
- A person who loves the church and cares about you.
- A person you know and trust and can remain confidential.
- A person who takes God seriously but doesn't take themselves too seriously.

Last, but very important, ask for a one-year commitment at a time.

The purpose is to keep the commitment fresh. And if they choose to step off, no guilt only gratitude!

Together you can discuss if “signing on” for another year, one at a time, is agreeable.

2) Cast vision

Prayer is personal. It’s personal because it’s intimate in its connection with the spirit of God, and in the relationship you share with your prayer partners.

That doesn’t mean you necessarily pray with your prayer partners in person. That can be good but is often impractical.

Keep it simple, you don’t need to call meetings when you need prayer.

Vision helps keep that aligned, healthy and in perspective.

That doesn’t mean “church prayers only.” Not at all, many of your prayer requests will be personal, but the big picture is your leadership and the progress of the church in its mission.

3) Communicate regularly

Communication is another area to keep it simple. The vast majority of your prayer requests should be communicated through text. It’s fast, easy, and great for remaining in real time.

Do not bombard your prayer partners with several texts a day. Keep it realistic. Especially if they pray for you on a certain day of the week. Honor the agreement.

That said, there is no need to remain overly ridged, but be sure it’s okay with each prayer partner to occasionally “sneak” in a request beyond what they committed to.

Another important thing is to communicate answers to prayer back to your prayer partners.

Few things motivate an intercessor more than knowing how their prayers were answered, or if they need to keep praying.

4) Equip them and express gratitude

Send a book or two a year on prayer or spiritual leadership as an encouragement. You can also send a good blog post that encourages prayer.

Don’t make it more complicated than that.

The exchange of your prayer requests and answers to prayer is real time equipping for personal intercessors.

Expressing gratitude is easy when it is heart felt. Don't underestimate the power of "Thanks".