

## 6. Intercession Time

Intercession is praying for others, and it's an important part of a good daily devotion time. In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he gives clear instructions on how we should pray for others. He says:

**I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. (2:1-4)**

Intercessory prayer clearly pleases God and is expected to be a part of our daily lives. Plus it helps us to know God's heart.

For me, intercession has usually been the longest part of my devotion time with God. As a pastor, my two primary jobs were to equip the saints and intercede for the people. That was a big job with a congregation of over three thousand. But to facilitate this process, I used to pray visually for the people. I always had the church directory close by during my devotions and looked at the pictures of the families I was praying for. And I also had a system for the newer people in church. Periodically I'd ask people to allow the ushers and greeters to take Polaroid photos of them. Then I'd have them put the people's names on the pictures, hole-punch them, and put them on huge key rings. Then I'd pray through those pictures too.

Intercession is an important part of our devotion time. It not only benefits others and connects us to God, but it also helps us. As the Jewish proverb says, "He who prays for his neighbor will be heard for himself." More than that, intercession is at the heart of partnering with your pastor in prayer. And for that reason, I will talk about it in greater detail in chapter 5.