

Partner with God Part 4

Broaden your horizons

God is extremely people-centred and wants us to be too.

While Jesus was here on Earth he prayed for his disciples, John 17.6-18, and for all believers, John 17.20-26.

And now in heaven, in the very presence of God the Father, he still prays for us! Romans 8.34.

Notice, **first**, he wants us to be similarly people-centred, and the Bible spells it out –

In general, “pray for one another” James 5.16;

In particular, “build up one another” 1 Thessalonians 5.11; “encourage one another daily” Hebrews 3.13; “bear one another’s burdens” Galatians 6.2, etc.

Second, we can also be people-centred towards our unbelieving friends, praying for their conversion so God can bless them too.

Third, but how can we be people-centred towards those who oppress us, or who are leading people astray, or are a bad influence in other ways? Jesus recommends, “pray for those who despitefully use you, and persecute you.” Matthew 5.44.

I wonder if such a prayer, or similar, came from citizens in the Western (Christian-based) combatant nations – those who were the victors in World War 2. After the war *they helped their former enemies return to normal life!*

What an example to the rest of the world!

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God wants to influence history – your history.

Ken Packer