

INTERCESSORY PRAYER - PART ONE

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PERSONAL INTERCESSION

(Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV) "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. {2} But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."

The people of Israel were in trouble. Their sins and disregard for God had positioned them for judgment. They had angered God. His prophet Isaiah let them know their prayers were not going to be heard or answered. They needed someone to pray for them, to intercede. They needed someone to whom God would listen.

*(Isaiah 59:16 NKJV) "He saw that there was no man, **And wondered that there was no intercessor**; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him."*

"And wondered that there was no intercessor;"

New Living Translation:

"He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed."

New International Translation:

"He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;"

God's Word Translation:

"He sees that there's no one to help. He's astounded that there's no one to intercede."

God always has a plan. His plan is to hear the prayers of a righteous man or woman and respond.

God has chosen to use intercessors to cry out on behalf of others. Many things are accomplished only in answered prayer.

1. God gives the gift of intercession to individuals.
2. He gathers and positions intercessors together as a team to pray about circumstances and His purposes. They are required to pray in the following ways:
 - Unity of spirit
 - Unity of purpose
 - Unity of agreement to covenant with each other and support the spiritual authority God places them under
3. God uses the prayers of intercessors to accomplish His purposes - to fulfill His will - to change the circumstances.

**God's Design
for Prayer**

4. Neither the intercessors, nor their prayers are the change agent of the circumstances. The Holy Spirit hears and chooses to respond to your prayers. He is the only Agent of change.

Without intercession... without prayer, our world becomes a wasteland that makes even God wonder why there is no intercessor who will step into the gap and pray.

- Intercession is an incredibly valuable service to the church.
- Intercessors swim in deep waters and have the ear of God.

The Potential for Danger in Intercession

Because of the nature and spiritual depth required of intercession, there is **enormous potential for good**, but intercession can also have the **potential for enormous evil or wrong**.

1. Intercessors invade the spirit realm and are, by themselves, no match for the forces they will encounter. They can be overpowered and controlled. They can be manipulated and deceived into praying against God's will.
2. Trying to be "super-spiritual" is nothing more than the flesh working extra hard. Being super-spiritual is a setup! You will get hurt or hurt somebody. You can find yourself exposed to spiritual forces for which you are no match.
3. Intercessors are easy targets for the spirit of pride. The same spirit that caused a third of the angels to follow Satan - the same spirit that caused Nimrod to build the tower of Babel - the same spirit that caused Aaron and Miriam to challenge Moses' authority - can be unleashed in intercession. It can suck you in.

What is the intercessors' safety zone?

The safety zone is found in one thing - that which God enjoys and desires from all His children - **worship**.

Worship and intercession must go together. Only through genuine worship can you put yourself in a safe and effective position to serve in intercession to God. **Why?**

1. Worship puts us in position to approach God.
2. Worship reminds us of who we are and who He is.
3. Worship quiets our souls so we can hear God.

4. Worship allows us to hear God before we speak. Hearing God allows the Holy Spirit to speak to us and declare His will. Then we know and pray the will of God.
5. Too many intercessors throw petitions at God as if He is some kind of genie in a bottle, ready to give them three wishes.

Too often we throw our petitions at Him and try to dictate what we want to happen or what we assume should happen. We never get ourselves in a position where we can pray the will of God because we have not worshiped and listened.

Worship first, listen, listen, listen... then pray. Why?

1. We must conform our minds to the mind of Christ.
2. We must open a way for the compassion of Christ to flood our hearts - every time we get ready to intercede. We do this as we identify with Christ through worship.
3. We are not to be praying with judgment or self-righteousness! It will kill people. It will stop the hand of God!

We must get the will of God so we can pray it!
(The way to the will of God is to get the heart of God.)

The devil does not mind if all we want to do is engage in warfare. He enjoys and welcomes the fight as long as his adversary is not thinking the way God is thinking, and therefore, not following God's plan. Victory in intercession requires two things - first, the mind of Christ, and second, the heart of God. You have to hear God to pray the will of God. You have to worship, seek His heart and listen to His voice.

Our example is Jesus.

(Philippians 2:4-5 God's Word Translation) "Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. {5} Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."

*(1 Corinthians 2:16 NKJV) "For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.***

*(Ephesians 6:6 NKJV) "not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart,**"*

(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) "clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."

FIRST PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION
GET THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE HEART OF GOD
BEFORE YOU PRAY.

Often intercessors petition God out of sympathy for someone's trouble. These are prayers based on emotions. This is an open door to involuntary witchcraft. We find ourselves praying to manipulate God into fixing the problem. In doing so, we reject or ignore the sovereign will of God. We have not sought His will and prayed in agreement with it. Our good intentions are turned on us and we open the door to the devil. Emotional sympathy comes from a good heart, but it can make us blind to the will of God. Our prayers can cancel what would have been His prayers. Identify with God's sovereign interest and concern for others. Otherwise...

- We miss the plans, purposes and will of God. We pray wrongly.
- We miss what the Spirit is saying about the situation.
- We miss our opportunity to agree with God in a prayer that will not be ignored in heaven.

SECOND PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION
IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES. SEEK THE
WILL OF GOD BEFORE YOU PRAY!

(1 John 5:14-15 NKJV) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Praying in the Spirit

(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"

New Living Translation:

"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit."

To pray in the spirit means to pray both in your own language and in tongues (1 Corinthians 12 & 14). It also means praying in the presence of, and in submission to the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. It means acknowledging your dependence upon

Him. It means rejecting the kingdom of your own flesh and making yourself aware of the full authority of the kingdom of God. Doing so brings the ability to hear the voice of God, respond in appropriate prayers and to keep your foot on your own flesh.

(Romans 8:26-27 NKJV) "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. {27} Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Prayer power demands absolute surrender to the Holy Spirit. Paul had power because he was not his own. He had surrendered. He made himself a temple of the Holy Spirit. God saw fit to dwell in Paul. He will do the same for you. Make yourself a holy temple.

(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV) "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? {20} For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

Maintain yourself as an abiding place for the Holy Spirit. He will make His home in you. You must respect His presence by keeping your "temple" in spiritual order. You must connect with Him as your Divine Partner in your journey through life. In a very real sense, you will always carry Him with you. He will help you to pray the will of God. He will keep you and your group from falling into witchcraft in your prayers. God will be well pleased.

THIRD PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION
WHEN YOU PRAY IN THE SPIRIT... YOU WILL NEVER BE
IGNORED IN HEAVEN!

The Victory Side of the Cross

The intercessor must continually ask, *"Am I abiding in Jesus - as a daily lifestyle? Am I living on the victory side of the cross? Am I constantly aware that the blood of Jesus has been shed?"*

We must trust the blood in our intercession.

Dwell in the protective, empowering covering of His blood. Apply the conquering power of the blood to your prayers. Too many want to ignore the blood. Intercessors must abide under the blood. To abide under the blood means to abide in Jesus, in obedience, trust and faith... as a lifestyle. It means you will not be moved by what you see, but by Who you know!

- Are you taking the time to live under the blood of Jesus?
- Are you aware of the power in the blood?

FOURTH PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION

REMEMBER THE CROSS AND THEN COVER YOUR PRAYERS IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS!

The Name above Every Name: Intercession's Guarantee

The Scriptures are clear. The name of Jesus is the door to the throne. The name of Jesus combined with the blood of Jesus is the combination that empowers intercession to knock out the enemy.

(John 14:13 NKJV) "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

(John 15:7 NKJV) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

Again:

(1 John 5:14-15 NKJV) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

Add it up!

The Will of God

+ The Blood of Jesus

+ The Name of Jesus

= A Winning Combination for intercessors who are humble and confident before Christ. Let your voices be heard in heaven. What you bind in heaven will be bound on earth and what you loose in heaven will be loosed on earth. The will of God be done!