

# The Power of Intercession

I Timothy 2:1-8 | Ephesians 6:18  
Ezekiel 22:30 | Isaiah 59:16

## **Intro:**

What is Intercession?

*It is the session of classes between Christmas and the Spring semester*

Not all prayer is intercession. 90-99% of most of our praying is petition, that is, prayers about “me” and my needs, and wants.

God is longing for, looking for, and waiting for intercessors to respond to his invitation to come boldly to the Throne of Grace to find mercy and grace to help in the time of need.

**Hebrews 4:14-16**

As we look at the matter of intercession this evening let us ask three important questions

- ◇ What Is Intercession?
- ◇ Why Does God Need Intercessors?
- ◇ How Is This To Be Done?


## ◇ **What Is Intercession?**

Word Pictures of Intercessors

### **Moses and Aaron**

Probably the most profound picture of intercessory prayer in the Bible is found in Exodus 17 with Moses, Aaron, and Hurr. – Exodus 17:11-16

 Abraham - for Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:23-33)

 Moses - for the people (Exodus 32)

 Hezekiah - for his life (2 Kings 20:1-11 sun dial goes back)

 Jonah - for Ninevah (Jonah 4:10-11)

 Paul - for Israel (Romans 9-11)

## ◇ What Is Intercession?

Intercession is standing in the gap for others. In mountain climbing lingo it is holding the ropes, or belaying. One ascends, or descends if it is spelunking, while another or others hold the rope. In ancient deep sea diving with the steel tanks it is to stand guard manning the oxygen pumps.

Intercession is pleading a cause of another. In the Biblical sense of intercession it means to “*plead the cause of another before the throne of God.*” Literally to be an advocate, just as Jesus is our advocate ( John 2:1) before the Father.

Just as the Ministry of Intercession is Christ’s ministry before the Father for us, so we are to be intercessors for others before the throne.

- Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.
- Romans 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.
- Romans 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.
- Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Paul relates it to spiritual warfare in two passages:

- I Timothy 2:1-2 (see the “therefore” related to 1:18 - war a good warfare)
- Ephesians 6:18 (again, in the context of spiritual warfare)

Intercession is to pray according to the will of God - the mind of God.

*“Lord, break my heart with the things that break the heart of God.”*

Luther said,

*“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of his willingness.”*

Prayer exists for the glory of God. It may be properly said that God answers prayer for his glory and our good, but never is it for our good only.

*Intercession then is a **shield of prayer** that builds up a wall of protection, and appeals to God for intervention on behalf of others for his glory.*

## ◇ Why Does God Need Intercessors?

There are corollary questions we ought to ask, like

- Why does God need angels?
- Why did God not destroy the Devil once and for all?
- Why did God create man in the first place? What's the point?

The Sovereignty of God is a great mystery. If God is sovereign and knows the end from the beginning, why does he ask us to pray? Is prayer really of any use at all if all things are foreknown and foreordained?

Isaiah says his thoughts are not our thoughts and his ways are not our ways. His thoughts are past finding out.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.  
Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

### ☞ God chooses to work through his people, his intercessors.

- The priesthood of the believer is not a new concept.  
Exodus 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.
- We are to be a kingdom of priests.  
1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

### ☞ God chooses to involve us in spiritual battles. Eph. 6:10-18

- Eph 3:6-7 Made us to sit together with him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
- Eph 3:10 To make all men know the mystery... to principalities, might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God
- Eph 6:10-18 Stand...Put on the whole armor of God... praying always with all prayer
- 2 Cor 10:3-4 The weapons of our warfare are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

### ☞ God chooses to spoil the enemy's plans through you. Col 2:13-15

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

*Bind the strong man, then spoil his goods.*

- Matthew 12:29 Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.
- Mark 3:27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; and then he will spoil his house.
- Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- Matthew 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

## ◇ How Is Intercession To Be Done?

Firstly, I must note that intercession never is solely petition for others. It is first of all getting before the throne of God, getting into the Spirit, agreeing with God about his will and purposes, then interceding on the behalf of others. Intercession that is just petition for others is out of order. It is not true intercession. Intercession is to pray according to the Spirit of God, or in the Spirit.

### ☞ Privately alone before God.

Enter into your closet - Matthew 6:

Jesus got up before dawn, went into the wilderness, etc Mark 1:35

Peter was on a housetop in prayer - Acts 10:9

### ☞ In small groups, where two or three agree in prayer.

Matthew 18:18-20

Two of you agree as touching any thing, you shall ask

### ☞ As the church corporately at prayer.

Upper Room - tarry until you be empowered - Acts 10:9

Prayer was made without ceasing unto God for him - Acts 12

(ie) Brooklyn Tabernacle - Tuesday prayer meeting - 2000+ people

Calling on God in unison

Leaders are in the front section

## Closing

### *How To Practice Intercession in the Spirit*

Begin small. Begin one hour, one day per week. Find an alone place to soak yourself in God's presence.

1. Cleanse your heart of sin
2. Confess your weakness and inability
3. Die to your own wants and wishes - not my will but Your will be done
4. Ask God to fill you with Holy Spirit and lead you by his Spirit
5. Deal with the devil, bind, resist, rebuke,
6. Praise and thank the Lord, worship in His presence
7. Wait quietly until God burdens your heart for a need
8. Pray all around that need, Let your request be made known unto God
9. Pray until you have peace that the need is met.
10. Believe God has prayed through you and leave believing for miracles.