

Intercession- Holy Spirit teach us how to pray

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

-Rom. 8:26-27

I. Defining Intercession:

A. Hebrew definitions:

1. paga- Strong's #6293 which means to encounter, meet, reach, fall, attack and make supplication
 - Root word, pagash- Strong's #6298 which means an accidental or violent encounter (Prov. 17:12)
2. alal- Strong's #6419 which means to mediate, judge, intervene, to pray

B. Greek definitions:

1. enteuxis- Strong's #1783 which means to interview, meet with, to visit, to make supplication
2. entugchano- Strong's 1793 which means to light upon, to fall in with, to make supplication.

C. Standing in the gap

"And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none."- Ezek. 22:30

1. Intercession is defined as standing between two opposing parties with the aim of resolving division, and with the goal of always bringing reconciliation.

D. The means by which to access grace (Eph 3:16; Ps. 55:1-2; Ps. 102:1-2)

1. Gifts into intercession:
 - Study/meditating of the word
 - Fasting
 - Silence
 - Mourning
 - Singing/worshipping

II. Biblical Examples:

A. Abraham: Interceded for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah to be spared from wrath.

B. Moses: Interceded for Israel before the Lord; bringing judgment upon the land of Egypt, and deliverance to the Israelites.

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C. Elijah: Had already prophesied three years of drought and then three years of rain, but he followed up that prophecy with interceding for its manifestation.

D. Jeremiah: Cried out many years to God on Israel's behalf, and cried out to the people on God's behalf.

E. Daniel: Understood his role to cooperate with God through fasting and prayer, asking Him to fulfill His promise.

F. Paul: Valued prayer highly and asked for it constantly, more than his preaching and more than his teachings (Rom. 1:9; 1 Cor 1:4; 2 Cor 11:28; Eph 1:16; 6:18; Phil 1:3,4; Col 1:3; 1 Thess 1:2,3; 3:10; 2 Thess 1:11; 2 Tim 1:3)

III. Jesus the Great Intercessor:

"Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us."- Rom. 8:34

A. the cross displayed intercession:

"He was numbered with the transgressors...and made intercession for the transgressors."- Is. 53:1

B. Our Mediator:

"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."- 1 Tim 2:5

C. High Priest:

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but One who in respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin"- Heb. 4:15

D. Always interceding:

"Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."- Heb. 7:25

E. Our Advocate:

"...but if anyone does sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."- 1 Jn. 2:1

IV. Friendship with God:

"For the Lord God does nothing without revealing His secret to His servants the prophets"- Amos 3:7

A. Intercession is a byproduct of intimacy

1. We become burdened with what He is burdened with.

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- B. God has emotions within His heart that He wants to share
 - 1. Jeremiah carried the burdens of the Lord (Jer. 4:5-6; 10:19; 13:17-18; 14:7-9. 17)
- C. Intercession is about fellowshipping with God
- D. God hears us, and moves at the sound of our voice (SS 2:14)
- E. Our highest calling is to know God!

V. Our Great Privilege and Eternal Glory:

"One of the greatest glories and mysteries of God is that He has orchestrated His kingdom to operate only in conjunction with human involvement."- Cory Russell

- A. Eternal calling of every believer
- B. God desires voluntary partnership
- C. Intercession really matters
 - 1. If we pray people get saved, things happen, circumstances change, etc.
 - 2. If we don't pray these things don't happen.
- D. John Nelson Hyde (Missionary to India; 1865-1912)
 - 1. Praying Hyde~ The man who never sleeps
 - Example: One soul a day for a year/doubling the goal the following year
 - Other missionaries could not understand his methods
 - The years of travail shifted his heart from left to right side

"It lays its hand on Almighty God and moves Him to do what He would not otherwise do if prayer was not offered. It brings things to pass which would never otherwise occur." -EM Bounds

- E. Primary cry of intercession:
 - 1 Your Kingdom come! (Mt. 5:9-10, Rom 8:22-23, Rev. 22:17)

VI. God's Governmental Structure:

- A. God has chosen intercession as the primary means in which He releases His government (power) through Jesus and with His people both now and forever.

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VII. Motives and character really matters:

A. What hinders intercession?

1. **Pleasing men/Pride**~ "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly I say to you, they have their reward."- Mt. 6:5
2. **Unbelief**~ "But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.." - James 1:6-7
3. **Dishonoring your wives**~ "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as the weaker vessel, and being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." - 1 Pet. 3:7
4. **Insincerity/Vanity**~ "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentile do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him."- Mt. 6:7-8
5. **Greed/Covetousness**~ "What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions."- James 4:1-3

B. What makes intercession effectual?

1. **Humility**~ "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble" -James 4:6
2. **Knowing His will**~ "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us." -1 Jn. 5:14-15
 - Rom. 12:2 (Renewing of the mind)
3. **Righteousness**~ " The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective"- James 5:16
4. **Thankfulness**~ "...but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."-Phi 4:6
5. **Perseverance**~ "Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints."- Eph 6:18

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VIII. Intercession requires faith and authority:

*"I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel.
I am moved only by what I believe."-Smith Wigglesworth*

A. We have been given priestly authority to stand in the place of intercession by the blood of Christ. (Eph. 2:4-6; 1 Pet 9:10)

B. We must come boldly!

1. "If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."- Jn. 14:14

C. He rewards those who seek Him.

1. "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and rewards those who seek Him."
-Heb. 11:6

IX. Real Work:

"Prayer pulls the rope below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly. Others give but an occasional pluck at the rope. But he who wins with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously, with all his might." -Charles Spurgeon

"And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart." - Luke 18:1

A. Requires perseverance (Luke 18:1-8)

B. Intercession is the work of prayer

C. 21st Century Christians often wont engage in an activity unless it has a relatively quick pay off.

D. We think ministry and service is the actual work of the kingdom, but what we fail to understand is that whatever happens in the natural is a result of labor in the closet.

E. Praying in the Spirit

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X. In Context to BHOP and the Prayer Movement:

*"A man who kneels before God will stand before men."
-Leonard Ravenhill*

- A. BHOP desires to be a place that facilitates 24/7 Worship and Intercession
- B. A place set apart that declares both the beauty of God, and agrees with His purposes upon earth.
- C. A place where many intercessors that contend for His purposes now will be released by the Holy Spirit to be faithful witnesses then.
- D. Agreeing with the judgments of God in intercession at the end of the age (Rev. 5:8-10, Rev. 8:3-5)