

## INTERCESSION FOR OTHERS

The Word of God says that Jesus ever lives to intercede for us before God. He is our example of God's intercessor and prayer warrior. Hebrews 5:7 says a lot about Jesus the intercessor:

**"Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear"**

We are also instructed to be 'one' with Christ Jesus. We are called to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation. In the shadow and type of priesthood as revealed in the Old Testament, the priest goes into the holy temple to pray for the people. We, likewise, from the time of being a temple of the Holy Spirit, are called to pray for others.

In fact, God so designed us to be dependent upon others in prayer. Not only for them to pray for us, but we need to pray for others. We get 'forgiveness' by praying for ourselves, but we get 'healed' by praying for others. (James 5:16) If all the members of the body are doing their part, we have a physically and spiritually healthy body.

**"Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men" 1Tim 2:1**

I came to know that if I thought I saw my wife or someone else doing something wrong, then I could take it to the Lord. I no longer had to do the fleshly thing and argue with or rebuke the other person in the flesh. If the other person was truly wrong, God would change them right before my eyes (in many cases). Or if I was the wrong one, God would convict me and when I repented for the beam in my own eye, and He would change me, the bottom line being that I could now get along with that person. What a blessing!

In the beginning of my walk with the Lord, it seemed like I had so much wrong with me that I was continually praying for myself only. Had I been wise and had I loved my brothers and sisters, I would also have been praying for them and the healing process would have been much quicker. But I had to

deal with my judgement and hatred for others before I could have compassion on them and pray for them, and have my prayers for them answered.

**“He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also beset by weakness”**

**Heb 5:2**

Once I began to judge sin and not people, God put it into my heart to pray for others. He taught me what to do and how to cover the sins of others. I would like to share this with my brothers and sisters so that the body of Christ may be edified and that the Lord may be lifted up.

Let's look at the instructions that Jesus gave to us regarding prayer for others. After He breathed the Holy Spirit onto His disciples in John 20:22, He continues to talk to them and tell them;

**“If you remit the sins of anyone, they are remitted. If you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained.”**

The word “remit” in the Strong's concordance (863) means to send forth, cry, forgive, forsake, lay aside, let go, omit, send away, and to yield up. This Word is given to all believers, not to just the apostles 2000 years ago. If God is calling you to pray for others, please act in your calling. You can read how to pray for others in the following pages.

We are told in Isaiah 59:2

**“But your iniquities have separated you from your God;  
And your sins have hidden His face from you”.**

We should be actively seeking out our sins and iniquities and removing them so we can have a closer relationship with God.

In scripture, 'sin' and 'iniquity' is likened to debt and heavy burdens. We are reminded to pay our debts and also to help others with their burdens. Even in the Lord's prayer He said these words to encourage us in prayer:

**“Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts  
as we forgive others who are indebted to us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil..."**

Our 'daily bread' is the Lord showing us areas of wrongness, as well as the other wisdom, council, knowledge, truth, instruction, etc. The part about "Give us this day" requires that we ask the Lord to show us these areas of wrongness. And then, we must take action and ask Him to forgive us the areas shown to us and we must take action to change our walk to be newness in life.

We have not because we ask not. So when we ask to be shown areas of wrongness, (our daily bread), then we must wait for that dream, that rebuke, that mirror image, the convicting scripture or circumstance, etc. Then we take it to Jesus.

The "as we forgive others" part is like a two-edged sword. We must forgive others as the Word says, or we will not be forgiven. That's one edge. The other edge is the implication that when taken with the next line, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" implies that we must be 'healed' from that which causes us to sin:..... That's the "pray-for-others-that-we-might-be-healed" part (James 5:16). When we are healed, the temptation will no longer have power over us and we will not sin. The forgiveness of others is necessary so that we can pray for them because it is very difficult to pray for anyone that we have unforgiveness or judgement towards.

So I need you and you need me in the healing process. I pray for you and you pray for me. Remember, I get forgiveness when I pray for myself (which I must do to get the beam out of my own eye) but I get healed when I pray for others.

If I am called to pray for another, it doesn't mean that I will go to them physically and tell them all about it and the area of wrongness. I might be called to do this, but usually, I am to go to my prayer closet and intercede for them in secret.

I would like to now insert my testimony as to God's goodness to me and give you an example of what happened to me when someone prayed for me. Someone was shown a burden (sin) I was carrying, which was a debt to God that I owed but could not pay because of my hardness. Take a look at God's mercy in my case. Here's what happened.

The time was a few months after I had met our new Pastor and a lot of new believers who were drawn together into a fellowship like a new church. We had all committed ourselves to the cleansing and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We were learning about the importance of repentance and were beginning to practice it.

One day, our Pastor heard from the Lord that I could not go any further in this repentant walk with Him because I had hatred in my heart for my first wife. (My first marriage 20 years before had been a disaster). He came to my house and told me what he had received from the Lord about the hatred for my first wife.

I began a series of denials (the likes of which I have come to know is sure-fire proof of guilt). I had all the excuses you could imagine:

I said:

1. "Man, how could I hate her. She did me a favor by leaving me."
2. "If she hadn't left me I would never have married my present wife."
3. "How could I hate someone who did me such a big favor?"

On and on I ranted with my excuses and my lies. Now listen, If I accepted that the Lord spoke to this Pastor, and if I trusted the Lord to speak truth to me, then what's the big problem? I should have been saying:

"Yes. Although I can't see it right now because it's covered over with 20 years of hurt and denial, it must be true because God does not lie and I trust in Him".

But, sadly, I was not yet ready for "truth" in my life and obviously did not believe that the 'truth would make me free' (John 8:32). It took another ten years for me to fully appreciate what the Lord did for me that day through my Pastor. That's how far from God I was.

Before I tell you what my Pastor did for me that day, let me first tell the dream I had the night before:

**DREAM: In the dream, I was sitting with my Pastor in a room which had two chairs and a very old radio. The radio was on and my Pastor was listening to it. I could have been listening to it, too, but I choose to let him listen for me.**

**In the dream my Pastor, who had been listening to the old radio suddenly got up and came over to me and said, "It's time to go".**

**As we stood there together, a whirlwind began to lift both of us up to Heaven, just like Elijah was taken up.(2Kings 2:11)**

**We were both RAPTURED, And that was the dream.**

Now back to the story of what my Pastor did for me that day when I was so full of denial about the hatred I had for my first wife. He said, "Well, you're not seeing it, are you? Why don't you go into the next room and pray for God to show it to you (the hatred) and I'll intercede for you at the same time."

So I went into the next room, a small study off the living area, and got on my knees to pray. I could hear my Pastor in the next room as he prayed for me. He took the sin of hatred upon himself and started repenting to God as if he were me. He was weeping and repenting for that sin as if he was the guilty party.

I didn't know what to make of that kind of praying because I was so new in the faith that I did not actually know at the time what he was doing. Later it was revealed to me that he was a priest before God and part of his calling was to intercede for others like me who had been separated from God by sin.

Well, while this prayer was going on in the next room, all of which I could hear, and while I was kneeling down on the floor, suddenly I had a vision and I was looking at a scroll or a piece of old parchment on which my denials had been written. It said over and over:

"I don't hate her, no, I don't hate her"

"I don't hate her, no, I don't hate her"

"I don't hate her, no, I don't hate her"

"Etc....."

Then, just as suddenly, in the vision the parchment began to turn over and on the back side it was written over and over:

"Boy, do I ever hate her"  
"Boy, do I ever hate her"  
"Boy, do I ever hate her".....Etc

Then, conviction and Godly sorrow hit me, and I, too, began to weep and confess my hatred to God, and ask for forgiveness. And by God's mercy and grace, I was forgiven for the hatred that, just a few moments before, I had been denying!

This was God's mercy towards me. He brought a Godly prayer intercessor to me, a priest before God, who prayed for me and God heard his prayer. What a miracle He gave in my behalf. Thank you Jesus!

He took my debt and excused it; or rather, He erased it. And later, He taught me to do the same for others. What a blessing! And part of my testimony is that **"The effective fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much"** (James 5:16b) and I also help others, just like my Pastor prayed for me.

So how much help and what kind of help can I be to a brother or sister who needs prayer for sin? One hint we are given in the scriptures is the parable of the unjust steward (Luke 16:1-13). He reduced the debts that others owed to his master by as much as 50% and the Lord commended him for his shrewdness. This is similar to seeing a prayer need(debt) in others, taking the sin upon yourself, and repenting to Jesus for that sin. This does three things:

1. It is healing for the one praying for others.
2. It has the same effect as reducing the debt of the other person so that when they are called to pay back the debt, (God calls them to repent), it won't be as overwhelming as before the intercession, and the debt will be easier to repent for.
3. And when we pray for others we bring conviction from heaven upon them from the Holy Spirit (**Who will convict the world of sin John 16:8**).

One of the greatest blessings in praying for others is the prayer of a husband or wife

for their marriage partner. This prayer greatly glorifies God because of the likeness of marriage to the heavenly marriage with Jesus. He made husband and wife to be one flesh and the oneness involved makes this prayer especially effective. Once I became convicted that I had selfishly prayed for myself and not my companion in life, I asked Jesus to forgive me this unloving nature that I had. He forgave me, and knowing the regret that I had, He said, **"Why don't you ask Me to fix it?"** And so I asked very tearfully that day if He would please make all those prayers that I had selfishly prayed for myself effective retroactively for my dear wife. One of the most wonderful things He did for me was to honor that request. I noticed an immediate change in the relationship of our marriage. What a blessing! Thank you Jesus. Maybe this tip will help some of you.

Also, through prayer, our tears for others are bottled up in heaven for them to be reserved for their day of judgement (Rev 5:8). There is more to this, and there are scriptures on carrying the burdens of others, but let's go on to the actual intercession:

Basically, you put yourself in that brother's or sister's place and stand in the gap for them. Here is an example:

1. You see the need in another to pray for a sin, a debt, or a burden. Make sure you have taken the beam out of your own eye, through repentance and deliverance.
2. You stand in his or her stead before Jesus.
3. Ask Jesus if He will allow you that oneness with Him in intercession for the person you wish to pray for. (He may not let you pray for them for some reason).

**"If anyone sees a brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask(pray for him), and HE will give life for those who sin" (1John 5:16)**

If He says 'no' to intercession, He may only allow you to pray in the Spirit for that person and lift them up in your prayer language until you have peace.

**“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit  
....for all the saints”**

**Eph 6:18**

4. If He says ‘yes’, then tell Jesus, “I stand in the gap for ‘John’, I am ‘John’.  
(In Hebrews it talks about Jesus crying out to the ONE who could save Him. Since He was pure and Holy, He Himself did not need saving, but when He took the sins of the world upon Himself, then He did indeed need saving. This is like Him saying to God, “I am these people” and then crying out to God for their sins.
5. Repent to Jesus with godly sorrow just like it was you who committed the sin. If you’re a little dry and you don’t have godly sorrow and repentance, ask for it. He is gracious and kind to grant you this for it is most certainly His will for you to pray for others. (Also, at this point I begin to tell Jesus that I love Him and the tears of conviction and Godly sorrow begin to flow).
6. Tell the Lord the nature of the sin and how wrong you are.
7. Weep before Him because of the sin. Weep in the Spirit , also, because the Spirit will give you spiritual eyes to see this sin coming and give you time to prepare and arm yourself to war against the sin the next time it comes around.
8. Ask forgiveness for the sin as if you’re actually the person you’re praying for.
9. After you have peace that the sin is forgiven, then cast out the spirit of that sin with all its roots and parameters. Plead the Blood of Jesus on all the people around you first, and then go through deliverance. Tell the spirits not to land on anyone, but to go into the pits of hell. See Prov 16:2 in the KJV or NKJV, and see Mark 16:17.

**“All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,  
but the Lord weighs the spirits.”**

**“And these signs will follow those who believe;  
In My Name they will cast out demons,.....”**

10. Ask for the opposite good spirits. If you cast out 'hate', ask for the spirit of God's love.
11. Place the iniquity of the spirit cast out upon Mercy and Truth, because **in Mercy and Truth, atonement is made for iniquity. (Prov 16:6)**  
It doesn't do much good to cast out the spirit of a thief, for example, if the iniquity is not likewise offered up. "Iniquity" is the hidden desire in your heart to do evil, and may have been inherited from your forefathers.
12. Ask Jesus to burn out all the iniquity in this area with His baptism of fire backwards and forwards throughout all your generations . (See Ex 20:5-6)

**"For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me".**

**Those who hate God are those who do not obey Him, for He says, "If you love me, keep My commandments".**

13. Then give thanks for His mercy and His Truth . Speak a testimony of faith for the person you interceded for to give them something to walk on. Remember, you get what you give. "As you measure it out, so it is measured back unto you" (see Matt 7:2b).
14. Then turn the intercession back over to Him because He is able to bear it. Do not forget this step. It will get heavy on you if you do.

This is a brief outline on how to intercede for others. I have seen such amazing changes made in people right before my very eyes. Just think what would have happened if Cain had been his brother's keeper and had prayed for him, or if Esau had prayed for his brother Jacob for twice stealing his birthright and fathers blessing instead of plotting to kill him. If the Levites that Moses commanded to kill their brothers with the sword had fallen on their knees and made intercession for their brethren, then maybe there would have been some Levites in the bloodline of Jesus. Moses was certainly our example of what to do, because when God told him, "**stand aside Moses, I'm going to kill them all**", Moses then fell on his face and prayed for them. (Ex 32:10)

Remember, praying for yourself only is, at best, an act of righteousness.  
Praying for others (also) is an act of holiness. So fulfill your royal priesthood  
calling. If you pray for others, you will be blessed.

We thank You, Jesus, for your most wonderful wisdom and for the mighty blessings  
You have reserved for those who keep your commandments. Be blessed, mighty  
and holy Lord, for ever and ever. Amen and Amen.

Thomas Barnabas