

IX. Ministry Series—When We Pray for Others, Intercession

Ezekiel 22:30 *“So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.”*

1. What is one way to characterize the ministry of intercession?

Intercession is a love walk. It is based on God's love for us, and it is dependent upon a close relationship with God. Therefore any person willing to pray for others with integrity and a sincere heart is brought closer to God. God reveals His heart to them, and His heart is always a heart of love. In turn, it is impossible to walk this closely with God without loving Him more deeply. Study 1 John 3:1-3, Ephesians 5:1-2.

2. Who is called to the ministry of intercession?

Every Christian is called to the ministry of intercession.

3. What is the difference between prayer, petition, supplication and intercession?

Prayer Is the general category, inclusive of all other types of prayer.

A petition is a request for something.

Supplication is a humble request that appeals to God's graciousness, mercy and favor

Intercession is prayer or warfare made on behalf of another person that comes between either that person and God, or that person and demonic forces.

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

Eph. 6:18 *...praying always with all **prayer and supplication** in the Spirit*

Phil. 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by **prayer and supplication**, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.*

Acts 1:14 *These all continued with one accord in **prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Daniel 6:11 *These men assembled and found Daniel **praying and making supplication** before his God.*

Prayer: Strong's # 4336 "proseuchomai" (Gk.), to pray to God, to supplicate, worship, to make prayer; Strong's # 1162, "deesis" (Gk.), a petition; Strong's # 6419 "palal" (Heb.), primary root to judge, by extension, to intercede, pray, entreat, make supplication; Strong's # 8605, tephillah (Heb.), from #6419, intercession, supplication

>>>Prayer Is the general category, inclusive of all other types of prayer: petition, supplication, intercession, worship.

Petition: Strong's # 4862 "mish'alah" A request, desire; Strong's # 155 (Greek) "aitema" an asking, request, from #154, a thing asked for.

>>>To petition is to ask or request something.

Supplication: Strong's # 8467 "techinnah" from Strong's # 2603 "chanan," graciousness. To implore, to beseech to show favor, give, grant graciously, entreat, be merciful, have mercy upon.

>>>Supplication is a humble entreaty that appeals to God's graciousness, mercy and favor.

Intercession: Strong's # 6293 (Heb.) "paga" to come between, to cause to entreat, to fall upon, to intercede, to pray, to reach, to run; Strong's # 5241 (Gk.) "huperentugchano" to intercede in behalf of; Strong's # 1793 (Gk.) "entugchano" to chance upon, confer with, to entreat, to make intercession.

>>>Intercession is prayer made on behalf of another person that comes between either that person and God, or that person and Satan. The intercessor "stands between". He or she comes on behalf of another, and reaches for God.

Ezekiel 13:5 *(God addressing false prophets) "You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the Lord."*

Gap Strong's # 6556 (Heb.) "perets" A break, breach, gap. Examples:

Abraham, Gen. 18:16-33

Jeremiah, Jer. 14:7-9; Jer. 18:20

Joel, Joel 1:14; 2:15-17

Amos 7:2-3, 5-6

Moses, Ps. 106:23

Phinehas, Ps. 106:30-31

Luke 10:17

Mark 16:17

3. What are the gaps?

There are two gaps in intercession, that between God and man, and that between the enemy and man. Effective intercession requires the boldness--and readiness--to step into either place.

For further thought: How does this make intercession different from petition? Can intercession include petition? Can intercession include supplication?

4. What is the first and foremost requirement for a Christian to effectively be able to intercede?

Holiness is required to stand in either of these gaps. First, because a holy God requires a holy people, 1 Peter 1:15. Second, because an intercessor who is living in sin is compromised by the enemy, and is himself an enemy of God, James 4:4.

Psalm 24:3-7 *Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek Your face. Selah.*

Question for further thought: Can you think of an instance in Scripture where intercession resulted in disaster?

Acts 19:13-17 _____

What can we learn from this? _____

The call to intercession is a call to walk in love, Eph. 5:1-2. Since true intercession is based on loving God, an intercessor who regularly meets with God will know Him in a deep, personal way. Above all, they will be aware of His love for them, 1 John 3:1.

To stand before God for another person or group of people is a privilege—and a joy. God recognizes those people who walk close to Him as His friends. God reveals His heart to them, His character, His love and His concerns. He can be deeply hurt if they do not respond to His call. This is a ministry of love.

A great fallacy in intercession is to not recognize that there are two gaps, one between God and the people you are praying for, and a second between the enemy and the people you are representing. Some people prefer not to deal with the enemy, perhaps thinking that if they don't bother him, he will not bother them. This is deception. John 10:10 says that the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. 1 Peter 5:8 says that our adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Peter tells us, "Resist him!" Satan is trying to destroy us--continually--whether we recognize his attack or not. To not fight back on the theory that the forces of darkness will leave us alone is foolishness. Other Christians recognize the enemy, but just ask God to deal with him. Yet this approach is not scriptural either. Consider the following:

5. Answer the following questions.

Who is supposed to resist Satan? 1 Peter 5:8-9 _____

Who is supposed to stand against the wiles of Satan ? Ephesians 6:10-13 _____

Who is supposed to put on the whole armor of God? Ephesians 6:12 _____

Who is supposed to war? 2 Corinthians 10:3 _____

Who is supposed to pull down strongholds? 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Who has been given authority? Luke 10:19 _____

To do what? Luke 10:19 _____

How? Mark 16:17; Phil. 2:10 _____

6. What are seven essentials for intercession? (3 C's, 2 D's, L & O)

1. Be clean.

God will not hear the prayer of a person who is in sin (with one exception, the prayer of repentance, 1 John 1:9). See Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:29; Prov. 28:9; Isaiah 1:15; 59:2-3; Micah 3:1-4; John 9:31; James 4:3

2. Be covered with the blood of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:11. Notice that the blood of Jesus is one of three basis for effective warfare. (The other two are the use of God's word in battle, and determination to continue in battle, no matter what).

Job 1:5, 8-10. The hedge of protection is linked to Job's regular sacrifice. That sacrifice was a type for our sacrifice, Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 5:21.

Exod. 12:3-7, 12-13. Observe that the blood had to be applied! Similarly, it is our duty as spiritual priests to apply the blood of Jesus to our families, fields, borders, interests, ministries and everything that concerns us.

3. Break curses against you and your family.

Curses are negative statements made about someone. They have power, especially if that person is a Christian, Prov. 18:21. Curses are related to oppression, for example, Is. 58:9(b): *If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk.* (NIV) See also Psalms 17:9-12; 10:7-8; 12:3-5; 55:3, 9-11.

Curses are broken by speaking against them in the name of Jesus, Philippians 2:9-10; Prov. 11:9; Prov. 12:6; Prov. 14:3.

4. Declare victory over the enemy.

Sample declaration: "In the name of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I break all curses and word curses against me, my family, my home, and my household. I declare that snakes, scorpions and all the power of the enemy are null and void, dust and chaff, with the glory of God sweeping them away. I declare that no weapon formed against me or my family shall prosper, and nothing by any means will harm us. I declare that those who seek our souls to destroy us are going into the lower parts of the earth, they are falling by sword, they are a portion for foxes, and the mouth of those who speak lies against us are stopped." Luke 10:19; Ps. 83:13-15; Is. 54:17; Ps. 63:9-11

5. Declare blessings.

Example, Psalm 18:1-3; Psalm 68:1 *Let God arise and His enemies be scattered!*

6. LISTEN to the Lord. Ask Him who to pray for, and how.

Ps. 108:13; 144:1. Don't be like this: Joshua 9:14.

7. OBEY the Lord, follow Him.

Joshua 5:13-14; John 12:26; Romans 8:14; Psalm 32:7-9

7. Examples of intercessory prayer. For the student of the Ministry Series:
Study these examples in Scripture. Write down your observations.

a. Moses, when he interceded before God for Israel on Mount Sinai, Exod. 32:1-14.
What are some elements of his prayer? _____

b. Solomon, at the dedication of the Temple, 1 Kings 8:22-61
What are some elements of this prayer?

What kingdom principle does Solomon's prayer teach? 1 Kings 8:47-48; Lev. 26:40-42

c. Ezra, when he realized the great sin the people who had returned from captivity had sinned against the Lord, Ezra 9:1 through 10:5. What does Ezra teach us?

d. Nehemiah, when he heard the state of Jerusalem and the survivors, Neh. 1:1-11
What are some elements of this prayer?

e. Daniel, when he realized from the word that it was time for God to act, Dan. 9:1-23

What are some elements of this prayer? _____

f. Paul, when he prayed for the churches, Eph. 1:15-23; 3:14-21; 6:10-20; Phil. 1:2-6;

Col. 4:2-4 _____

g. Epaphras, an early believer and Paul's friend, Col. 4:12 _____

Conclusion: What are some things we can learn from these passages about intercession?
