

## Ministry of Intercession

Job 22:30 Amp He will even deliver the one [for whom you intercede] who is not innocent; yes, he will be delivered through the cleanness of your hands.

Jesus said. "When you pray", not if you pray (Luke 11)

### Definition:

To intervene or pray to God in behalf of another

### Description

The ministry of intercession is praying extended periods of time on a regular basis on behalf of others, and seeing frequent and specific answers to your prayers

*Nothing in scripture calls intercession a spiritual gift, but intercessors are a gift to me, and I have noticed that the gifts of the Holy Spirit readily flow through them.*

### Usually:

- Prayerful
- Available
- Sincere
- Spiritual
- Caring
- Sensitive
- Confident
- Trustworthy

### Scriptural Examples:

#### 1. Anna

Luke 2:36-38 Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

#### 2. Abraham – interceding in behalf of Sodom (Genesis16-33)

#### 3. Moses – identifying with his people and interceding for them

Exodus 32:30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

#### 4. Jesus – taking our place on the cross

Mark 1:35 In the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Hebrews 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

### Characteristics:

1. They pray longer than most – minimum of one hour a day but can average 2-5 hours a day
2. They identify with, agonize and take authority for those they are interceding for
3. They identify with someone's need and intercede with faith and perseverance for that need
4. They pray with more intensity
5. They enjoy prayer more and get great personal satisfaction from praying
6. They hear from God more regularly and more accurately
7. They feel compelled to earnestly pray on behalf of someone or some cause
8. They have a daily awareness of the spiritual battle being waged in such a way that they feel drawn to lift up prayers
9. They are convinced that God moves in direct response to the fervent prayer
10. They pray in response to the leading of the Spirit, whether they understand it or not

### Misuse of ministry:

#### 1. By calling it a *gift* some could excuse their lack of prayer

*A not so recent survey of "Evangelical Pastors" revealed that the average pastor in America prays around five minutes per day. If this be true then we can imagine how little the average Christian is praying per day.*

2. Avoid sharing everything God reveals to you in prayer. Some things are for you personally and are never to be shared. Some things that need to be shared require a proper timing and tact. Someone has said, "**Seasoned intercessors learn to hold 80% of what they receive from God and reveal 20%. Prayer partners with the Father are in a place of hidden-ness, and the majority of assignments should be carried out in the prayer closet.**"

3. Avoid developing a religious spirit, "holier than thou" attitude, being hyper-spiritual, excessively loud, too long, and draw attention to yourself

Matthew 6:5-6 "And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

4. Avoid feeling performance driven in a corporate prayer meeting. Be genuine and simple

5. Avoid thinking that God is impressed with your many and repeated words and prayers; He responds to faith

Matthew 6:7-8 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

6. Avoid using prayer as an escape from fulfilling responsibilities

7. Avoid speaking gloom and doom and prophesying the pastor out of the church. You have power as an intercessor because you bless, not because you curse

## Practical Guidelines:

1. Be alert at all times to the opportunities to help others. When given a prayer request pray that moment
2. Ask Holy Spirit to show you what or who to intercede for
3. Attend pray meetings and learn from others, but also participate
4. Encourage other people to pray, "Would you pray about this ..."
5. Have a dedicated daily time of personal prayer
6. Plead God's mercy for those you pray for

James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

7. Expect God to reveal things to you, but please avoid the big head, when He does

Psalm 25:14 The secret of the Lord is with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant.

8. When your mind doesn't know what to pray, pray in the Spirit

Romans 8:26-27 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. 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.

## Challenges to intercession:

- Prayer circles: "I don't like to pray in front of others."
- Private devotional: "I don't like to get up early. It will interfere with ..."
- Friday night prayer meetings: "I don't like to fast. I need my food."
- Prayer meetings: "I can't do *my* thing. I don't like the way others lead the meeting."
- Early Morning Prayer: "It messes my day up." "don't feel led"

**Prayer is inconvenient for your schedule and a sacrifice to your flesh, but nothing brings greater satisfaction and reward!**

## Complimenting Gifts:

- Exhortation
- Giving
- Word of wisdom
- Word of knowledge
- Discerning of Spirits
- Tongues and interpretation

## Ministries

- Prayer leader
- Hospital visitation
- Church elder
- Discipleship
- Fasting

## Scriptures:

Isaiah 59:16 He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor;

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.

Acts 6:2-4 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 "but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Ephesians 6:18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints--

Colossians 1:9-11 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Colossians 4:2-3 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains,

Colossians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis.

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

James 5:16b-17 The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.