

## PART ONE - PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF PERSONAL INTERCESSION

*(Isaiah 59:1-2 NKJV) "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. {2} But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."*

The people of Israel were in trouble. Their sins and disregard for God had positioned them for judgment. They had angered God. His prophet Isaiah let them know their prayers were not going to be heard or answered. They needed someone to pray for them, to intercede. They needed someone to whom God would listen.

*(Isaiah 59:16 NKJV) "He saw that there was no man, **And wondered that there was no intercessor**; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him."*

***"And wondered that there was no intercessor;"***

New Living Translation:

***"He was amazed*** to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed."

New International Translation:

*"He saw that there was no one, **he was appalled** that there was no one to intervene;"*

God's Word Translation:

*"He sees that there's no one to help. **He's astounded** that there's no one to intercede."*

**God always has a plan. His plan is to hear the prayers of a righteous man or woman and respond.**

God has chosen to use intercessors to cry out on behalf of others. Many things are accomplished only in answered prayer.

1. God gives the gift of intercession to individuals.
2. He gathers and positions intercessors together as a team to pray about circumstances and His purposes. They are required to pray in the following ways:
  - Unity of spirit
  - Unity of purpose
  - Unity of agreement to covenant with each other and support the spiritual authority God places them under
3. God uses the prayers of intercessors to accomplish His purposes - to fulfill His will - to change the circumstances.

**God's Design  
for Prayer**

4. Neither the intercessors, nor their prayers are the change agent of the circumstances. The Holy Spirit hears and chooses to respond to your prayers. He is the only Agent of change.

Without intercession... without prayer, our world becomes a wasteland that makes even God wonder why there is no intercessor who will step into the gap and pray.

- Intercession is an incredibly valuable service to the church.
- Intercessors swim in deep waters and have the ear of God.

## The Potential for Danger in Intercession

Because of the nature and spiritual depth required of intercession, there is **enormous potential for good**, but intercession can also have the **potential for enormous evil or wrong**.

1. Intercessors invade the spirit realm and are, by themselves, no match for the forces they will encounter. They can be overpowered and controlled. They can be manipulated and deceived into praying against God's will.
2. Trying to be "super-spiritual" is nothing more than the flesh working extra hard. Being super-spiritual is a setup! You will get hurt or hurt somebody. You can find yourself exposed to spiritual forces for which you are no match.
3. Intercessors are easy targets for the spirit of pride. The same spirit that caused a third of the angels to follow Satan - the same spirit that caused Nimrod to build the tower of Babel - the same spirit that caused Aaron and Miriam to challenge Moses' authority - can be unleashed in intercession. It can suck you in.

## What is the intercessors' safety zone?

The safety zone is found in one thing - that which God enjoys and desires from all His children - **worship**.

**Worship and intercession must go together.** Only through genuine worship can you put yourself in a safe and effective position to serve in intercession to God. **Why?**

1. Worship puts us in position to approach God.
2. Worship reminds us of who we are and who He is.
3. Worship quiets our souls so we can hear God.

4. Worship allows us to hear God before we speak. Hearing God allows the Holy Spirit to speak to us and declare His will. Then we know and pray the will of God.
5. Too many intercessors throw petitions at God as if He is some kind of genie in a bottle, ready to give them three wishes.

Too often we throw our petitions at Him and try to dictate what we want to happen or what we assume should happen. We never get ourselves in a position where we can pray the will of God because we have not worshiped and listened.

### **Worship first, listen, listen, listen... then pray. Why?**

1. We must conform our minds to the mind of Christ.
2. We must open a way for the compassion of Christ to flood our hearts - every time we get ready to intercede. We do this as we identify with Christ through worship.
3. We are not to be praying with judgment or self-righteousness! It will kill people. It will stop the hand of God!

**We must get the will of God so we can pray it!**  
**(The way to the will of God is to get the heart of God.)**

The devil does not mind if all we want to do is engage in warfare. He enjoys and welcomes the fight as long as his adversary is not thinking the way God is thinking, and therefore, not following God's plan. Victory in intercession requires two things - first, the mind of Christ, and second, the heart of God. You have to hear God to pray the will of God. You have to worship, seek His heart and listen to His voice.

### **Our example is Jesus.**

*(Philippians 2:4-5 God's Word Translation) "Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others. {5} Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had."*

*(1 Corinthians 2:16 NKJV) "For who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" **But we have the mind of Christ.***

*(Ephesians 6:6 NKJV) "not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, **doing the will of God from the heart,**"*

*(2 Corinthians 3:3 NKJV) "clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart."*

**FIRST PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION**  
**GET THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE HEART OF GOD**  
**BEFORE YOU PRAY.**

Often intercessors petition God out of sympathy for someone's trouble. These are prayers based on emotions. This is an open door to involuntary witchcraft. We find ourselves praying to manipulate God into fixing the problem. In doing so, we reject or ignore the sovereign will of God. We have not sought His will and prayed in agreement with it. Our good intentions are turned on us and we open the door to the devil. Emotional sympathy comes from a good heart, but it can make us blind to the will of God. Our prayers can cancel what would have been His prayers. Identify with God's sovereign interest and concern for others. Otherwise...

- We miss the plans, purposes and will of God. We pray wrongly.
- We miss what the Spirit is saying about the situation.
- We miss our opportunity to agree with God in a prayer that will not be ignored in heaven.

**SECOND PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION**  
**IDENTIFY WITH GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES. SEEK THE**  
**WILL OF GOD BEFORE YOU PRAY!**

*(1 John 5:14-15 NKJV) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."*

### **Praying in the Spirit**

*(Ephesians 6:18 NKJV) "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;"*

New Living Translation:

*"Pray at all times and on every occasion in the power of the Holy Spirit."*

To pray in the spirit means to pray both in your own language and in tongues (1 Corinthians 12 & 14). It also means praying in the presence of, and in submission to the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. It means acknowledging your dependence upon

Him. It means rejecting the kingdom of your own flesh and making yourself aware of the full authority of the kingdom of God. Doing so brings the ability to hear the voice of God, respond in appropriate prayers and to keep your foot on your own flesh.

*(Romans 8:26-27 NKJV) "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. {27} 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."*

Prayer power demands absolute surrender to the Holy Spirit. Paul had power because he was not his own. He had surrendered. He made himself a temple of the Holy Spirit. God saw fit to dwell in Paul. He will do the same for you. Make yourself a holy temple.

*(1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV) "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? {20} For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

Maintain yourself as an abiding place for the Holy Spirit. He will make His home in you. You must respect His presence by keeping your "temple" in spiritual order. You must connect with Him as your Divine Partner in your journey through life. In a very real sense, you will always carry Him with you. He will help you to pray the will of God. He will keep you and your group from falling into witchcraft in your prayers. God will be well pleased.

**THIRD PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION  
WHEN YOU PRAY IN THE SPIRIT... YOU WILL NEVER BE  
IGNORED IN HEAVEN!**

### **The Victory Side of the Cross**

The intercessor must continually ask, *"Am I abiding in Jesus - as a daily lifestyle? Am I living on the victory side of the cross? Am I constantly aware that the blood of Jesus has been shed?"*

## **We must trust the blood in our intercession.**

Dwell in the protective, empowering covering of His blood. Apply the conquering power of the blood to your prayers. Too many want to ignore the blood. Intercessors must abide under the blood. To abide under the blood means to abide in Jesus, in obedience, trust and faith... as a lifestyle. It means you will not be moved by what you see, but by Who you know!

- Are you taking the time to live under the blood of Jesus?
- Are you aware of the power in the blood?

**FOURTH PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION**  
**REMEMBER THE CROSS AND THEN COVER YOUR**  
**PRAYERS IN THE BLOOD OF JESUS!**

### **The Name above Every Name: Intercession's Guarantee**

The Scriptures are clear. The name of Jesus is the door to the throne. The name of Jesus combined with the blood of Jesus is the combination that empowers intercession to knock out the enemy.

*(John 14:13 NKJV) "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."*

*(John 15:7 NKJV) "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."*

Again:

*(1 John 5:14-15 NKJV) "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. {15} And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."*

### **Add it up!**

**The Will of God**

**+ The Blood of Jesus**

**+ The Name of Jesus**

**= A Winning Combination for intercessors who are humble and confident before Christ. Let your voices be heard in heaven. What you bind in heaven will be bound on earth and what you loose in heaven will be loosed on earth. The will of God be done!**

## PART TWO - INTERCESSION AS TEAM MINISTRY

### Three Goals for Ministry Happening *within* Your Team

*(Ephesians 4:13 NKJV) "till we all come to **the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"*

#### Goal 1 - Unity: A Command Obeyed and a Lifestyle Displayed

Unity is a word that is overused and under-practiced. God intends it to be a command obeyed and a lifestyle displayed. Intercessors should be bonded in such a way that adversity will never overcome them, and never cause them to take each other for granted. Intercessors in a team are each other's blessings.

#### Goal #2 - Filled with the Knowledge of His Will

Ephesians 4:13 invites us to come to *"the knowledge of the Son of God."* What does this mean? How will we apply it to our lives? As we spend time together understanding this term, we discover how we can be more like Jesus and more faithful to His desires for our lives. Then, we will see the full power of intercession.

*(Colossians 1:9-12 NKJV) "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; {12} giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."*

1. God is interested in making wise and spiritually discerning intercessors (Verse 9). Times of learning and Bible study together as a ministry team are required. They are not optional. Intercessors should do more than just gather for prayer. Biblical study and instruction is vital.
2. A worthy walk is a fruitful walk (Verse 10). We are to be *"fruitful in every good work."* This term is to be applied both to our inward and outward expressions of intercession ministry as a team. It also applies to our individual works. The primary

consideration here, as with any other portion of our lives, is to ask... Is the work *“fully pleasing Him?”*

3. Take note of the progression of faithfulness to His call in Verse 11; strength, patience, joy, then thanksgiving. The result will be an intercessory team in which the people are *“qualified partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”*

### **Goal #3 - A Deeper Experience in God**

This third goal is the most emotionally attractive, to be overwhelmed by the presence of God... to be smothered in the anointing and swept away by the joy. These are the results of prayer ministry to Him. Collectively, we benefit tremendously as we do this. We become living epistles of the holiness and awesome joys of worshiping God. Individually, we are forever changed. The greatest experiences we ever have are our encounters with God. One touch from His hand... one moment in His glory... One moment in the shower of His anointing... these are the greatest emotional gifts we could ever enjoy on this side of heaven.

When all three goals are achieved, we become what the Bible refers to as *“a perfect man.”* This perfect man is measured by *“the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13). This speaks of our maturity as sons and daughters of God. We assess our maturity through the presence of (1) unity, (2) the knowledge of His will, and (3) the wonders of our ongoing experiences with Him (Ephesians 4:15 & 16).

### **Accomplishing our Purposes and Achieving our goals as a Team - How do we do it?**

#### **Three Identifying Ingredients**

#### **First Ingredient: TEACHING for Growth**

Teaching for growth requires regular, structured time together, in which team members contribute their gifts to teach the Word to the group. This requires the pastor to be discerning in selecting members of the team to teach. (Be careful not to put a novice or one who has bad doctrine or spiritual pride into this position.) Teaching may be in the form of topical instruction or devotional

interaction. It might occur each time the intercessory team meets for planning or devotions.

Each team member should resist the temptation to dominate the teaching. A regular rotation of those who teach will bring fresh perspectives to the group. Guest teachers and facilitators may to be brought in, to bring perspectives not otherwise available.

## **Second Ingredient: LIVING for Community (The Intercession Team Neighborhood)**

The Scriptures give us significant and precise instruction about the importance of the ministry team living as a community of God's people.

*(1 Corinthians 12:14-26 The New Living Translation) "Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. {15} If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. {16} And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? {17} Suppose the whole body were an eye--then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything? {18} But God made our bodies with many parts, and he has put each part just where he wants it. {19} What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! {20} Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. {21} The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." {22} In fact, some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. {23} And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, {24} while other parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. {25} This makes for **harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other equally.** {26} If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad."*

- We grow up (mature, change, become more like Jesus).
- We are joined together (with everyone contributing to the group in the way God has designed.) The result is community, which grows and edifies itself. We care for each other equally. There are no cliques, no bias or favoritism. We go out of our way to

include everyone, to care for everyone, to love everyone in our ministry team. We become a ministry community.

- Our ministry community then broadcasts its “fullness” to the others. New members of the community are attracted, who enter into the same loop as those of us already involved.

The message broadcast is “*agape*” - *God’s kind of love!*

### **A Neighborhood in the Spirit**

Community is always foremost to God. He wants the intercessory team to be community. He wants to cultivate the reality of community in an ever deepening sense. This will result in us accomplishing our goals, both internally and externally. It will bring effective growth, resulting in effective community, with a profound experience of the presence of God. We will go to the next level - the next level of the expression of His love.

Each time the team meets for planning, we meet as a community that submits itself to God, and to each other. We form a neighborhood in the Spirit. The community enters into the exercise and reflection of “*the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace*” (Ephesians 4:3). Ways to accomplish this could include the following.

1. **Group Devotional Interaction** - As we meet, we are to involve ourselves in group devotions concerning the things of God.
2. **Accountability Partners** - Every member of the team should have a set time to speak and pray with another member (same gender only) to share their lives with each other, and submit to be accountable to each other. This will take time to develop. We do this by prayerfully submitting one issue to each other and working through that issue until a door opens up for another. There can be no manipulation or pride in this effort or it will destroy the unity of the team.
3. **Covenant Fellowship** - We are to establish and carry out a covenant commitment to be a family of prayer warriors for the seasons we are in the team together. There is to be no spirit of judgment and no rejection. We are to accept each other as a valuable and necessary to our covenant ministry family.

*(Ephesians 1:3-6 NKJV) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, {4} just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, **that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, {5} having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, {6} to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”***

Take notice of the significance within these thoughts: **“That we should be holy and without blame before Him in love... to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.”**

### **Third Ingredient: PRAYING for His Presence** (God comes in response to our cries for His presence.)

Consistently strong, anointed intercession and other ways to pray ought to be foundational to every ministry. We are called by God, collectively and individually, to be leaders who pray fervently, as we live and work and prepare for ministry.

### **God only obligates Himself to come down among us when He hears our cries to going up to Him.**

*(Exodus 3:1-8 NLT) “One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he went deep into the wilderness near Sinai, the mountain of God. {2} Suddenly, the angel of the LORD appeared to him as a blazing fire in a bush. Moses was amazed because the bush was engulfed in flames, but it didn’t burn up. {3} “Amazing!” Moses said to himself. “Why isn’t that bush burning up? I must go over to see this.” {4} When the LORD saw that he had caught Moses’ attention, God called to him from the bush, “Moses! Moses!” “Here I am!” Moses replied. {5} “Do not come any closer,” God told him. “Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground.” {6} Then he said, “I am the God of your ancestors--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” When Moses heard this, he hid his face in his hands because he was afraid to look at God. {7} Then the LORD told him, “You can be sure I have seen the misery of my people in Egypt. **I have heard their cries** for deliverance from their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. {8} **So I have come** to rescue them from the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own good and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey--the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites live.”*

**“I have heard their cries... So I have come”**

**Three specific experiences will follow our prayers, *if* we use our prayer time to seek the face of God.**

1. **We will experience an ever-increasing sense of holiness.** This will radically transform our individual relationships with God. It will forever change our intercessory ministries.
2. **We will find a true spirit of repentance to be among us.** This will liberate us to be all that God wants us to be, both as a team and as individuals. It will forever change our abilities and desires to express His agape love.
3. **We will be overwhelmed with the fire of God.** It will fill our hearts and ignite a zeal we previously only dreamed about. It will forever change the power and anointing in our lives!

### **A Taste of Heaven and a Breakthrough on Earth**

We can only imagine what will follow after we have encountered these three experiences, above. We will travel into deep places with God and with each other. We will have a taste of heaven. Our lives will be empowered to pray that taste to others!

- **You won't see the angels until you are filled with a sense of holiness.**
- **You won't hear them until you are filled with a sense of repentance and humility.**
- **You won't sing in concert with the angels until you are filled with the fires of revival.**

We will break through. We will break out. There will be the sound of a mighty army. The Lord will go before us and lead us to great victory! We all need a visitation from God, and we need it now!

***Here we are Lord. Send us O God, and we will pray and sing the nations to the footstool of Your throne, where You can receive their praise. Lord, sweep over our souls and melt us to the ground. Come Lord Jesus. Visit us now!***

*(Isaiah 49:13 NKJV) "Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And **break out in singing**, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, And will have mercy on His afflicted."*