

Intercession

Key Scripture

Eph 6:10-18 (NKJV) Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14] Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, [15] and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; [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—

During my times in the prayer room I feel as though the Lord speaking to my heart about intercession;

- **I felt impressed that we were not as mature in this necessary and important area of our faith I believe that we – as a church family – regarding our corporate and Biblical partnership with God**

WE DO WELL AT...

- **Worship – Ministering to the Lord in Worship**
- **Hearing & Discerning – Waiting on the Lord – Discernment**
- **Obedience – Walking in the discernments that we hear**

But one of the areas that we have not been mature or have understood well is intercession

- **One of the reasons that this has happened is that Intercession has been a journey for me**
 - **In the past, I have participated in powerful callings to intercession**
 - **I have**
 - **done Spiritual Mapping for our region**
 - **Conducted Prayer walks and Prayer meetings for intercession**
 - **24 Hour prayer meetings to pray for each of the mountains of culture**
 - **But as a family of believers – we have not given our hearts to the WORK of intercession**

What is Intercession?

- **Intercession put simply is partnership with Jesus**
- **It is standing WITH Him – and participating WITH Him in His role as MEDIATOR**
- **It is THE WORK of prayer**
 - **Worship - is Ministry to the Lord**
 - **Devotional Prayer – (Waiting and watching) is communion with the Lord (hearing)**
 - **Intercession- is joining Him in His work**

You see...

- **God gave humanity dominion on the earth!**
 - Gen 1:28 (NKJV) Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- **God DOES NOT MOVE on the earth without our agreement**
 - So many times, God wants to move on the earth
 - In order for Him to do so, He must find people who will partner with Him for it...

In the Old Covenant, It was prophets and preists that would “Stand in the gap” on behalf of the nation...

- Ezk 22:29-31 (NIV) The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice. [30] **"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. [31] So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD."**
 - God must find Agreement with HIS PEOPLE on the earth before He can move
 - God is looking for people who will PARTNER WITH HIM

Marriage – the example of God for his relationship with the church

- In a Godly marriage – the TWO become one
 - One of the partners cannot go ahead and do something without the consent of the other
 - GOD has the POWER the move
 - God has the DESIRE to move
 - We have the authority to AGREE and ACTIVATE the purposes of God on the earth

Have you ever been burdened by something that is happening in the earth around you

- Do you sense the heart of God on the matter
- Do you seem to carry the issue and can't get rid of the concern
 - THIS IS A CALL TO INTERCESSION
 - God will wake you up at night to participate in this VITAL capacity of Agreement
 - God IS looking for those who will Partner with Him in what he wants to do..

God Sent Jesus (a man) so that he could reveal what it looks like to AGREE WITH HIM

- Isa 59:15-20 (NLT) Yes, truth is gone, and anyone who renounces evil is attacked. **The LORD looked and was displeased to find there was no justice.** [16] He was amazed to see that no one intervened to help the oppressed. **So he himself stepped in to save them with his strong arm,** and his justice sustained him. [17] He put on righteousness as his body armor and placed the helmet of salvation on his head. He clothed himself with a robe of vengeance and wrapped himself in a cloak of divine passion.... [20] “The Redeemer will come to Jerusalem to buy back those in Israel who have turned from their sins,” says the LORD.
 - Jesus was SENT BY GOD so that PARTNERSHIP could be re-established

The AUTHORITY that Jesus gave to us by His LIFE, Death and Resurrection IS POWERFUL

- Mat 18:18-20 (NIV) **"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.** [19] "Again, truly I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them** by my Father in heaven. [20] For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
 - THIS IS PARTNERSHIP
 - Through Jesus – God gave His people the AUTHORITY to BIND and LOOSE
 - HE is looking for people who will “stand in the gap” with Him

During Jesus Life He showed us How to do this...

- Heb 5:7 (NIV) During the days of Jesus' life on earth, **he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one** who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
 - The lifestyle of jesus was intercession
 - Luk 5:16 (NIV) But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
- **Jesus did not exercise Magic over people – He agreed with God (intercession) for them**

- Luk 22:31-32 (NLT) “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift each of you like wheat. [32] But I have pleaded in prayer for you, Simon, that your faith should not fail. So when you have repented and turned to me again, strengthen your brothers.”

Even NOW, JESUS (the man) is THE MEDIATOR – The one who agrees with God for His purposes on the earth

- Rom 8:34 (NIV) Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
- 1Ti 2:5 (NIV) For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus,
- Heb 7:23-25 (NIV) Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; [24] but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. [25] Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.
 - THIS IS THE PRIESTHOOD OF JESUS – Agreement with God for us
 - He

HOW DO WE ENGAGE IN THE WORK OF INTERCESSION – (participate with Jesus)

- Rom 8:26-27 (NIV) In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. [27] And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.
 - Intercession is birthed in the presence of the Lord
 - God places his burden of prayer on our hearts
 - When we gather, God moves BEFORE and DURING our gatherings to give insight
 - Intercession must be PURPOSEFUL
 - We make ourselves available to God for THE WORK OF INTERCESSION
 - He guides us in PARTNERSHIP with His will for the earth

THE PROMISE OF GOD FOR INTERCESSORS

- Psa 2:8 (NKJV) Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.
 - We tend to focus on OURSELVES and OUR NEEDS
 - God is calling us to Join in with Him
 - He wants the nations
 - When We partner with Him – He gives us ownership in this work
 - We REAP the nations in prayer

THE POWER WE HAVE WITH INTERCESSION

- Jhn 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.
 - The key is ABIDING
 - We can't just pray for what we want
 - We must agree with God for What HE WANTS!

How important is Intercession – The whole armor of God

- Eph 6:18 (NIV) **And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.** With this in mind, **be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.**
 - o Intercession is listed with the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD
 - o It is THE MAIN work that happens when we carry the sword of the Lord – Word of God

THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

- 1Ti 2:1-5 (NIV) I urge, then, **first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— [2] for kings and all those in authority,** that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. [3] This is good, and pleases God our Savior, [4] **who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.** [5] For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,
 - o Intercession is a BASIC work of the Church
- Col 4:2 (NIV) Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
 - o The Devotion to Prayer was paramount in the early church
- 1Th 5:14-17 (NIV) And we urge you, brothers and sisters...[16] Rejoice always, [17] pray continually,
 - o The call to prayer is continual
 - How do you pray continually?
 - God is not saying all the time – This scripture indicates that we are to be AVAILABLE to pray at all times...
 - The benefit is NOT just for others
 - God always gives the incredible OVERFLOW when we intercede

Examples - Peter

Act 12:5-13 (NIV) So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him... [7] Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. [8] Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. [9] Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision... [12] When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. [13] Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door.

- When Peter was imprisoned – the church gathered to AGREE with God for his release
 - o God was able to DO IT because of agreement on the earth

Moses

Psa 106:23 (NKJV) Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

- Moses stood up to God – agreed

Invitation

- What is God saying to you about Intercession
 - o I believe that God is getting us ready for the days to come
 - o He wants the FULLNESS of maturity
 - o He wants to mobilize us to partner with Him
 - o We are going to make Intercession the focus of our WATCH next Friday...