

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: The Greatest Ministry in this Hour!

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A few weeks ago the LORD dropped into my spirit that the greatest ministry of this Hour would be that of *Intercessory Prayer*! Not that this is a shocker; but while I have seen Intercessory Prayer as a top ministry and priority in the Church, I don't think I ever quite saw it as "the greatest ministry in this Hour." However, just reasoning in my mind this remark of the LORD, it all makes perfect sense. A great army of Intercessors must arise in order to see every facet of ministry arise.

Recently I read a prophetic word from Dutch for 2019 that was simply stated from one Scripture: "... *A wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries,*" (1 Corinthians 16:9). Effectively, just as the apostle Paul mentioned in regards to himself, there will be many open doors to ministry and service this year—at the same time, there will be many adversaries—opponents, challengers, antagonists, enemies, etc.

This prophetic Scripture really provoked not only the truth, but the great need and reason for Intercessory Prayer.

Intercession has different meanings and stances, but some of the more important definitions of intercession are *to stand in the gap or bridge the gap between the LORD and another person*; a situation/circumstance; a church; a city; a nation and more. I recently read a powerful definition for intercession from the Hebrew language meaning *to get in the way of*. Therefore, intercessors are *to stand in the gap, bridge the gap and to get in the way of*—specifically, the enemy's plans in order to release the plans and purposes of God. While intercession is the act of pleading with God for the needs of others, it is also much more than that. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will and refusing to let go until His will comes to pass.



Intercession is *called prayer* through the Believer whom God calls and imparts the gifts to do so. Intercessors do not pray for their own requests—they intercede for others; but God lays His burdens on them to pray for the Body; He uses them to express and enforce His will. He uses them to produce breakthrough.

No doubt, Intercessory Prayer is powerful and therefore, it also involves different levels of knowledge, wisdom, spiritual authority, giftings and more.

Intercessory Prayer will be the ministry that sees the Word of God through—that activates and causes the manifestation of both the written Word and the prophetic Word. Intercessory Prayer will be the ministry that enables praise and worship to reach new supernatural heights—to connect it to Heaven's worship. It will be the ministry that releases revival and awakening. Intercessory Prayer will be the ministry that empowers great evangelism in this Hour to bring in the Harvest. In other words, Intercessory Prayer will be at the forefront of every aspect and ministry of God's Kingdom being activated and manifesting, causing the Kingdom to be birthed, developed, flourish and succeed.

I can always sense when Intercessory Prayer is either not in existence or ineffective (which happens for many reasons). Simply, either things are happening or they are not!

While every Believer is called to intercede for others and other situations/circumstances, etc., there is a ministry of intercession whereby Believers are *called* and as well, endowed with special gifting. I wish I had time to go more in-depth in this area, but it is simply not what the LORD is calling me to do right now. And honestly, there are plenty of valid materials out there on the subject of intercession by those who are gifted in this area. Just a few are Dutch Sheets, Cindy Jacobs, Cindy Trimm, Mike Bickel, Jim Goll, Jennifer LeClaire, but so many more.

Saying all that to say this: Intercessors MUST arise in this Hour, recognize the call, and develop an intimate relationship with Holy Spirit.

Intercessors are to purge themselves from SELF. They are to humble themselves before the living God. While many, many are attacked with personal situations, circumstances, distractions, hindrances, troubles, trials and tribulations—all these and more happen because the enemy does not want you to PRAY! He knows full well that in this Hour, *“The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous . . . Believer can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]”* (James 5:16 AMP, emphasis added).

God has chosen intercession as the primary means in which He releases His power now and forever. Jesus operated in the principle of intercession when He created the earth by speaking the Word to the Father (Gen. 1); through His ministry on earth and in His finished work (death, burial and resurrection). He releases His power now and will rule the nations forever in partnership with His people through intercession.

The personal benefits and blessings of being in intercession are powerful on our behalf:

- Intercession causes us to internalize God’s Word and changes us personally, first and foremost. Once the Word is internalized, it is living, active and powerful in the hands of an Intercessor: *“For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12).
- Intercession unites our heart to the people and places we pray for, i.e. Intercessors *feel* the need they are praying for through prayer [travail (weeping) and more]. In other words, they connect. This gives them increased supernatural wisdom, authority and power over situations.
- Intercession humbles us. Humility carries great blessing. *“The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life”* (Proverbs 22:4). Grace is poured out on the humble (James 4:6). And the humble are exalted (Luke 14:11).
- Intercession renews our hope and faith which are the supernatural ingredients of persistent, effective, powerful prayer.
- Intercession imparts words of life—God’s life. As this is done, life manifests to the Intercessor. (John 6:63).
- Intercession causes multiple blessings to return to the intercessor (Luke 6:38).




Therefore, in respect to Intercessory Prayer, I feel from the LORD that I can safely state the following:

- **There is a serious realigning and resurgence of Intercessory Prayer** all across the globe and in every part of the Body of Christ (i.e. every congregation) in this Hour.
- **Intercessors will be required to bone-up on this new level of Intercessory Prayer** or in other words, learn more about and gain facts about the topic of



intercession, in order to prepare for this Hour's effective, dynamic and powerful prayer. This means that every Intercessor is called to study the Scriptures and other pertinent materials in regards to this kind of prayer.

As well . . .

- **Intercessors are Watchmen.** Watchmen are appointed by God to *watch* (Isaiah 62:6). A watchman is one who sends out a warning to let others know when danger is approaching. Thus, watchmen both spiritually see and hear. In Bible times, they spotted (see or heard) danger then blow a trumpet (Ezekiel 33:3-4) declares joyfully the victory of God (Isaiah 52:8).
  watchmen sat on the wall and when approaching from enemies, they would or sound the alarm. A watchman also Essentially, a watchman is one who pays attention to and understands the times and the various happenings of the times. A watchman watches for the (spiritual) signs of coming destruction. (Matthew 24:36-39; Luke 17:26-30; 1 Thess. 5:2-3; 4-9)
- **Intercessors remind God of His Word** (Isaiah 62:6). In this, Intercessors not only need to know the Word of God, but believe it and practice doing it themselves.
- **Intercessors must be Believers of *Informed Prayer*** (based on the understanding of the facts). This happens through hearing and seeing the voice of God, first and foremost. He is the One who informs Intercessors. Informed intercession-prayer is that of being led by the Holy Spirit. It is for this reason that most true Intercessors have an element of the prophetic. In this case, the Intercessors in this Hour must increase, carry and work through the prophetic.
- **Intercession changes the spiritual atmosphere of churches, cities and nations.**
- **Intercessory Prayer is that which ought to lead in putting forth the right stimulus** (a thing or event that evokes a specific, functional reaction; a thing that rouses activity or energy—a spur or incentive; an interesting and exciting quality)—all related to the plans and purposes (will) of God.
- **Intercessory Prayer is NOT a feel-good prayer group—it's a military resistance** whereby Intercessors take up God's will and enforce, as well as, re-enforce it (Ephesians 6:12). IP then involves spiritual warfare, as well as, Kingdom Warfare. IP exposes the works of the enemy. In this case, IP is not for unbelieving cowards.
- **Intercessors are Believers who will not give up**—they endure, overcome every obstacle, persistent in battle (Ephesians 6:18). Thus, IP is prayer that doesn't give up. It's the kind of prayer that endures all setbacks and overcomes every obstacle. It's prayer that *presses on* until we *apprehend* God's will in whatever situation we are facing (Philippians 3:12).
- **Intercessory Prayer is the key to seeing breakthroughs** in the lives of those around you (this always benefits the Intercessor personally). Jesus gave a great model for intercession in the story of the persistent friend. Here we find a friend who knocks on his neighbor's door at midnight to ask for three loaves of bread. The neighbor does not want to get up, but Jesus said, "*because of his friend's persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs*" (Luke 11:8, NASB).
 Then Jesus said, "*For everyone who keeps on asking [persistently], receives; and he who keeps on seeking [persistently], finds; and to him who keeps on knocking [persistently], the door will be opened*" (Luke 11:10 AMP). Persistence in IP will reap a spiritual harvest in your life and the lives of those around you!
- **Intercessory Prayer will be at the head—leading in Revival, Awakening and the corresponding Harvest.** (Matthew 9:37-38; John 4:34-38)

- Intercessors will carry in their hearts God's burden and therefore, desperation for Revival and the Harvest. They will release a hunger and thirst in the congregation for Revival/Awakening and Harvest. Intercessors must plead with God to grant the Believers a hunger for the Word of God and a readiness to obey the Word of God (Psalm 119:97, 103; 1 John 2:3-6). They must plead or petition the Holy Spirit to stir within every Believer a desire to search and to know the Word of God. They must ask Him to remove any complacency toward the Word of God by the Believers. Call on Him to stir the Believers to be doers of the Word and not simply hearers of the Word (James 1:22-24).
- Revival and Harvest also comes through the powerful preaching and teaching of the Word of God and a demonstration of the Word. Intercessors MUST pray/intercede for church leadership to be powerfully moved in these.
- Intercessors must pray that any and all obstacles to Revival and Harvest will be removed. They must ask God to reveal any obstacles that could hinder their church from experiencing genuine revival. Then they must pray for its removal (Psalm 139:23). They must [pray that God will reveal anything that is not pleasing to Him in their own church and city. Intercessors must call on Him to deal with these obstacles. They must ask Him to remove anything that is hindering the church to experience a genuine working of the Holy Spirit in revival.



- **Intercession makes a long-term impact beyond this age** (Revelation 5:8; 8:1-6).

In order for our prayers as an intercessor to be EFFECTIVE AND FULL OF POWER, intercessors are called to UNITY with the Body of Christ and with its leadership over the Body. They are to be COMMITTED, FAITHFUL AND OBEDIENT to God, first and foremost, then to His appointed leadership and to the body for which they are a part. They are to be Believers of HUMILITY, WALKING IN REPENTANCE. They are to be prophetic listeners and seers. They are to TURN AWAY FROM COMPROMISE AND COMPLACENCY. They are to AGGRESSIVELY FIGHT FEAR AND TAKE HOLD OF FAITH.

Intercessory prayer then is a serious matter. The assignments have been given. The gift and the calling are set upon Believer's lives. Will we respond to the Holy Spirit as He leads to change the face of the Church in this Hour; to change the atmosphere around us; to break-through the stone walls of darkness and set captives free; to usher in the great Revival and Awakening?

And just like soldiers who are preparing for battle, Intercessors cannot take on the enemy if we leave our weapons behind. That is why we must go into *battle* armed for spiritual conflict (2 Cor. 10:3-4) and dressed in the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).