

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Intercession is a form of prayer that brings change. Praying the prayer of intercession is doing spiritual warfare. The Bible says that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5)

Intercession prepares the hearts of people to receive the Gospel because it tears down the strongholds of deception that Satan has brought them. Revivals have never been the results of just good preaching. The preaching of the Gospel with power is the result of prayer. It takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit to cause change in the hearts of people. Intercession is the tool that activates that anointing.

Satan has no defense against this form of prayer. It brings his works to nought. How does it accomplish this? Through "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.**" Ephesians 6:18. It is through intercessory prayer that we wrestle against the evil of the enemy and win!

The inherent power, of the intercessory tool, is the fact that anyone can use it. No matter who you are in the body of Christ, minister or lay person, you can have an eternal effect on the lives of other through your intercession. All it takes is a decision to start praying specifically for a person, family, city, state, nation or church. Do not wait for a burden or a feeling to motivate you to pray. Jesus acted because God told Him to act!

Intercessory prayer is the highest expression of love. It is impossible to be selfish when interceding, because intercessory prayer is always for another person's benefit. It is putting a halt to the influence of Satan in their life so that they can walk in the fullness of the redemption that God has provided. As you make yourself available to the Holy Spirit as an intercessor, praying for all men, you will begin to see the power of

God working through you to get others saved and free from Satan's power.

It takes perseverance to be a successful intercessor. The perseverance does not lay in trying to persuade God to do something when you are praying for someone else. God has already provided salvation, healing, abundance, and deliverance through Calvary. It takes perseverance against the forces of darkness that are trying to maintain their hold on the person for whom you are praying. When those strongholds are destroyed, the spiritual blinders are removed, they will be able to see clearly and receive their deliverance.

Intercession is putting spiritual pressure on demonic forces. It also puts a demand on the Word of God to come on the scene and bring God's power to deliver.

It does not matter what you're standing against. It may look dark and hopeless, but intercession works. You are snatching that person right out of the clutches of Satan. If you will just stick with it, keep applying that pressure, you will see them come out of the snare of the enemy. Your prayers can bring the very presence of God to people in any part of the world. There is no distance in the spirit. It is your persistence that will make the difference.

Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift that was within him. You can stir up that gift by making the decision to stand in the gap for the lost, the sick and the oppressed. It is the will of God that they be delivered from the evil in this world. The Holy Spirit, dwelling in you wants to see them free. He needs you as a vessel through which He can accomplish His will. As you decide to yield yourself to Him, you become an extension of Jesus' ministry, making the redemption He provided available to those you pray for.

Once you've made the decision, keep your faith on the line and keep the pressure on Satan. You have joined forces with God to change situations. Lay hold of it and stay there until it changes! Intercession is the key that unlocks the inheritance of the kingdom of God in the lives of others.

Through your intercession, you have contacted the Father in their behalf. Now go contact them in Jesus' behalf. Go and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them! The Holy Spirit will work through your spirit to bring about a change in them. Your intercessory prayer has been doing spiritual warfare against the evil forces that have blinded their minds and have influenced their decisions and actions. You will be prompted by the Holy Spirit as to when you should actually go to the person for whom you are praying.

In order to paint a clear picture in your mind of what is happening through your intercession, see it as giving birth in the spirit realm. Just like babies are born into this natural world, so must believers be born into the kingdom of God. It takes travailing in the spirit. Once you have made the decision to stand in the gap and pray, you can depend on the Holy Spirit to pray through you as you yield yourself to Him. Romans 8:26 says, "The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The groanings are the spiritual travailing.

After you have prayed, then you must go and harvest. The Holy Spirit prepares you and through your intercession, the Father prepares them to receive. When you come into contact with them, you will give the Word of Life. Jesus will show Himself alive, heal their sick, meet their needs, and they will act on the Word and be born again.

For a proper understanding of intercession and travailing in the spirit, it is essential to understand that this is a *spiritual* process. The literal meaning of Romans 8:26 is that the Holy Spirit, through your spirit, prays with groanings that cannot be uttered in articulate speech. This is not praying in your understanding or with your known language. The Bible says that a man who prays in an unknown tongue speaks *mysterries* unto God. You can pray the intercessory prayer in your known language, but travail, giving birth in the spirit, is not intellectual. It goes beyond the realm of your mind to your inner man. Your spirit, in cooperation with the Holy Spirit, is interceding and urging and issuing forth spiritual power in order to accomplish the will of God in another person's life.

In dealing with that person for whom you are interceding. God will not go against their will. His purpose is to enlighten them to His Word by

the Holy Spirit so that they will no longer be blinded by Satan (II Cor. 4:4). Ephesians 2:2 says that Satan is the spirit at work in those who have not been born again. God desires to deliver them from Satan's power so that Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, is the One who is at work in them.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we (those who are in union with Christ) are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." First Corinthians 2:12 says that the believer has not received the spirit of the world (Satan) but the spirit which is of God. Through your intercession, God will reveal Himself to the one for whom you are praying. They will realize His love in sending Jesus to pay for their sin and to deliver them from the evil of this world. He will bring them to the understanding that they need to be born again through faith in the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. As soon as they make Jesus their Lord, spiritual rebirth will take place. This new birth is the result of your intercession and travail in the spirit.

