

Intercessory Prayer...

The High Priest & You

Heb 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; (KJV)

Heb 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (KJV)

Hebrews 8:1-13

“Mediator” - mesites (mes-ee'-tace);

a go-between, i.e. (simply) an internunciator, or (by implication) a reconciler (intercessor): KJV-- mediator.

INTERCESSION

The act of petitioning God or praying on behalf of another person or group. The sinful nature of this world separates human beings from God. It has always been necessary, therefore, for righteous individuals to go before God to seek reconciliation between Him and His fallen creation.

- One of the earliest and best examples of intercession of this type occurs in <Genesis 18>, where Abraham speaks to God on behalf of Sodom. His plea is compassionate; it is concerned with the well-being of others rather than with his own needs. Such selfless concern is the mark of all true intercession.
- Another good example is the intercessory prayers of Moses. The leader of a nation and a righteous man, Moses successfully petitioned God on behalf of the Hebrew people <Ex. 15:25>. Even the Pharaoh asked Moses to intercede for him <Ex. 8:28>.

- But just as righteous men often succeeded in reconciling Creator and creation, the Bible also reminds us that the ongoing sinfulness of a people can hinder the effects of intercession <1 Sam. 2:25; Jer. 7:16>.
- The sacrifices and prayers of Old Testament priests <Ex. 29:42; 30:7> were acts of intercession which point forward to the work of Christ. Christ is, of course, the greatest intercessor. He prayed on behalf of Peter <Luke 22:32> and His disciples <John 17>. Then in the most selfless intercession of all; He petitioned God on behalf of those who crucified Him <Luke 23:34>.
- But Christ's intercessory work did not cease when He returned to heaven. In heaven He intercedes for His church <Heb. 7:25 - Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (KJV)>.
- His Holy Spirit pleads on behalf of the individual Christian <Rom. 8:26-27 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (KJV)>.
- Finally, because of their unique relationship to God through Christ, Christians are urged to intercede for all people, 1 Tim. 2:1 - I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (KJV).

Reminder: In the time of the Old Testament and the tabernacle/temple, the Jewish people worshiped and prayed divided by three main parts:

1. The Outer Court – Brazen Altar (Altar of Sacrifice) & the Laver (Washbasin)
2. The Inner Court (holy place) – Table of Showbread, The Menorah, & The Alter of Incense
3. The Holy of Holies (most holy place) – Ark of the Covenant (Mercy Seat of God)

- It very important to know that the people only had permission to enter into the Outer Court. The Priests could enter into the Inner Court in order to take care of the responsibilities that were required by God. But, only the High Priest could go behind the veil in between the Inner Court and the Holy of Holies.
- You must first understand a very important part of this process...This is the only place in which God's presence was manifested with man during the tabernacle/temple days of old.
- Before the High Priest could enter into God's presence He had to go through certain rituals in order to be purified in God's presence.
- Today, we become qualified for the presence of God on our righteousness in Christ, not because of a ritual or tradition.

We are all called to have an intimate relationship with God through prayer... as an adopted child of God prayer becomes our birthright. What is often difficult to understand is that a relationship with God at the deepest level—requires that we not only change our actions, but we must be transformed from within.

I have come to understand this basic fact...God wants you and me to go beyond having a religious experience. Our walk with Christ should not be about what church we attend, what we wear to the service, or who will lead the service during worship. However, it is about OUR relationship with the Lord.

Ark of the Covenant

The Bible says that the Ark was perfected *within* and *without*. Don't miss what I am about to say...Despite the ark being small in size, it still held the manifest glory of God and dwelt in the Holy of Holies. When the power of the Word begins working in you, the outer man will reflect His glory—then His power will be released through you in prayer. This is known as impartation, God's grace through you!

One of the Problems

Many believers will often talk about having a deeper relationship with God without even knowing what it means to have this kind of walk. Often Christians will be “touched” during a high point in the service or when they were slain in the Spirit during worship. What is so critical to understand is the fact that this is a part of the experience of God, but it does not have the fulfillment of an encounter with God. What we need to understand is the fact that having an “experience” during a service is not what God desires...actually he desires a lifestyle. It is in the “lifestyle” that intercessory prayer will come alive and it is there that you are to live in that place.

As a High Priest

Remember that fact that only the High Priest could enter into the Holy of Holies...this is a very critical scripture found in Hebrews.

Heb 4:12-16

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (KJV)

Understanding what the Bible says, you and I cannot neglect the importance of having an intimate relationship with God. Not from the Outer or Inner court, but beyond the veil where the Presence of God is manifested.

When we go beyond the veil our lives become a supernatural lifestyle. Whatever occurs in your life from that point on is the result of decisions you make that come directly from the heart of God and not your flesh.

It has nothing to do with a certain song that is sung, or whether everything in the service goes according to plan.

1 Pet 2:9-10

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. (KJV)

Come after Me

Mark 1:17-20

“Come after Me and be My disciples, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Today Jesus is still asking of you the very same thing that he asked the fishermen that day. Jesus needs you and me in order to get rid of everything that doesn't go hand in hand with the kingdom of God. By yourself you can not find redemption, but only through Christ. Then through his righteousness we become his servants to the Father's purpose.

Jesus did not save you so that you could go to church, sit in a pew, shout, jump, and sing in the praise team. He did not bring you into the Father's presence so that you could have a “Christian” experience. Jesus brought you out of bondage, freed you from your burden of sin, in order to become a fisher of men.

Contrary to popular belief the Lord did not deliver you from your addictions, spirits of depression and oppression to allow you to sit in a beautiful cozy building wearing a nice suit or immaculate dress just to have you wondering when you are finally going to get a front row seat. God did not fill you with His power for you to sit idle, wondering, *When are they going to ordain me?* God drew you into His house to transform you so that in turn you will become disciples of His purpose.

The Place of Prayer

It is your place of prayer in which you will receive your spiritual assignment from God—and the power to go forward with that assignment.

Notice that when Jesus called the disciples, they left their nets immediately. Do not miss the fact that they walked away from their own abilities and put the entire faith in a man that they knew not of...Jesus, "the living Word". It was there that they submitted to His authority and trusted Him to deliver them from their bondage and provide for all their needs.

From that day forward, they began to walk in the reality of a true intimate relationship with the Lord. Today, there are a lot of people who pray, but there are not a lot of intercessors that go beyond the veil into the very manifest presence of God.

Where are you in the Tabernacle

When Jesus calls you to salvation, this is a parallel to the outer court experience. It is in the outer court that we find a sacrifice for sin and the washing of the outer man. Another words we find salvation and a baptism of one's life. This is where many in the church remain for all of their lives. It seems to be good enough.

When Jesus calls you to become a disciple, this is a parallel to the inner court, or the Holy of Holies. It is here that we find a job of maintenance. Remember that the priest were to make sure that the bread was always fresh, the menorah was full of oil and always lit, while the alter of incense in which was to have the oil and spices full while burning at all times. Here most Christians get caught up in worship and then find themselves in a routine day after day, but find themselves leaving God out of the picture.

But, when you are called into a divine assignment as a disciple in which becomes a fisher of men (an intercessor), it is there that you can fulfill the commission only through the workings of the Holy Spirit. There He will help you develop spiritual disciplines—without the Holy Spirit you could not and will not be able to hear what He hears, see what He sees and know what He knows. You cannot become a fisher of men and complete your level in which you are an intercessor until you yield all to Jesus and drop your net! You cannot come into the level thinking about what others think or with doubt within your mind.

In order to work as an intercessory in prayer we must be willing to drop our nets. Drop what you think ministry is supposed to be, and give everything to Jesus. Drop what you think God has called you to do because without a life of prayer you will never be able to finish what you have started.

You cannot enter into a deep relationship with God until you lay it all down and say: “God, I’m willing to be transformed into an intercessor who knows what you see, feel and desire to be accomplished. Show me the purpose you have ordained me to fulfill for Your Kingdom. **Mark 1:20** states that the disciples “**abandoned all mutual claims.**” When you meet God behind the veil, you can abandon your religious claims because you have received the highest call in God’s kingdom—the call to intercessory, effectual, fervent prayer.

It is in intercessory that you will not care if you don’t sing in the praise team when God meets with you in a high level of prayer. All things religious will become less significant, and you will then abandon all your titles and rights. When you enter into a true relationship with God in his manifest presence the world offers nothing!

Those who pray!

Anyone can pray, but not everyone is equipped to make effective intercession. It is easy to attend a church service, but can you stand in the gap for someone’s life? Can you command Cancer to let someone go? Can you command a crystal-meth addiction to be broken off someone’s life?

Today, God himself could be found in travail because of prayer less preachers, evangelists, prophets, teachers, and worshippers. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance—but what we do in God’s kingdom isn’t about gifts.

Rather, it is about reaching out to others from the fire of destruction. We can find in **Jude 23** it says: “**Strive to save others, snatching them out of the fire; on other take pity but with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality.**” When God calls you into his manifest presence, He will give you the power to come through not only the outer court, but also the Holy place and into the most holy place.

Three Alters of the Bible

The Bible mentions three different types of altars:

Altar of Stone – the place where you must come to repentance

Altar of Brass – where your flesh struggles against submission to the Word and is ultimately laid on the fires of purification.

Altar of Gold – the place where you enter into worship. It's where you lay yourself down and let God pick up the work. At this altar, God is working with you and teaching you how to lay down the earthly ministry and pick up His ministry. Your flesh has ceased from the battle against the Word of God as you learn to let go and let God. The altar is where we die and Christ begins to live through us.

- When you go into God's dwelling your flesh ceases and the intimacy of God's heart within you begins. It is here that you will begin to see what God is doing, over and above hearing His voice.
- When you are in the manifest presence of God he will then say: "I want to show you My glory! I want to show you what I am going to do for you and I am taking you. I want to show you that you have victory and power. I don't want just to speak to you. I want to reveal myself to your inner man so that I can speak through you."
- When you operate in intercessory prayer you are empowered and you are being directed from His presence, then your prayers will shatter the gates of Hell!
- **James 5:16 - Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (KJV)**
- The more you go to God with a pure heart, the more He will take you to new levels. If you are ready to find God beyond religion, denomination, or anything that you have ever seen or experienced—He is calling for you! Let God lead you through His pattern of prayer all the way into His presence behind the veil because that is where the impossible is not only possible...it will become Reality!