

# **Eight Keys to Intercession**

## *A Course on Intercessory Prayer*

Prepared by

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This Prayer Course is designed to meet a variety of needs:

### *Teacher's Guide*

This material provides a thorough outline that can be combined with a teacher's personal examples and applications for an eight lesson course on prayer. Each chapter can also stand alone as an individual lesson on prayer.

### *Group Study Guide*

This material provides an excellent basis for group study and discussion.

### *Personal Enrichment*

This material provides sound teaching for personal growth in intercessory prayer when studied thoughtfully and prayerfully

- 8→ **PRAYER IS RELATIONSHIP**
- 8→ **ATTITUDES OF THE HEART**
- 8→ **HEARING THE VOICE OF THE LORD**
- 8→ **PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE**
- 8→ **TOOLS FOR INTERCESSION**
- 8→ **YOUR PRAYER ANOINTING**
- 8→ **PRAYING FOR THE UNSAVED, HUSBANDS AND CHILDREN**
- 8→ **WATCHMAN ON THE WALL**

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Intercessors, Discover Your Prayer Power  
Beth Alves, Tommi Femrite, Karen Kaufman

The Mighty Warrior  
Beth Alves

How to Pray for Someone Near You Who is Away from God  
Joy Dawson

Teaching Notes  
Suzette Hattingh

Teaching Notes  
Larry Lea

Intercessory Prayer  
Dutch Sheets

How to Pray For Your Children  
Quinn Sherrer

## The Empty Chair

A man's daughter asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed.

The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me," he said. "No, who are you?" said the father.

The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I see the empty chair; figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh, yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head."

"I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because He promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.'"

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, and when I left the house about two o' clock, he called me over to his bedside and told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

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Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards.

Just remember, the chair is never really "empty."

No matter where we are, what we do, how we act, what we say, who we are with –  
He is always with us.

# Lesson 1 - Prayer Is Relationship

## Eight Keys to Intercession

### 1. Purpose for prayer

Prayer is a part of God's plan for building relationships with us, His children. To effectively "hit the mark" in prayer we need to know the purpose for our being here, why we were left on earth after accepting salvation. We need to know why we weren't taken up to heaven right away, saving everybody lots of heartache and trouble.

*You have not chosen Me, but I chose you out and planted you, that you should go and should bear fruit, and your fruit remain, that whatever you should ask the Father in My name, He may give you (John 15:16).*

*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God before prepared that we should walk in them (Ephesians 2:10).*

God left us here *not to* fulfill all **our** desires, make us feel good, comfortable, rich, important, qualified and so on. He left us to produce fruit, to do **HIS** good works. That's the only purpose for our being left on earth and it should drastically change our view on why and what we pray for.

### 2. Prayer is the source of life and power

We cannot produce eternal fruit and fulfill all God's work in our own strength. It is humanly impossible. Good works alone do not necessarily carry eternal value. We need prayer as the lifeline of fellowship with God in order to know His will and receive His strength so that we might produce real fruit in our life (John 15:4-5).

### 3. Abiding with the Father

Abiding in our Father's love should become our way of life. It is also a condition for praying effectively (John 15:7-10).

Jesus exhorts us in the Sermon on the Mount not to look at prayer as a means of squeezing out of God the results that *we* want to have. *The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer-ignorant. They are full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense. This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply (Matthew 6:7-8 The Message).*

- Our talking with Him should be sincere and with understanding, involving heart and mind. So often we catch a "religious fever," mindlessly saying the words without meaning them, going after nice religious feelings only. Quite often we don't even remember what we were praying for. If we give so little heart and attention to requests from our own lips, what should be God's response?
- We should always understand to whom we are talking. Realize that we are talking to the Most High God, and when we say "Father" we are being listened to by the all-powerful Creator Himself!
- When we abide in Jesus it means that we live in Him, and His attention is ours the moment we call.
- Take Him with you everywhere, in every moment and circumstance of life, practice being conscious of His presence with you always. Abide in Him!

### 4. Basis for prayer

The only basis for our being heard by God is the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins. Sin separates us from a Holy God and all our righteousness and goodness will not stand His test. That's why ONLY the RIGHTEOUSNESS of JESUS provides us an access to the Father's throne (Hebrews 10:19-20).

- We need to ask and receive by faith the garment of His righteousness. It's like a protective suit of His blood for entering the nuclear reactor of God's presence. You won't get in without it, and if you try you could get burned to ashes.
- We should take care of this "suit", renewing it by repentance and prayer, because our sins pinch holes in it quite regularly (I John 1:6-9).
- Being heard by God does not depend on how "good" I feel today, but only on my relationship to Him and His righteousness. If I humble myself, ask forgiveness, and thank Him for His blood that cleanses me from all my sins then my prayer will be heard by God (I John 1:6-9, 3:21-24, 5:13-15).
- Remember that God is for us. If you had a negative experience with your earthly father, be careful not to transfer it onto your heavenly Father (Romans 8:31).

## LESSON 2 -- Attitudes of the Heart

### Eight Keys to Intercession

### How should I be in the presence of God?

- God sees our heart and knows exactly what we think and feel. When we pray and worship, we must be honest and sincere for our communion with God must come from the very depth of our being which is our spirit. Jesus Himself said, “The Father is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4: 23, 24).
- God is the Father, and He deserves to be loved and respected by His children, just as our own father does. Our attitude must honor Him in this way.
- God is God and the Bible instructs us to come humbly into His presence (I Peter 5:6). The word *humble* actually means, *to be close to the base, not too far above the plain or foundation*. So for us, being humble means to remember who we are in Christ, not to raise our heads too high or to put them too low from our position in Christ.
- God is a welcoming Father who encourages us to come boldly into His presence. His son, Jesus, was tempted like we are and can sympathize with us in our weakness and offer us grace and mercy in our time of need (Hebrews 4:15, 16).
- We should keep our hearts clean by confessing our sins and repenting of them. Confession is agreeing with God when He shows us our sin and repentance is choosing to turn around and go another way (I John 1:6-10). Remember that the prayer of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord.

### Types of prayer

Prayer can take different forms. Let’s look at some of them:

#### 1. Praise and Thanksgiving

Gratitude is a good medicine to help us focus on God rather than indulge in displeasure, discouragement or negative thinking. And it’s pleasing to the Father to see thankful and joyful hearts (Psalm 100:4).

Thank God for who He is because His character does not change in any circumstances (Psalm 145).

What are three good things the Lord has done for you this week?

Now, what aspect of His character do you see through each of these situations?

Tell your neighbor. How does it feel? Better? Don’t forget to thank Him!

Thank God for what He did and is going to do (Psalm 136).

Learn different ways of expressing praise and use all of them. Take psalms of praise and make them your own. Sing them and speak them.

#### 2. Confession and Forgiveness

Confession is an important aspect of prayer (Isaiah 59:1, 2).

We can’t always see where we’ve been wrong, so make a habit of asking the Lord to check you and show you anything you might be doing that offends His will and His ways (Psalm 139:23-24). As you sense He is pinpointing an action or attitude, quickly agree with Him, ask for forgiveness and then make the choice to change (I John 1:9). Asking God to show you is always more effective than digging up your faults yourself and then attacking yourself as worthless and sliding into self-pity. Staying arrogant is not the answer either. God is our loving and responsible Father; He won’t leave us without change (Hebrews 12: 6-11).

In prayer there is a correlation between what you do and what God does. It’s especially true with forgiveness.

The Bible exhorts us always to keep in mind two aspects of God’s character – His gentle kindness and His severity. If He said He won’t forgive you unless you forgive others, that’s how it’s going to be (Matthew 6:14, 15). Unforgiveness breaks our fellowship with God.

It’s quite useful to check yourself in the following three areas where unforgiveness can creep in:

- a. Unforgiveness towards people who hurt you
- b. Unforgiveness towards God because, in your understanding, He did not intervene the way you wanted Him to.
- c. Unforgiveness towards yourself for the situations that caused you pain, shame, guilt, etc.

### 3. **Intercession**

Intercession is prayer for others, a continuation of the work of Jesus (Hebrews 7: 25).

The process of intercession could be drawn as a symbol of lightning and how it works:

- ~ It's born in the Father's heart, His initiative
- ~ Sent to earth by the Holy Spirit, into the praying heart
- ~ The pray-er lifts the need back to God in prayer
- ~ God performs changes on earth in response to prayer of a man.

II Chronicles 7: 13-14

The Holy Spirit very often prompts intercession. He tells us when and what to pray for. Stay available and attentive to His prompting. You could suddenly feel heaviness or anxiety for someone, see a name or a face of a person during your prayer time or simply feel an urge to pray without any explanations. Ask the Holy Spirit what's going on, for whom are you praying and if there are any specific instructions on how He wants you to pray. If you receive no answer, just trust Him and pray in tongues until the heaviness lifts and you get a sense that the task is completed (Romans 8: 26-27).

You could also intercede for certain people or situations on a regular basis. Ask the Lord to show you clearly how and what to pray for specifically (Psalm 25: 4-5, 14), and pray unceasingly until you either see results or the Lord tells you to stop.

### 4. **Asking**

Asking means to humbly submit our request to the One in power.

We should pay attention and realize what we are asking for. Petitions should be specific when possible (Mark 10:51).

We should pray with God according to His rules and our petitions need to be in line with what Jesus did and with the revealed character of God (John 16: 23-27).

We should pray with childlike faith, trusting that God hears and will take actions in response to our request. God responds to each prayer but sometimes not exactly the way we might have envisioned it. It takes faith to receive an answer that differs from what we wanted (I John 5:14-15). God is for us and He wants us to ask, to seek and to knock – and receive answers! We simply have to do our part: ask, be specific, and trust (Matthew 7: 7:8).

## **LESSON 3 – Hearing the Voice of the Lord**

### **Eight Keys to Intercession**

Often when we hear the word prayer, we first think about it as what we do when we want something from God. But prayer is much more than that. It is the lifeline of communication between the Father and us, His children. It is the way we communicate with each other, the vehicle we have for sharing our hearts and building an intimate relationship. God hears us and He speaks to us. We speak to Him and it is important that we also hear Him. Prayer is a two-way conversation. Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). This lesson explores how we hear Him.

### **DRAW NEAR TO GOD**

The key to hearing the voice of God is found in James 4:8a, “Draw near to the Lord and He will draw near to you”.

### **HE WANTS TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY**

See John 10-3-5.

### **THE LORD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Jesus calls Him the Counselor. The word *counselor* comes from the Greek word *Parakletos*. It literally means “the one who is called alongside to help”. It also means comforter, strengthener, helper, advisor, advocate, intercessor, ally (combine or unite for a special purpose) and friend (John 14:16-17).

### **NEVER BE AFRAID TO TRUST THE VOICE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- He is fully representative of the character of the Lord and never moves outside those dimensions.
- The Holy Spirit is always in harmony with the Word of God. I believe that the principal way God speaks to us is through Scripture. Although it is possible for God to speak to our hearts directly in words other than those of Scripture, what He says will always be in harmony with the Word of God.
- He is our friend who is called to walk beside us and communicate with us.
- Hearing the Lord’s voice should be a normal everyday occurrence as we spend time with Him, through prayer and reading the Word of God. Listening is very important. So often we want God’s presents and yet don’t want to seek His presence.

### **HOW DO WE KNOW IF IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- Ask yourself: Does the voice gently lead you or is it commanding and harsh?
- God’s voice gently guides – encourages and gives you hope.
- God leads; Satan drives. See John 10:4.
- God woos; Satan tugs hard.
- God convicts and forgives; Satan condemns and brings guilt.
- God never uses fear to motivate when He speaks. See II Timothy 1:7.

### **HOW DOES GOD SPEAK?**

- Old Testament: He spoke through the prophets, e.g. Moses, Isaiah, and Jeremiah.
- New Testament: He spoke by the Holy Spirit. See John 14:16.
- We hear the Holy Spirit in different ways — visually, audibly, or we might sense an impression. In some cases, we hear Him through a dream. Interestingly, God often starts with love talk.

### **HINDRANCES TO HEARING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- We lack faith and do not believe that He wants to speak to us.
- We harbor unforgiveness in our heart. If this is the case, we can always ask the Lord to search our heart and show us what we have in it. See Psalm 139:23 and Psalm 51:10.
- We can feel that we are not good enough or worthy of hearing God. See John 4:7-9 for the story of the Samaritan woman.
  - She had five husbands – the man she was living with not her husband
  - The Samaritans were seen by the Jews as heathens or dogs
  - The Jews debated as to if a woman had a soul. Women were not counted in a census
  - Jewish men thanked God that they were not born a woman
- We can be hindered if our hearts are hardened through unbelief. See Hebrews 3:15.
- Being disappointed in God can be a hindrance. See Proverbs 4:23.

## **GUIDELINES TO HEARING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

- Bind the voice of the enemy. Do this in the name of Jesus. Then, trust the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth (Matthew 16:19).
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5).
- Quiet yourself and listen. Limit your own talking. See John 10:27.  
You do this in the same way you would carry on a conversation with a precious friend. “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).  
*Someone said we have one mouth and 2 ears because we should listen twice as much as we speak.*
- Give your undivided attention to God’s Word. See I Corinthians 2:10-12.  
Focus your mind on what He is saying. Hearing is passive, while listening is active. The more revelation of God’s Word you have, the more threat you will be to the kingdom of darkness.
- Write down what the Holy Spirit shows you
- The Holy Spirit is always in harmony with the Word of God

## **PRACTICE TIME**

- First, come to the well to receive your living water. See John 4.
- If you are in a group, find a partner and take turns praying for each other. Give something from the Holy Spirit to your partner – something He speaks to you as you pray for your partner. This might be in the form of a picture (a scene the Holy Spirit impresses upon your mind), a Word (a word of knowledge, wisdom or prophecy), a scripture or a song.

## **INTERCESSION**

- Jesus, our great high priest, provided the example of how to intercede when He was on earth and Scripture assures us that He continues to intercede even now in Heaven. See Hebrews 7:25.
- The initiative for intercession comes from God.
- Intercession has been described as a love response to the prompting of the Holy Spirit for an urgent need.
- It can be a simple cry to the Lord for someone we love.
- Intercession generally begins and ends at God’s direction.

## **TO BEGIN INTERCESSION, YOU MIGHT ASK:**

- Lord, how do You want me to pray for this person today?
- What is on Your heart?
- What is the most pressing need?
- Show me how to intercede.

**God urges us to ask for His help and He promises to provide the help we need through His Holy Spirit. Sometimes we can pray in tongues to begin with and trust the Lord to intercede as well as tell us how to pray.**



## **LESSON 4 – Praying the Scripture**

### **The Lord’s Prayer – Matthew 6:9-13**

#### **Eight Keys to Intercession**

This is a model prayer in which Jesus outlines six areas as a pattern for our prayer.

#### **OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN** Mathew 6:9

- We begin by thanking God, our Father, and by thanking Him for sending His Son to redeem us. If it weren't for His Son, we couldn't call Him Father (Galatians 4:4-6).
- Take the best in human fatherhood, multiply it a billion times, and we do not even come close to the passion, the love and concern which our heavenly Father has for His children. We can thank Him that His fatherhood is perfect.
- Thank Him that He will help us gain a picture of a heavenly Father that is unpolluted by any of our earthly relationships

#### **HALLOWED BY THY NAME** Matthew 6:9

- *Hallowed* means separated for praise, glory, and adoration. Because His Name is worthy of praise, glory, and adoration, we honor Him and magnify His Name.
- As we know His many names in Hebrew, we can praise Him because He is:  
**Jehovah tsidkenu** – God our righteousness

**Jehovah m'kaddesh** -- God who sanctifies. We can praise Him that our sins -- past, present and future -- have already been forgiven by the blood of Jesus. Therefore, all we have to do is confess our sin and appropriate that forgiveness (I John 1:9).

**Jehovah shalom** – God is our peace.

**Jehovah shammah** -- God is present. Because Christ's atonement removed the barrier of sin separating us from God, we can enjoy His peace and experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

**Jehovah rophedh** -- the God who heals. We are made whole because of the stripes of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Peter 2:24). We don't praise God because of what we feel; we praise Him for what the stripes of Jesus have already done for us. The greatest faith words in the word are **THANK YOU**.

**Jehovah jireh** – God's provision shall be seen. We can praise God for being our provider. He sees our need before we ever have it. He redeemed us from the curse of failure and inferiority.

**Jehovah nissi** – God our banner. We praise Him for giving freedom from the fear of death and hell.

**Jehovavah rohi** – God our shepherd who will lead us through the valley of the shadow of death and into the house of the Lord where we will dwell forever (Psalm 23; John 10: 27-28).

#### **THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE** Matthew 6:10 This is a strong petition.

- We acknowledge that God has a kingdom over which He reigns. It is not the kingdom of this world.
- We ask Him to be King of our lives.
- We ask Him to be King in the lives of our husband and children. Pray for your children individually, declaring that God's will be done in their lives
- We ask Him to be King in our church. Maybe at this time the Holy Spirit will have you pray for an individual in your church or for your pastor or other church leaders.
- We ask Him to be King in our nation. Pray for your government, your president and other national leaders.

### **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD** Matthew 6:11

- To pray successfully for what we need, we must first be in the will of God. We must be walking, talking, and fellowshiping with Jesus regularly through our personal prayer life.
- Bring before Him our specific needs.
- “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35). Listen to what the Lord is saying. He will speak. It may be a few words, such as, “I love you,” or “Fear not.” “Do not be anxious” and “Trust Me.” It might be a scripture such as Hebrews 13: 5. Whatever it is, it will be what you need for today. Write it down!

### **AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS** Matthew 6:12

- Ask God to examine your heart. “Search me, Oh God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way, in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23-24).
- When something comes to mind, confess it. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).
- If we think our sin is too great for God to forgive, we are nullifying what Jesus did on the cross for us.
- Sin is sin and can be forgiven. God does not grade sin (Micah 7:19; Psalm 103:12).
- This is a time to forgive others (Ephesians 4:32). “In prayer there is a connection between what God does and what you do. You can’t get forgiveness from God, for instance, without also forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part” (Matthew 6:15 **The Message**). If you find it difficult to do, then ask Jesus for His grace. Grace means His enabling power (II Corinthians 12:9).
- Bless those who have hurt you. Give them mercy. Mercy means that you don’t want them to get what they deserve (James 2:13).

### **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL** Matthew 6:13

*Another word for temptation is testings*

- Pray that we don’t come into temptation by being careless or disobedient. Be alert; this means watchful (I Peter 5:8; Ephesians 5:14).
- Jesus also taught His disciples to pray for deliverance from evil. We need to put on the whole armor of God.
- We can build a hedge of protection around ourselves and stand firm in the victory that Christ has already won.
- The armor of God is the only protection against the wiles of the devil. Read carefully Ephesians 6:14-17. The armor is to be a defense against the strategy of the devil so as to protect us from assault. Another scripture is, “So let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light...put on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:12, 14). Your spiritual armor is in reality the Lord Jesus Christ. He wants to be our defense by clothing us in Himself. We walk in total security when we walk daily covered in Jesus.
- Unlike conventional armor, our spiritual armor should never be taken off!

#### **Putting On Our Spiritual Armor**

- **Gird your loins with truth.** We can pray, “Jesus, You are my truth. You are the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6). Ask the Lord to expose any lies of the enemy you believe in. Tell the Lord that you want only the truth in your mind.
- **Breastplate of righteousness.** Pray as follows: “Jesus, You became sin for me that I might be made the righteousness of God in Christ” (II Corinthians 5:21). “Thank you, Jesus, that you are my righteousness. Because of your righteousness I can come boldly before the throne of grace”.
- **Fit your feet for the preparation of the gospel of peace.** We can declare, “Jesus, You are my preparation- my readiness- for I can do all things through your strength” (Philippians 4:13).
- **Shield of faith.** We can say, “Jesus, through your name I withstand the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- **Helmet of salvation.** “Thank you, Lord, that the helmet of salvation covers my conscious mind and my subconscious mind. Thank you, Lord, that you cover my head in the day of battle” (Psalm 140:7).
- **Sword of the spirit.** We can say, “Thank you, Lord, for your word that is living and active. Sharper than any two edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12).”God means what He says. What He says goes. His powerful Word is sharp as a surgeon’s scalpel, cutting through anything, whether doubt or defense, laying us open to listen and obey” (Hebrews 4:12 **The Message**). Remember the sword of the Spirit is God’s Word: it is an offensive weapon to attack.

# **If God Should Speak!**

Skit on the Lord's Prayer

*(The "Voice" should be heard but not seen.)*

*Person:* "Our Father which art in heaven..."

*Voice:* YES

*Person:* Don't interrupt me, I'm praying!

*Voice:* BUT YOU CALLED ME.

*Person:* Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. "Our Father which art in heaven..."

*Voice:* THERE, YOU DID IT AGAIN.

*Person:* Did what?

*Voice:* CALLED ME. YOU SAID: "OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN." HERE I AM, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

*Person:* But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good; kind of like getting a duty done.

*Voice:* ALRIGHT, GO ON.

*Person:* "Hallowed be Thy name..."

*Voice:* HOLD IT. WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?

*Person:* By what?

*Voice:* BY "HALLOWED BE THY NAME?"

*Person:* It means...It means...Good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? It's just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

*Voice:* IT MEANS HONORED, HOLY, WONDERFUL.

*Person:* Hey, that makes sense. I never thought what "hallowed" meant before. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

*Voice:* DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

*Person:* Sure, why not?

*Voice:* WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?

*Person:* Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

*Voice:* HAVE I GOT CONTROL OF YOU?

*Person:* Well, I go to church.

*Voice:* THAT ISN'T WHAT I ASKED YOU. WHAT ABOUT THAT HABIT YOU HAVE? AND YOUR TEMPER? YOU'VE REALLY GOT A PROBLEM THERE, THE WAY YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY...ALL ON YOURSELF. AND WHAT ABOUT THE KIND OF BOOKS YOU READ?

*Person:* Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at church.

*Voice:* EXCUSE ME. I THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE PRAYING FOR MY WILL TO BE DONE. IF THAT IS TO HAPPEN IT WILL HAVE TO START WITH THE ONES WHO ARE PRAYING FOR IT. LIKE YOU, FOR EXAMPLE!

*Person:* Oh, alright. I guess that I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

*Voice:* SO COULD I!

*Person:* I haven't thought about it very much until now. But I would really like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.

*Voice:* GOOD! NOW WE ARE GETTING SOMEWHERE. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER, YOU AND I. SOME VICTORIES CAN BE TRULY WON. I'M PROUD OF YOU.

*Person:* Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. "Give us this day our daily bread".

*Voice:* YOU NEED TO CUT OUT THE BREAD. YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT AS IT IS!

*Person:* Hey, wait a minute! What is this, "Criticize me day?" Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a sudden You break in and remind me of my hang-ups.

*Voice:* PRAYING IS A DANGEROUS THING. YOU COULD WIND UP CHANGED YOU KNOW. THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO YOU. YOU CALLED ME, AND HERE I AM. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW. KEEP PRAYING, I'M INTERESTED IN THE NEXT PART OF YOUR PRAYER...(PAUSE) WELL, GO ON.

*Person:* I'm scared to!

*Voice:* SCARED? OF WHAT?

*Person:* I know what you'll say.

*Voice:* TRY ME AND SEE.

*Person:* "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

*Voice:* WHAT ABOUT LINDA?

*Person:* See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up. Why Lord, she told lies about me, cheated me out of some money. She never paid back that debt she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her.

*Voice:* BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRAYER?

*Person:* I didn't mean it.

*Voice:* WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE HONEST. BUT IT'S NOT MUCH FUN CARRYING THAT LOAD OF BITTERNESS AROUND INSIDE, IS IT?

*Person:* No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I got some plans for old Linda. She'll wish she never did me any harm.

*Voice:* YOU WON'T FEEL ANY BETTER. YOU'LL FEEL WORSE. REVENGE ISN'T SWEET. THINK OF HOW UNHAPPY YOU ALREADY ARE. BUT I CAN CHANGE ALL THAT!

*Person:* You can? How?

*Voice:* FORGIVE LINDA AS I HAVE FORGIVEN YOU. THEN THE HATE AND SIN WILL BE LINDA'S PROBLEM AND NOT YOURS. YOU MAY LOSE THE MONEY, BUT YOU HAVE SETTLED YOUR HEART.

*Person:* But Lord, I can't forgive Linda.

*Voice:* THEN I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU.

*Person:* Oh, You're right, You always are. And more than I want revenge on Linda, I want to be right with you. (Pause) (Sigh) Alright, alright, I forgive her. Help her to find the right road in life. She's bound to be awfully miserable now that I think about it. Anybody that goes around doing the things that she does to others has to be out of it. Somehow, somehow, show her the right way. And Lord, help me to forget it too!

*Voice:* THERE NOW! WONDERFUL! HOW YOU DO FEEL?

*Person:* Hmmm, well, not bad! Not bad at all. In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think that I will have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I am not getting enough rest.

*Voice:* YOU'RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOUR PRAYER, GO ON!

*Person:* Oh, alright. "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

*Voice:* GOOD! GOOD! I'LL DO JUST THAT. JUST DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE TEMPTED!

*Person:* What do you mean by that?

*Voice:* QUIT HANGING AROUND WITH THAT ONE GROUP WHICH IS ALWAYS GETTING INTO TROUBLE. CHANGE SOME OF YOUR FRIENDSHIPS. SOME OF YOUR SO-CALLED FRIENDS ARE BEGINNING TO GET TO YOU. THEY'LL HAVE YOU COMPLETELY INVOLVED IN WRONG THINGS BEFORE LONG. ON'T BE FOOLED. THEY ADVERTISE THEY'RE HAVING FUN, BUT FOR YOU IT WOULD BE RUIN. ON'T USE ME FOR AN ESCAPE HATCH.

*Person:* I don't understand?

*Voice:* SURE YOU DO. YOU'VE DONE IT A LOT OF TIMES. YOU GET IN BAD SITUATIONS, YOU GET INTO TROUBLE AND THEN YOU COME RUNNING TO ME. "LORD, HELP ME OUT OF THIS MESS, AND I PROMISE YOU'LL NEVER DO IT AGAIN." YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THOSE BARGAINS YOU TRIED TO MAKE WITH ME?

*Person:* Yes, and I'm ashamed Lord. I really am. I'm sorry Lord. I really am. Up until now I thought that If I just prayed the Lord's Prayer everyday, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like this...that you really listen!

*Voice:* GO AHEAD AND FINISH YOUR PRAYER.

*Person:* "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen."

*Voice:* DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY? WHAT WOULD REALLY MAKE ME HAPPY?

*Person:* No, but I would like to know. I want to please You. I can see what a mess I've made of my life. And I can see how neat it would be to really be one of Your followers.

*Voice:* YOU JUST ANSWERED THE QUESTION.

*Person:* I did?

*Voice:* YES, THE THING THAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY IS TO HAVE PEOPLE LIKE YOU TRULY LOVE ME. AND I SEE THAT HAPPENING BETWEEN US. NOW THAT SOME OF THESE OLD SINS ARE EXPOSED AND OUT OF THE WAY, WELL, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER.

*Person:* Lord, let's see what we can make of me, OK?

*Voice:* YES, LET US SEE!

## **Lesson 5 -- Tools For Intercession**

### **Eight Keys to Intercession**

Christ has already won the battle over Satan at the cross. Our task is to pray in the power of the resurrected Christ so that we enforce His triumphant victory.

“And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:15).

If Jesus won the battle then why are we fighting? A good question. Consider this: At the end of World War II, the Allies had won the victory and Hitler was defeated. Yet, occupation troops remained in the different areas of the nations to ensure the terms of the victory. It is the same with us; we must enforce the victory that Jesus won at Calvary through the shedding of His blood.

***WE NEED TO BE AWARE THAT WE HAVE AN ENEMY, BUT WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE HAVE A GREAT GOD!***

### **INTERCESSION**

- The first mention of intercession in the Bible is found in Isaiah 52:12.
- The Hebrew word for intercession is “PAGA”. It has a two fold- meaning.
  1. To strike up against, to collide with.
  2. To come in between, to entreat, to cry out.
- Intercession is going to God and asking on behalf of others.
- Intercession is a supportive ministry and belongs to the Body of Christ.

*Intercession creates a meeting. Intercessors meet with God.  
They also meet the power of darkness enforcing the victory Jesus accomplished for us on the cross.*

As intercessors we have two basic needs:

1. To know God, His character and what He has done for us on the cross.
2. To know the enemy and his tactics.

Notice that knowing God comes first. As we know Him more intimately, we will be able to quickly detect events that do not reflect His character and nature. He does not want us doing battle against people, but to target our efforts against the enemy. We must recognize that our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against the power of darkness and Satan’s rulers of this age (Ephesians 6:12). There are many wounded people in the Body of Christ because the enemy always makes it seem like our battle is against people, which is a lie. We are to attack the enemy and not people!

### **HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT TO PRAY FOR?**

- The Scripture give us guidelines.
- The Holy Spirit will bring us the most urgent requests.
- We can ask, “Lord, how do you want me to pray for that person? Show me how to intercede.” Remember that the Holy Spirit is our teacher and He promises to help us (Romans 8:26, 27).
- A vital point to remember is that when we pray we have authority over the enemy, but not over the will of people.

### **TOOLS THE LORD HAS GIVEN US WHEN PRAYING** II Corinthians 10:4

We must have faith that the tools (weapons) that the Lord gives us will work. We must have faith in the power of the Name of Jesus. And we must fully trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God our Father.

*What quenches all doubt, fear and unbelief?  
FAITH, FAITH, FAITH – I BELIEVE YOU!*

## **PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT – ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL TOOLS AN INTERCESSOR CAN USE**

- Praying in the spirit is our spirit communicating directly with God (I Corinthians 14:2).
- Praying in the spirit is a perfect prayer. This means that when we pray in the spirit, the Holy Spirit (the Helper) intercedes through our spirit by praying a prayer that aligns with the perfect will of God (Romans 8:26-28).
- Praying in the spirit has definite meaning; although we don't understand what we are praying, God does.
- Praying in the spirit edifies the person praying. When we are built up, strengthened, and encouraged we can continue with the Spiritual Warfare we are called to do (I Corinthians 14:4).
- Praying in the spirit has the authority of heaven behind it. The Holy Spirit will prompt you at the opportune time (Ephesians 6:18).

## **THE NAME OF JESUS -- OUR AUTHORITY**

- The power of the Holy Spirit in us gives us authority to use the name of Jesus to stop the enemy.  
Consider this example: A policeman can halt a huge truck by just standing in the middle of the highway and holding up his hand to signal, "STOP!"
  - ~ The policeman, wearing his badge, has authority behind him (the law and his position) to stop traffic and forbid the truck to proceed if a law has been violated.
  - ~ Intercessors, too, must use their delegated authority to stop demonic forces from wreaking havoc with God's people.
- Scripture gives us clear guidelines on the authority Jesus promised us and which God has delegated to us.
  - ~ "I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19).
  - ~ "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Philippians 2:10).
- We can boldly pray this prayer: "By the authority of Jesus and the precious blood of Jesus. I bind you Satan and break your powers over this situation. I loose (*name*) from your hold and destroy your works and assignment in Jesus' Name".

## **THE BLOOD OF JESUS - OUR COVERING** What does it do for us?

- Gives salvation, births us into the Kingdom
- Redeems us. Our life is paid for in full. We are bought back from the power of sin and death.
- Justifies us. Acquits us of sin and guilt.
- Cleanses us from all wickedness – our bent or inclination towards sin (I John 1:9).
- The penalty of our sin was paid.
- We have been pardoned and forgiven -- past, present, and future.
- To plead the blood of Jesus over someone is to remind that person of his/hers position in Christ as a forgiven sinner and to notify the enemy that he has no authority toward them because of Christ's sacrifice.

## **AGREEMENT -- OUR BONDING**

- As intercessors we agree with the Holy Spirit on that which He has called us to accomplish through spiritual warfare. We are called to be consistent with our prayers by the word of God and by the Spirit (Matthew 18:19-20).
- Learning to pray in agreement is learning to pray in God's will.
- Also if we are praying with another intercessor we must "agree to agree".
- Intercession starts in the heart of God (His idea, His initiative), then the Holy Spirit drops it into our heart and we bring it back to God

## **BINDING AND LOOSING -- OUR KEYS** Matthew 16:19

- Binding is to secure the enemy with pressure so that he cannot move. To loose is to gain victory using the word of God to enforce it.
- Consider this example as a prayer for binding and loosing: "Satan in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I take authority over you and bind all demonic spirits assigned to (*name*). Loose (*name*) and let her go in the name of Jesus. (*Name*) is covered by the precious blood of Jesus."

## **FASTING**

- Jesus set an example, emphasizing that sometimes fasting is needed to rout out the enemy (Mark 9:29).
- Benefits: It brings victories where prayer alone cannot.
- Fasting should be viewed as a precious opportunity to get closer to the Lord.
- NOTE: Before attempting a prolonged fast, become victorious with the shorter ones, such as a one-day fast or a partial fast.

## **PRAISE IS OUR BANNER**

Praise is an important key and one of the most powerful weapons available to the believer. It is like a protective flag flying over us. There are many examples in the Old and the New Testament where praise moved the hand of God for victory. Note the following scriptures.

- II Chronicles 20:14-30 – The battle is the Lord's.
- Acts 16:23-26 – Paul and Silas are freed from prison.
- Matthew 6:9 – Jesus Himself taught His disciples to begin their prayer with praise. Remember: don't wait to win victories before you start praising; it will lay the groundwork for the victories the Holy Spirit desires.

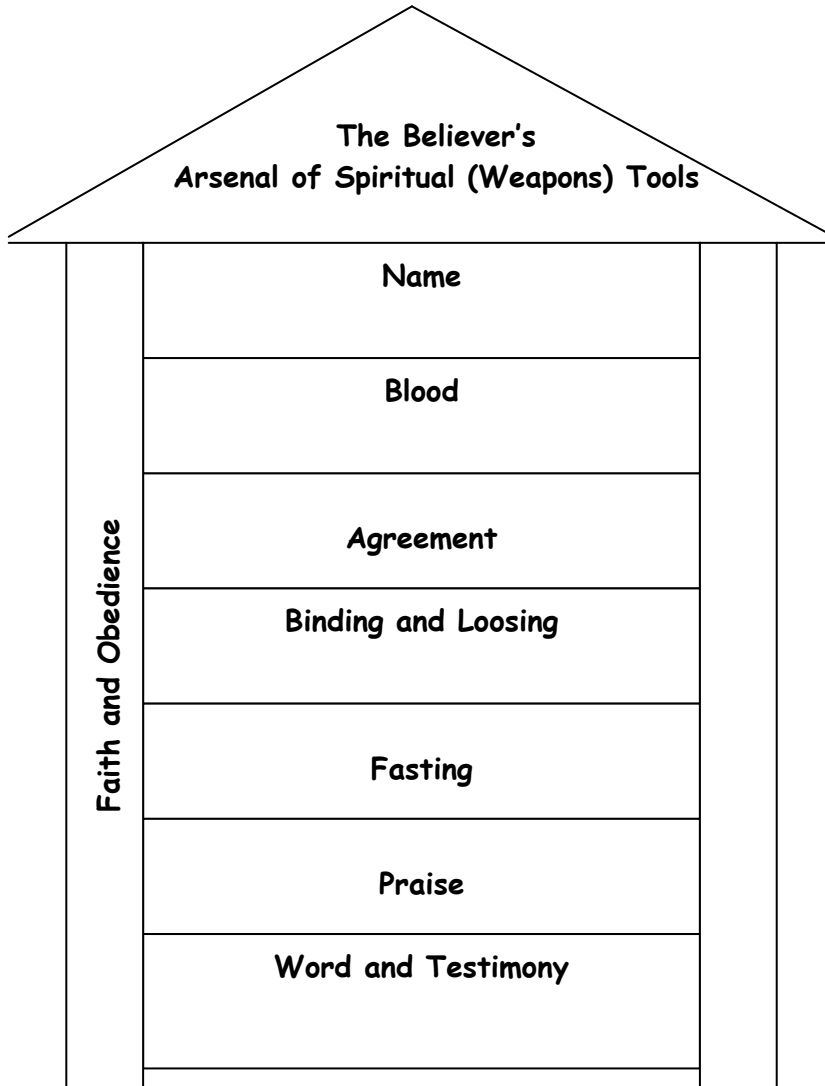
## **WORD OF GOD**

- You can learn to use God's word against the devil, just as Jesus did when tempted by him (Matthew 4).
- The Word of God is living and active (Hebrews 4:12).
- Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).
- The Word of God creates. The Word of God cannot return void (Isaiah 55:11). Like a torpedo, it finds the target and blows it up.
- Prayer is like a gun. Faith is like the barrel of the gun. The Name of Jesus is the trigger. The Scripture is the bullet. Our prayers should be packed with Scripture.
- Don't be gentle with the devil, attack with the Sword of the Spirit

*The Holy Spirit shows us which weapon or tool to use in intercession.  
You and Jesus are an unbeatable team!*



# Tools in Intercession



VS.

## Carnal Weapons

Mind (Human reasoning)

Soul (Human Desire)

Will

Manipulation

Deception

Control

## **Lesson 6 – Your Prayer Anointing**

### **Discover Your Prayer Power**

#### **Eight Keys to Intercession**

#### **What does “anointing” mean?**

*It is simply the release of God's power through us to passionately sustain doing what we cannot do in our human strength*

#### **WE EACH HAVE A MISSION FIELD IN PRAYER**

- Many people have been called to be great intercessors but did not discover their anointing because they were too busy examining the fruit in another person's prayer field.
- Your mission is unique.
  - Please take a moment to look at your own thumb:
  - ~ There is no other thumb like it on the face of the earth
  - ~ God gave you a print that is uniquely identifiable to you. You are one of a kind – FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY made, not to be compared with anyone else (Psalm 139:14).
  - ~ When you pray, ask the Lord how you are to be different from - not the same as other intercessors
  - ~ Only when we fully appreciate the unique portion we have to contribute in prayer are we fully able to celebrate the glory that others carry
  - ~ One of us is not better than the other - just different

#### **DON'T BE IGNORANT**

- I Corinthians 12: 1-4
- I Corinthians 12:27, I Corinthians 12:28 Prophets, evangelists, teachers
  - ~ God anointed them each for a particular purpose.
  - ~ They have different kinds of services but the same Lord.
  - ~ Each one of us has a special prayer mix that we cannot earn, but we can carry to the assignments God has set aside for us to do

*There are different functions but **WE HAVE ALL BEEN CALLED TO PRAY . . .**  
We have to be ready when He leads us.*

- Imitation happens in the prayer room because too few Christians take time to intimately know the heavenly Father and find their anointing in prayer
  - Example: A college student was busy and didn't have time to call her father. Her father invited her to spend a week with him at the family's mountain retreat. He was excited to see her, but she remained in a closed room for four days. Finally she came out and said, "Daddy, look what I have done for you." She presented him with a pair of socks. "Daddy, for four days I have been in my room knitting these gorgeous socks for you. Look, aren't they beautiful?"
  - The father lovingly embraced his daughter with tears and replied, "Honey, I could have bought socks anywhere, but what I really wanted was to spend time with you"!
  - Many of us like this...we have been doing good works but we have not learned how to hear His heart...PRAYER IS THE PRIORITY - NOT THE WORKS

#### **DIFFERENT TYPES OF PRAYER ANOINTINGS -- IDENTIFY YOURSELF**

1. **PRAYER LISTS INTERCESSORS** – Prayer points are written down to be taken before the Lord. These people who pray like this are very faithful. Some people get bored praying this way, but some find it rewarding.
2. **GENERAL INTERCESSORS** -- Some just like to pray, not limited or diversified in the way they pray. They love to pray in different ways, not specialized and not restricted in the way they pray. Example: Like a chicken that sees an insect, jumps on it and eats it. Pray anything and everything. NOTE: If you are in a prayer group and the leader of the group is not like this you may feel your style of prayer is wrong.
3. **PERSONAL INTERCESSORS** – Some have been called to pray regularly for a particular individual. These intercessors should pray for wisdom regarding what should be shared.

4. **CRISIS INTERCESSORS** – Some pray for somebody when they have a crisis in their life. These prayers are decisive and at a critical moment. Many times it can be for a life and death situation. They pray and pray and when it is over they might never pray for that person again. When God brings someone's face before us it is to pray. Pray that the Holy Spirit makes us sensitive.
5. **INTERCESSORS WHO PRAY FOR THEIR NATION, NATIONS, THEIR CITY, ISLAND, PEOPLE GROUPS** – Some will have a particular interest. Not everyone who prays for their city prays for their country and vice versa.
6. **INTERCESSORS WHO PRAY FOR LEADERS, SPIRITUAL LEADERS, POLITICAL LEADERS, ISSUES SUCH AS ABORTION, ETC.**
7. **INTERCESSORS WHO DON'T PRAY FOR ANYTHING POLITICAL BUT FOR A CHURCH OR MINISTRY WHERE THEY ARE INVOLVED**
8. **INTERCESSORS WHO PRAY FOR THEIR FAMILIES** – Often true with women as they have a special desire for their families.
9. **MERCY INTERCESSORS** – Those who pray for those that need healing for people who are hurt- both emotionally and physically. These intercessors might read the newspaper and cry out for those who are hurting, people who walk the hospitals.
10. **FINANCIAL INTERCESSORS** – They pray for a release of finances so that the gospel will reach the world and for special projects, etc.
11. **INTERCESSORS WHO PRAY FOR SOULS** – Ultimately, this is for the purpose of evangelism. Some examples: Jackie Pullinger who lives in Hong Kong has a ministry among the drug addicts; she weeps and weeps for their souls. Some have a passion to pray for the Muslim world. Some pray for Israel. It doesn't matter what they pray, it always goes back to Israel.
12. **WARFARE INTERCESSORS** – They are always fighting the enemy in prayer.
  - These intercessors need some preparation to go to war in prayer victoriously.
  - General Douglass McArthur gave some keys to victory in WWII:
    - ~ The will to win.
    - ~ “Have knowledge of the enemy. The greater the knowledge of the enemy the greater the victory”
    - ~ Have an adequate source of supply – What is our supply? Research and timing
      - Some who are warring never spend any time at the feet of Jesus. This should be our most important goal -- to cling to Him and to have an intimate relationship with Him.
  - Jesus didn't do anything He didn't see His Father do. DON'T PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING
  - Research Intercessors love to do research. They thrive on prayerfully collecting facts about strongholds and principalities. They help to formulate the plan of attack.
    - Some warfare intercessors go on site and pray - or spy out the land.
    - Some warfare intercessors stay home and pray for those that go out on site.
    - Some warfare intercessors pray and back the other two groups.
  - Sometimes God calls us to do a prophetic act. God shows us this in prayer. See Ezekiel 37; II Kings 2:20.

*IMPORTANT WHEN DOING WARFARE:*

~ *ASK GOD FOR STRATEGY*

~ *DON'T GO ALONE.*

WE MUST KNOW OUR PLACE AND TO BE READY WHEN GOD CALLS. Realize that we are fighting against principalities and powers - not PEOPLE. We need to try to see the spirit that is behind the actions. Too many people are hurt in the body of Christ warfare waged against people instead of against principalities and powers.

13. **WORSHIP INTERCESSORS** -- They usually worship from a prospect of victory. An example is Miriam with the tambourine. These intercessors may use instruments, dance, kneeling, bowing or any other act of worship in intercession.

*We are all different, and God anoints us differently. Find your anointing and be set free to move with it. Don't be exclusive – you may move in more than one way. God has anointed you for this hour of prayer.*

Some examples of types of intercessors:

List Intercessor - Ezra

Personal Intercessor - Mordecai

Crisis Intercessor- David

Soul Intercessor - Paul

Financial Intercessor - Joseph

Warfare Intercessor – Jehoshaphat

## Lesson 7 – Praying For the Unsaved, Praying for Husbands and Children

### Eight Keys to Intercession

### PRAYING FOR THE UNSAVED

The closer we get to God, the more we want to reflect His heart toward those we are praying for.

- We want these people to meet Jesus for no other reason than that we want them to spend eternity with Jesus. Without Him, they are lost.
- We need to have our heart full of God’s love for those we are praying for. Galatians 5:6 says, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
  - ~ God has promised us: Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).
  - ~ John 3:16 - “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life”.
  - ~ Romans 5:5 - “God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.
- We must realize that no matter how difficult or seemingly hopeless the people are for whom we are praying, we are not up against *them*; we are up against the enemy (Ephesians 6:12). Thus, we can love the person and hate the enemy. Satan opposes God and in order to get to God, he attacks those whom God loves – us. So, Satan becomes our enemy, too. But, God, through Jesus’ death on the cross, has won the victory over sin, death and the enemy (Colossians 2:15). Satan’s power is limited and it must give way to the fact of Jesus’ triumph on the cross and the truth of God’s Word. We need to enforce the victory that Jesus has already won.
  - ~ Satan doesn’t give up his victims without a fight. Our warfare is often like a wrestling match. The victory is often not won on the 1<sup>st</sup> round or necessarily the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> round.
  - ~ Jesus used the “sword of the Spirit” against Satan and we must do the same. Confront him with the Scripture. For example, we must constantly remind the enemy that, “Greater is He (the Lord Jesus) that is in us, than he (the devil) that is in the world” (1 John 4:14). THEREFORE, SOMEONE HAS TO LOSE IN THIS BATTLE AND IT IS NOT GOING TO BE US.
  - ~ We can ask God to frustrate Satan’s plans in the lives of people we are praying for and believe for His divine intervention.
  - ~ Ask God to reveal Himself to them in personal ways. Praying for visions and dreams of Jesus. Believe that the gospel is open and revealed to anyone except to those who refuse to believe.
  - ~ Pray the scriptures. “Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:32)
  - ~ Pray: “Every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will confess to God” (Romans 14:11)
  - ~ Ask the Lord to remove the veil: “And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The God of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God” (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).
- Because God wants us to respond to Him in love, He has chosen to give people free will and He never violates that choice. He never interferes with someone’s free will. Through our prayers, however, the Lord clears the obstacles away so that those we pray for can make a choice. They still must choose for themselves to make Jesus Lord and Savior of their life. Some people we are praying for have been exposed to a lot of truth and have resisted it and hardened their hearts. This is where we need to cry out for God’s mercy to be released to the person. (See Matthew 9:13). Mercy is not getting what they deserve.

## PRAYING FOR HUSBANDS

- God has given men the authority but as women we have influence. We can influence our home and those around us for good or bad.
- The husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:22). This applies to non-believers as well. We can pray to Jesus who is over our husband. We do this by faith (Hebrews 11:6).
- The man is the head but the woman is the heart. Remember a head can't live without a heart and a heart can't live without a head.
- Pray that you will be able to respect your husband (Ephesians 5:33). The word respect means to ADMIRE.
- *"For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy"* (I Corinthians 7:14).

What does this mean – non-Christian husbands and children are 'sanctified'? It means that our husbands and children are marked for salvation. It means that Satan cannot have them. But they still need to make a choice to be saved.

- **IMPORTANT TO ASK OURSELVES** - Why do we want our husband to meet Jesus?
  - ~ Is it for our purpose? Just to make our life easier?
  - ~ Or is it for God's purpose?
- **PRAY** to receive God's love for your husband. So often our love has run out (Romans 5:5).
- **PRAY** that God will expose your heart to see if you have closed your heart to your husband because of pain or hurt (Proverbs 4:23).
  - ~ Ask the Lord to forgive you for closing your heart.
  - ~ Receive that forgiveness from Jesus.
  - ~ With the forgiveness you've received from Jesus, now forgive your husband.
  - ~ Ask Jesus to heal the pain, hurt and the disappointments.
- **PRAY** that you will have a heart that is submitted to the Lord and choose to submit yourself to Him. He will give you a heart that is submitted to your husband. God sees our heart. Submission is an attitude of the heart. We can look as if we are submitting from the outside and be unsubmitive towards our husband in the inside. God sees this.
  - **PRAY** for an honest heart. Face what is troubling you.
    - a. We can create a wrong atmosphere in our home, such as one of criticism, condemnation and fear.
    - b. We want to create the right atmosphere, such as one of encouragement, patience, affection and love (Proverbs 14:1).
  - **PRAY** the scripture aloud as you pray for your husband.

## PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

- A wise man once wrote. "Mothers are the best intercessors because they love more and hurt more".
- Be specific as you pray for your children. Remember the blind man told Jesus specifically, "I want to see".
- As you pray the truth of what Scripture says about your children, the power of God's Word will drive out anxiety and fear and produce faith in you. We can explain it in this way: **THE THINGS WE SAY ARE THE THINGS WE WILL EVENTUALLY BELIEVE AND THE THINGS THAT WE BELIEVE ARE THINGS THAT WE WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE**".
- Pray the scripture aloud as you pray for your children.
- Ask God for the things that are on His heart, and pray His prayers for your children. Remember that some prayers will be "waiting prayers" if we pray for the future of our children. E.G. Such as whom they will marry their schooling etc.
- **REMEMBER THE LORD LOVES OUR CHILDREN MORE THAN WE DO.**

## **SOME SCRIPTURE INTERCESSIONS WE CAN PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN**

**DEDICATION** - Lord, as You did for Hannah, take this child of mine, \_\_\_\_\_. I give him/her to You. For his/her whole life, he/she will be given over to You (I Samuel 1:28).

**SALVATION** - Father, You are not willing that \_\_\_\_\_ should be lost, but that this child come to repentance. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You came to save the lost, including \_\_\_\_\_ and me. I thank You in advance that \_\_\_\_\_ will become a believer in You (Matthew 18:14; II Peter 3:9).

**MATURITY** - Dear Father, may \_\_\_\_\_, like your Son Jesus, grow in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with You and with the people his/her life touches. Give \_\_\_\_\_ a listening ear to parental instructions. Help him/her to pay attention that he/she may gain understanding (Luke 2:52; Proverbs 4:1).

**PROTECTION** - Thank You dear God, that You will command Your angels concerning \_\_\_\_\_ to guard him/her in all his/her ways (Psalm 91:11).

**GENERAL** - Lord, with thanksgiving I present my requests to You today on behalf of my child/children, \_\_\_\_\_. (Name the requests). I speak them with my mouth; believe them with my heart, and thank You in advance for hearing me. I pray in Jesus' Name (Philippians 4:6; Mark 11:23).

USE THE TOOLS THE LORD HAS GIVEN US TO USE IN INTERCESSION.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SHOW US WHAT TOOLS WE ARE TO USE.

## **Lesson 8 – Watchmen on the Wall**

### **Eight Keys to Intercession**

*Intercession is a supportive ministry and belongs to the Body of Christ.*

### **WATCHMEN ON THE WALL**

To be effective intercessors, we must be like watchmen on the wall.

“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem, who never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give him no rest till He establishes and till He makes JERUSALEM A PRAISE IN THE EARTH” (Isaiah 62:6-7).

Jerusalem was a walled city, and one could walk on top of its walls. Today in the city of Jerusalem, there is still an old part, which remains surrounded by walls. Watchmen used to walk up and down and peer into the night to guard against enemy attacks on the city. In these verses, God speaks to us today, urging us to “mount the wall” as watchmen in prayer, so to speak, to guard against any potential harm that could come to our families, churches, and cities. We are encouraged to give Him no rest from our prayers until the Kingdom of God is established throughout the world.

Watchmen looked out for the enemy, and then also waited for those coming with good news. There were watchmen for the harvest; watchmen over the town; watchmen by the city gates so that they could see who came into the city and who left. They were so trained that they could see who was a friend or enemy. They could discern this as far as 100 meters away. We should develop this kind of sharp vision.

Here are several things we can do to develop a watchmen’s eye:

- Sign up. Tell the Lord that you are willing to be a watchman.
- Keep your heart pure so that you can properly discern what God wants you to pray for.
- Be aware at every moment you are on call. Being a watchman is very much like being a doctor with a beeper. At any given moment you may be called up for an emergency. **BE ALERT!**
- PRAYER- “Lord, open our spiritual eyes and spiritual ears. Lord, loose any spiritual deafness and blindness.”

### **FOUR PILLARS OF PRAYER**

These Pillars of Prayer are found in the story of Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).

- A. **DETERMINATION**: Bartimaeus was determined (Mark 10:48). Determination is not a gift for just a few. It is a choice we can all make to stir it up within us. Even the Lord stirs up His zeal (Isaiah 42:13).
- B. **DIRECTION**: There is a difference between prayers of petition and intercessory prayer. The latter is directed praying – i.e. praying what is on God’s heart, taking one subject at a time. One prays until the Spirit indicates to move on. Bartimaeus had direction in his praying (Mark 10:47-48).
- C. **SPECIFICS**: Jesus asked Bartimaeus to be specific in his request (Mark 10:51). We must also pray just as specifically to hit the target in order to see specific answers.
- D. **FAITH**: Jesus said it was Bartimaeus’ faith that healed him (Mark 10:52). We must also pray in faith, believing God’s desire and ability to heal.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

*Remember that we are each anointed – 1 John 2:20 and 1 John 2:27*

*If this has been a group study or seminar, the leader may anoint the women to move into the fullness of their prayer anointings.*