

THE INTERCESSOR

As I look back at my Christian life, I have observed that my walk with the Lord was most meaningful and joyful when I was focused on God and others instead of on myself. This may have included a focus at various times on subjects like evangelism, disciple making or teaching the Word of God. However, it was especially noticeable in my prayer life. Whenever I found my prayer times mostly focused on myself and my personal problems, I would notice that I did not experience as much joy in my life as when I would pray for others, which is what being an intercessor is all about. I was in my early 30's when I began to learn more about being an intercessor. Dick Eastman was one of my mentors in that area through his teaching cassettes. I left most of his tapes with one of my Indian disciples in London who had an interest in prayer. However, the impact of his teachings left their mark on my life for which I am most grateful. There are over 20 different aspects or types of prayer that I have discovered through my research. A very important one is intercession.

INTERCEDE in Latin is composed of two words:

Inter = between, among, involve, intervene

cederi = to go, to yield, to move or to pay the price of

An intercessor is one who gets involved in the life of others for their spiritual progress and is willing to pay the price, or perhaps we could say '**pray the price**'. I have enjoyed reading about those who had extraordinary grace for being intercessors. John Hyde (1865-1912) was an American missionary in NW India several years ago. He prayed so much for others that he became known as 'Praying Hyde'. Near the end of his missionary life a doctor detected that his heart had actually shifted from his left side to his right side. He was warned that unless he changed his lifestyle that he would die in six months. Hyde had such a burden for the souls of India that he could not stop praying so intently. God granted him two more years and then received him into his eternal home. Hyde sacrificed his own heart so that others would receive a new heart through knowing Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You may want to look up some info about his life on the Internet or purchase the short book about his life. Reading about such extraordinary persons of God should not make us feel guilty if we do not duplicate their passion or action. However, it should inspire us to at least do more than we are doing now.

In Ezekiel 22:30 the prophet reveals that God looks for a person who is willing to 'stand in the gap' and comes before God on behalf of others.

"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land....."

During that time a gap was a break in a thorny hedge or wall of stones that surrounded a vineyard and invited trouble. Someone had to stand in the gap while the wall was being rebuilt. Mankind has been separated from God because of sin but God raised up Jesus Christ to be the prime intercessor to bridge the gap between a holy God and sinful man. He was the ideal one to bridge that chasm as he represented both God and man as Job spoke of in Job 9:32-33. Jesus disarmed Satan and his demonic powers at the cross - Colossians 2:15. However, the church is here to enforce that victory. Jesus wants us to stop hell's worst and insist on heaven's best.

Jesus won the eternal battle against Satan through his death and resurrection and has been given all authority in heaven and on earth after his ascension to the throne. His body, the church, is here to live out that victory. Before I entered full time missionary service the Lord implanted certain truths into my life:

The Blood Covenant / Revelation 12:11

The Love Walk / being rooted and grounded in God's love / Ephesians 3:14-19, 1 John 4:16

The Victory mind set of a soldier engaged in warfare / Joshua 1

The Power of praise in Joshua and Psalm 67

God had me meditate often in the book of Ephesians and in the first chapters of Joshua. God's battle cry to Joshua and then to me was the same.....

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS! / Joshua 1:6,9,18

He told us to / Get ready and get your supplies ready. / Joshua 1:2,11. The victory was assured ("I will give you every place you set your foot") but we would have to enter the land, explore the land, engage the enemy forces and then occupy the land. Before Joshua took Jericho, God had already promised him the victory / "I have delivered Jericho into your hands" Joshua 6:2, but then God tells him to march around the city.

God had me get my supplies ready for the battle by revealing to me the great inheritance I have in Christ as revealed in the first three chapters of Ephesians.

Intercession is far more a way of life than it is a type of prayer. Jesus whole life was one of intercession. Intercession is the activity that identifies us most with Christ as he is interceding at the throne of God." - Dick Eastman

PRIVILEGE and PLEASURE of INTERCESSION

We can join Christ in his supreme ministry of reconciling all of humanity to God the Father. Jesus intercedes at the right hand of the Father where there are pleasures forevermore. - Psalm 16:11. It is a great joy to see God change lives in answer to intercessory prayer and even an intercessory life.

David Wilkerson was a simple country preacher from Pennsylvania who exemplified this in his persistent prayer and love for Nicky Cruz, the foremost NYC gang leader in the 1950's, who came to Christ and went on to impact his generation for Christ. The story is told in the book The Cross and Switchblade. I have seen or shown that movie over 15 times and have always been impacted by it.

PROMISE for INTERCESSORS

The world will be changed because of God's presence!

"For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord,
as the waters cover the sea." / Habakkuk 2:14

I sometimes think of this verse when I am at the beach in Florida each winter. Imagine being far enough out in the ocean so that you could not see any land. I know one subject that would be predominate in your mind...water. "I am surrounded by water!" This is how it will be one day on earth. God's glorious presence will pervade every bit of this earth. The goodness and greatness of God will be known by all and his glory will be seen and felt by all.

What does filled mean? When something is filled, it means there is room for nothing else. You may feel that way after a big meal on Thanksgiving day, that you have no more room for any more food. If we are truly thankful, that means we will be 'full of thanks' and will have no more room for any complaining, griping etc. When God's glory fills us and the whole earth, there will be no room for any disease, despair, debt, division, destruction, distraction etc.

We need to know the POSITION and POWER of an intercessor. Are you interested in changing the world? First of all you and I need to be changed. Do you know that you can be a throne room commander? When we know our position in Christ.....we can be like Joshua..

STRONG AND COURAGEOUS.....ARMED AND DANGEROUS!

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