

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION PART 2

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The Prayer of Intercession is praying for someone else (if we can ever get away from praying for me myself!!). We don't want to spend all of our time praying for me or mine.

God does expect us to pray for others. Secondly ... God, in certain circumstances, seems to need our prayers ... or He may not act.

God desires to work through people like you or me. Perhaps we need to be praying to God and asking Him to intervene in certain circumstances.

Ezekiel 22:26

" **Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths,** so that I am profaned among them."

Ezekiel 22:29-31

" The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. **So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.** Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God."

Ezekiel 22:30 THE VOICE

" **I searched for one man among them,** a man who could build the wall and stand in the gap before Me and advocate for the land, a man who could convince Me not to destroy it; **but I found no one.**"

God would have preferred for someone to intercede for Him and then He would have given the people more time ... and perhaps the outcome might have been different.

Colossians 4:2-4

"Continue earnestly in prayer (BE DILIGENT!) , being vigilant (ALERT) in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, (A PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR PAUL) that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

Paul told them what he wanted. Why ask for prayer for that? Wouldn't God want doors open? Surely. He needed people to be praying about that. He knew the impact of praying and interceding for others.

Colossians 4:12

" Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, (STRIVING IN PRAYER, STRIVING IN PRAYER) that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."

Epaphras had a great zeal and enthusiasm for the brethren. (Verse 13)

Ephesians 6:11-13

" Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

Ephesians 6:17-20

" And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the

Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

Paul says while you are praying for others ... pray for me. Did he value their prayers? He knew the difference and probably felt and saw the difference. He didn't only desire ... but needed their prayers.

Romans 15:30-32

" Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, **that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,** that I may be **delivered** from those in Judea who do not believe, and **that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you."**

Colossians 1:9-10

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you,** and **to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;"**

Paul is doing for the brethren what he asks them to do for him. It was his "habit". How much time do we spend praying for others? We don't want to be small minded, self-centred.

1 Timothy 2:1-8

"Therefore **I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life**

in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;" (WHEN YOU COME TOGETHER IN A PUBLIC SERVICE ... PROBABLY ON THE SABBATH. AND ... PRAY WITH FAITH!)

Matthew 5:43-48

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' (NOT IN THE SCRIPTURES!!) But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? (BIG DEAL!!) Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore (IF YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES, ETC) you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

We don't want to have satan's attitude like some of these people that we are praying for ... to save us from having a bitter attitude.

Often ... we pray for our nearest family members. For instance ... a converted husband praying for an unconverted wife and vice versa. Sometimes ... it will work.

1 Corinthians 7:12-14

" But to the rest I, not the Lord, say: If any brother has a wife who does not believe, and she is willing to live with him, let him not divorce her. And a woman who has a husband who does not believe, if he is willing to live

with her, let her not divorce him. **For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband;** otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy."

1 Corinthians 7:15-16

" But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. **For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?"** (YOUR PRAYERS, YOUR GODLY LIFE MIGHT "SAVE YOUR OTHER HALF")

The Prayer of Intercession has a big limitation. Many times we won't get what we are praying for or we might not find out in this life. Fundamentally, we are praying for someone else. Remember!! :

1. All have their own wills.
2. We can't overrule their will.
3. God won't overrule a person's will.

EVERYONE HAS FREE WILL. THEY HAVE THE FREEDOM TO RESPOND HOW THEY CHOOSE. The final outcome is out of our hands.

Very different to the Prayer of Faith. There we receive what we ask for and believe.

Matthew 21:22

" And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Let's see some examples:

Galatians 1:6-9

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed." (THE GALATIANS WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE THE TRUTH. SEVERED ... CUT OFF FROM CHRIST).

Paul would certainly have prayed and prayed and prayed ... interceded ... for these people ... to return to The Lord Jesus. God would have made changes ... adapted the situation ... but ... of course ... you can't overrule their will!! They all left.

2 Timothy 1:13-15

"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes." (THESE PEOPLE TURNED AWAY FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL ... HAND PICKED AND SENT TO THE GENTILES BY JESUS CHRIST!!).

Would Paul have prayed? Absolutely. God doesn't want any man to perish. He would have prayed zealously, laboured fervently. But ... the people had free will and made their choice.

Our prayers can help ... to change circumstances for example. God will do His part to answer our prayers of intercession. None of us can guarantee what the recipient of our prayers will do.

Ephesians 3:14-19

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (PAUL IS PRAYING THAT THESE PEOPLE BE SPIRITUALLY STRENGTHENED) from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is

the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

We can pray the prayer ... but we can't guarantee the outcome.

Revelation 2:1-5

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,

'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for My name's sake and have not become weary.

Nevertheless **I have this against you, that you have left your first love.**

Remember therefore from where you have fallen; **repent and do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—**unless you repent.**" (THESE WERE THE BRETHERN THAT PAUL WAS PRAYING FOR IN THE VERSE ABOVE)

James 5:14-18

" Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, **and pray for one another, that you may be healed.**

(THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE CAN GANG UP ON GOD AND STORM THE GATES OF HEAVEN. IT IS NOT TALKING ABOUT A PRAYER LIST THAT IS GOING AROUND THE WORLD. IT IS PROBABLY LOCAL TO THOSE WHO KNOW YOU. WHAT ABOUT THE OPENING OF THE VERSE? "CONFESS YOUR TRESPASSES TO ONE ANOTHER". DEAL WITH THE SIN. IF WE HAVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN OURSELVES ... WE NEED TO SORT IT OUT OR OUR PRAYERS WON'T BE ANSWERED) **The effective, fervent prayer of a**

righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land

for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."

1 John 5:16-17

" **If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask,** and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. (WE CAN GO TO GOD AND INTERCEDE FOR THIS BROTHER) **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, and there is sin not leading to death."

Isaiah 59:14-19

" Justice is turned back,
And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street,
And equity cannot enter.
So truth fails,
And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him
That there was no justice.

**He saw that there was no man,
And wondered that there was no intercessor;**

(Isaiah 59:16 NASB

" And He saw that there was no man,
And was astonished that there was no one to intercede;)

Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.
For He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;
He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing,
And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay,
Fury to His adversaries,
Recompense to His enemies;

The coastlands He will fully repay.
So shall they fear
The name of the Lord from the west,
And His glory from the rising of the sun;
When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him."

Our prayers of intercession will do good. The limitation is that everyone has free will. Nevertheless, it is significant and someone's eternal future might be in our hands. Who knows?