

Intercessory Prayer: A Ministry of Friendship

“A man who has friends must himself be friendly,” (Proverbs 18:24)

²⁴濫交朋友的、自取敗壞。但有一朋友、比弟兄更親密。

Intercessory Prayer involves 3 different Circles of Friendship

- 1) Caring about God's Burdens & Concerns
- 2) Caring about the Needs & Concerns of Others
- 3) Agreeing with other Believers in United Prayer.

1) Being a Friend to God: True Intercessory Prayer is birthed out of an intimate acquaintance and friendship with God. As we are led by the Holy Spirit we learn to care about more than just our own needs — We begin to care about the cares and burdens of the Lord. This friendship with God allows us to actually feel something of His heart and pain for the lost and needy around us. When we enter into His burdens the ministry of intercession is supernaturally released through our lives.

True friendship always Involves openly sharing our heart with others!

“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:15)

約 15:15 以後我不再稱你們為僕人。因僕人不知道主人所作的事。我乃稱你們為朋友。因我從我父所聽見的、已經都告訴你們了。

John 13:20–26 *“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.” (John 13:23)*

約 13:23 有一個門徒、是耶穌所愛的、側身挨近耶穌的懷裏。

“And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing,” (Genesis 18:17)

¹⁷耶和華說、我所要作的事、豈可瞞着亞伯拉罕呢。

Gen 18:16–33

God WILL tell us what He feels if we are willing to slow down long enough to ask and listen to His heart! The Waiting involved... God doesn't share His heart with those who are not interested!

¹⁶三人就從那裏起行、向所多瑪觀看、亞伯拉罕也與他們同行、要送他們一程。

¹⁷耶和華說、我所要作的事、豈可瞞着亞伯拉罕呢。

¹⁸亞伯拉罕必要成為強大的國、地上的萬國都必因他得福。

¹⁹我眷顧他、為要叫他吩咐他的眾子、和他的眷屬、遵守我的道、秉公行義、使我所應許亞伯拉罕的話都成就了。

²⁰耶和華說、所多瑪和蛾摩拉的罪惡甚重、聲聞於我。

²¹我現在要下去、察看他們所行的、果然盡像那達到我耳中的聲音一樣麼。若是不然、我也必知道。

²²二人轉身離開那裏、向所多瑪去、但亞伯拉罕仍舊站在耶和華面前。

²³亞伯拉罕近前來說、無論善惡、你都要剿滅麼。

²⁴假若那城裏有五十個義人、你還剿滅那地方麼。不為城裏這五十個義人饒恕其中的人麼。

²⁵將義人與惡人同殺、將義人與惡人一樣看待、這斷不是你所行的。審判全地的主、豈不行公義麼。

²⁶耶和華說、我若在所多瑪城裏見有五十個義人、我就為他們的緣故、饒恕那地方的眾人。

²⁷亞伯拉罕說、我雖然是灰塵、還敢對主說話。

²⁸假若這五十個義人短了五個、你就因為短了五個毀滅全城麼。他說、我在那裏若見有四十五個、也不毀滅那城。

²⁹亞伯拉罕又對他說、假若在那裏見有四十個怎麼樣呢。他說、為這四十個的緣故、我也不作這事。

³⁰亞伯拉罕說、求主不要動怒、容我說。假若在那裏見有三十個怎麼樣呢。他說、我在那裏若見有三十個、我也不作這事。

³¹亞伯拉罕說、我還敢對主說話、假若在那裏見有二十個怎麼樣呢。他說、為這二十個的緣故、我也不毀滅那城。

³²亞伯拉罕說、求主不要動怒、我再說這一次、假若在那裏見有十個呢。他說、為這十個的緣故、我也不毀滅那城。

³³耶和華與亞伯拉罕說完了話就走了。亞伯拉罕也回到自己的地方去了。

2) Being a Friend to Others: The ministry of Intercession involves carrying others into the presence of Jesus — Helping others do what they can not do for themselves — Using our intimate connection with God to help the helpless connect with the mercy and power of the Holy Spirit!

Everyone NEEDS at least one friend / intercessor in their lives. Someone who is well acquainted with God, with the ways and power of the Holy Spirit enough to be a genuine channel of God's transforming love and victory in your hour of need — Someone that loves us that can be a bridge between our needs and the supernatural power of God as a Helper, Comforter, Healer, Shepherd and Father.

Carrying Other where they Can't Go by Themselves

“At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were

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demon-possessed. And the whole city was gathered together at the door.” (Mark 1:32–33)

可 1:32 天晚日落的時候、有人帶著一切害病的、和被鬼附的、來到耶穌跟前。

可 1:33 合城的人都聚集在門前。

“Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men.” (Mark 2:1–3)

可 2:1 過了些日子、耶穌又進了迦百農。人聽見他在房子裏、

可 2:2 就有許多人聚集、甚至連門前都沒有空地、耶穌就對他們講道。

可 2:3 有人帶著一個癱子來見耶穌、是用四個人抬來的。

“Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him.” (Mark 7:32)

可 7:32 有人帶著一個耳聾舌結的人、來見耶穌、求他接手在他身上。

“Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him.” (Mark 8:22)

可 8:22 他們來到伯賽大、有人帶一個瞎子來、求耶穌摸他。

“Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.” (Mark 10:13)

可 10:13 有人帶著小孩子來見耶穌、要耶穌摸他們、門徒便責備那些人。

“When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.” (Luke 4:40)

路 4:40 日落的時候、凡有病人的、不論害甚麼病、都帶到耶穌那裏。耶穌接手在他們各人身上、醫好他們。

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing ALL kinds of sickness and ALL kinds of disease among the people. Then His fame went throughout ALL Syria; and they brought to Him ALL sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.” (Matthew 4:23–24)

太 4:23 耶穌走遍加利利、在各會堂裏教訓人、傳天國的福音、醫治百姓各樣的病症。24 他的名聲就傳遍了敘利亞。那裏的人把一切害病的、就是害各樣疾病、各樣疼痛的、和被鬼附的、癲癩的、癱瘓的、都帶了來、耶穌就治好了他們。

“When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,” (Matthew 8:16)

太 8:16 到了晚上、有人帶著許多被鬼附的、來到耶穌跟前、他只用一句話、就把鬼都趕出去。並且治好了一切有病的人。

“Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them.” (Matthew 15:30)

太 15:30 有許多人到他那裏、帶著瘸子、瞎子、啞吧、有殘疾的、和好些別的病人、都放在他腳前。他就治好了他們。

“As they went out, behold, they brought to Him a man, mute and demon-possessed. And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke. And the multitudes marveled, saying, “It was never seen like this in Israel!” (Matthew 9:32–33)

太 9:32 他們出去的時候、有人將鬼所附的一個啞吧、帶到耶穌跟前來。

太 9:33 鬼被趕出去、啞吧就說出話來。眾人都希奇說、在以色列中、從來沒有見過這樣的事。

“Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw.” (Matthew 12:22)

太 12:22 當下有人將一個被鬼附著、又瞎又啞的人、帶到耶穌那裏。耶穌就醫治他、甚至那啞吧又能說話、又能看見。

Rees Howells definition of intercession!

Identification—Agony—Authority

Identification - sympathizing, feeling caring the way the one your interceding cares.

Agony - Praying as if there need was your very own!

Authority - Praying through until you obtain the faith and assurance that it is finished. (Ex 28:1–29) The Intercessory Garment of the Priests.

¹你要從以色列人中使你的哥哥亞倫、和他的兒子拿答、亞比戶、以利亞撒、以他瑪、一同就近你、給我供祭司的職分。

¹⁵你要用巧匠的手工、作一個決斷的胸牌。要和以弗得一樣的作法、用金線、和藍色紫色朱紅色線、並撚的細麻作成。

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⁸你要吩咐抬約櫃的祭司說、你們到了約但河的水邊上、就要在約但河水裏站住。

⁹約書亞對以色列人說、你們近前來、聽耶和華你們神的話。

¹⁰⁻¹¹約書亞說、看哪、普天下主的約櫃必在你們前頭過去到約但河裏。因此你們就知道在你們中間有永生神。並且他必在你們面前趕出迦南人、赫人、希未人、比利洗人、革迦撒人、亞摩利人、耶布斯人。

¹²你們現在要從以色列支派中揀選十二個人、每支派一人。

¹³等到抬普天下主耶和華約櫃的祭司把腳站在約但河水裏、約但河的水、就是從上往下流的水、必然斷絕、立起成壘。

¹⁴百姓離開帳棚、要過約但河的時候、抬約櫃的祭司、乃在百姓的前頭、

¹⁵他們到了約但河、腳一入水、（原來約但河水、在收割的日子、漲過兩岸）

¹⁶那從上往下流的水、便在極遠之地、撒拉但旁的亞當城那裏停住、立起成壘。那往亞拉巴的海、就是鹽海、下流的水、全然斷絕。於是百姓在耶利哥的對面過去了。

¹⁷抬耶和華約櫃的祭司在約但河中的乾地上站定・以色列眾人都從乾地上過去、直到國民盡都過了約但河。

The Intercessory ministry of the Priests cuts off the obstacle / flood that is preventing the people from entering into their promised land — They stand in the gap so that the people can cross over on dry ground!

3) Creating a Circle of United Friendship in Corporate Prayer

There is a kind of corporate prayer that does not qualify as a circle of friends, does not connect us and unite us closer with one-another and therefore is destined to give us limited results...

True prayer leaves nothing between us and God and nothing between our brothers and sisters....

True prayer always opens doors, builds bridges and closes doors of offense and unforgiveness... If your methods and style of prayer aren't building bridges you need to reexamine your prayer methods!

“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication” (Acts 1:14)

徒 1:14 這些人、同著幾個婦人、和耶穌的母親馬利亞、並耶穌的弟兄、都同心合意的恆切禱告。

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.” (Acts 2:42)

徒 2:42 都恆心遵守使徒的教訓、彼此交接、擘餅、祈禱。

“And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.” (Acts 4:31)

徒 4:31 禱告完了、聚會的地方震動・他們就都被聖靈充滿、放膽講論 神的道。

Hidden 藏身主愛

There was one when I was young 我年輕時

Who knew my heart 有一位知我心

He knew my sorrow 祂知我憂傷

He held my hand 祂拉我手

And he lead me to trust him 祂引我信靠祂

Now I am hidden 我今藏身

In the safety of your love 祢愛的安全所

I trust your heart and your intentions 我相信祢心和美意

Trust you completely 完全信靠祢

I'm listening intently 我要傾聽祢聲

You'll guide me through these many shadows 祢將引我經過許多陰暗

The sun, moon, and stars 日, 月, 星辰

Shout your name 呼喊祢名

They give you reverence 它們尊崇祢

And I will do the same 我也同樣高喊

With all my heart I give you glory 全心將榮耀歸祢

I want to seek you first 我要專一尋求祢

I want to love you more 我要更多愛祢

I want to give you the honor you deserve 我要給祢當得尊榮

So I bow before you 我向祢俯伏

I am overcome by the beauty of this perfect love 被這完全的愛征服

2. Shepherd 牧者

How I love You 何等愛祢

how I love You, 何等愛祢

You have not forsaken me 祢從未丟棄我

How I love You 何等愛祢

How I love You 何等愛祢

With You is where I want to be 我渴望與祢同在

Holy are You God 祢是聖潔的神

Holy is Your name 祢名是聖潔

With everything I've got 我以所是所有

My heart will sing 我全心歌唱

How I love you 何等愛祢