

I. A POWERFUL QUOTE

1. *"We must believe that God, through the mystery of prayer has entrusted us with a force that can move the heavenly world, and can bring its power down to the earth" -Andrew Murray*

II. WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

- A. Intercession is standing before God in prayer, agreeing with His heart as revealed in His Word, on behalf of His church, the lost, and the nations—so that His eternal purposes are fulfilled, bringing the greatest honor to His Son, the highest pleasure to the Father, and the fullest redemption of humanity.
 1. Intercessory prayer influences God to influence His church with His power, so that the church can influence the world with the gospel of the Kingdom.
- B. In more simpler terms, intercession is partnership with God from an overflow of intimacy with Him. When we sit with Him, He shares His heart with us, and then we agree with it through intercessory prayer.
 1. **Though God doesn't need us, He desires fellowship with us,** therefore He invites us into intimate partnership with Him to participate in the glorious story of redemption.
 - a) **God will not do our part and we cannot do His part.** If we do not do our part, then God withholds some of the help and blessing He would have given us.
 2. **God isn't just looking for workers that do things for Him, He is looking for lovers that will do things with Him**
 - a) *Intercession is not "God, what can I do for you, but the true language of intercession is "God what do you want to do together"*

III. INTERCESSION IS PART OF OUR HEAVENLY CALLING

1. ***Therefore, holy brethren, partakers(partners in the TLV shared calling in NLT) of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,(NKJ) -Hebrews 3:1,***
2. The Greek word for "partakers" or "partner" speaks of sharing, partaking in a work, or office of another. In other words to partake in our heavenly callings is to partner with Jesus in His eternal calling of intercession.

IV. JESUS IS AN INTERCESSOR

- A. Intercession is the one thing that Jesus will do forever
 1. ***"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." -Heb. 7:25***
- B. This is one of the most glorious statements ever recorded. The phrase "uttermost" means completely, entirely, to the fullest extent. Jesus is able to completely and fully save those who come to Him from guilt, the power of sin, and final judgement.
 1. To save to the "uttermost" is to save us from sin, from our selves(unsanctified souls), and from our bodies. (Flesh)
- C. It also means that no one is too far gone in sin to save, too broken to heal, and a heart too hard to be replaced with a new one.

V. INTERCESSION IS THE WAY JESUS WILL RULE

- A. Jesus' ministry of intercession is how He will rule and reign in His Kingdom. ***He is not a Priest who will rule as a King, but a King who will rule as a priest.***
 1. ***The LORD has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek. -Ps. 110:4***

2. So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.(office of Priest and King) -Zech 6:13

VI. THE CROSS IS THE GREATEST PICTURE OF INTERCESSION

A. If we want to learn about intercession we must go to the cross. Jesus' words, and death on the cross was the greatest display of what intercession is.

1. And He was numbered with transgressors, And He bore the sins of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.-Is 53:12

B. The cross is the ultimate act of intercession because Jesus stood in our place, bore our judgment, pleaded for our forgiveness, and now continually represents us before the Father.

C. At the cross, Jesus didn't just pray for us, He became the answer to His own prayer by standing in our place and securing our salvation.

D. Intercession is the heart of God expressed through the prayers of His people. At the heart of Intercession is the ministry of reconciliation

1. 18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, 19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.-2 Cor. 5:18-19

VII. THREE IMPORTANT KEYS TO EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. Becoming one with God's burden

B. ANGUISH

1. Feeling God's heart deeply for that burden

C. AUTHORITY

1. Produces a confidence that secures God's will in the burden

VIII. THE STUDY OF GREAT INTERCESSORS

A. A key in my personal journey in growing in intercessory prayer has been to studying biographies of biblical and historic intercessors. It has always fascinated me to see men interact with a Holy God through intercession to impact their generation.

1. *It is one thing to see God take hold of a man, but it is an entirely different thing to see a man take hold of God through prayer.*

B. Studying biblical and historical intercessors allows us to see the different dimensions of intercession and the character of God manifesting through them.

C. Peering into the lives of great intercessors will stir fresh faith in us in prayer, and cause us to start believing again for the limitless possibilities of this type of prayer.

IX. LEARNING FROM OLD TESTAMENT INTERCESSORS

A. ABRAHAM

1. Abraham reveals that intercession flows from friendship with God. Because he believed and walked closely with Him, God entrusted him with His plans. In response, Abraham stood in the gap for Sodom, appealing for mercy and ultimately sparing His nephew and his two daughters from judgement. (Gen 18:16-33)

B. MOSES

1. Shows intercession is motivated by love for people. Moses stood between God and a sinful people, and his prayer turned judgment into mercy. He was willing to be cut off instead of his people.

a) ***Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, 'Oh, these people have committed a great sin... Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.-Exodus 32:31-32***

C. NEHEMIAH

1. Intercession is identification with the people's sins. Nehemiah, after discovering that the house of prayer was in ruin, fell to the ground and identified with the sins of Israel. He did not pray Lord "they", but Lord "we. -Nehemiah 1:4-11
2. He mourned and wept for many days and confessed the sins of the people of God. His prayer life was instrumental in bringing the singers and musicians out of the fields and back into the house of prayer
 - a) Nehemiah is a great example of the three keys to effective intercession mentioned earlier.

D. ESHTER

1. Queen Esther is a great picture of faith and laying down one's life for a nation. She used her position and authority as the queen to intercede before her people.
 - a) ***"Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise . And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish! (Esther 4:16)***

E. DANIEL

1. Daniel is a picture of faithfulness in intercessory prayer and an example of growing in authority through it. He faithfully prayed three times a day for years.
2. Daniel prayed through three kings, and God used his life of intercession to convert one of the most powerful wicked kings that ever lived, Nebuchadnezzar
3. Daniel is also a picture of intercession winning a spiritual battle in the heavenly places. (Daniel 10)

F. JEREMIAH

1. Picture of the power of tears in intercession. He was known as the weeping prophet.

a) ***oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people (Jer. 9:1)***

G. ANNA THE PROPHETESS

1. Anna is a picture of intercession being used to bring forth God's prophetic timeline and to prepare the spiritual atmosphere for God's "kronos" moment. We see her never departing from the temple but serving God through prayer, and fasting, forerunning the earth before the first coming of Jesus. God used her prayers to prepare Israel for their Messiah. -Lk 2:36-39

H. PAUL THE APOSTLE

1. His life was marked by continual intercession—carrying the churches in prayer and laboring for their spiritual strength, growth, and maturity.

a) ***My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you-Galatians 4:19***

I. EPAPHRAS

1. Epaphras had great zeal in intercession for the body of Christ in His region. The scriptures reveal that he had labored or "wrestled in prayer" for his region which consisted of Laodicea, Hierapolis, and Colosse which were all in close proximity.

a) ***Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God***" (Colo. 4)

X. SOME HISTORICAL INTERCESSORS THAT HAVE INSPIRED ME

1. Many godly men and women learned to wrestle in prayer leaving their imprints on nations, tribes, churches, and even entire generations.

B. JOHN HYDE

1. John Hyde was a great wrestler in prayer. He was a missionary to India and was known for his aggressive style of wrestling prayer. He was nicknamed "praying Hyde" and was known to pray a revival into the Punjab area of India. He was known for his famous violent supplication "Lord give me souls or I die". *By 1908, John Hyde dared to pray what was to many at the convention an impossible request: that during the coming year in India one soul would be saved every day. Three hundred sixty five people converted, baptized, and publicly confessed Jesus as their Savior. Impossible -- yet it happened. Before the next convention John Hyde had prayed more than 400 people into God's kingdom,*

C. FATHER NASH

1. Father Nash was another great wrestler in intercessory prayer. He was known as the "prevailing prince of prayer" Nash was Charles Finney's personal intercessor to his preaching and the great revival in the mid 1800's that swept in an estimated 500,000 souls into the Kingdom in a short six month period.
2. Church historians say that 80% of his converts were still seen walking fervently after Christ years after their conversion. After Father Nash died the great revival stopped and Charles Finney went back to pastoring a church.

D. EDWARD PRAYING PAYSON

1. He was from Portland, Maine was another great wrestler in prayer. He lived in the early 1800's and was known for his powerful preaching that resulted in thousands being born again. When he was 26, he noted in his diary, "I was enabled to agonize in prayer for myself and my people, and to make intercession with unutterable groanings." He was nicknamed "Praying

Payson." *It has been said that the wooden floor at his bedside was worn by his knees from his often prevailing.*

E. DAVID BRAINARD

1. He is probably one of the greatest intercessors that ever lived. He was known for his ministry to the American Indians in the east coast of America. He was known for extended times of prayer and fasting for the American Indians which resulted in the salvations of the hardest and most demonically possessed chiefs. Leonard Ravenhill would often speak about the "David Brainard equation" which consisted of long hours of wrestling in prayer that would produce a cut to the heart preaching.

F. PEGGY AND CHRISTINE SMITH

1. Two sisters, one was 84 and blind and the other was 82 and crippled who prayed for a historical revival into the Hebrides Islands in 1949.
2. Their intercessions brought thousands of sound conversions into the kingdom. During the revival they were asked about there doing business with God on behalf of the Island, and they were quoted saying, "God promised us Isaiah 44:3 and we would not be denied"

G. LEONARD RAVENHILL

1. Leonard Ravenhill lived a life marked by intense, burdened intercession, calling the church back to holiness and prayer. Known for his deep conviction and urgency, he spent long hours in prayer, often weeping for revival and the spiritual condition of the church. Ravenhill believed that true ministry was birthed in prayer, and his life consistently demonstrated that revival is the result of prevailing intercession.

