

INTERCESSORY PRAYER: WHAT AND WHY

I. GOD RELEASES JUSTICE IN RESPONSE TO OUR PRAYERS

- A. Justice is God making wrong things right. Jesus taught that justice would be established through night and day prayer (speaking God's Word).

Luke 18:7-8

7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly...

- B. The two sides of God's justice:
1. **Judgment** (punishment, vengeance) to the rebellious who resist God's justice
 2. **Salvation** (deliverance, vindication) to the redeemed as He makes wrong things right for them
- C. Examples of God's justice (judgment/salvation) that makes wrong things right
1. **Healing:** God's judgment on sickness is seen in the manifestation of healing power
 2. **Revival:** God's judgment on compromise is seen in reviving the Church by the Spirit
 3. **Soul winning:** God's judgment on the kingdom of darkness is seen when people get saved
 4. **End-Time judgments:** God's judgments against the evil governments and their actions
 5. **Righteous legislation:** God's judgment on unrighteous legislation (abortion laws, etc.)
 6. **Unity (reconciliation):** God's judgment on division in the family, society and the Church
 7. **Holiness:** God's judgment on sin, anger, pornography, drugs and rebellion, etc.
- D. Jesus requires night and day prayer as the condition to release justice. Prayer is a very practical expression of the commandment to love one another in that it releases deliverance for the needy.

II. INTERCESSORY PRAYER: EMBRACING WHAT MEN CALL FOOLISH AND WEAK

- A. God has chosen to use the things that men consider as weak to triumph over the things that men consider wise and mighty. God will use those who embrace the "so called weakness" of praying, fasting, giving, serving and suffering persecution to triumph over human wisdom and might.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong...29 so that no one may boast before him.

- B. Because intercession is telling an invisible God what He tells us to tell Him, men consider this to be too weak and offensive to do (especially since it is so simple that everyone can do it).
- C. Intercession is a form of "voluntarily weakness" (as are fasting, serving, giving, etc.).

2 Corinthians 12:9

9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

III. INTERCESSORY PRAYER: THE BENEFITS WE RECEIVE

- A. The very fact that God chose the simplicity of intercession (so that all could do it) expresses His desire for partnership with us. He allows us to wrestle with Him and prevail (Gen. 32:24-30).
- B. Intercession causes us to internalize God's Word by saying it back to Him throughout our life. Each time we say what God says, it marks our mind and spirit and changes us. This process progressively renews our inner man. I compare it to a computer programmer who rewrites thousands of lines of code when developing a computer program. The way we are transformed in prayer can be compared to "rewriting many lines of code" in our mind and heart.
- C. God's words are spirit and life. They impart God's life to us. Each time we say what God says, we receive a small impartation of His life that illuminates our mind and tenderizes our heart.

John 6:63

63 The words I (Jesus) have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

- D. The Father's word abiding in us is our fuel for intercession and personal transformation.

John 8:31-32

31... "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know (experience) the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- E. Intercession unites our heart to the people and places that we pray for. We love who and what we pray for. Intercession helps produce community with people and ownership of God's purposes in various cities and nations. One reason that most of the NT prayers are for the Church instead of the lost is so that we grow in love for the Church that we tend to despise due to being overly familiar with it. An anointed Church will always bring many into the Kingdom (Acts 19:10-20).
- F. The process of intercession humbles us so when God answers us we are protected from pride. Often our prayers are offered without feeling God's power yet they ascend before God in power.
- G. Intercession changes the spiritual atmosphere of cities and nations and thus prepares the way for the presence of God. It releases anointed ministry to bring blessing and deliverance to many.
- H. Intercession makes a long term impact (beyond this age). Our prayers for people and cities continue to have an impact in the age-to-come. Prayers from history are stored in a bowl near God's Throne (Rev. 5:8; 8:1-6). Intercession gives us an "inheritance" in the people and places that we pray for. This inheritance begins in this age and continues in the age-to-come.
- I. Intercession for others causes multiplied blessings to return back on the life of the intercessor. Every prayer of blessing for another is a prayer that God returns back on you and your family. The law of the Kingdom requires that we always receive more than what we give away by faith.

Luke 6:38

38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."