

05 – FUNDAMENTALS OF INTERCESSION

1.) Intercession Can Be Initiated by God, or By You

a.) God Initiates Intercession by Giving You a *Burden* to Pray

- ✓ You're minding your own business, going through your day, when suddenly there's a heaviness inside, or an urgency to pray. (You feel like something's wrong. You may not know *what*. All you know is, you've *got* to pray!) That's *God* initiating intercession.

b.) On the Other Hand, YOU Can Initiate Intercession, by Yourself

- ✓ For the first two years of our marriage, Bev and I lived in Saskatoon. One weekend, we decided to go to Swift Current to visit our families. While we were there, we heard that one of the kids from the church I had attended had contracted Leukemia. (He was around 10 years old at the time.) I knew the family quite well, so Bev and I stopped by the hospital to see him. A couple of days later, we went back to Saskatoon.
- ✓ The next evening, I was watching a hockey game on TV, and this young fellow came to mind. I thought to myself, "Lord, that's not right!" I turned off the game, went and laid down in my "prayer spot", and I started to pray for him. When I first started praying, I'd never felt so "dry", but I persisted. A few minutes in, I hit "a gusher". (The Bible says that as you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit will "take hold together with you" against the problem. I can tell you the exact moment it happened. Suddenly, there was a strong anointing to pray, and a passion I hadn't had before. I "prayed through" (I'll talk about that later), and I knew it was done. Within a day or two, I heard that he'd been totally healed.

2.) Intercession Can (and Probably Should) Be a Combination of Prayer in English and Prayer in Tongues

- ✓ Last week, I mentioned that there were instructions for interceding in English. Let's look at our main Scripture.

*Luke 11:5-9 – "Then He said to them: 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has just come to my house on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him.' And suppose he answers from inside, 'Stop bothering me; the door is now locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you any.' I tell you, although he will not get up and give you any because he is your friend, yet **because of your persistence** he will get up and give you all you need. So I tell you, **keep on asking, and it will be given you; keep on seeking, and you will find; keep on knocking, and the door will open to you. For everyone who keeps on asking, receives; and the one who keeps on seeking, finds; and to the one who keeps on knocking, the door will open.**"*

- ✓ What Jesus emphasizes in this parable is *persistence*. Stay in the Face of God. "Keep on asking." (Ask over and over.) Did you notice, that's exactly *the opposite* of the instructions for the Prayer of Faith? The Prayer of Faith asks once, believes it receives (takes it), and gives thanks. This verse said, "Ask over and over".

- ✓ **This parable is describing the Prayer of Intercession** – you're praying for someone *else's* needs. (Look at it again.) "*Suppose one of you has a friend (that's God), and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend (God), lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine.'*" He wanted something from God for his friend. That's intercession!

- ✓ What are the rules? Stay in the Face of God! Be persistent.

*"I tell you, although he will not get up and give you any because he is your friend, yet **because of your persistence** he will get up and give to you."* (So, the English rule in intercession is **don't quit praying until you see the answer!**)

3.) The Intensity of the Prayer is Determined by the Intensity of the Problem

- ✓ If you're praying for someone's ingrown toenail, there's no urgency. But if someone had a heart attack, he's flat-lined, and the doctors are trying to revive him, (and they're struggling) ... you've got a

limited “window of opportunity”. You can’t say, “I’ll pray tonight when I get into bed.” You’ve got to pray NOW! If you don’t get Heaven down to earth in a hurry, he’s going to die!

- ✓ **Some things are more time-sensitive than others.** With *some* things, you can stretch your praying over *time*. (They’re in no danger of dying.) With other things, you need to treat it more urgently.)

4.) When You Intercede, Don’t Quit Until You Get a Note of Victory

- ✓ What do I mean by a “note of victory”? It means your prayer changes. You move from “having a burden” (a “heaviness”) to joy. Your “note of victory” can be laughing, or dancing, or singing – anything like that. You don’t plan it. It just changes on the inside. In an instant, that heaviness is replaced with joy. When the burden lifts, you don’t need to pray anymore!

5.) Most People Don’t Get Results in Intercession, Because They Quit Too Soon

- ✓ There’s a price you’re paying in being persistent. Your flesh gets tired. You get tired of carrying a burden around. But it’s worth it, to see your friend delivered.
- ✓ How long do you have to pray? As long as it takes. It can be anything from a few minutes to a few months. The longest I ever went was 9 months. (I did that twice.) But both times, we won!

6.) You’ve Got to Keep the Pressure on Until Satan Quits

- ✓ It’s like the devil is pushing *this* way, and you’re pushing back on him. The truth is: Whoever quits first loses.
- ✓ Here’s the good news: Satan doesn’t have the power to sustain an attack forever. If you outlast him, you win.
- ✓ A Word of Advice: Keep feeding on God’s Word. Keep replenishing

your inner resources, and you’ll be able to persist. (Illustration: If I have a water bottle, and I turn it upside down, the water will run out quickly. But if I cut out the bottom of the bottle and hold it under a running faucet, water will run out of that bottle for as long as I hold it there! (If you hook up to the Source of strength, and let Him pour through you, you can stand in faith and pray for as long as you need to.)

More Stories

- a.) Mom’s Kidney – One day, as I was praying for members of my family, I put up my “spiritual antenna” to see if the Lord would say anything. The Lord impressed on my heart that mom was going to get a bad report from the doctor, but if we’d believe Him, everything would be all right. (I had no idea that she had a Drs. appointment scheduled for the next day.)
- ✓ Around 4:30 the next day, Mom phoned, and she was crying. She told me that they’d found a growth the size of a grapefruit on her left kidney. They were planning to remove the kidney as soon as possible. Even with that, they didn’t know if she’d make it. I told her what the Lord had told me the day before. (This is where different kinds of prayer come in. From her side, she needed to pray the Prayer of Faith. I needed to intercede.)
- ✓ In this case, it took 9 months to win. Some evenings, Bev would join me, and we’d intercede together. Many nights, I’d wake up in the middle of the night and go pray quietly in the living room. (You can pray quietly and still maintain the intensity.)
- ✓ One night, as I was praying in the middle of the night, I got my note of victory. It switched from heaviness to joy. I started to dance all over the living room. (You know *that’s* God!) She never was operated on. She lived another 19 years.
- ✓ A Backslidden Friend – One afternoon, I was praying in the youth room with my youth minister and another friend. One of us mentioned a backslidden young fellow (we all knew), and we started

to pray for him. (When I say he was backslidden, I really *mean* it. He was walking in some major sin.)

- ✓ We prayed for a few minutes, and the longer we went, the more intense it got. The compassion of God rose up in me and I started to weep ... and to rebuke the devil. I guess I got pretty loud. After we got our note of victory, we heard someone walking around the church. It was a delivery person. (My youth minister was a little embarrassed at the volume of my prayer. He told the delivery person, “That was *him!*”) This was a Thursday.
 - ✓ On Sunday night, after the service, I was walking toward the “upper room” (our youth room, in the church). Just as I rounded the corner (by an outside door that stayed locked), I heard a knock. It was my backslidden friend. When I opened the door, he said, “I’ve gotta get back to God! Pray with me.”
 - ✓ We went to an upstairs room, and I grabbed him in a bear hug and started to pray ... (finish story).
- b.) Bev’s Mom Coming to Visit – I was washing the car on a Saturday morning. Bev’s mom, her sister Leona, and our two nephews were driving up (from Swift Current) to see us. Suddenly, I got a word of knowledge. I had a “sense” that they were going to be in an accident, and that they were all going to die. (I was in a car wash. Of course, I didn’t want to draw attention to myself. So, I just prayed quietly under my breath until I got a note of victory.)
- ✓ When I got home, Bev said her mom had called. They were going to be delayed, and they’d explain when they got to our house. On the way up, my mother-in-law was about to pass another car. She didn’t realize that someone was passing *her* at the time. She swerved back into her lane. It was winter and icy, and she started doing 360’s down the highway. They went down an embankment, into the ditch, and drove into some trees. When all was said and done, one of the boys had a scratch on his knee. We compared notes, and I had gotten my note of victory, just before that happened.