

ATHENS *Prayer Network* USA

Intercession Unpacked

Every believer is called to be a part of God's army of intercessors. Intercession is our response to hearing the heart of God. This comes from worshipping Him, waiting before Him, fixing our eyes on Him and soaking ourselves in His word. Intercession is birthed out of an intimate relationship with Jesus. Many people never truly intercede. Intercession is more than just saying a simple prayer for someone. Intercession is a position we take before God in a particular situation and for a specific cause. Not just something we do for a couple hours at a prayer gathering.

Intercession defined!

Finding out what is on God's heart then speaking and living it back to Him through identification and sacrifice until there is release

1. Intercession is reminding God of His promises

God is in the business of posting watchmen who will cry out to Him day and night until His purposes are fulfilled (Isaiah 62:6-7). How often? Continually! Jesus said we were to pray and not give up, just as the widow who kept coming back to the unjust judge, wearing him down, night and day (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus said, "How much more would our heavenly Father who cares for us respond to our persistence?"

2. Intercession is bearing the needs of others

Intercession is different from devotional prayer. In devotional prayer we focus on our own needs, wants, concerns and cares. Intercession is picking up God's concerns and heart for someone other than ourselves. It is grabbing hold of what's on God's heart and not letting go. What makes intercession so different from merely praying for someone is the personal cost of identification and sacrifice. The intercessory burden is something that is given by God and not worked up by man.

3. Intercession is crying out for mercy, averting God's judgment

For some reason, God desires someone to stand in the gap for others and when this is neglected God is forced to pour out wrath (Ezekiel 22:30-31). Our bargaining power with God is not how good we are, or how deserving the person is. Instead it is based on the promises of God, what He has done in the past and who He is (His character). The cry of the intercessor is "MERCY"!

4. Intercession is building up a wall of protection

If Jesus felt it was important to pray for His disciples, shouldn't we do the same (Luke 22:31-32, John 17:15)? Intercession is building up a hedge of protection or a wall in the time of battle. God often calls others to pray when we are facing big battles. He even wakes them up in the night to pray. Has this ever happened to you?

Conclusion

As intercessors we can not merely jump into every item that we feel is necessary or urgent. Or what other people think we should intercede for. We must understand that we have been called and appointed by Jesus and He has a specific assignment for us. We must remain there until we are released. The whole point of intercession is to work with the Holy Spirit to see the fulfillment of God's purposes. Through intercession we release God's Kingdom and will here on earth!

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