



# INTERCESSION

How, What, Why to Pray on Behalf of Others

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# Intercession

## MEANING

**Intercession** is the noun of the verb to **intercede**, which is to act on and to intervene on behalf of another. To intercede also means to take part in something so as *to prevent or alter a result or course of event, occurring in the time between events*.

To intercede also means

- To **mediate** – (notice the word **media**<sup>1</sup> in mediate) : intervene in (a dispute) to bring about an agreement, bring about (an agreement or solution) by intervening in a dispute, intervene in a dispute in order to bring about an agreement or reconciliation.
- To **arbitrate** – to make a judgment in an argument

(Go to end GLOSSARY for more on INTERCEDE/INTERCESSION)

**Intercession** is not only praying for the situation, it is the insistence **for breakthrough** in the situation.

## GUIDELINES for INTERCESSION

But we need to be aware of guidelines for intercessory prayer, guidelines for desired breakthrough:

1. Be **clear about what** you are praying for
2. Be **aware of your authority** (who you are in Christ and your intimacy with Christ, intimacy with the Word)
3. Be **very aware of the opposition and resistance** you will encounter especially where there has not been specific prayer in this area before. But remember Jesus has already gone before us, and in this understanding, we are **RELEASING BREAKTHROUGH** in the lives of them that need it.

## RIGHTEOUSNESS & JUSTICE

Our victory is set upon **RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **JUSTICE** – I like to think of **RIGHTEOUSNESS** being the plumbline from the throne of God Himself, and **JUSTICE** is the bar that determines the course. Jesus Himself taught that **JUSTICE** would be established through **INTERCESSORY PRAYER**:

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<sup>1</sup> [The **MEDIA** is on a mission to intervene in the dispute between heaven and earth, where the powers and principalities have dominion over the air (hence Satan is the Prince of the Air Eph 2:2, Eph 6:11-13, 1 John 5:19, John 14:6, 30, 16:11, Matt 24:24, Rev 12:12 and more..)]

*“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? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” Luke 18:7-8*

The intercessor stands in THE GAP to pray, petition, plead on behalf of others, crying out for the JUSTICE of the LORD.

*“Therefore **confess**<sup>2</sup> your **sins**<sup>3</sup> to each other and pray over (for the sake of) each other so that **you may be healed**<sup>4</sup>. The prayer of a **righteous person**<sup>5</sup> is **powerful**<sup>6</sup> (strong petition) and effective (of just one acting in justice).” James 5:16*

The point of this type of prayer is that it releases God’s justice – His JUDGMENT (punishment, vengeance) and His SALVATION (deliverance, vindication) for the redeemed correcting situations.

## BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER

David, in his Psalms, prayed various types of prayers under persecution, for breakthrough, for honouring and gratitude and glorifying God. His psalms are ordered, not haphazard, and we can draw from his personal laments, personal pleas and calls for help, in times of distress, for deliverance, thanksgivings, blessings, confidence prayers, encouragement for self, national calls and personal calls to remembrance, for healing, for God’s compassion to fall, songs and hymns (conclusory also) of praise and reverence to Him.

David’s **IMPRECATORY PRAYERS** to the LORD were to invoke JUDGMENT, CALAMITY, or CURSES upon one’s enemies or the enemies of God.

Psalm 69:22-28 cries out for defeat of his enemies. It is an expression of hate for those who persecute and harm **others**:

*May the table set before them become a snare; may it become retribution and a trap. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever. Pour out your wrath on them; let your fierce anger overtake them. May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents. For they persecute those you wound and talk about the pain of those you hurt. Charge them with crime upon crime; do not let them share in your salvation. May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.*

An imprecatory prayer **for self**:

Psalm 70:1-3

*Hasten, O God, to save me; come quickly, LORD, to help me. May those who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. May those who say to me “Aha! Aha!” turn back because of their shame.*

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<sup>2</sup> **Exomologeō** – **G1843** acknowledge, agree fully, confess, profess, promise

<sup>3</sup> **Paraptomata** – **G3900** side-slip (lapse or deviation), unintentional error, willful transgressions, fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass

<sup>4</sup> **laomai** – **G2390** to cure literally and figuratively (metaphorically), heal, make whole

<sup>5</sup> **Dikaios** – **G1342** innocent, holy, just, right, righteous, equitable (fair, just, unbiased) in character, Dikaiou (one acting ...)

<sup>6</sup> **Ischyō** – **G2480** can do good, prevail, be strong, be whole, much work & **Deesis** - **G1162** prayer, request, petition, supplication

And a reminder of our **humble selves** before the LORD:

*V5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come quickly to me, O God. You are my help and my deliverer; LORD, do not delay.*

These prayers are **DECLARATIVE, PROCLAIMATIVE** and it is important we stand on the written Word of God, His decrees His laws, His statutes that give us authority from heaven. God's written word, His law, is power and has all legal jurisdiction, dominance and supremacy, as Jesus quoted to the devil when tempted in the wilderness "It is written..." .

We too stand on the **Word as our authority**. Remember, Jesus had the Holy Spirit with Him when He went into the wilderness, the Holy Spirit did not leave Him. This is why, for any teacher, worshipper, prophet and intercessor, we as believers, as sons and daughters of God, as chosen ones, we must be filled with the Holy Spirit, and STAND on the Word of God for the breakthrough.

Other imprecatory prayers you should read to equip yourselves before putting your cases before the LORD, are Psalm 35, 109:6-15 and there are more. These Psalms are not to quote, but indeed we would want to pray:

*"God, stop them! Do whatever You have to do to stop this incessant situation, this is so wrong!!!"*

So yes, there are times we are compelled to call God's judgment into a situation, for the vindication of children, the vulnerable, the righteous, the hurting...

Matthew 5:44 translated from the Greek:

*"I yet am saying to you, **be you loving**<sup>7</sup>! (may) **The enemy**<sup>8</sup> of you **be your blessing**<sup>9</sup>! The ones **execrating**<sup>10</sup> and cursing down (on) you ideally be you doing (the ideal, good to) the ones hating you, and be you **praying over the ones traducing**<sup>11</sup> you and ones chasing and persecuting you."*

It is important to translate the Scriptures accurately to get the full meaning of what God is saying – Hebrew Old Testament, Greek New Testament. I am continually being enlightened by the correct precision of our LORD's meaning in certain scriptures, where modern and contemporary translations have really erred in omitting the essence of the text. The Word is our RESOURCE, our Guide, our Handbook and our WEAPON OF WARFARE. Without true understanding, we are like bent arrows, intent on the target but because we are not straight, a few degrees off will cause us to miss considerably and all we have done in vain will be for lack of understanding.

In this day, more than ever, we are required to be knowledgeable, carry weight in the understanding of the Bible, and walk in wisdom. It takes a bit of extra effort to acquire this, some study of your own, or finding true sources from those who have done much work on behalf of the rest of us. But listen, what the LORD is imparting to you in your quiet time, in your study of the Word, may be unique in its context, and should be worth sharing with your church family.

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<sup>7</sup> *Agapao* – G25 to love in a social or moral sense

<sup>8</sup> *Echthros* – G2190 the odious and hostile adversary (esp Satan), enemy, foe

<sup>9</sup> *Eulogeo* – G2127 speak well of (religiously), thank or invoke a benediction upon, bless or praise

<sup>10</sup> **Execrating** means to feel or express great loathing for, revile, condemn, detest

<sup>11</sup> **Traducing** means speak badly of or tell lies (about you) so as to damage (your) reputation

## INTERCESSION FOR WHERE YOU ARE TODAY

Intercession is a distinct form of prayer. It is on behalf of others. It is bringing the power of heaven and God's Word to earth right in to the middle of an unjust situation. We are called to pray. We are called to intercede, stand in the gap.

*1Tim 2:1-5 I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.*

Our communication is to God. It is with God, and our prayers for the directive of others, need to be decisive, and clear. This covers a number of fields:

Supplication (asking for something), Intercession (requesting on behalf of others) and Thanksgiving (always giving thanks and being grateful, showing gratitude) and Spiritual Warfare (another topic)



Intercession is *not* spiritual warfare. We may *enter into* spiritual warfare during intercessory prayer, but keep in mind Spiritual Warfare is directed to the powers and principalities\*. We are instructed to RESIST the devil and he will flee from us. We are also instructed by Jesus to trample on snakes and scorpions and every ability and power of the enemy.

*Ephesians 6:10-12 "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your **stand against** the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. "*

*2 Corinthians 10:3-5 " For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."*

*Zechariah 4:6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.*

*Luke 10:19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

*1Peter 5:8-9 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."*

\*And Intercession is directed to God to move on behalf of others.

## Who do we pray for? All men!

- Family, friends, loved ones AND those we have conflict with, who annoy us, and who seem to be against us. ALL MEN.
- Friends and acquaintance, coworkers, those we have regular contact with, in our sphere of influence. ALL MEN.
- Our pastors, prophet and apostolic leaders in office, church group, other ministries we know and love. ALL MEN.
- Give thanks for All Men. Finding something to thank God for them for. Even those who persecute us, are against us and have a place in the bigger scheme of God's plans. Pray for them and give thanks for them. ALL MEN.
- Those in authority – those who we are subject to, the governing authorities that have been established by God, that is all existing authorities Romans 13:1-7 All rulers, emperors, princes, kings, presidents, prime ministers, state leaders, premiers, even if we don't agree with them, we do not like what they are doing, all the more reason to pray - ALL MEN.
- Christians can not expect special favours from the governing national and local authorities. PRAY for all governing bodies and their representatives. ALL MEN.

## Why do we pray? That they would be saved!

The reason why we pray? That ALL MEN would be saved.

This is good and acceptable to God in His sight, because He desires ALL MEN to be saved and to come to His Truth. That is our call, that is our mandate, that is our journey, as chosen ones, to be equipped in His Word, His Ways. Of the five-fold ministries, we may not necessarily hold office but we are each called to desire every one of these in our daily lives.

- To teach is to disciple. We are all called to be disciples to the nations.
- To pastor is to be pastoral, care for one another.
- To be apostolic is prepared to pioneer, to forge a mission. This can be in your own neighbourhood!
- To be prophetic is to hear from God and encourage and proclaim to one another, to spur the church on.
- To evangelise is to have an evangelical purpose: unashamedly proclaim truth through scriptural, biblical truth in word and deed, according to the Word.

There is no way to God other than through His Son, the One Mediator, the Man, the Redeemer and Ransom for all, Jesus Christ. We can not go out into the world, which is now foreign to us because it denies the very existence of God, in solely an evangelical spirit without pastoral knowledge, or to go about teaching the Word without the prophetic – hearing the Voice of God. There needs to be a desire for all gifts in order to complete our call to ALL MEN.

*1 Cor 12:1-3 **12** Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup>You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup>Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit...*

*V27-31 <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.*

Love is indispensable. God has created us in His way of having to rely on one another for the completion of His work.

*1 Cor 12: <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to*

*another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,<sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.<sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.*

Therefore, we go out into the world, however that is for each of us.

It is fitting to end here with Revelation 22.

*<sup>12</sup> “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.*

*<sup>14</sup> “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

*<sup>16</sup> “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you<sup>[a]</sup> this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”*

*<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let the one who hears say, “Come!” Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.*

*<sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. <sup>19</sup> And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.*

*<sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.”*

*Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

*<sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.*

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# GLOSSARY

*These words that come up for **intercede** as synonyms are (this will surprise you!)*

**Ambassador** – an important official who works in a foreign country representing his or her own country there, and who is officially accepted in this position by that country

**Attache** - a person who works in an embassy and has a particular area of responsibility in which they have special knowledge

**Diplomat** - an official whose job is to represent one country in another, and who usually works in an embassy  
 Intermediary - someone who carries messages between people who are unwilling or unable to meet

**Interventionism** - the practice or policy of a government taking action to become involved, either in the problems of another country, or in the economy of its own country

**Plenipotentiary** - a person who has the authority to represent his or her country, especially in another country

*The ongoing living out of our faith is the course of being and advocating that of...*

The **diplomat**, so having **diplomacy**: skill in dealing with people without offending or upsetting them, the management of relationships between countries and being diplomatic: acting in a way that does not cause offence

The **ambassador**, so having **ambassadorial** traits: belonging or relating to an ambassador – how we carry ourselves, accountability, and we are seen publicly as one

The **mediator** - a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between

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