

Session 7 Releasing God’s Power Through Intercession

I. THE MAJESTY AND MYSTERY OF INTERCESSION: AGREEMENT WITH GOD

- A. Intercessory worship is the primary means by which God has chosen to release His power on earth in this age and in the age to come. In this, God’s people express their **agreement** with the Lord. In worship we agree with **who He is**, and in intercession we agree with **what He promised to do**.

²³The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)

1. Worship and prayer flow together before God’s throne and contribute to what God does on the earth. When the “golden bowls of prayer” are full in heaven, then Jesus will open the seals or release His end-time judgments against the Antichrist.

⁸...the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders...each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, and open its seals...we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:8-10)

³...the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne...⁴the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God...⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth [releasing judgment]... (Rev. 8:3-5)

2. The Lord uses intercessory worship to release His justice (vengeance against His enemies).

⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth...⁷to execute vengeance [justice] on the nations...⁸to bind their kings with chains..., and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹to execute on them the written judgment—this honor have all His saints. (Ps. 149:6-9)

- B. ***The majesty of intercession***: God has chosen intercession as the primary means by which He releases His power. Jesus intercedes forever (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34).

²⁵He always [forever] lives to make intercession for them. (Heb. 7:25)

1. Through intercession, Jesus releases His power to rule and possess the nations (Ps. 2:7-8).

⁷I [Jesus] will declare the decree: The LORD [the Father] has said to Me, “You are My Son... ⁸Ask of Me [intercession], and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance...” (Ps. 2:7–8)

2. He operated in the principle of intercession by speaking the Word to create the earth (Gen. 1).

- C. ***The mystery of intercession***: The primary principle of intercession is simply *to tell God what He tells us to tell Him* as the means of releasing His power. It is profoundly simple. Its mystery lies in its “weakness,” simplicity, and accessibility to all. Intercession is God’s brilliant strategy for including the saints in ruling with Him in power.

II. JESUS CREATED THE EARTH: THE PRINCIPLE OF INTERCESSION

- A. The principle of intercession was expressed at creation: The Father's plans were spoken by Jesus, and then the Spirit released power. The Father has many plans in His heart and ordained that Jesus speak them out in intercession. We see Jesus's work in the phrase "and God said" ten times in Genesis 1. Jesus is identified as the Creator who said, "Let there be light" (Jn. 1:3; Eph. 3:9).
²The earth was without form, and void...the Spirit was hovering over the...waters. ³God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁹God said, "Let the waters...be gathered together..." and it was so...¹¹God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass...and it was so." (Gen. 1:2-11)
⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made... (Ps. 33:6)
- B. Jesus sustains and upholds (holds together) the created order *by speaking* the word of His power to the Father (Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2-3). God "brings us forth" in blessing and power as Jesus speaks His Word over our lives (Jas. 1:18). These are examples of how intercession is expressed by Jesus.
³...who [Jesus]...upholding all things by the word of His power... (Heb. 1:3)
¹⁷And in Him all things consist [hold together, NIV, NAS]. (Col. 1:17)
- C. When Jesus articulates the Father's thoughts, He functions as the Living Word. One reason why Jesus is called the Word (Jn. 1:1; Rev. 19:13) is because *He brings God's ideas into existence in the natural world by speaking*. In other words, He acts and rules by speaking the Word of God.
¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [Jesus]...³All things were made through Him... (Jn. 1:1-3)
- D. When Jesus was tempted by Satan, He spoke God's Word to resist each temptation (Mt. 4:1-10).
⁴He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"...⁶said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down..."⁷Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD ...'"⁹And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You...worship me."¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD ...'" (Mt. 4:4-10)
- E. The word of God functions as the sword of the Spirit, striking Satan's domain (Eph. 6:17). The sword of Jesus' mouth refers to His power being released by the commands of His mouth. He uses the sword or rod of His mouth to judge and remove all that resists Him (Isa. 11:4; 49:2; Rev. 19:15).
¹⁷Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (Eph. 6:17)
²And He [the Father] has made My mouth like a sharp sword..." (Isa. 49:2)
⁴He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth... (Isa. 11:4)
- F. One aspect of the new covenant is that the Lord puts His words into the mouths of His people so that forever they may "speak in agreement with Him" to release His power on earth—this is a principle of intercession. The Lord has chosen to govern the earth in partnership with His people.
²¹"...this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is up you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth...from this time and forevermore." (Isa. 59:21)

- G. The Lord put His words in the mouth of Jeremiah to bring about His purposes in the nations.
⁹***“Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have this day set you over the nations... to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant.” (Jer. 1:9-10)***
⁸***This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night...then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. (Josh. 1:8)***

III. JESUS RELEASES GOD'S JUSTICE IN RESPONSE TO INTERCESSION

- A. Justice is *God making wrong things right* and is released in connection to night-and-day prayer (speaking God's Word). Jesus, the ultimate social reformer, was the first to connect justice to night-and-day prayer. Prayer confronts the source of injustice in the spirit realm.
⁷***Shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night? ⁸He will bring about justice for them speedily. When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (Lk. 18:7-8; NAS)***
- B. Examples of God's justice (judgment or 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 the Church being revived 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 Antichrist's governments and their actions
 5. **Righteous legislation**: God's judgment on unrighteous laws (abortion laws, etc.)
- C. We do not merely pray for the work that we do in the kingdom—***prayer is part of our work***. Oswald Chambers wrote, “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.”
- D. In our personal lives, *we speak God's Word* against injustice and Satan's lies that assault our hearts or the hearts of others. In this way we release strength to others called “encouragement” as it puts courage in their heart. God releases healing in this same way as we speak His Word over the sick.

IV. WEAKNESS AND WISDOM OF INTERCESSION: SEVEN BENEFITS

- A. God uses things that men consider weak to triumph over the things that men consider mighty. God uses those who embrace the so-called “weakness” of praying to triumph over human might. Our prayers are often offered without us feeling God's power, yet they ascend before God in power.
²⁷***...God has chosen the [so-called] weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...²⁹that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:27)***
- B. **Benefit #1: Renews our faith**—Speaking God's Word in intercession causes us to internalize His Word and thus renews our faith, draws us into intimacy with God, and transforms us. *God's words are spirit and life*—they impart God's life to us (Jn. 6:63). Each time we say what God says, it marks and changes us. Each time we receive a small impartation of His life, which illuminates our mind and tenderizes our heart. This process renews our faith. As a programmer rewrites lines of code when developing a program, we “rewrite lines of code” in our heart by speaking God's Word.
⁶³***The words that I [Jesus] speak to you are spirit, and they are life. (Jn. 6:63)***

- C. **Benefit #2: Increased understanding**—Intercession releases spiritual insight (Eph. 1:17). As Daniel prayed, Gabriel visited him and gave him “skill to understand” spiritual things (Dan. 9:20-23).
¹⁷...*the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know... (Eph. 1:17-18)*
²⁰*Now while I was speaking, praying...and presenting my supplication before the LORD ...*
²¹*yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel...²²said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. ²³At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved...understand the vision... (Dan. 9:20-23)*
- D. **Benefit #3: Release of God's power**—Intercession releases God's power and justice as it changes the spiritual atmosphere of cities (Lk. 18:8). When Daniel prayed, angelic activity increased and demonic activity was hindered in the spirit realm (Dan. 10). There is an irrefutable law we observe in history, that revival is released in a far greater measure when night-and-day prayer is offered.
²¹*However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Mt 17:21)*
¹²“...*Daniel...I have come because of your words. ¹³But the [demonic] prince of...Persia withstood me twenty-one days...Michael [archangel]...came to help me... (Dan 10:12-13)*
- E. **Benefit #4: Love and Unity**—Intercession is a practical expression of loving people as it releases deliverance for the needy and unites our heart to the people and places for which we pray.
¹⁹*This will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer... (Phil. 1:19)*
¹¹*You also helping together in prayer for us ... (2 Cor. 1:11)*
- F. **Benefit #5: Multiplied blessing**—Intercession for others causes God's blessings to multiply by returning back on the life of the intercessor. Every prayer to release God's blessing and power on another is a prayer that God also 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 (Lk. 6:38).
³⁸*Give, and it will be given to you: good measure...and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you. (Lk. 6:38)*
- G. **Benefit #6: Long-term impact**—Intercession makes a long-term impact. Our prayers for people and cities have an impact both now and in the age to come. The prayers of the saints from history are stored in a bowl near God's throne and make an impact in the end times (Rev. 5:8; 8:1-6).
- H. **Benefit #7: Inheritance**—Intercession gives us an “inheritance” in the people and places for which we pray. We have a spiritual investment with a sense of ownership, as well as eternal blessing and joy in all the people and places that we regularly pray for and serve (1 Thes. 2:19-20).
¹⁹*For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰For you are our glory and joy. (1 Thes. 2:19-20)*
- I. **Summary:** Intercession is God's strategy for including the saints in ruling with Him in power. The activity of intercession renews our *faith*, transforms and draws us into *intimacy* with God, increases *understanding*, releases God's *power*, expresses *love*, leads to *unity*, multiplies our *blessing*, has *long-term impact*, and increases our *inheritance*.