

## Called to Pray

September/October/November 2024

This quarter, we continue our exploration of different types of prayer by focusing on the “Prayer of Intercession”. A powerful definition comes from Dutch Sheets in “Intercessory Prayer”:

“Intercessory Prayer is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His body, the church, whereby we mediate between God and humanity to reconcile the world to Him, or between Satan and humanity to enforce the victory of Calvary.”

Jesus also gave us a clear picture of intercession in Matthew 6:10: “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” Through intercession, we pray heaven’s purposes into reality here on earth. This is often called “standing in the gap,” being co-laborers with the Holy Spirit, and acting as a go-between.

In Ephesians 6:18, we’re instructed to “pray always with all prayer,” or “all kinds of prayer.” 1 Timothy 2:1 expands on this by urging us to pray in various forms, including petitions, intercessions, and thanksgiving. Let’s explore intercession more deeply through a few key scriptures:

Romans 8:34 – “Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

Isaiah 53:12 – “He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Hebrews 7:25 – “He [Jesus] is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.”

### **How Do We Intercede?**

You might wonder, "How do I know if it's intercession? How do I start?" Here are a few insights I've gathered over the years:

1. Let the Holy Spirit Lead – Romans 8:26-27 and John 16:5-15 remind us that the Holy Spirit intercedes with us and guides us into all truth.
2. Follow the Burden on Your Heart – Intercession often begins with a deep concern for someone or something: a loved one, a situation, a community, or even a promise from God that hasn't yet been fulfilled. Ezekiel 22:30 speaks of "standing in the gap" for the land. In these moments, we are called to pray what is already answered in heaven into existence on earth.
3. Persevere – Consistency is crucial. James 1:4 says, "Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Don't give up.
4. Ask for Strategy – Seek insight from the Holy Spirit, who can reveal how to pray effectively.
5. Pray Until the Answer Comes – Like Anna in the temple (Luke 2:36-38), who worshiped and prayed with perseverance, we are encouraged to stay faithful until we see God's promises fulfilled.

Intercession has been a central part of my journey, and I believe it's a gift we're called to use to advance His Kingdom. May we embrace this gift with faith and dedication.

**Prayer:**

"Father, we pray for Your Kingdom to come and Your will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Make us Your instruments of intercession and prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

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*Blessings  
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*Thank-you!*