

THE POWER OF AGREEING IN PRAYER

Dr Stephen Smith, 14 September 2014

WHAT IS PRAYER?

- We do know that prayer is communicating with God the way God is communicating to us.
- We also know that prayer is saying to God what God has already said to us in His Word.
- We also know that the prayer system has a language, which is the Word of God. In establishing a prayer life without the Word will be ineffective. If we are going to get effective results then the Word of God is the principle foundation.

To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives. The closer we come to the heartbeat of God, the more we see our need and the more we desire to be conformed to Christ.

- Richard Foster

WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

Intercession is from the Latin word “**inter**”, which means **in-between** and “**cedere**”, which means **to go**. Intercession is to stand in-between or to **stand in the gap**.

¹⁷ **GOD's Message came to me:**

¹⁸ **"Son of man, the people of Israel are slag to me, the useless by-product of refined copper, tin, iron, and lead left at the smelter-a worthless slag heap.**

¹⁹ **So tell them, 'GOD, the Master, has spoken: Because you've all become worthless slag, you're on notice: I'll assemble you in Jerusalem.**

²⁰ **As men gather silver, copper, iron, lead, and tin into a furnace and blow fire on it to melt it down, so in my wrath I'll gather you and melt you down.**

²¹ **I'll blow on you with the fire of my wrath to melt you down in the furnace.**

²² **As silver is melted down, you'll be melted down. That should get through to you. Then you'll recognize that I, GOD, have let my wrath loose on you."**

²³ **GOD's Message came to me:**

²⁴ **"Son of man, tell her, 'You're a land that during the time I was angry with you got no rain, not so much as a spring shower.**

²⁵ **The leaders among you became desperate, like roaring, ravaging lions killing indiscriminately. They grabbed and looted, leaving widows in their wake.**

²⁶ **"Your priests violated my law and desecrated my holy things. They can't tell the difference between sacred and secular. They tell people there's no difference between right and wrong. They're contemptuous of my holy Sabbaths, profaning me by trying to pull me down to their level.**

²⁷ **Your politicians are like wolves prowling and killing and rapaciously taking whatever they want.**

²⁸ **Your preachers cover up for the politicians by pretending to have received visions and special revelations. They say, "This is what GOD, the Master, says . . ." when GOD hasn't said so much as one word.**

²⁹ **Extortion is rife, robbery is epidemic, the poor and needy are abused, and outsiders are kicked around at will, with no access to justice.'**

³⁰ **"I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defences of the city, to take a stand for me and stand in the gap to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one.**
Ezekiel 22:17-30 (Message)

Intercession is the act of pleading by one who in God's sight has a right to do so in order to obtain mercy for one in need.

- **PJ Mahoney**

God will do nothing on earth except in answer to a believing prayer.

- **John Wesley**

Words fail to explain how necessary prayer is.

- **John Calvin**

*The providence of God does not exclude the exercise of human faith. While the Keeper of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. **Calvin says,** Yet He is inactive, as if forgetting us, when He sees us idle and mute.*

Jack Hayford says, You and I can help decide which of these two things – blessing or cursing – happens on earth. We will determine whether God's goodness is released toward specific situations or whether the power of sin and Satan is permitted to prevail. Prayer is the determining factor.

Walter Wink, I reject the idea that God is the cause of all that happens here on earth. He is omnipotent, but He has also limited His actions on earth in part out of respect for the freedom of His creatures. While affirming that prayer changes us, Wink says, it also changes what is possible for God.

THE POWER OF PRAYER PARTNERS

JESUS:

Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst.

Matthew 18:19-20

He taught more about prayer in His inner circle and said the keenest and most intense things about its power.

The Master said, that if two of you...

There is marvellous and peculiar power in corporate prayer. There is marvellous power in individual prayer, but there is an intensified power when a group of people come together to pray.

... If two of you agree...

“Agree” is a musical word. If two of you make music in your praying and your music makes music in His heart, there is perfect agreement upward and crosswise.

... Anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by my Father...

Why “shall it be done for them?” Because we pray earnestly? Because we believe? Because we have faith?

These things all count, but they are not the thing. **For where two or three have gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.**

That is to say, if there are two, there are three; if three people meet to pray, then there are four. There is One more than you and I can see. And – He is taking our prayers and making it His!

PERSONAL PRAYER PARTNERS

In 2 Corinthians 1:11, and 2 Corinthians 9:14 we see examples of how believers prayed one for another – putting others first in their prayer life with JOY!

In every prayer of mine I always make my entreaty and petition for you all with joy (delight).

Philippians 1:4, Amplified

How does God apportion credit to this Church? Both apparently share equally in the responsibility and rewards of a successful ministry of life lived for Christ. As **1 Samuel 30:24** explains, ***as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.***

Is it biblical to have personal intercessors? Without question; yes! ***Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus asking for personal intercession and stated that he was sending Tychicus for that very purpose that they might know his affairs (Eph. 6:21-22).*** Over and over at the closing of his letters to the churches he asked them to pray for him and told them his needs.