

# Prayer and Intercession



## Sharing the “Passion of Jesus”

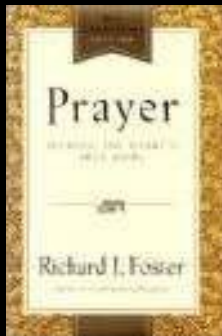
Eight sessions of learning and growing in Prayer and Intercession  
(Bethlehem Baptist Church 2006 with John C. Douglas)

Session #1 – *“Welcome to Prayer”*



## *Author Richard Foster ...*

- ◆ **The heart of God is an open wound of love ...**
- ◆ **God's heart is our true home ...**
- ◆ **The key to this home, this heart of God is prayer ...**
- ◆ **If prayer is the key, the door is Jesus Christ.**

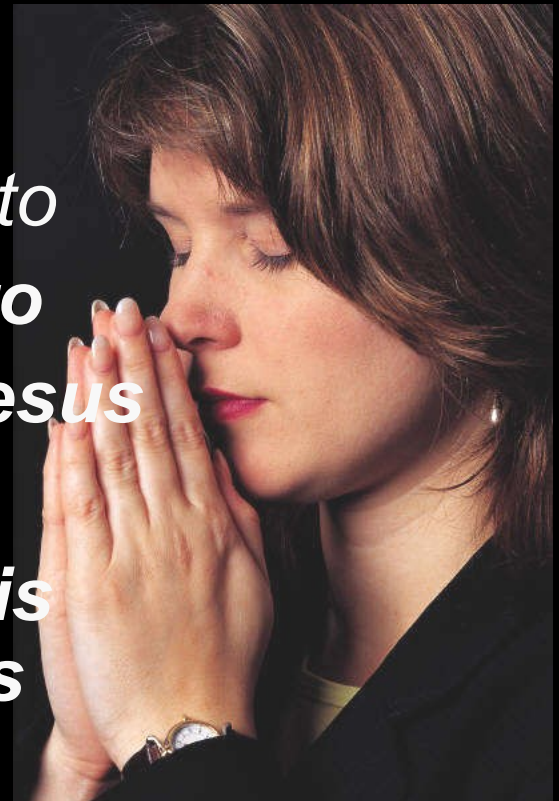


- ◆ **Getting Praying** – *“Welcome to Prayer”*
- ◆ **How we pray** - *Inspiration from the Old Testament*
- ◆ **How we pray** - *Inspiration from the New Testament*
- ◆ **Becoming “Prayer-lifestylers”**
- ◆ **What intercession is**
- ◆ **Intercession and Intercessors**
- ◆ **The Spirit and the Intercession task**
- ◆ **Praying without Ceasing**

◆ **Prayer is right at the heart of the Christian life.**

*To be a Christian is not chiefly to fulfill a series of duties; it is to know a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

*The most characteristic way this relationship is expressed is through prayer.*





## Grounding Text #1

**ACTS 2:41** Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**42** They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

◆ **When we pray we talk to someone we cannot see, which is not a natural activity.**

- ✓ *So not surprisingly some people coming fresh to prayer find it hard to get started.*
- ✓ *This strangeness soon evaporates once a healthy pattern of prayer has been established, and*
- ✓ *Prayer becomes a new and most enriching dimension to life.*



## Grounding Text #2

**MATTHEW 6:5** Jesus said to them ... “when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. <sup>7</sup> And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup> Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

## **When should I pray?**

- ◆ Most people find a regular pattern most helpful, praying at a set time each day.

## **Is there a set posture for prayer?**

- ◆ No. Some find kneeling most helpful; some sitting; some prefer to walk about. Lying down is seldom a good idea!

## **Should I use set forms of words?**

- ◆ Many find reassurance and stimulation from using books of prayers, interweaving them with times of prayer in their own words.



## Should I pray out loud?

- ◆ Not necessarily; some just think the words in their heads. It can be surprisingly helpful to utter our prayers, even privately.

## What should I pray about?

- ◆ Everything that is really important to you - yourself and other people, local and worldwide needs.

## How do I sense that God is present?

- ◆ By starting each time of prayer with a reading from the Bible. Using the Bible ensures it is the true God we are talking to, not some projection of our hopes and fears. Remember, part of our times of prayer are devoted to listening to God as well as talking to him.



## Grounding Text #3

**LUKE 11:9** "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

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Session #2

***“How we Pray: Inspiration from  
the Old Testament”***





God calls each person to the mysterious encounter of prayer . . .

**“ . . . God’s revelation of prayer begins in the Old Testament telling the whole history of salvation in the Psalms, the patriarchal, the kingly and prophetic traditions and revealing the dynamics of prayer and some of the language of prayer that continues today.”**

*Father John Pollard, Director: Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, Archdiocese of Chicago, ILL*

We will draw **our inspiration from**  
three Old Testament **sources . . .**

◆ **Patriarchs**

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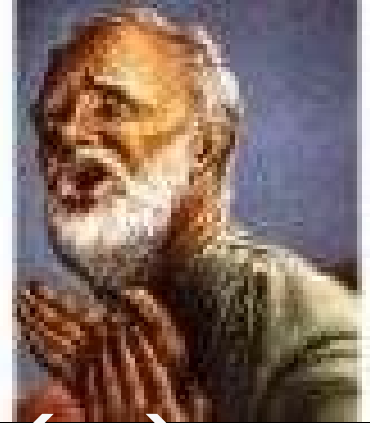
◆ **Prophets, and**

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◆ **Psalms**

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In the life of the patriarch Abraham  
prayer seems to have . . .



- ◆ **Taken the form of a dialogue** ← →  
God and man drawing near and talking to each other (Genesis 18, 19);
- ◆ Developing into **intercession** (Genesis 17:18; 18:23,32), and then into
- ◆ **Personal prayer** (Genesis 15:2; 24:12)



## Grounding Text #1

**Genesis 18:26** The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."<sup>27</sup> Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,<sup>28</sup> what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city because of five people?" "If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."

**Genesis 18:32** Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?"

He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."

**Genesis 15:2** But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."



- ◆ Isaac – *Genesis 25:21*
- ◆ Jacob – *Genesis 32:9*
- ◆ Joseph – *Deuteronomy 33:13*
- ◆ Moses' prayers are ones of dialogue and contemplative prophecy that is described as **mediation** and **intercession**.

Intercession for others, seeking revelation, wisdom in leadership, and imparting blessing are the “hallmarks” of Patriarchal Prayers

# With the Prophets “Praying Precedes Proclamation” . . .

- ◆ Isaiah
- ◆ Amos
- ◆ Nathan
- ◆ Elisha
- ◆ Jeremiah.





## Grounding Text #2

**Isaiah 37:21** Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: **Because you have prayed** to me concerning Sennacherib king of Assyria, <sup>22</sup> this is the word the LORD has spoken against him:

**Amos 7:4** This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: The Sovereign LORD was calling for judgment by fire; it dried up the great deep and devoured the land. <sup>5</sup> **Then I cried out, "Sovereign LORD,** I beg you, stop! How can Jacob survive? He is so small!"

**2 Samuel 7:4** That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: <sup>5</sup> "Go and tell my servant David, `This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?"

**2 Kings 6:17** And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

◆ **Jeremiah 42:7** Ten days later the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. <sup>8</sup> So he called together Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him and all the people from the least to the greatest. <sup>9</sup> He said to them, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, to Whom you sent me to present your petition, says:

- ◆ The prophets were generally intercessors, e.g., Elijah – *1 Kings 18*
- ◆ Yet personal prayers are found among the prophets - *Jeremiah 20;33:3; 42:4; Amos 7*
- ◆ They tell us the neglect of prayer is grievous to the Lord - *Isaiah 43:21-22; 64:6-7*
- ◆ And, many evils in life are to be attributed to the lack of prayer – *Zephaniah 1:4-6; Daniel 9:13-14; Hosea 7:13-14; 8:13-14*
- ◆ It is a sin to neglect prayer - *1 Samuel 12:23.*

# Psalms “Doorway to Prayer” . . .

In the Psalms prayer takes the form of a pouring out of the heart . . .

*These things I remember **as I pour out my soul**:  
how I used to go with the multitude, leading the  
procession to the house of God, **with shouts of  
joy and thanksgiving** among the festive throng. -  
42:4*

*Trust in him at all times, O people; **pour out your  
hearts to him**, for God is our refuge. 62:8*

*Worship the LORD with gladness; **come before  
him with joyful songs**. – 100:2.*



The psalmist does not seem to go before God with fixed and orderly petitions so much as **simply to pour out his feelings and desires**, whether sweet or bitter, troubled or peaceful.

The prayers of the Psalms and Psalmists consist of varying moods:

complaint,  
supplication,  
confession,  
despondency,  
praise.

It is in the Psalms that practices of daily prayer are rooted.







## Grounding Text #3

**119:164** "Seven times a day I have praised Thee"

**55:18** "Evening and morning, and at noonday will I speak and declare..."

**4:1** Answer me when I call to you, O my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

**66:20** Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

	<b>Prayer as Dialogue</b>	<b>Intercession</b>	<b>Personal Prayer</b>	<b>Adoration and Worship</b>	<b>Pouring out the Heart</b>
<b>PATRIARCHS</b>	Interacting with God	Imploring God for mercy on behalf of others	Seeking God for heirs and fulfilment of promises	Worshipping God through obedience and sacrifice	Trusting God in disappointment and adversity
<b>PROPHETS</b>	Talking with the God whose message they communicate	Praying for a nation who does not heed the Divine voice	Trusting their needs to God, especially for safety and provision	Awareness of God's majesty and rulership over creation	Confessing fears and inadequacy for their tasks
<b>PSALMS</b>	Listening to the God who listens to the heart	Praying for self on the basis of God's loving kindness and faithfulness	Calling on God for forgiveness, deliverance and strength	Extolling the One who is worthy of all praise, glory and honour	Intimacy with the One who knows the very thoughts and intents of the heart

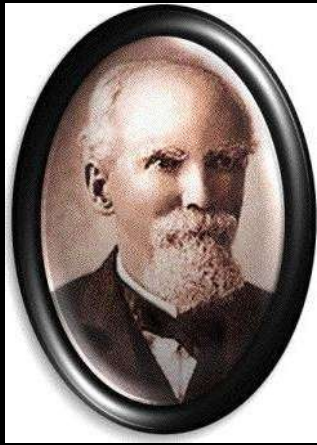


**Let's summarise the  
inspirations of the  
Patriarchs,  
Prophets and  
Psalms . . .**

Session #3

***“How we Pray: Inspiration from  
the New Testament”***





## E. M. Bounds on praying for living in the present . . .

**When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we are, in a measure, shutting tomorrow out of our prayer. We do not live in tomorrow but in today We do not seek tomorrow's grace or tomorrow's bread. They thrive best, and get most out of life, who live in the living present. They pray best who pray for today's needs, not ~~for tomorrow's, which may render our prayers unnecessary and redundant by not existing at all!~~**

Inspiration from **two New Testament**  
characters and **one “group” . . .**

◆ **Jesus**

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◆ **Paul, and**

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◆ **Struggling People**

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◆ **LOOKING** at Jesus

◆ **LISTENING** to Paul, and

◆ **LEARNING** from “Struggling People”



# Looking at Jesus . . .



- ◆ Prayer in the public place
- ◆ Prayer in the private Place
- ◆ Prayer in preparation for decision making
- ◆ Prayer – equals reorientation to the mission
- ◆ Prayer equals impartation of blessings into the lives of others
- ◆ Prayer as the environment for revelation of His “Divine Identity”.





## Grounding Text #1

**Luke 3:21** When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.

**Matthew 14:23** After Jesus had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray.

**Mark 1:35** Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

**Luke 5:15** Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

**Matthew 19:13** Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

**Luke 6:12** One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. <sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

**Luke 9:18** Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?"

**9:28** About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

# Listening to Paul . . .

**In the New  
Testament, Paul  
gives us  
exhortation in  
prayer patterns  
for other  
Christians . . .**



## **Don't sin**

**2 Corinthians 13:7**

*Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.*

## **Love may increase**

**Philippians 1:9**

◆ *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,*

# **Might know God's will**

## **Colossians 1:9**

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding*

# **Might be sanctified**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

*May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

# **May be worthy of God's calling**

## **2 Thessalonians 1:11**

*With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*

# **May do God's work**

## **Colossians 1:10**

*And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,*

**May effectively  
communicate God's  
message**

**2 Thessalonians 3:1**

*Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.*





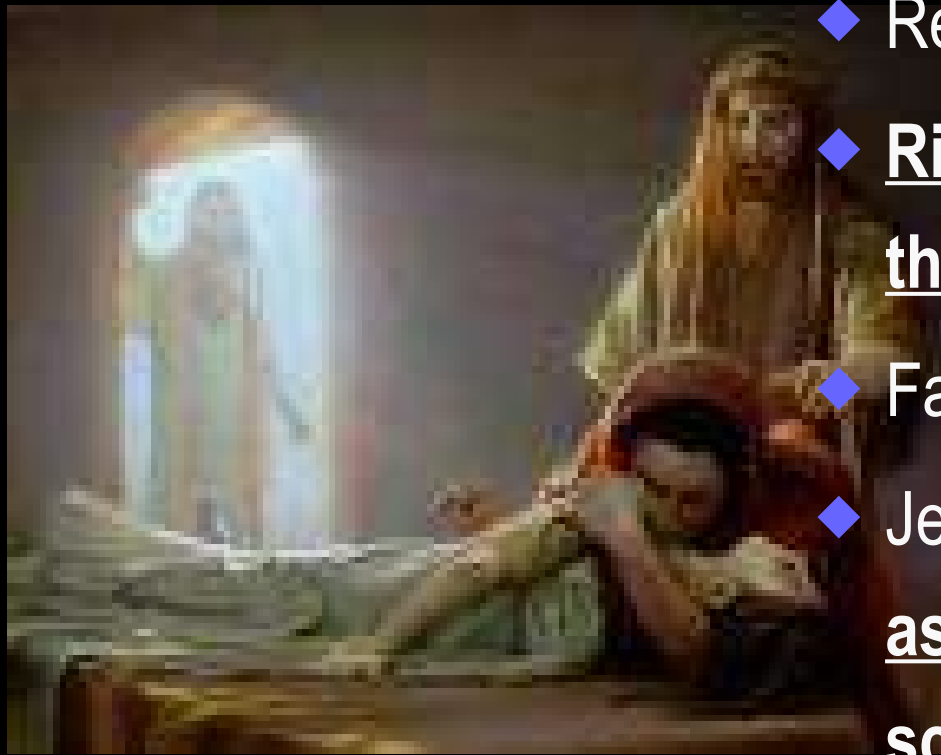
## Grounding Text #2

Romans 12:10

**Be devoted to one another** in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, **faithful in prayer**. <sup>13</sup> Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

# Learning from “Struggling People”

- ◆ Asking is always appropriate
- ◆ Reaching leads to receiving
- ◆ Right source is more important than “right words”
- ◆ Faith’s a “common denominator”
- ◆ Jesus viewed “struggling people” as priority in His busy schedule.





## Grounding Text #3

- Matthew 9:18** While Jesus was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.
- <sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."
- <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.
- <sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.



**Let's summarise  
inspirations from  
Jesus, Paul and  
"Struggling  
People" . . .**



- ◆ **LOOKING** at Jesus
- ◆ **LISTENING** to Paul, and
- ◆ **LEARNING** from “Struggling People”

**Prayer pre-supposes, grows,  
renews and establishes  
relationship with God, His people  
and those who are seeking Him.**

Session #4

# ***“Becoming Prayer Lifestylers”***





From Brother Lawrence's  
kitchen . . .

**We ought to act with God in the  
greatest simplicity, speaking to  
him frankly and plainly, and  
imploring his assistance in our  
affairs, just as they happen.**

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, **"Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples."**







- ◆ **Moses**
- ◆ **The Pharisees**
- ◆ **Themselves**
- ◆ **Human Philosophies**
- ◆ **Other gods/religions**
- ◆ **John the Baptist**
- ◆ **Jesus**

# ◆ All Disciples Pray

- ◆ They Pray in the “patterns in the teaching of their beliefs”

*The patterns of Jesus' beliefs are;*

*The Kingdom of God*, and

Expressed in Jesus' “Sermon on the Mount teaching”.



**2" Father, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.**

**3 Give us each day our daily bread.**

**4 Forgive us our sins, for we also  
forgive everyone who sins against  
us.**

**And lead us not into temptation. ' "**



<b>LUKE 11:2-4</b>	<b>MATTHEW 6:9-13</b>	<b>Differences</b>
<b>Father, hallowed be your name</b>	" Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,	<i>none</i>
<b>your kingdom come</b>	your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	<i>The Kingdom comes as "the will of the God of the heavens" qualitatively expressed in the earth</i>
<b>Give us each day our daily bread</b>	Give us today our daily bread.	<i>none</i>
<b>Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.</b>	Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.	<i>Forgiveness is in the past tense in Matthew and in the present-continuous tense in Luke</i>
<b>And lead us not into temptation</b>	And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.	<i>Deliverance from the devil (evil one) reflects Jewish Psalmody</i>

<b>LUKE 11:2-4</b>	<b>MATTHEW 6:9-13</b>	Expressed in Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount/Kingdom of God teaching"
Father, hallowed be your name	" Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,	<b><i>John 17:25-26</i></b>
your kingdom come	your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.	<b><i>Matthew 13:31; Luke 11:20</i></b>
Give us each day our daily bread	Give us today our daily bread.	<b><i>Matthew 6:31-34</i></b>
Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.	Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.	<b><i>Matthew 6:14-15</i></b>
And lead us not into temptation	And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.	<b><i>Matthew 12:25-28</i></b>



## Grounding Text #1

Father, hallowed be Your name

**John 17:25** "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.  
<sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."



## Grounding Text #2

Your kingdom come, Your will be done on  
earth as it is in heaven

**Matthew 13:31** He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

**LUKE 11:20** But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.



## Grounding Text #3

Give us each day our daily bread

**MATTHEW 6:31** So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.





## Grounding Text #4

Forgive us our debts, as we also  
have forgiven our debtors

**MATTHEW 6:14** For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.



## Grounding Text #5

lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one

**MATTHEW 12:25** Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. <sup>26</sup> If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? <sup>27</sup> And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. <sup>28</sup> But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

## ***Our Prayer grown lifestyle is growing in knowing that . . .***

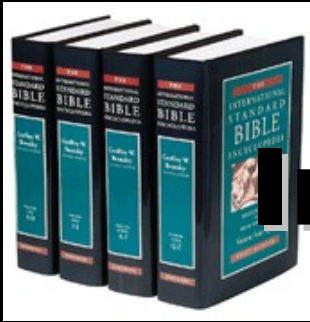
- ◆ Our heavenly Father is our loving deliverer
  - ◆ Participating in the coming/growing of His kingdom is my heart's commitment
  - ◆ Because he feeds me, I can share my bread with others
  - ◆ Both He and I are forgivers of sins
- He leads me, but never into temptation to sin ... just to do His will on earth.



Session #5

# ***“What Intercession Is”***



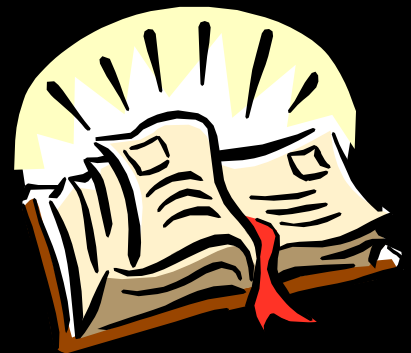


# Intercession is . . .

“ . . . prayer on behalf of another, and naturally arises from the instinct of the human heart -- not merely prompted by affection and interest, but recognizing that God's relation to man is not merely individual, but social”

- ◆ L. D. Bevan, *Intercession* in the “International Standard Bible Encyclopedia”

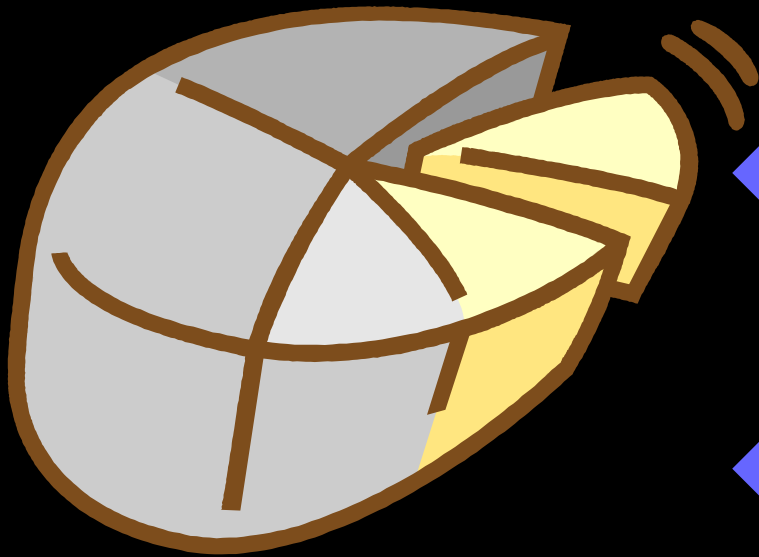
Intercession is listed in  
**1 Timothy 2:1-4** as one of  
several activities done on  
behalf of others, along with  
requests, prayers and  
thanksgiving.





## Grounding Text #1

**I Timothy 2;1-4** “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone-- <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.



- ◆ **Individual** intercession,
- ◆ **Team** intercession, and
- ◆ **Corporate** intercession



# Individual

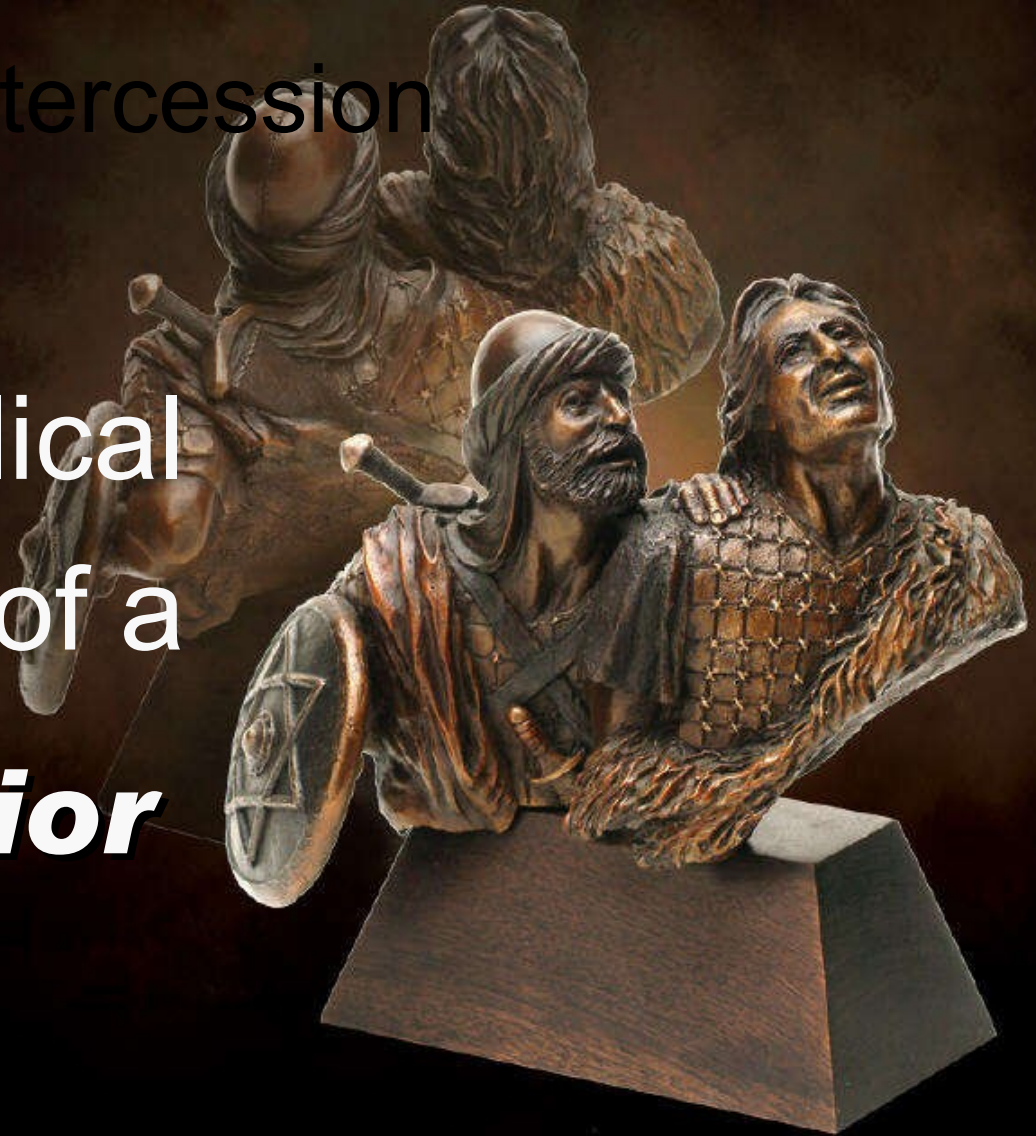
The Bible example  
of a man standing  
in the gap as a

***supplicant***



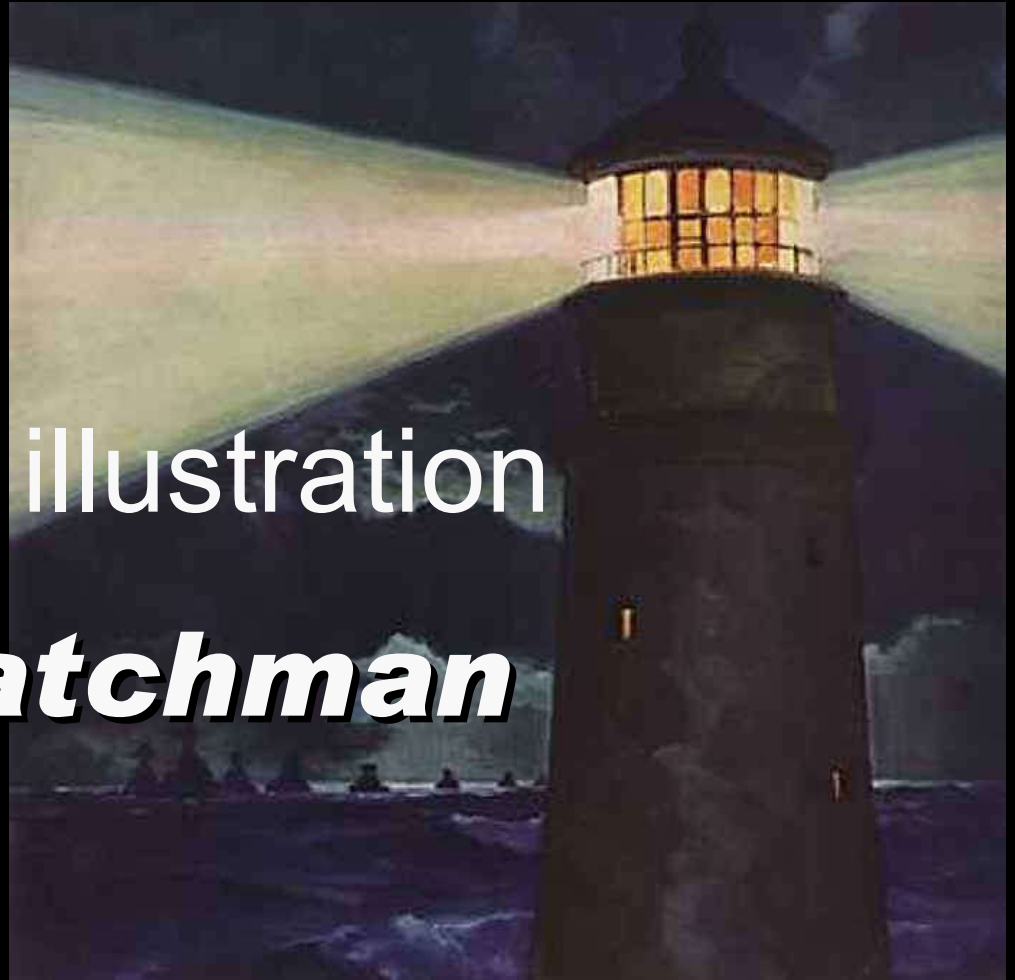
# Team Intercession

The Biblical  
picture of a  
*warrior*



# Corporate

the Biblical illustration  
of a ***watchman***





## Grounding Text #2

**II Chronicles 6:21** “Hear the supplications of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place. Hear from heaven, your dwelling place; and when you hear, forgive.”

**Luke 18:1** Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. <sup>3</sup> And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

**Isaiah 62:6** I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, <sup>7</sup>and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth.



**what it is to . . .**

**Patriarchs**

**Prophets**

**Psalrists**

**Jesus**

**Paul**

**Struggling People**

	<b>Intercession Meant</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Scripture Reference</b>
<b>Patriarchs</b>	<i>He was prepared to sacrifice own comfort, safety and future</i>	<b>Moses prays for Israel</b>	Exodus 32:31
<b>Prophets</b>	<i>He accepted the responsibility to be committed to the welfare of his captors</i>	<b>Daniel for the Nation</b>	Jeremiah 29:7
<b>Psalms</b>	<i>His own failures did not neutralise his choices to pray for what would be "varied outcomes"</i>	<b>David prays for Sons' lives and futures</b>	II Samuel 2:16
<b>Jesus</b>	<i>His knowledge (as a prophet) of Jerusalem's future fortunes, did not with interfere His passion for the city's people</i>	<b>Jesus prays for Jerusalem</b>	Matthew 23:37
<b>Paul</b>	<i>He prays daily/continually of their behalf.</i>	<b>Prays for the Thessalonians</b>	I Thessalonians 3:10
<b>Struggling People</b>	<i>They interceded for God's grace and power for those in their care.</i>	<b>Pray for their servants and children</b>	Matthew 8:5





## Grounding Text #3

**EXODUS 32:31** So Moses went back to the LORD and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup> But now, please forgive their sin--but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

**JEREMIAH 29:7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

**II SAMUEL 2:16** David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground.

**MATTHEW 23:37** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

**I THESSALONIANS 3:10** Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**MATTHEW 8:5** When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup> "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."



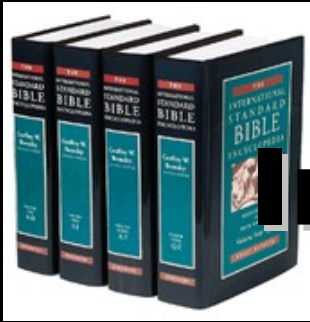
- ◆ **Is prayer on behalf of another,**
- ◆ **It naturally arises from the instinct of the human heart**
- ◆ **It is not merely prompted by affection and interest**
- ◆ **It recognizes that God's relation to mankind is not merely individual, but social”**



Session #6

# ***“Intercession and Intercessors”***





# Intercession is . . .

“ . . . prayer on behalf of another, and naturally arises from the instinct of the human heart -- not merely prompted by affection and interest, but recognizing that God's relation to man is not merely individual, but social”

- ◆ L. D. Bevan, *Intercession* in the “International Standard Bible Encyclopedia”

- ◆ An intercessor is someone who is especially called and equipped by God through the Holy Spirit to spend time in earnest prayer for others.
- ◆ Someone who stands 'in the gap' for another
- ◆ One who "stands in the gap" between God and humankind.



## Grounding Text #1

**1 Kings 8:22** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven <sup>23</sup> and said:

**Ezekiel 23:30** "I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

- ◆ Simply by receiving such burdens from God to pray for others.
- ◆ You learn from the Holy Spirit how to pray for certain people or groups.

*"Ask me, and I will tell you things that you don't know and can't find out." (Jeremiah 33:3)*



**ALL** (100%) by common responsibility, ability and the gift of the Spirit received through saving grace

**SOME** (15%) by calling, revelation-related spiritual gifts, motivation and compassion-based disciplined commitment of time/energy

**The some** are firstly and foremostly **part of the all** ... it is as a result of “gifted stewardship” they engage in the ministry of intercession



## Grounding Text #2

**II Chronicles 7:14** if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. <sup>15</sup> Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.



## GODLY

### *Godly sorrow:*

- ◆ Feels the pain of the sin of others and leads to repentance
- ◆ Is produced by the Holy Spirit in accordance with the will of God.
- ◆ Desires to keep the rich closeness of our relationship with God.
- ◆ It is a longing to do whatever is necessary to be holy before him.
- ◆ Forgives sins and accepts and carries the burden of interceding for the sins of others
- ◆ Is fruitful.

## WORLDLY

### *Some signs of worldly sorrow:*

- ◆ Wailing and moaning without looking ahead or stepping toward the victory that is promised
- ◆ Absence of repentance
- ◆ Depression
- ◆ A critical spirit toward those for whom you are praying
- ◆ Discouragement
- ◆ Losing your sense of God's presence
- ◆ Lack of fruit.



## Grounding Text #3

**II Corinthians 7:10** Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <sup>11</sup> See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done.



## **Thanksgiving**

(verses 3, 21, 22)

## **Affirmation**

(verses 5, 10, 11, 15-20)

## **Intercession**

(verses 12, 24, 25)

## **Action**

(verses 28, 29)

## **Servant attitude**

(verse 25)



**COLOSSIANS 1:3** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we **pray for you,** <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. <sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

**1:9** For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped **praying for you** and **asking God to** fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> And **we pray this in order that you** may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

# Individual

A man or woman  
standing in the  
gap as a

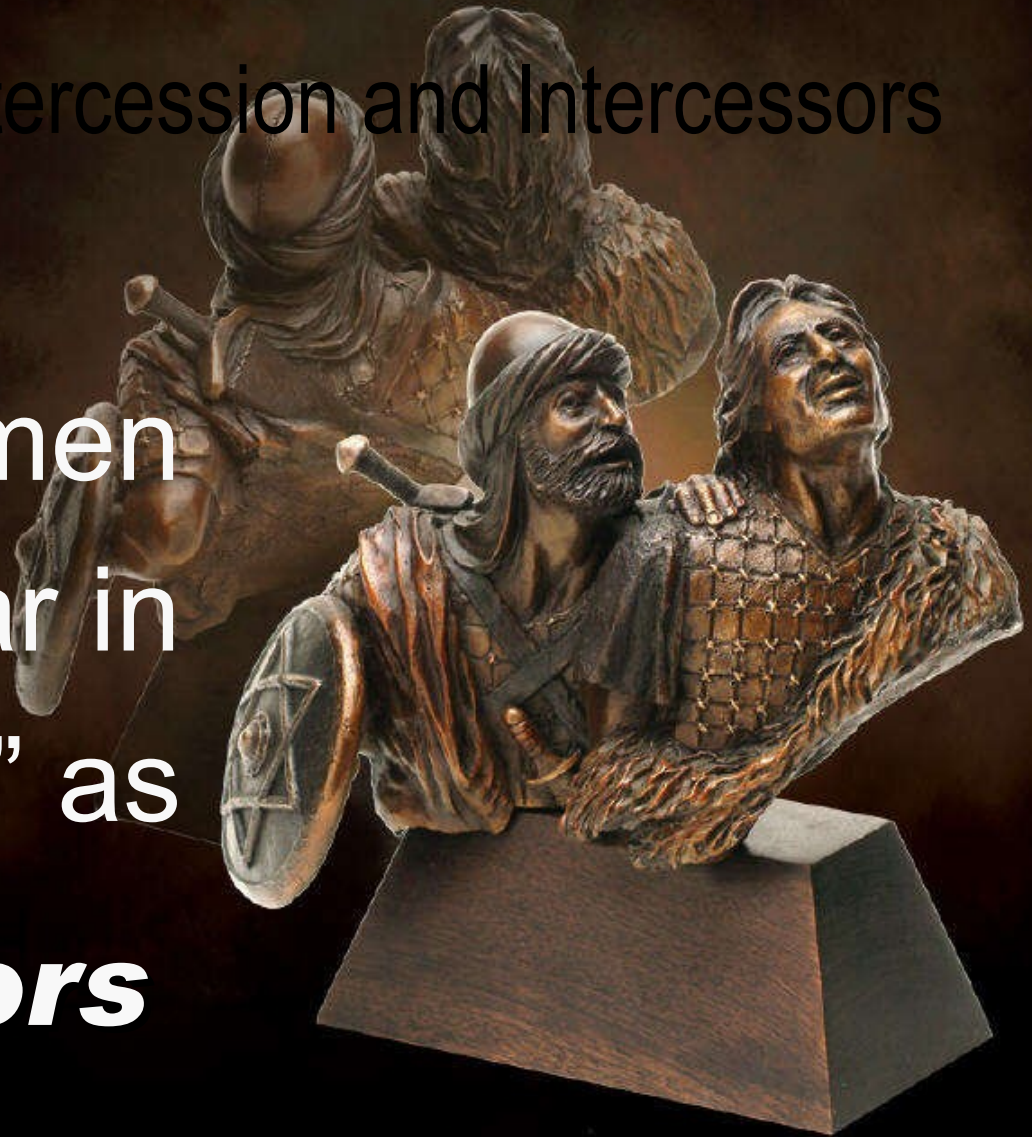
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# Team

Intercession and Intercessors

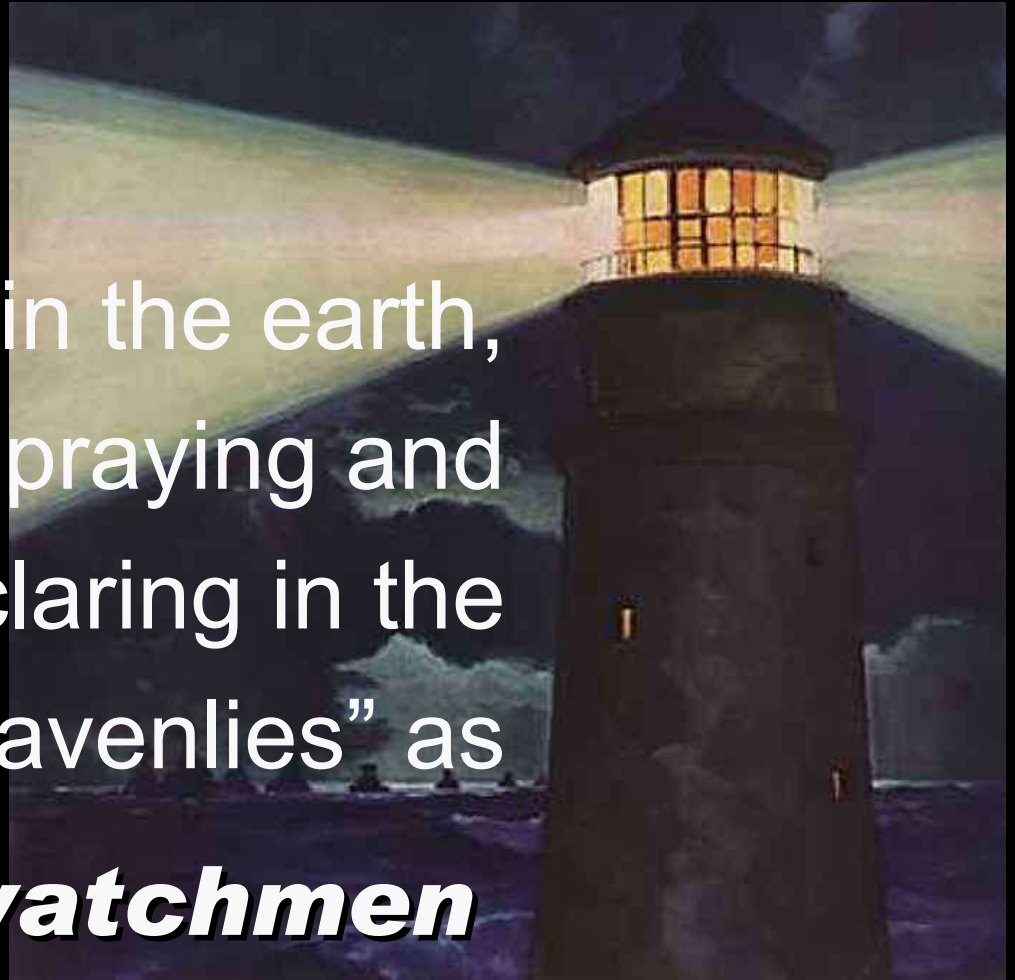
Men and women  
“waging war in  
the Spirit” as  
*warriors*





# Corporate

God's people in the earth,  
standing, praying and  
declaring in the  
"heavenlies" as  
***watchmen***



- ◆ An intercessors is one who "stands in the gap" between God and humankind,
- ◆ All Christians are Intercessors,
- ◆ Some Christians have gifts and callings to engage in the ministry of intercession,
- ◆ We learn from the Holy Spirit how to pray for certain people or groups,
- ◆ Intercession naturally arises from the instinct of the Christian heart.





Session #7

# ***“The Spirit and the Intercession Task”***





“How long do we pray,  
before we pray?”

**“Some Christians smile at the thought of  
"praying through," but something of the  
same idea is found in the writings of  
practically every great praying saint  
from Daniel to the present day. We  
cannot afford to stop praying till we  
have actually prayed.**

◆ A. W. Tozer; *“Praying Till We Pray”*

# Review



**ALL** (100%) by common responsibility, ability and the gift of the Spirit received through saving grace

**SOME** (15%) by calling, revelation-related spiritual gifts, motivation and compassion-based disciplined commitment of time/energy

**The some** are firstly and foremostly **part of the all** ... it is as a result of “gifted stewardship” they engage in the ministry of intercession

- ◆ Intercession is prayer on behalf of others, made by one who by praying "stands in the gap" between God and humankind.
- ◆ Intercession is a define task as all intercessors are called and equipped by God through the Holy Spirit to spend time in earnest prayer for others.



## Grounding Text #1

**Romans 8:26** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

✓ Prays

✓ Reveals

✓ Inspires

✓ Empowers

✓ Directs

✓ Burdens

✓ Strengthens



## Grounding Text #2

**I CORINTHIANS 2:11** For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. <sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

**EPHESIANS 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**JUDE 1:20b** Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

**ACTS 10:19** While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. <sup>20</sup> So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."



**NEHEMIAH 1:3** They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire." <sup>4</sup> When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.

**ACTS 4:31** After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

**EPHESIANS 3:16** I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

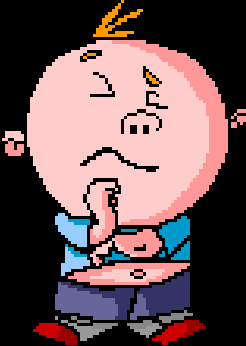
Vital values in approaching  
Charismatic gifts in intercession ...

“Gifts are stewardship”  
... not ownership

“Revelation is  
responsibility” ... not  
power

The “Revelation Factor  
requires a natural  
response”



<b>MANIFESTATION</b> <i>(Charismata)</i> I Corinthians 12)	<b>MINISTRY</b> <i>(Serving Functions)</i> Ephesians 4	<b>MOTIVATIONAL</b> <i>(Serving Abilities)</i> Romans 12/I Cor. 12
* Word of Wisdom	Apostle	Administration
<b>1</b> Word of Knowledge	Prophet	Leading
* Discerning of Spirits	Evangelist	Teaching
Gifts of Healing	Pastor - Teacher	Prophecy
Working of Miracles		Giving
* Gift of Faith		Showing mercy
Tongues		Serving
Prophecy		Helps
Interpretation of Tongues		Exhortation

## Share

- ◆ To speak out “knowledge” in a meeting setting; give a personal “word” to another; or revelation applied as insight in a counselling setting.

## Care

- ◆ A course of practical involvement needs to be pursued as a result of the Word of Knowledge’s revelation. Doing not saying

## Prayer

- ◆ As “Word of Knowledge’s revelation” is received as an “initiation to Intercession”. The response must be “prayer - not share”.

## Jesus “Word of Knowledge” dealings with Peter model the three responses:



### Share

JOHN 1:42 And Andrew brought his brother to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

### Care

MT 17:24 After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax came to Peter and asked, "Doesn't your teacher pay the temple tax?" <sup>25</sup> "Yes, he does," he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. "What do you think, Simon?" he asked. "From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes--from their own sons or from others?" <sup>26</sup> "From others," Peter answered. "Then the sons are exempt," Jesus said to him. <sup>27</sup> But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours."

### Prayer

LUKE 22:31 Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers. " . . . <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."

- ◆ Is **“talking in concert”** with the Holy spirit ...
- ◆ Is **initiated** by the Spirit ...
- ◆ Is **empowered** by the Spirit ...
- ◆ For us is inspired and led by the Spirit, and **“engaging with God at work”** in . . .

Building up

Tearing down

Nullifying

Creating

Releasing

Renewing.



Session #8

# ***“Praying Without Ceasing”***



Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> **pray**  
**continually**; <sup>18</sup> give thanks  
in all circumstances, for this  
is God's will for you in Christ  
Jesus.





# **Continually** (*Adialeiptos*)

cf. Rom 1:9; 1Thess 1:2, 3; 2:13)

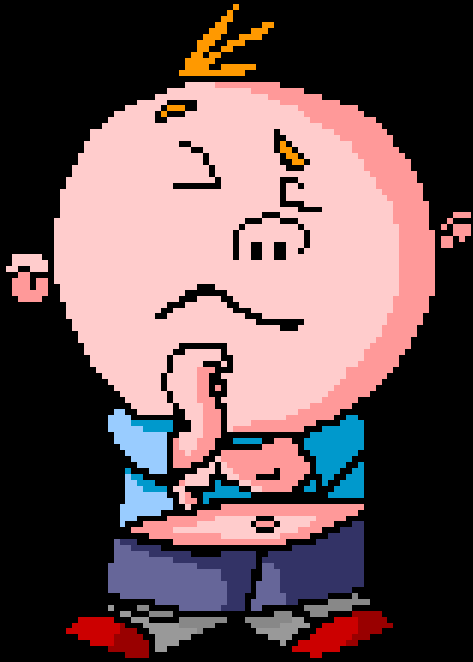
**Romans 1:9** ... how **constantly** I remember you <sup>10</sup> in my prayers at all times ...

**I Thessalonians 1:2-3** ... mentioning you in our prayers. <sup>3</sup>  
We **continually** remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, ...

**2:13** And we also thank God **continually** because, when you received the word of God, ...

Continually does not mean some sort of nonstop praying ...  
**it means; “living in the Sphere of Prayer”**

“How do  
you do  
continually?”

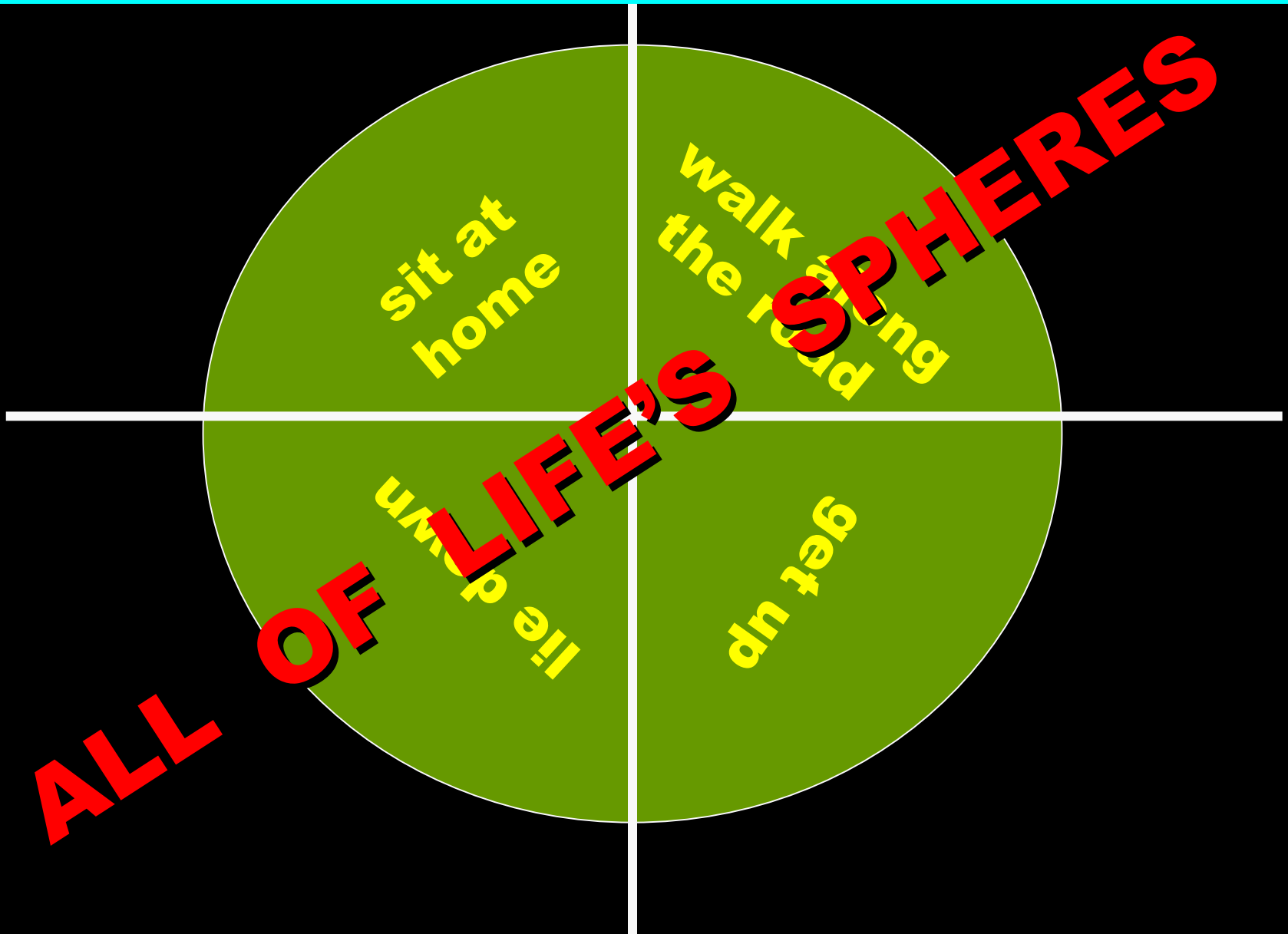


<sup>18</sup> Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.



<sup>18</sup> Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>20</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> so that your days and the days of your children may be many in the land that the LORD swore to give your forefathers, as many as the days that the heavens are above the earth.

... sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up ...



As with the  
**Law** (words of  
God's Heart) . . .

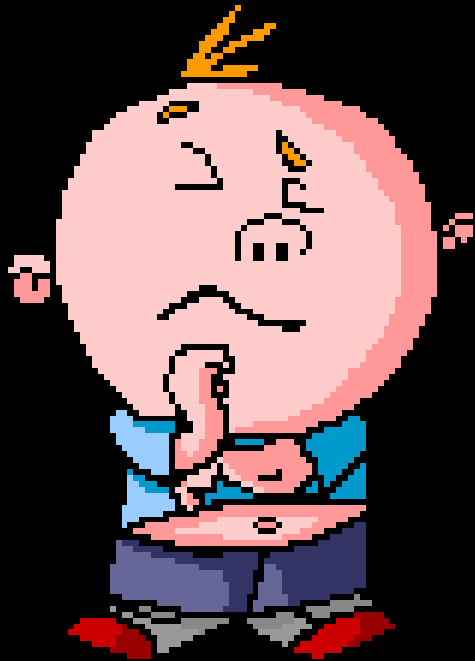


. . . So with  
**Prayer**  
(connecting  
with God's  
Heart)



**. . . So with**  
**Prayer**  
**(connecting**  
**with God's**  
**Heart)**

“So continually  
means I will  
still get some  
sleep?”





- ✓ Continually implies “**constantly recurring prayer**”, which
- ✓ grows out of a “**settled attitude of dependence on God**”.

**Zechariah 10:1** Ask of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

**Hosea 10:12** Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy; Break up your fallow ground, For it is time to seek the LORD, Till He comes and rains righteousness on you

- ◆ The common-tense in “prayer texts” is present-continuous . . . .

... that is “the ongoing NOW”





## Grounding Text #1

- Matthew 6:5** "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites,
- 6** But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen.
- 7** And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.
- Matthew 7:7** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

**Ephesians 6:18** And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

**I Thessalonians 3:10** Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

**James 5:13** Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy?

**I Peter 4:7** The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.

- ◆ Uninterrupted communication with God keeps temporal and spiritual values in balance.
- ◆ Whether words are uttered or not, lifting the heart to God while we are occupied with miscellaneous duties is the vital thing.
- ◆ We live our lives within the “Sphere of Prayer”

