

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Prayer is the greatest privilege we have as believers. It is the means by which we communicate with our Sovereign God. However, it is also the greatest responsibility that we have because we have the awesome task as believers to intercede on behalf of others.

What is intercession? It is to plead or make a request in behalf of another or others. It is to mediate. All throughout the scripture God lets us know that it is our responsibility and should be our concern to help others that have not yet been delivered or others that may need help in certain areas. He seeks and searches for people who care enough to be willing to spend time praying and mediating on behalf of others. The ministry of intercession is a great responsibility because one must draw away from their own self-centeredness long enough to spend quality time speaking on behalf of others.

In this 21st century, it seems as though the ministry of teaching/preaching and perhaps music, are very recognized and gifts that are much sought after. However, the ministry of intercession is one of the greatest ministries that we can have as believers. It is the gift of being able to go over and beyond the call of duty and even above and beyond what the average Christian would do in terms of investing their time, energy and efforts into the lives of others through intercessory prayer.

Throughout scripture God has always sought for someone who was willing to be a faithful intercessor. He said in Ezekiel 22:30-31 ***“And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”***

And then in Isaiah 59:16, ***“And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.”***

Abraham interceded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah and God would have answered his prayer on their behalf if Abraham would have been able to find ten righteous men, but he could not. (Genesis 18:23-32)

It was the prayers that were continuously made for Peter when he was in prison that caused him to be loosed from his chains and led out of the prison by an angel. (Acts 12; 5-16)

OTHER EXAMPLES OF INTERCESSION IN SCRIPTURE:

For sinners:

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)

For weak believers:

But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. (St. Luke 22:32)

For enemies:

Then said Jesus, Father forgive them; for thy know not what they do, and they parted his raiment, and cast lots. (St. Luke 23:24)

For sending the comforter:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; (St. John 14:16)

Special for the church:

I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. (St. John 17:9).

Salvation through:

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for us. (Hebrews 7:25).

There are definite requirements to be a successful intercessor. Some of those requirements include: faith, persistence, determination, patience and compassion.

In these closing hours, prayer is a MUST. We need to pray for ourselves, our families, our neighborhoods, our schools, our churches and ultimately the world. We have the awesome privilege of being able to come humbly and boldly to the throne of grace and seek God's face. He promises to answer prayer. The only prayers that cannot be answered are the ones that are not prayed.