

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION PART 1

JAMIE MCNAB 8/11/14

When we pray, God is not the problem. He desires to answer our prayers ... we don't have to "storm the gates of heaven". Our part is to ask in faith ... believing ... we receive.

Matthew 7:7-11

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For **everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.** Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**"

The Father is easily entreated.

1 John 5:14-15

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**"

How do we know God's will? Look to the Bible. Read The Word. We will have the requests that we have asked. That again is the Prayer of Faith.

Matthew 21:21-22

" So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt,** you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. **And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**"

All things ... whatever you ask in prayer ... **BELIEVING ... YOU WILL RECEIVE!!** This is the Prayer of Faith ... that changes things.

There is the Prayer of Fellowship, The Prayer of Praise, The Prayer of Commitment and Dedication ... and the one we are going to look at today ... The Prayer of Intercession. This is quite different from the Prayer of Faith. God expects us to be doing this. We should be quite frequently engaged in the Prayer of Intercession ... praying on behalf of others ... acting as a go-between. Maybe for a family member, friend, neighbour, government ruler ... praying for another. We should be doing this from time to time.

Praying for ourself or our family all of the time would be selfish. God wants us to pray and intercede for others. It seems that God needs our prayers before He can take action in certain circumstances.

NB In the Book of Ezekiel ... Israel is addressed 80 times and Judah only 6 times. The name of Israel is mentioned 186 times and Judah only 15 ... but Israel was already in captivity long before Ezekiel wrote this.

Ezekiel 22:25-31

" The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. (THREE THINGS THAT MODERN CHURCHIANITY ... INCLUDING WWCG ... DOESN'T TEACH TODAY) Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken. The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. (A CATALOGUE OF EVIL THAT DESERVES

TO BE JUDGED) **So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.** Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God."

Ezekiel 22:30. THE VOICE TRANSLATION

" **I searched for one man among them,** a man who could build the wall and stand in the gap before Me and advocate for the land, a man who could convince Me not to destroy it; **but I found no one.**"

Is there value in the Prayer of Intercession?

Isaiah 59:9-19

"Therefore justice is far from us,
Nor does righteousness overtake us;
We look for light, but there is darkness!
For brightness, but we walk in blackness!
We grope for the wall like the blind,
And we grope as if we had no eyes;
We stumble at noonday as at twilight;
We are as dead men in desolate places.
We all growl like bears,
And moan sadly like doves;
We look for justice, but there is none;
For salvation, but it is far from us.
For our transgressions are multiplied before You,
And our sins testify against us;
For our transgressions are with us,
And as for our iniquities, we know them:
In transgressing and lying against the Lord,
And departing from our God,
Speaking oppression and revolt,
Conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.
Justice is turned back,

And righteousness stands afar off;
For truth is fallen in the street,
And equity cannot enter.
So truth fails,
And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.
Then the Lord saw it, and it displeased Him
That there was no justice.

He saw that there was no man,

And wondered that there was no intercessor;(GOD HOPED OR DESIRED
THAT MAYBE SOMEONE MIGHT STAND IN THE GAP ... GIVING THEM
SOME EXTRA TIME FOR REPENTANCE??)

Isaiah 59:16 NET TRANSLATION

"He sees there is no advocate;

he is shocked that no one intervenes.

So he takes matters into his own hands;
his desire for justice drives him on."

Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.
For He put on righteousness as a breastplate,
And a helmet of salvation on His head;
He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing,
And was clad with zeal as a cloak.
According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay,
Fury to His adversaries,
Recompense to His enemies;
The coastlands He will fully repay.
So shall they fear
The name of the Lord from the west,
And His glory from the rising of the sun;
When the enemy comes in like a flood,
The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him."

Exodus 32:1-14

"Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.

Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. And the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'" And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: "Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, "He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your

descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " **So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.**"

Someone interceded and the punishment was averted.

Numbers 14:11-21

"Moses Intercedes for the People

Then the Lord said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? **I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them,** and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

And Moses said to the Lord: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, Lord, are among these people; that You, Lord, are seen face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, 'Because the Lord was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, "The Lord is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation. **Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.**"

Then the Lord said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; (Your intercession Moses!)

Prayers of Intercession for other people are important.

1 Samuel 12:13-25

" "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the Lord has set a king over you. If you fear

the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God. However, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

"Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the Lord will do before your eyes: Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the Lord, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord, in asking a king for yourselves."

So Samuel called to the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day; and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the Lord your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."

Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing. For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people. **Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you;** (Samuel would not stop interceding for the people. That's the lesson for us ... we shouldn't give up praying for others) but I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

God prefers people to intercede.

1 Kings 18:1-2

"And it came to pass after many days that the word of the Lord came to Elijah, in the third year, saying, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth."

So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab; and there was a severe famine in Samaria."

1 Kings 18:36-45

" And it came to pass, at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near and said, "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that You are God in Israel and I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that You are the Lord God, and that You have turned their hearts back to You again."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that was in the trench. Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The Lord, He is God! The Lord, He is God!"

And Elijah said to them, "Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!" So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.

Then Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of abundance of rain." So Ahab went up to eat and drink. **And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees,** (praying for rain) and said to his servant, "Go up now, look toward the sea."

So he went up and looked, and said, "There is nothing." And seven times he said, "Go again."

Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, "There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!" So he said, "Go up, say to Ahab, 'Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you.' "

Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain. So Ahab rode away and went to Jezreel." (If Elijah hadn't prayed ... it wouldn't have rained. Elijah "put his heart into it" ... he prayed seven times).

James 5:16-18

" Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.** Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit."

James 5:16 NLT

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

Colossians 4:2-4

"Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; meanwhile **praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word,** to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak." (PAUL NEEDED THEIR PRAYERS!!)

Colossians 4:10-13

" Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, **always laboring fervently for you in prayers,** that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis."

Epaphras interceded fervently for the people.

Romans 15:29-32

" But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, **that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,** that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, **that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you."**

2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith." (Pray for The Word of God to go forward ... and that they can be delivered to do that).

What would God think if we don't pray for others?

Hebrews 13:18-19

"Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honourably. But **I especially urge you to do this,** that I may be restored to you the sooner."

Do we pray for any ministers? Does anyone pray for me ... Jamie? Do we pray for God's Word to spread?

Ephesians 1:15-20

"Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, **do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," (Paul intercedes for the people).

Ephesians 3:14-21

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

How much Prayer of Intercession are we involved in? Could we do better? We can all do better!

Matthew 6:9-13

" In this manner, therefore, **pray:**

Our Father in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done

On earth as it is in heaven. (Pray to God that His Kingdom will come, His will be done)

Give us this day our daily bread. (Pray for our daily bread!)

And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

There is Prayer of Intercession. It is important to God, it is important to me.

Next week ... we will look at the limitations.

