

THE INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

RESURRECTION BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY, NIGERIA.

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Topic:

INTERCESSORY MINISTRY

Bible Text: 1 Timothy 2:1

Teacher: Adewuyi O. Moses

Prayer

Heavenly Father we thank You for the grace given to us to share Your word this night. We ask for Your presence to be with us wherever we may be now, let Holy spirit enlighten us and Your word should have a positive impact in our lives, in Jesus Christ name I pray. Amen

Study

You are all welcome tonight to the presence of the Almighty God, this is the first Bible study in this week and we are very sorry for the inconsistency of the study this week, it is due to some irregularity of power supply. May the Lord strengthen us so as to increase the more in doing His work.

Tonight's study might be a little bit short though but we do not know what the Holy Spirit has for tonight, He might decide whether to make it longer than we think or shorter, we rely on Him, the Great Teacher to teach us how. The Lord is helping us surely. Tonight, we are looking at the topic which says, The intercessory ministry

What is intercession?

Intercession is prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another. Intercession is one of the cogent aspect believers are to occupy and get engaged in but they have neglected, it is so disheartening that many people do not know the usefulness of intercession neither do they know why they should intercede and this is making them ignorant and making them not partake in such. The intercessory ministry is a ministry that should be occupied by every believer in Christ every day of their lives. It is very very essential and necessary. It is just you taking up the role of guiding someone spiritually and helping such a person when the person is or not having the capacity to do so. If every Christian partakes in this wonderful work, we will help ourselves to grow more and help us refrain from falling spiritually. This wonderful ministry is opened to every believer and we are expected to join if we are not. It does not mean you founding a church or a branch to show you are partaking in the ministerial work, it is just the ministry that you can partake in wherever you find yourself, it is between you and God.

Please I want us to follow

1 Timothy 2:1 KJV I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;**

In our text, you would see that Paul the great apostle knew the essence of intercession and how powerful the intercessory ministry is and he said that intercession should be made for all men not even few men but all men, what a food for thought! If intercession does not really matter, would Paul have said that it should be done for all men?? No. It is so funny to see that when you see a man making it very well, look at his wife, you would be able to trace his success to his wife. Women pray more often than men, this is why when you treat your wife very well and she is the praying type, you will never lack neither will you suffer loss because she will always pray for you. You would also notice that mothers who pray serious prayers for their children right from birth later make such children make it in life, even if they choose to be wayward, the prayers of their mothers will always speak on their behalf and correct their life. What a mystery!

This was not the teaching I planned teaching on tonight but the Holy Spirit changed it to this and I can tell you I did not prepare for this but I believe the Lord Jesus Christ is letting this teaching out today because of some people... Hallelujah. The reason so many children, even pastors and ministers children are wayward these days is because there was not a strong and powerful intercession for them even before they were born.

You might wonder if the pastors whose children are going wayward do not pray for their children, it is very possible they started praying when it was already late, this is why every pastor, minister and worker in the house of God must take care of his family first before seeing to the situation outside so that the devil will not strike him at the back unconsciously through his family. It is very essential for those who have not given birth to start praying for the children they would give birth to so that they will not give birth to vagabonds, and for those who have given birth, start serious intercessions on behalf of your children, well, we are still going to talk about this, just want to let us know what intercession means and how essential it is for Christians.

Why is intercession so powerful?

Intercession is also known as standing in gap, which means you are standing in the gap for someone, what the person is supposed to do, you are helping such person to do it spiritually. Some pastors know the importance of intercession in their ministries and they pay some certain brothers and sisters to help them intercede through prayers daily so that they will keep being in alignment. Intercession is very powerful because Christ is also interceding for us in heaven. Romans 8:34 KJV **Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.** This shows how good and necessary intercession is which could even make our Lord Jesus be doing it on our behalf. Intercession is so powerful because it covers the gap a particular person has left open, this is why it is called standing in gap meaning that the gap that has been left open by a particular person is being closed and filled by another person. It is just as if someone is helping you pay your bills, but the person is paying your spiritual bills not physical bills. So wonderful, isn't it? If there is anything you ever crave for, it should be seeing a lot of true believers interceding on your behalf so that you can make heaven. I tell you, if a lot of

people (true believers) keep interceding for you everyday that you make heaven, you will definitely make heaven because the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much.

Another reason intercession is so powerful is because God easily and quickly hears and answers the prayers of an intercessor concerning another person, it is very very common and vivid that when you pray for a particular person, God hears and answers quickly once He sees you are persistent. He will not want your effort to be in vain, it may seem as if it is slow though but God is working underneath. I believe we are seeing reasons the intercessory ministry is a ministry we all are to engage in and not just for pastors. A lot of people need to be interceded for but before we look at those people we are to intercede for, let us look at those who can intercede and those who should intercede.

Who are those that can and should intercede for us?

1. **Pastors/Those called by God:** These great men of God should always intercede for their members that God should uphold their church or ministry. A church without intercessors is dying gradually spiritually and the devil will be overpowering such a church gradually. If you know of any true man of God, always tell him or even beg him to intercede for you, it will really help your faith to be strong in Christ. Never joke with this, intercessory prayers answer a lot, you might think nothing is shaking in the kingdom of darkness but you are pulling down satanic strongholds concerning the person's matter.

2. **Parents:** If you still have parents and they are not praying for you, I will urge you to visit them as quickly as possible to beg them and ask if you have offended them. This is why a person is not supposed to offend his/her parents so that they can pray from the in-depth of their hearts for such person. If you are here and you have neglected your parents because you now have a family or because of any issue, kindly go and ask for their forgiveness and beg them so that they can start praying the right prayers for you. If you are here and it is been long you bought good things for your parents, kindly do so now so that they can be happy to pray for you because the prayers of parents are very powerful for their children. You might think it is nothing but it is indeed something big. Never underestimate the power of the prayers of your parents.

3. **Every true believer/Christian:** So long you have accepted Christ and He now rules your life, the intercessory ministry is for you, you are to intercede for anybody, the church of God and those you see that are going back spiritually. You are to be your brother's keeper spiritually, never say it does not concern you, it is very wrong. It is so uncalled for, for you as a Christian not to intercede on behalf of anybody in a day, very bad and not good, you must at least intercede on behalf of one person per day. It is very necessary and essential. Let us now look at those we are to intercede for.

Those we should intercede for

1. **The church of God and her leaders:** It is very very bad for you not to be able to

intercede on behalf of the church you attend and even the church of Christ generally. We are one in Christ and until we are under this, we will keep not interceding for the church of God. A pastor was once taken to heaven and he saw a very big and beautiful mansion, he was very happy and told Jesus that the mansion would be his house and Jesus said No, that it is for a woman who always go to a corner to intercede for the pastor whenever he mounts the pulpit to minister, this woman's house was very beautiful and big in heaven just because of what she was doing secretly which nobody knew about, not even the pastor. This is to show that the intercessory ministry is so much valued and recognized in heaven. Whenever you see a true man of God, intercede on behalf of him that he does not fall off the right track. Some christians even make jest of pastors who mistakenly fall into a sin which people know of and it is wrong, you are to intercede on behalf such man of God because the devil is always trying to pull down men of God and since they are humans, they might fall if they are not careful, this is why they need people to intercede on behalf of them.

2. Unbelievers: It is lack of concern and care for a Christian to see someone who is in his/her vicinity who is an unbeliever and yet not pray and intercede on behalf of such a person. I call that spiritual stinginess or salvation covetousness, because it simply means such a Christian does not want other unbelievers to accept Christ, he/she is stingy with the salvation he/she has received and is not willing to pray to God to arrest the heart of other people so that they can come to Christ too. When you intercede strongly for unbelievers and you are persistent, you would force the hand of God to touch the heart of such person to come to Him no matter how such person claims to be stubborn and hardhearted.

Intercession is like putting God into action in someone's life, you can never see someone come to Christ except such person is being interceded for. Coming to Christ is not by mistake neither is it by luck, it is something that someone must have prayed for for you. Therefore, it is a painful thing when a christian wakes up and throughout that day, he/she does not intercede for any unbeliever, it is bad and unfair which should not be seen and found in the lives of true Christians. Romans 10:1 KJV **Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved.** This verse shows that our heart cry should be to see that everyone is saved and not under the bondage of the devil.

3. Children/family members: This area is where a lot of ministers of God are missing it, just as I have said before, as a minister of God or someone that has been called to work for God in His vineyard, never neglect your family! Family first, then ministry, it is when you understand this that you will not have problems in your marriage. A lot of homes are broken these days because the heads of such families and even the wives neglect the family to go after the work of God hereby making their children wayward and not having time for them, it is wrong. It is so painful that so many children from Christian homes turn out wayward because of the nonchalant attitude of their parents. Parents are to pray for their children both day and night. Youths that are not married yet should pray that they give birth to godly children, this makes me remember the story of my life how

my mother told me she had been praying right from before her children were born that they must serve God. She prayed this prayer till she gave birth to me and my siblings and as we grew up, we had no choice than to serve God even though the devil wanted to change some things from when we were young but the prayers she had prayed and that she keeps praying keeps keeping us aligned in the right path. Glory be to God, the prayers of parents are very important to their children.

Hannah prayed for a child and told God that if she was given, that he would serve God all his life and it was so 1 Samuel 1:11 KJV **And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.**

This is to show that the becoming of a child in the future is mostly determined by his/her parents. Right from before you marry, start praying for your unborn children and even when your wife is pregnant, lay your hands on her belly and pray for the child always, this should be done by both the mothers and fathers.

4. **Backsliders:** Backsliders are those who have once known Christ but backed off and stopped serving Him, they also need serious prayers of intercession because it is the devil that is drawing them back from serving Christ, never make jest of them or behave as if it does not concern you, intercede for them strongly and pray that God brings them back to the fold. A lot of people have once known the truth at a particular point in time but they have started doing what they once preached against, it is not their fault but because the devil is always after saints, he got them and made them backslide, we as Christians, we are to ensure we pray them back into Christ and this requires strong intercession. James 5:19-20 KJV **Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; [20] Let him know, that he who converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.**

Therefore, we should make it a point of duty to intercede on behalf of souls that have backslidden. Before we call it a day, let us look at the importance of taking part in this intercessory ministry.

The importance of taking part in intercession

1. Your prayers will be answered
2. God will see to your life even without you praying, He will supply your needs and help you overcome trials and temptations
3. The devil will not have power over you because he would want to attack you because he knows intercessory prayers are powerful but the Lord will shield you.
4. Your mansion will be built in heaven because it is a form of evangelism (praying for lost souls to come to Christ)

5. You will be recognized in heaven greatly once you are righteously interceding

We have seen the importance of interceding for people and we have known what intercession means, I urge and implore us all to partake in this intercessory ministry because God so much loves someone who intercedes. Do not be a stingy and lazy Christian, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, pray for your family members, friends and neighbors that have not known Christ and those who have backslidden amongst your friends. Pray for true ministries that are preaching the truth that God upholds them and that they do not derail from the true path. This is the mandate that has been given unto everyone reading this tonight. May God help us fulfill this. Amen

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Edited by Dzorgbe Kudjo

Compiled by

The Media Team

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