

**INTERCESSOR CHARACTERISTICS**  
**INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE**  
**Prayer and Intercession**  
**Resource Ministries**  
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The ministry of intercessory prayer is vital to the Body of Christ. It is a demanding and rewarding ministry. This lesson will define intercession and attempt to present some of the characteristics of Intercessors and the ministry of Intercession.

- I. Intercede: To come between. To mediate between two parties. To meet with God for the purpose of petitioning on behalf of others so God will meet their needs.

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

*"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:43-44*

- II. Characteristics of an intercessor:

- A. Intimacy with God through a deep, personal relationship.

Intimacy with God is very closely linked to the call and gift of intercession. The intercessor is one who is a worshiper and one who prays in a consistent and disciplined way.

- B. Readiness to intercede

The intercessor is ready to take up the burden of prayer whenever the need becomes known. This can come in a variety of ways: Prayer requests, news broadcasts, dreams, word of knowledge. When the burden comes, the intercessor is willing to drop everything and pray.

- C. Willingness to stand in the gap

*11 The LORD said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the miraculous signs I have performed among them? 12 I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation greater and stronger than they." 13 Moses said to the LORD, "Then the Egyptians will hear about it! By your power you brought these people up from among them. 14 And they will tell the*

*inhabitants of this land about it. They have already heard that you, O LORD, are with these people and that you, O LORD, have been seen face to face, that your cloud stays over them, and that you go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. 15 If you put these people to death all at one time, the nations who have heard this report about you will say, 16 'The LORD was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on oath; so he slaughtered them in the desert.' 17 'Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared: 18 'The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation.' 19 In accordance with your great love, forgive the sin of these people, just as you have pardoned them from the time they left Egypt until now." 20 The LORD replied, "I have forgiven them, as you asked. (Numbers 14:11-20)*

#### D. Boldness

*24 When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.' 27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 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. (Acts 4:24-31)*

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)*

#### E. Perseverance

The intercessor is willing to pray long and hard about the things God gives him or her to pray about. This can involve personal sacrifice and inconvenience. This may involve keeping a matter active in prayer long after others have forgotten it.

*1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' 4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'" 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? (Luke 18:1-7)*

- F. The ability to identify with the consequences of the sin of their city, nation, and the whole world for whom they earnestly pray. (Daniel 9:4-6)

*4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, 5 we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. 6 We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. (Daniel 9:4-6 NIV)*

### III. Scriptural examples of intercession

- A. Abraham (Genesis 18:17-33)

v.2 Readiness; ready to meet with God  
v.22 Willingness; remained standing  
v.27 Boldness; came to God with his request  
v.31 Perseverance; 50, 45, 30, 20, 10

- B. Moses

*10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." 11 But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. "O LORD," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? (Exodus 32:10-11)*

*2 I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 3 Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way." (Exodus 33:2-3)*

*12 Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me.' 13 If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people." 14 The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" 17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." (Exodus 33:12-17)*

*When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the LORD and the fire died down. (Numbers 11:2)*

*I feared the anger and wrath of the LORD, for he was angry enough with you to destroy you. But again the LORD listened to me. (Deuteronomy 9:19)*

*I prayed to the LORD and said, "O Sovereign LORD, do not destroy your people, your own inheritance that you redeemed by your great power and brought out of Egypt with a mighty hand. (Deuteronomy 9:26)*

C. Daniel (Daniel 9)

1. An understanding from God and His Word. He identified with the people. (Jeremiah 29)
2. Perseverance

D. The Church for Peter in prison (Acts 12:5-19)

E. Samuel (1 Samuel 12)

IV. What the Intercessor prays for (What God says we can ask for):

A. Leaders and those in authority

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

B. The salvation of the lost - generally or specifically

*Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. (Psalm 2:8)*

- C. That God will send laborers into the end time harvest.

*36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. (Matt 9:36-37 NIV)*

- D. Latter rain, presence of God, outpouring of God's Spirit.

*Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone. (Zechariah 10:1)*

- E. Wisdom

*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)*

- F. Brothers and sisters that are straying

*If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. (1 John 5:16)*

- G. A city or nation

*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." (Jeremiah 29:7 NIV)*

- H. Prophecies God has given. (Daniel 9 / Jeremiah 29)

- I. Urgent needs

- J. God's will and purpose for the / a church

- K. A new ministry, project, or activity

- L. War, disaster, crisis

- V. How the Intercessor prays

- A. Pray in the Spirit

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. (1Corinthians 14:14-15)*

*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. (Ephesians 6:18)*

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. (Jude 1:20)*

B. Intercede according to God's Will:

*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. 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. (Romans 8:26-27)*

C. Pray for those things which become a prayer burden to you.

Sometimes God will place the burden of a situation or a person's need on the intercessor. In such a case, you should pray about that matter until the burden is lifted or until you have the assurance God has heard and answered the prayer.

D. Travail until victory is perceived:

The "groans" mentioned in Romans 8:26 are hard to define. The Bible uses the word "Travail" to describe a particular kind of praying that can involve deep emotion, groaning, and an almost physical labor. To travail in prayer is like the labor involved in giving birth to a child.

Caution: The intercessor must be very careful not to substitute false humility, crying, wailing, or moaning to get God's attention. God listens to the heart, not our many words or how loud we pray. The groans mentioned in Romans 8:26 are created by the Holy Spirit as the intercessor cooperates with His desire to connect with the mind of God.

E. Follow Jesus' Example:

When believers are called and gifted to be intercessors, they will pray like Jesus Christ. Situations of being deeply distressed, troubled or overwhelmed with concern or sorrow will come upon the intercessor. They know they must get alone with God and intercede until the

burdens lift. They will continue in concerted and sustained prayer until the "peace that passes all understanding" floods their inner man.

*They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." (Mark 14:32-36)*

*"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour." (John 12:26-27)*

VI. God's promise to the Intercessor:

*"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity." (Jeremiah 29:12-14)*