

INTERCESSION

PASTOR STEVE'S Wednesday Devotional 8-28-19

The church staff and I were getting ready to pray and intercede on behalf of the church on Monday. We entered into a discussion on what is intercession. Our conversation was life giving and energizing. So much so I wanted to share with you the "cliff notes" from our talk in order to encourage ALL of us to intercede as we pray on Wednesdays. This is part one of a two-part devotional:

Prayer is ALWAYS our priority

1 Timothy 2:1-2 I urge then first of all that requests, prayer, 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... in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving...

Intercession: to intercede; to intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences; mediate. The act of interceding; prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another.

Prayer connects us to our Spiritual ASSETS

Romans 8:26-27 *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.*

Intercession is ASKING God to act on our behalf for our needs and concerns. When we intercede, we CALL upon the Lord: Hebrews 4:14-16 *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.*

Intercession is the ACT of petitioning God or praying on behalf of another person or group of people. We can pray for neighborhoods, cities, regions, states, and nations. We are going before our Lord and Savior seeking reconciliation between Him and His fallen creation that has sinned.

Intercession is when we ADDRESS the Lord and His Biblical promises on behalf of others. As we intercede it is like having the Power of Attorney from the Lord to act on behalf of another. The Lord will make good on His promise(s) as we pray according to His will.

How enthroned, magnificent, and royal the intercession of our Lord Jesus Christ at His Father's right hand in heaven! The benefits of His intercession flow to us through our intercessions. Our intercession ought to catch by contagion and by necessity the inspiration and largeness of Christ's great work at His Father's right hand. His business and His life are to pray. Our business and our lives ought to be to pray, and to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17 E. M. Bounds).

Seven references in the New Testament where the word for intercession occurs:

Petitioning: Act 25:24 *And Festus said: King Agrippa and all the men who are here present with us, you see this man about whom the whole assembly of the Jews petitioned me, both at Jerusalem and here, crying out that he was not fit to live any longer...*

Assisting: Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

Exposing: Romans 8:27 *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

Arbitrating: Romans 8:34 *...who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

Pleading: Romans 11:2 *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying...*

Connecting: 1 Timothy 2:1 *Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...*

Supporting: Hebrews 7:25 *Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

Here is a Pastor Steve prayer and intercession homework assignment for the week:

THURSDAY: Extended church family; (leaders; pastors, other churches and their congregations; ministry and parachurch organizations).

FRIDAY: Global family; Our missionaries; Churches and leaders in other parts of the world (persecutedchurch.org). Guatemala and Jackie's School and Pastor Craig Makie; Breakthrough with Jim and Connie Kingsbury

SATURDAY: Our church family; church leadership, pastoral staff, administrative staff, counselors, teachers, helpers, support groups, drama, instrumentalists, singers, sound techs, greeters, ushers, classes and groups.

SUNDAY: Opportunities of ministry; For those who are newcomers to the church; how God might use you in ministry (availability); for those involved in church ministry through-out the day; for the services and activities of the church (please see our ALFC.us website or app for more information).

MONDAY: Immediate family members: (Spouse, children, brothers, sisters, parents, grandparents).

TUESDAY: Close friends and other extended family members (uncles, aunts, cousins, best friend, close co-workers and others you consider close).

WEDNESDAY: Neighborhood (s) and workplace (s); our neighbors, co-workers; acquaintances.

With prayer and intercession together!

Pastor Steve