

### **Moses Interceding: Intercessional Prayer**

“Please show me your glory.” This encounter when Moses asks to see God’s glory and God reveals His holy name, awesome nature, and special favor to Moses, is one of the greatest of the Old Testament. And in Moses’ plea we learn the essence of that type of prayer that is called “intercessory” prayer.

There are three characteristics to all intercessory prayer. First, intercessory prayer takes place in the very presence of God, in the throne room of God, face-to-face as it were before God. We are told that Moses would go to the Tent of Meeting to pray. There the LORD God would speak to Moses “face to face, as a man speaks to his friend” (Exodus 33:11). When a person intercedes with God it is not to a distant God, a not-paying-attention-God. No. The person who intercedes is aware that he or she is in the very presence of God and has all of God’s attention. This brings us to the second characteristic.

Second, intercessory prayer is powerful prayer. The power of intercessory prayer is not in the one praying. It is in the leverage that the one praying has on God. Moses reminds God of His call, His special care, His covenant people (33:12-13). He demands God to answer His prayer based on these things. He warns that he will not go forward as the leader of Israel if God’s presence does not go with him. It is like Moses has a lever and fulcrum that has the power to make claims and demands on Almighty God.

A third characteristic of intercessory prayer is its plea: “Please show me your glory” (33:18). More than anything else, Moses wants to know God, to see and taste and experience the greatness and goodness and glory of God. While we may intercede for many things and on behalf of many people, the essence and heart and kernel of intercessory prayer is that in all of these things we want to see, know and taste God’s glory.

God says Yes to Moses. He makes all of His goodness pass before Moses. He pronounces his Name, the LORD to Moses. He reveals

himself as the sovereign and free King – “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy on whom I will show mercy.” When the LORD God does all of these things, He hides Moses in a cleft in the mountain and covers Moses with his hand to Moses because “no one can see God’s face and live (33:20). Moses’s Old Testament encounter with God ushers us into the heart of the New Testament Gospel and sets the stage for our intercessory prayer as Christians.

Jesus is the ultimate Tabernacle. In Jesus God dwelt among us: “we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Jesus’ gift of the Holy Spirit, purchased by his life-giving death and victorious resurrection, makes each believer a dwelling place of God himself (I Corinthians 6:19) and gives them the status of a son or daughter of God (Galatians 3:26). And what amazing power the Christian is given who knows that every promise is Yes in Jesus (I Corinthians 1:20). Jesus is the lever to God’s to God’s heart.

You and I should make much of our advantages as New Testament believers. As great as Moses’ intercession was, we can ask for more for we see Jesus who is the ultimate revelation of God’s glory and we have the irrevocable status as sons and daughters based on God’s free and sovereign call, care and covenant. And what a powerful lever we have! The Name of Jesus, his Person and Work and Covenant and Promises can be claimed as our rightful inheritance.

So come boldly into the presence of God as a beloved son or daughter. Be bold. Make your demands. Bring your claims. Remind God of His call on your life, of his love for you and of his unbreakable covenant. And ask to know and taste and see and feel more of Jesus.

“And we all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit...For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”(II Corinthians 3:18 and 4:6)

## **Individual Prayer Guide**

Carve out some time this week to do intercessory prayer. You will want to find a private place where you don't have to worry about what others are thinking or hearing. Then find a promise of God's Word that you want to claim. Bend your knees and/or heart before God. Come boldly into his presence as his daughter or son. Show him His Word. Ask Him to be true to his promise. Remind Him of Jesus' finished work on your behalf. Pray in the power of Jesus' Name. Demand that your Heavenly Father fulfill his promise, while always remembering that the One you speak to is Sovereign and Free and Good and Holy.

## **Community Group Discussion and Prayer**

1. What strikes you about Moses' intercessory prayer?
2. How comfortable are you with intercessory prayer?

## ***Practicing Prayer in your Community Group***

Take 20 (or so) minutes for each Community Group member to pray together. Ask each CG member to find a promise of God's Word to claim and bring before God. Then go to prayer. Remind God of His promises. Ask him in Jesus' Name to be true to His Word. And especially ask for Him to reveal the grace, truth, beauty, goodness, love and mercy of Jesus to you.

At the end of your time of prayer discuss the following question.

3. What was hard/what was good about this time of "intercessory prayer"?