

## Place Yourself in the Breach

Intro:

Pastor Mike shared with me the privilege of speaking to you this weekend, and the theme immediately came to a **boil** in my heart: **Place Yourself in the Breach**.

Today we are not going to be in a single text of scripture, but rather it's going to be an exhortation in **prayer**. Before we begin I would like to share one of my favorite stories with you:

*Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.*

Heating Plants in those days were also referred to as Boiler Rooms. It was a room usually tucked away near the foundation of the building, where coal was shoveled in to the fire to produce burning hot water and then eventually steam to heat the building and provide the power. Without the boiler room, the entire building would suffer the loss of power.

I had the privilege of visiting one of the "boiler rooms" of CCO this week. On Thursday night, I witnessed some very precious saints calling out to the Lord on behalf of our church, on behalf of our nation, and on behalf of the innocent unborn, pleading for God's mercy and intervention. It was a beautiful time of prayer, worship, intercession and genuine calling on the name of the Lord.

***We never get so near God as when we plead for others.*** - F.B. Meyer

The Bible tells us in numerous places that the Lord is **looking** for those who will **heed the call** and **carry the mantle** of prayer and intercession on behalf of God's will. He is carefully searching for Those who care about the name and testimony of God on the earth, and whose hearts break over the spiritually downtrodden conditions around them.

Please Hear the heart of our God calling out in these verses:

**2 Chronicles 16:9** – *"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.*

**God is searching for those who are standing with Him and loyal to His throne so that He can show them His power and grace in their lives!**

**Isaiah 50:2** - *Why, when I came, was there no man? Why, when I called, was there none to answer? Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem?*

**Do you hear the Lord calling church?**

**Isaiah 59:16** - *He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.*

**Isaiah 63:5** - *I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me.*

And then we come to one of the more tragic verses in the Bible which is also our key text:

**Give brief history leading up to Ezekiel's time.** Anger, violence, bloodshed, idolatry, disdain for the holy things of God and the testimony that they were to be. There was sexual perversion, financial deception. You can read about it in chapter 22 of Ezekiel. God laments that He has been **forgotten** by His own people.

**Ezekiel 22:30** - *"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.**"*

The title of this message could easily have been "When God goes in search for something and can't find it". How tragic it is that God was looking for an opportunity to intervene, looking for an opportunity to forestall judgment, looking for an opportunity to turn the tides of destruction away from His people for their sin and gross departure from Him, and all it would have taken was for someone to rise up and say "Lord, I am willing. I will stand in the gap, I will repair this breach, I will call on you on behalf of this land. **No one was found.**"

I like how the ESV translates the word as "**stand in the breach**". What is a breach? The word for breach used in the Bible can actually have **two** meanings. One is for **offense** and one is for **defense**.

**1)-Breach, gap.** This refers to when a wall for **defense** has been broken down, and now there is an easy entry point for the enemy to make his way in. First a **breach** occurs, then a **foothold**, then a **stronghold** – remember this church when you pray! We are not wrestling with flesh and blood beloved. Even the most stubborn and resistant areas of prayer can be torn down in Jesus name, **"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are mighty through God for the pulling down of strongholds."**

**2)-Bursting forth.** This refers to the **offense** in battle. When the enemy is breached or begins to flee. King David spoke about this when God helped him in battle, he said "God has broken through my enemies by my hand like a breakthrough of water". And he named that place **Master of the Breach**, or **Master of Breakthroughs** because God had fought the battle for him and given him victory. Wouldn't you like to have times in prayer with God that before you rise from your knees you could declare, My God has visited me as a **Master of Breakthroughs** and has torn down the enemy's strongholds? Lord, teach us to pray.

### **What does it mean to make a wall or stand in the breach?**

Nehemiah 4:6-14. Wall was only half completed. Gaps beginning to close and breaches being repaired. At all times this left them vulnerable to attack because at any moment the enemy could come through the low points and breaches. What did Nehemiah do? He positioned men in the gaps. "We made our prayer to God" v.9. The wall became a hybrid of **masonry, mortar and men**, pushing back the enemy and standing watch in front of their homes for their families. **Men are you standing in the breach for your family? I say this to my own heart.**

There are amazing examples of those who stood in the breach that we could spend time learning from.

- Moses** stood in the breach and spared the entire congregation of Israel from being destroyed
- Daniel** stood in the breach and confessed the sins of his people and called on the Lord to restore them back to their homeland
- Phineas** stood in the breach by acting on his zeal for God's name and dealing with the very sin that was defiling the people.
- But before we can completely understand what it means to stand in the breach, we first have to look to **Christ!**

The Bible says that there is **one Mediator between God** and man, the Man **Christ Jesus**.

Jesus hung on a cross between two criminals in order to mediate for mankind and intercede on our behalf. Jesus literally **placed Himself in the breach** of sin in order that He might restore us back to fellowship with God.

*Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, **And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.** – Isaiah 53:12*

Jesus' very life was an act of sacrifice and intercession. But His work continues!

- Jesus is our **Great High Priest**, ministering in the power of an **endless** life
- Jesus is always living on in heaven continually **to pray and intercede for His church**
- Jesus is in the breach now in heaven praying, looking for those who will stand in the breach on the earth saying, :

**“Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”** We as a church have the eternal privilege to pray in union and fellowship together. What an honor! What a commission!

**So when the Lord is calling us to place ourselves in the breach, he is calling us to pattern our lives after Christ, to make our lives a prayer and offering to God. To be willing to see the need of the hour and with a sense of spiritual fervor and passion avail yourself to God's will and purposes in prayer.**

What if the Lord was calling to Calvary Chapel Oceanside? What if His eyes were fixed upon this place and upon each one of us, looking for those who are willing to say, “Here I am, Lord. Use me!”

#### **How can I stand in the breach?**

- Cultivate daily ongoing prayer with the Lord, **everywhere**.
- Pray with your **family**
- Pray with your **spouses**
- Come to a prayer meeting at church (Thursday nights 7:00pm Room A, Upstairs)
- E.M. Bounds used to pray over his neighborhood.
- Go on prayer walks, pray in your car, pray in your closet, pray on your lunch break

Pray with your church! Pray for your church!

Perhaps you are thinking, “I am too timid or fearful to pray with others. I don't like the way I pray and am worried what others will think”. Remember beloved, Jesus is your High Priest and no one else. Remember the coal being shoveled in the boiler room? There was nothing special about it. **God is not asking for diamonds in prayer from you, but He is asking for coal!** Man looks at the outward, but the Lord looks at the heart.

--My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. The gates of hell will not prevail.

--Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the **Repairer of the Breach**, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. – Isaiah 58:12

--Pray for the Australia and Ukraine Missions Teams. Pray defensively against opposition and warfare. Pray offensively for God's Word to go forth and pierce hearts! Pray for CCO, Community and Country Leaders.