

Grace Communication 6 - Intercession Communication

a study for the Gulf Coast Baptist Church Bible Institute
Winter 25-26 by Steve Thomas

Introduction

Worship, Thanksgiving, and Praise are types of communication where the believer is not seeking a divine response. This lesson begins with a look at the forms of communication that do receive a divine response. With the previous section, the only way to misstep would be to say something about God that was not accurate, or to lack gratitude or praise at all. But with intercession it is vital that a believer seeks God's will instead of asking from a self-centered perspective.

ἱτευξίς is communication to the Godhead that is made for someone. The believer has the privilege to plead in the presence of the Father for or against someone. One time it is translated prayer (1 Tim 4:5), the other times it is translated intercession. With Intercession there is always a known factor. The specific request is known. The individual or individuals involved is usually known as well. Intercession will always seek a divine response. The believer has two excellent examples of intercession in the second and third persons of the Trinity. Intercession is a privilege for the Believer-priest. It is the most common of the types of communication seeking a divine response.

The Godhead's involvement in intercession

The recipient of intercession is always the Father. The Spirit and the Son are involved in the process. They have a working relationship in the process Heb 7:25. The Son is the intercessor for the believers today. Hebrews 9:24 tells why Christ is in God's presence. Isaiah 53:12 gives a prophecy that Christ will make intercession for the transgressors. He did this the first time in the upper room in his high priestly intercession (John 17:9-26). He continued intercession on the cross with his utterance "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." These references also refer to Christ's intercession for the believer. Rom 8:34; 1Ti 2:5; 1Jn 2:1-2; Rev 8:3-4

The Holy Spirit intercedes for the believer as well. Romans 8:26-34 There will be times when the believer is incapable of interceding and lacks the wisdom of how to proceed. The Spirit is aware of the Father's will and will interpret our groanings in accordance with God's will.

Right of intercession

The believer has the right to intercession communication because of his position as believer-priest 1 Peter 2:5,9. This right is also a duty expected of the believer. The complete and full Christian life will not be realized without intercessory prayer on behalf of one another.

Reason for intercession

Intercession may be made for or against specific individuals or groups according to Rom 11:2. The example used in this passage is an Old Testament one of Elijah interceding against Israel. The fact that it is included in this passage might be historical or might grant the believer the

authority to intercede against someone in an imprecatory way. This communication would have to be in line with the authority granted and Spirit-controlled as well.

Intercession can be made for things 1 Tim 4:5 This passage deals with God's provision with food - a consecratory prayer dealing with the possibility of tampering with the meat by heathen priests and possible spoilage.

Intercession can be made for specific needs of a general group 1 Tim 2:1-5 Believers are expected to intercede on behalf of others for salvation. God is desirous that all men are saved, the believer should be as well.

Result of Intercession

Intercession may be made by the believer without an immediate known result. Even when it is done with the desired will of God, there may be uncertainty concerning the result. 1 Tim 2:1, 4 Salvation is an excellent example of a situation where the believer may never know the answer to the intercession. God desires that the believer participate in the process, the results are a matter of faith.

Intercession is an example of communication that changes the believer. When a loved one is sick, our desire is for full and complete healing, however this is not always God's desired will. Paul is an example of a time when God provided grace to deal with a situation rather than to remove it. As has already been pointed out in this study, the believer should be prepared to be thankful for hardship, trusting that God has allowed the situation for our good and for His glory. This should factor into intercessory prayer as well. The believer should be grateful for any possible answer, and ask for God's will to be done. But as is seen in salvation, letting a wholesome desire be known is not unreasonable, as long as the intercessor is willing to accept God's answer, with joy.

Conclusion

God would have the believer speak to Him on behalf of others. There are things that God is desirous about that can be known regarding others. This action is the believer agreeing with God about what we want regarding others. Some of the things we ask God for regarding others do not align with God's desired will. We should always keep this in mind when interceding for others.