



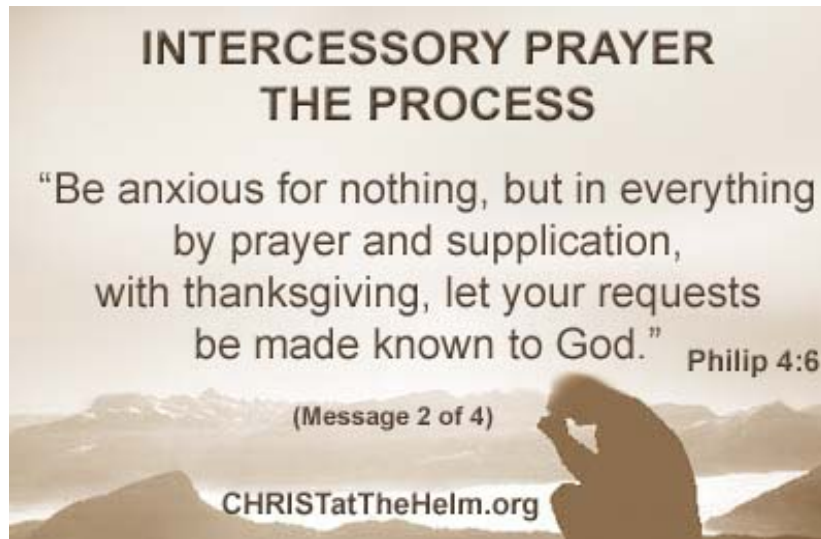
Intercession involves praying God's heart, and standing in the gap on behalf of and pleading for a person in need of grace and mercy. Paul said, "For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1Tim 2:3-4)

Jesus exhorted us to pray, saying, "Men always ought to pray and not lose heart." (Luke 18:1) Then, "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Mat 18:19-20)

We can therefore conclude that prayer is a command that comes with a promise. In other words, if we are surrendered to Christ and living His Word, the Holy Spirit leads us into becoming Christ's witnesses and pray for those in need of deliverance. As well, we must constantly intercede for those whom the Lord puts on our hearts. Paul said, "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. (Heb 7:25)

How many people do we know that need salvation and deliverance through Christ?

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Prayer requires having faith in God, believing that He hears us, and as Paul said in Philip 4:7, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

In Rom 8:26 he elaborated, "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." In other words, while we intercede for people for their salvation and deliverance, we must stand by faith in God in believing He hears us, the Holy Spirit guides us, and fervently and steadfastly continue praying for them. James 5:16 says, "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." In truth, God requires a righteous heart surrendered to Christ to have our prayers answered. Paul in Eph 6:18 following the description of putting on the armor of God added, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints." Intercession is a believer's responsibility, as stated in Col 4:2, "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving." How fervent are we to intercede for others?

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Is there a spiritual battle involved in intercessory prayer? Anyone who has been praying for loved ones to be saved or delivered from trials and challenges will tell us that, indeed it is a battle. The reason Paul said in Eph. 6:12, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

In other words, our battle is to keep our faith anchored in God and Christ, be steadfast in continuing to intercede for those God puts on our heart, and understand that it is God’s power against principalities that will defeat the enemy. Heb 11:6 says, “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Paul added in Heb 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” As true believers in Christ, we must indeed come boldly by faith to the throne of God, be steadfast, and believe that God will provide the perfect outcome and answer in His time.

Let’s lift up in prayer those needing grace and deliverance this very day!

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INTERCESSORY PRAYER THE VICTORY

"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."

Rom 8:34

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The bible contains many events where God's power was manifested as a result of believers steadfastly praying for others. In Acts 12:5, Luke describes this event: "Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church." The rest of the story describes Peter's deliverance:

"That night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by *him*, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his chains fell off *his* hands. Then the angel said to him, 'Gird yourself and tie on your sandals'; and so he did. And he said to him, 'Put on your garment and follow me.' So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him." (Acts 12:6-10)
Do you believe in God's power to answer prayers?

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