

Jesus the Intercessor

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The word “*intercede*” means to mediate or to resolve as an intermediary (Webster’s). We find in the Old Testament that Moses became a mediator or intercessor between God and the people of Israel. (**Exodus 20:18-20** ¹⁸*And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.* ¹⁹*And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.* ²⁰*And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.*) Because of their sin, the people did not want to speak to or hear God themselves. They did not want the responsibility that came with either. So, Moses became the one who stood between them and God, both to speak to and hear from, as to His will for them. Later we find that the priest becomes the one who goes into the Holy of Holies to seek, speak, and hear God. But there was no sure intercessor. **God did not desire to be a third-person God. God desired, from the beginning with Adam, to be a person-to-person God.** But there was no sure intercessor even with the priest, because the priest could not stand in the gap for the iniquity of man. (**Isaiah 63:5** *And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me.*) Man made sacrifice to atone for his transgression or sin. But the iniquity, or inclination/desire to sin was within each man’s heart. (**Isaiah 53:5** *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*)

We know that Christ then comes and having conquered Hell and death, becomes our mediator to stand between us and the wrath of God against sin. He came and resolved the law of sin and death, that you might walk in the law of righteousness and know *eternal life*. He stands between you and the accuser of the brethren (Lucifer). **What must now stand between you and sin is the Word of God.** Christ came to stand between you and the curse of death resulting from sin. Christ came giving you a way of escape – the ability to choose life. But what must stand between you and choosing death again, is the Word of God. As with the people of Israel, **most hearts of men do not want to stand face to face with the Word of God because it exposes unrighteousness. It demands a naked heart. It demands a transparency of motives. Nothing is hidden from the Word of God.** It sets in place the heart, mind, flesh, and spirit. It lets you know when any one of these is outside the precepts and principles of God and must be changed or corrected. (**Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*)

Again in **Isaiah 59:16** God says there is no intercessor between God and man. (*And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.*) Now **Galatians 2:20** tells us: *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

Just as Christ has come to intercede on your behalf, so you are called to intercede on the behalf of others. **Therefore, the principles which define intercession, as defined in the pattern of Scripture through Moses, Christ, and the Priest, are not emotion and wailing but:**

- ☞ Selfless concern and sacrifice to see the will of God for others;
- ☞ You walking in the righteousness of God, in obedience for the sake that others may be saved, healed, delivered.

The biggest reason people cannot intercede for others is that they themselves do not walk with a pure conscience before the Holy Spirit. They cannot come to God with a *righteous conscience*. It is

hard enough to come before God, seek His face, and pray for yourself, much less anyone else when you know that you are not whole-heartedly surrendered to Him.

Before you can become an intercessor, you have to die to self and walk in righteousness in your life and then be confident of who you are in Christ, not by your own justification, but by the Spirit of God.

Looking again at **Isaiah 59:19-20** ¹⁹*So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.* ²⁰*And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.*

Here are foundational principles of intercession. **The key to intercession is the authoritative stand in prayer. It is to stand up for another.** Have you ever stood up for someone else? I have found that it is often easier to stand up for someone else than it is to stand up for yourself. When the enemy comes against you or another, and you step into the realm of intercession, the Spirit of the Lord becomes your authority in power and **raises a standard.** The Holy Spirit takes it up a notch. **A standard denotes forceful expectation. And you cannot walk in a higher standard of forceful expectation against the enemy or in the things of God, if you are also walking in transgression.** Excellence and compromise are not cousins. You must be a humble hero but you cannot be a hero and a zero. God spoke this very concept calling for a return of His obedient servants.

Isaiah 44:21-27 ²¹*Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.* ²²*I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee.* ²³*Sing, O ye heavens; for the LORD hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and glorified himself in Israel.* ²⁴*Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; ²⁵That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise men backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; ²⁶That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: ²⁷That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers:*

He watches the word of his servants to confirm their counsel. **He is looking for His servants to return unto Him that He might show Himself through them.**

Isaiah 53:9-12 ⁹*And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.* ¹⁰*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.* ¹¹*He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.* ¹²*Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

John 17:1 *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:* The first thing Jesus did in intercession was to glorify the Father. He first begins to acknowledge the Father, and the purpose, intent, and will of the Father for which He was sent at His birth. Then Jesus begins to ask the Father to be glorified through Him. “Father, let my life bring glory to you.” Then in verse 3: “**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**” We find the very essential motivation of an intercessor: the heart of Father; the Spirit of Christ – **eternal life for others at the cost of laying my life down for Father, that others might know Him.**