



INTERCESSORY PRAYER COURSE WORKBOOK

The bottom half of the image features a close-up of an open Bible resting on a wooden surface. A sword with a highly decorative, ornate hilt lies diagonally across the open pages of the Bible. In the background, three lit candles provide a warm, ambient glow. The entire scene is set against a dark, moody background, emphasizing a sense of solemnity and spiritual focus.

Also used for
Retreat/Small Group Leader Guide

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Course Workbook

Leader Guide

WORKBOOK

RICHARD T. CASE



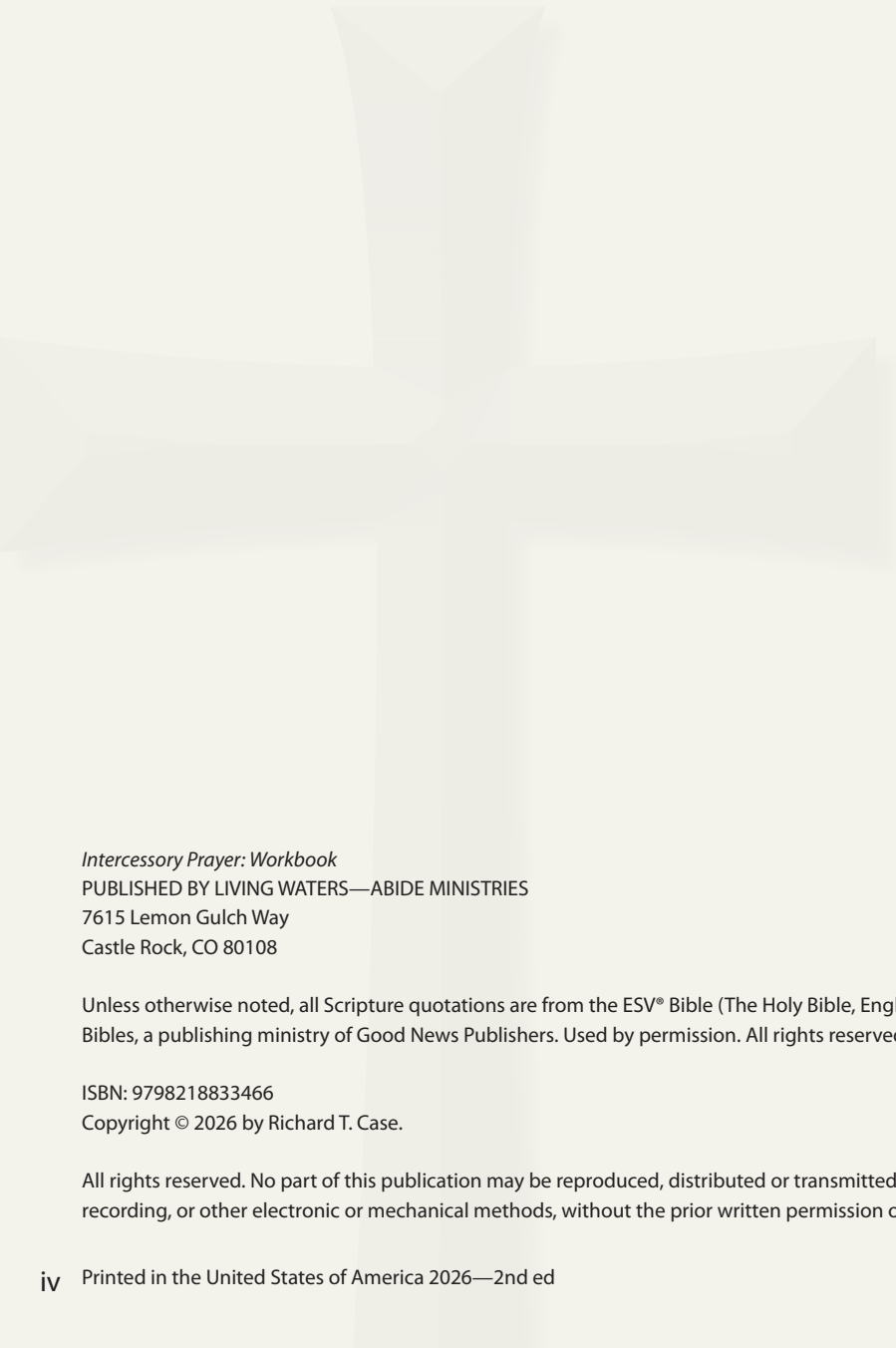
To my wife, Linda, who is a genuine “prayer warrior.” She has always had a heart to lift others up to the Father in intercession. As she led this in our marriage and family, we together learned what is true about intercessory prayer—coming alongside others to assist them in learning to Abide, walk in the Spirit, and discover God’s will for each of their life’s situations and circumstances. We are called not just to say we will pray for others, or ask God to answer our own prayers, but to engage in both prayer and walking alongside as we serve God’s purposes for the body. Linda has helped unlock this most significant shift on how we are to pray and intercede for others. It has been a true joy to see the grand work of God in people’s lives where He then performs the supernatural and delivers the covenant—blessing to become a blessing. We fulfill Paul’s statement in Colossians 1:28: We present every person perfect in Christ Jesus.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank all of the leaders of our ministry: **ABIDE Ministries!** These leaders daily and faithfully also learned intercession and come alongside countless people who are enjoying the life of God through experiencing God's answers to prayers—His answers for His kingdom work and His will for all of us. They faithfully give this away and also enjoy the life of intercession.

These leaders are:

Jake and Mary Beckel
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Jeff and Angela Lemond
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Tito and Tawanda Mattei
Chris and Heidi May
Rich and Kathy Meringolo
Preston and Lynda Pitts
John and Brenda Presko
Dan and Kathy Rocconi
Bob and Keri Rockwell
Steve and Carolyn VanOoteghem
Allyson and Denny Weinberg



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COURSE INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt that your prayers were hitting the ceiling—like everything you say is a one-way conversation, or a duty to perform? Or worse, a duty you forget to perform after promising to do so. How often do we say to someone at church or elsewhere, “Sure, I’ll pray for you”—only to turn our prayers into a long wish list, forget to pray altogether, or skip it because we’re too busy?” Do you ever truly experience the dynamic, world-changing power the Bible describes?

This course was created to shatter that ceiling. We are going to embark on an adventure together, moving beyond a passive prayer life and into the thrilling reality of intercession—an active, energetic partnership with God Himself. You will discover that intercession isn’t about having the right words or being “spiritual enough”; it’s about understanding your identity as a child of the King and your assignment as His ambassador on Earth.

Get ready to have your perspective radically shifted. You will learn that you are not just asking God to intervene, but that He is inviting you to join Him in His work of opening blind eyes, setting prisoners free, and reconciling all things to Himself. You will learn how to live in the Kingdom, hear His voice, and walk in the supernatural authority He has given you.

This is more than a study; it is an invitation into the grand life God has always intended for you—a life of purpose, power, and profound joy as you partner with Him to see His will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Let’s begin.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION



**He says, "I will give you
as a covenant for the
people." We are the
covenant.**

YOU ARE THE COVENANT

Welcome to our new course: intercessory prayer. This is a very profound and very important study, because we are all called to be intercessors. In the church, when you think of intercession, it's related to somebody who asked: would you pray for me? And we say: "sure". Many times we actually don't—just say yes because we are supposed to, but we are then too busy to take the time to pray, and not really sure what to pray anyway. The people that ask have an issue—something that needs resolution. Or a difficult situation. Would you pray for that? We don't know a lot about that, but we say yes. And if we do then pray, we usually pray: Father, would you handle and take care of that difficult situation? What we're doing is joining a wish list—what someone said needs to happen, and we are joining: I wish, I hope that God will take care of this—and the church calls that intercession. As we're going to learn, it's much more profound than that—not wishing and hoping and just saying a prayer, but drawing us into the work of God. This means we have to spend energy and be engaged with this work. This is what this course is about: What is it? How do we join it? How do we fulfill it? And how do we serve our role (and we will further learn we are not to carry any burden of the outcome and worrying about what somebody chooses to do or not do.

If you'd like to know more about
Abide Ministries,
please see our pages
at the back of the workbook

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- When you have told someone “I’ll pray for you,” what have you typically done with that promise?
- What is your current picture of an intercessor—and where did you get that picture?
- If God invited you to step into something more active than wishing and hoping, what hesitations would surface first?

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

(Isaiah 42:5-9 ESV)

God makes an amazing Statement: He says: I’m going to give you as what? The Covenant to the nations. We are the covenant: The covenant is that God promises “to bless you to make you a blessing”. We join His kingdom work—His purpose—joining Him in His mighty work: 1) Opening up eyes; 2) Bringing out of prison; 3) Helping others walk with God so that they personally understand the grand life of the Covenant—and it is not. He further says: I’m not going to share my glory with you—thus it is not about you—rather you are a conduit, a physical representative of the invisible God. He is sending you into a situation to bring people into the covenant, and He will be glorified in the process. And...it leads to new things—a true adventure with God in His very best.

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Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named my name. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God." And now the LORD says, he who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—he says: "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation, the servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves; because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

(Isaiah 49:1-7 ESV)

Isaiah has been given an assignment of intercession. He responds with: I'm not that going to be good this good at it. God reminds him that this is not about you—rather, I am sending you to be the light. And the purpose of it is to bring restoration. My people are falling away from me. They're not following me. I'm going to use you to invite them to be restored, to come back to me. And then I will restore them, and you will become their light as a representative of me—as intercessor. Don't fret because it's not about your capability. I just am going to have you be my representative. I just need your heart and your understanding. Thus, as we are invited to be intercessors, we need not respond with: I'm not spiritual enough to do that. God reminds us that it's not about spirituality, it's about a heart. And I will develop that heart.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

SENT AS HE WAS SENT

As an intercessor, we must understand that we are ambassadors. When God sends us, the response of others is not a personal reaction to us, but a response to Him.

"I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me."

(John 13:18-20 ESV)

God says to us that He is sending you to interact with people that are inviting to join Me. We are to understand that as an intercessor, if they receive you, they're receiving Him. If they reject you, they're rejecting Him. This isn't personal, and it's not how skilled you are to persuade anybody. As He sends you, He is giving you a message to deliver. You're starting to see that intercession isn't passive. It's not: I'm going to go off and pray a nice wish list—Rather, I'm going to start to get involved with you because God has something to say. And I'm going to join him and invite you to that place.

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On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."

(John 20:19-21 ESV)

We are being sent as Christ was sent. What did Jesus do for three years? Exactly what the father told him to do. He represented the Kingdom of God to those who were being invited to that kingdom. He represented all the power of God. He spoke God's words. He invited people to understand the life of the kingdom and then in the same way that the Father sent Me, I'm sending you to carry the message, carry the essence of what I'm up to, to the people to whom I send you. You're the physical representative of the invisible God. Intercession is joining that process which bigger than we've thought. It's not just passively praying for people. There's something deeper than that and a privilege to join.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What strikes you most about the contrast between “wishing and hoping” prayer and being “drawn into the work of God”?

2. Where in your own thinking have you treated intercession as something only certain spiritual people are qualified to do?

3. If your job as an intercessor is to deliver what God is saying—not to persuade—what changes about how you would approach a person you are praying for?

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

PAUSE & WRITE

This is a great place for you to pause and write down the people around you that right now you may be assigned by God to be involved with—to open eyes, release from prison, and show them how to walk with God. Write down the people and situations you already know of where God may be calling you to get involved.

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A FOUNDATION FOR INTERCESSION: LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

To be effective intercessors, our own lives must be built on the foundation of abiding in Christ and walking in the Spirit. Before the fall, humanity experienced a perfect relationship with God, characterized by seven exceptional elements:

1. **Authority:** Dominion over the Earth (Genesis 1:26-28).
2. **Provision:** All needs met by God (Genesis 1:29).
3. **Work:** Enjoyable, fulfilling occupation (Genesis 2:15).
4. **Fellowship and Marriage:** Sweet communion with others (Genesis 2:18, 24).
5. **Health and Healing:** A life of wholeness.
6. **Identity:** Secure in being a child of the King.
7. **Communion with God:** Direct, intimate relationship (Genesis 2:16-17).

The fall introduced a sin nature, handing authority over to Satan, whose nature is to kill, steal, and destroy. This world is now filled with trouble. The enemy constantly tries to draw us out of God's protective Kingdom and into the flesh, where we are subject to the world's destructive patterns.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- When you read “made in God’s image,” what do you assume that means about your purpose and authority?
- Of the seven gifts given before the fall—authority, provision, work, fellowship and marriage, health and healing, identity, and communion with God—which one feels most diminished in your life right now?
- Where in your life do you sense the enemy working most actively to draw you out of closeness with God?

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man^[a] in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

(Genesis 1:26–31 ESV)

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We are made in God's image as the physical representative of the invisible God. He says: I'm going to hand over the authority of the of the earth to you—go out, multiply and be fruitful. I give you all the provision that you need. (In our situations, it means that God will provide the income that you need to be able to financially function and do that with safety, in freedom and without fear. We have His authority over all His creation.

⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria.^[a] And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat^[b] of it you shall surely die."

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for^[c] him." ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed^[d] every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam^[e] there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made^[f] into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

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"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man."^[9]

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

(Genesis 2:8–25 ESV)

He describes that we are to have you occupation, work—enjoyable work. He is giving us sweet fellowship with each other, and particularly to get married, have a great marriage as become one—live in unity and in agreement with Him. For people that are single, it's to have fellowship now. But be willing to have God provide a mate. Once in a while, someone may be called to be single—but His way of life is that "it's not good that man, man and woman be alone." He also provides health and healing. He wants us to embrace our identity—we're a child of the King, with the privileges of the King (covered further in this course). And we are privileged to have communion with God. There were seven exceptional elements of life that we were given prior to the fall: Authority, provision, work, fellowship and marriage, health and healing, identity and then communion with God.

We all know what then happened. Satan came along...did God really say, and surely you won't die? God had already clearly said to Adam and Eve: "if you eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you will die. And as they disobeyed and did not go back to God to ask for further clarification or further assistance, they did die. Their spiritual life vacated, and they became self-centered with a sin nature, and handed over the authority to Satan—whose nature is kill, steal and destroy. Everything then changed and life in all aspects is characterized by destruction. Entropy—which describes why our world is so troubled (as Jesus said we will encounter—John 16:33) The control of the world was handed over to the Enemy. In Luke 4 and 1 John 5, it describes that the authority and the control of the world is still under the control of Satan,

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which is kill, steal and destroy. And God hasn't removed that or solved it. At the very end, He's going to create a new heaven and a new earth, and this world which is under the control of the enemy will be destroyed—removed, and the new heaven and earth will be complete paradise—with no enemy, no selfishness, no trouble. In the meantime, we have to live with this world of trouble. The enemy is trying to draw you now away from God into the flesh and into the natural, where he's got power over you—he knows there's a consequence to that. For unbelievers they will be eternally separated from God; Believers have the opportunity to live in the Kingdom, in the power and blessings of God's grand life for us, under the protection of God. But, he works to draw you out where he knows that you now are subject to his world and the difficulty / trouble of it—outside the protection and covenant life of God

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

(Romans 8:5-8 ESV)

God says: if you're in the flesh (I decide things on my own and I'm not following God), there's three consequences. 1) you put to death the life of the spirit. You have the spirit resident in you, but you put to death the life of the spirit as if it doesn't exist—what Adam and Eve experienced. They had the life of the Spirit and then they didn't have it because of the sin nature. 2) you're at enmity against God. God says: My will is to bless you. If you're at enmity against God, He can't bless you. You're working against me—moving away from the place that I can bless you. Why? because you've decided your own path – which isn't My path because you're an enmity against Me. 3) you cannot what? Please Me? Satan understands all this. He can't thwart God's blessings if you're walking with God, if you are in the Spirit. So, what's his goal? To lure us out of

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that place of closeness with God. He works to have us act in our own flesh—to pull you out and thwart God's will. Unless you're walking with God, God's will cannot be fulfilled. The enemy thus works to draw you away in the flesh so you encounter the troubles of the world—kill, steal and destroy. Which explains, for example, why do 60% of Christian marriages go to divorce? Because they're involved in kill, steal and destroy. And they just get more self-centered, more self-centered, more self-centered. They finally said: I'm not going to be with you anymore. I'd rather be alone. And God said, well, that's not my will, but I don't prevent it. See, I don't guarantee My will, as you have to be with Me for Me to fulfill my will.

Intercession then is a call for he to help you overcome the flesh and the troubles of the world and live in the grand life of God—to others understand what's happening and what the steps are to return and then experience God's will.

¹⁴ Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

(Luke 11:14–23 ESV)

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God says: A house divided cannot stand—it's going to fall. Thus, the goal of the enemy is to divide you with other people—with the people around you, with the church, with businesses. If the enemy can get you divided, your life will fall—It will not stand. It's going to fall. He does that personally with families, with marriages, with our life situations. He goes after the strongman of the situation. How? Pulling you away from God, out of the kingdom—to capture you—so that you lose the ability to fulfill your God purpose to provide abundance. Christ is saying here: if you're with Me, I can protect you and bless you. If you're not with Me, you're going to wind up being divided and you will fall.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my word. You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which one of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is of God hears the words of God. The reason why you do not hear them is that you are not of God."

(John 8:42-47 ESV)

God life for us is all about the truth. He says: if you don't follow truth, you're following lie and deceit. And interesting enough, the father of lies and deceit is who? The enemy. Think of the most dangerous place there is: I think I'm following truth, but I'm really following deceit. Thus, as we get involved with people (and this is a big deal), They believe what they're doing is right, but it's not truth. So, God then wants to invite them back to the truth, His inviting you to serve as an intercessor. So then, you must know truth and be willing to invite them to truth. If they remain where they are, they will stay out of the kingdom and not experiencing the life of God. Why? Because of deceit and lack of truth, especially since they think they are in the truth (but are not).

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¹¹ We have spoken freely to you,^[a] Corinthians; our heart is wide open. ¹² You are not restricted by us, but you are restricted in your own affections. ¹³ In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also.

The Temple of the Living God

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?

¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial?^[b] Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said,

“I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people.

¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst,
and be separate from them, says the Lord,
and touch no unclean thing;
then I will welcome you,

¹⁸ and I will be a father to you,
and you shall be sons and daughters to me,
says the Lord Almighty.”

2 Corinthians 6:11–18

Light can't be with what? Darkness. Righteousness can't be with unrighteousness. Christ cannot be with "not Christ" As we engage in situations with people that may be in deceit. They may be partnering in some way with darkness, which is causing them trouble. And you're going to have to be a messenger to help them understand that God needs them to separate from that darkness; and the enemy is trying to keep them in deceit and darkness, so they do not experience the life of God. Many believers think: well, wait a minute, I thought God was supposed to just take care of me. And I keep praying, I keep praying, I keep praying, and nothing's happening. God says: they need to understand that they're actually under the influence of the world

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not the life of God- they have partnered with darkness and need to separate from this darkness. We as intercessors are to help them understand the truth and that God desires to bring resolution.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where do you most often feel “pulled out” of close walking with God—and what does that pulling usually look like in your day?

2. Think of someone you would like to pray for. In what specific way might they be partnered with darkness or deceit without realizing it?

3. What would change about your prayer for that person if your goal shifted from “fix the circumstance” to “help them separate from darkness and return to truth”?

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THE POWER OF REDEMPTION

The foundation for all of this is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. At the cross, He solved the problem of our separation from God.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **When you hear the word “covenant,” what comes to mind first?**
- **Do you tend to think of God’s blessings as available to everyone, or as reserved for some? Why?**
- **Where in your life are you still trying to earn what God says is already given?**

Great Are the Lord’s Works

111 ^[a] Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of splendor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy;

⁸ they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name!

¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever!

(Psalm 111ESV)

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

This is a great psalm, and we could spend a lot of time on this, but the key is that He says: I've sent Redemption that leads to the covenant. What did he do to send redemption? Where did he do that? At the cross—based upon His own nature. He says: you have a problem—you're separated from me. The requirement is perfection. But because you can't get there by yourself, I permanently took care of it at the cross—I sent redemption to everybody. I invite everyone to receive it so that they can step into the covenant—I will command the covenant to all that receive this. Everyone can now receive and enjoy the covenant by being with me because of My redemption, which is His work.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

(Colossians 1:13-14 ESV)

Redemption transfers us from the domain of darkness into the Kingdom of God, where He can deliver the covenant. As intercessors, our role is to invite people to *remain* in the kingdom and not walk back into darkness. It is in the kingdom that we experience the fullness of God's will.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will...

(Ephesians 1:3, 7-11 ESV)

Christ has already blessed you with every spiritual blessing. Because of redemption in what He has done, His will is for you to enjoy the covenant, the abundance that He has for you. The purpose that for everybody is to receive the grace, the favor, all that He has promised by being with Me. His will is for everybody to experience. What? The covenant. The riches of his grace. His covenant. Is anybody exempt from that? No. Why? We are His children. It's not about luck. It's not about some are blessed and some are not. He says: My will is for all of you to experience the covenant. However, it is possible not to experience the covenant because you haven't stepped into the kingdom and followed Me to receive the covenant—His will for all. So, as we start interceding for people, are they going to be in difficulty? Yes. Are they going to have trouble? Yes. So then, what would our role be? Invite others to live in the Kingdom and walk into God providing his riches, His covenant life for us—to receive God's instruction, to live out His will.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.²
For the law of the Spirit of life has set you[b] free in Christ Jesus from the law
of sin and death.

(Romans 8:1–2 ESV)

As experience His redemption and live in the kingdom, we will have no what? No condemnation. We will not be focused on failure and mistakes. He said, you'll be released from these and have freedom. Thus,, one of our messages of intercession is: I know that you feel oppressed by your mistakes, but I'm going to help you realize you have freedom because there's no condemnation. Why? Because it's true. And my role is to have you understand that truth.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where in your own life do you still live as if you were under condemnation, even though Romans 8 says you are not?

2. Who in your life is currently living outside the covenant—not because it isn't available, but because they haven't stepped into the kingdom?

3. What would it look like, practically, to "invite them to remain in the kingdom" this week?

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

REFLECTION AND ACTION

Take a moment to pause. Think about the people in your life right now—in your family, your work, your church, or your neighborhood. Who might God be calling you to get involved with as an intercessor? Who needs help opening their eyes, being released from a prison, or learning how to walk with God? Write their names or situations below.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

For Deeper Understanding

1. According to Isaiah 42, what does it mean for God to make you “a covenant for the people”? What are the specific actions associated with this calling?

2. Explain the three consequences of setting your mind on the flesh, as described in Romans 8. How does the enemy use this to his advantage?

3. What is the “domain of darkness” and what is the “kingdom of his beloved Son” as described in Colossians 1? How does redemption move us from one to the other?

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

For Personal Application

1. When you think about being an intercessor, what feelings of inadequacy (like Isaiah's) come to mind? How does God's response to Isaiah encourage you in your own calling?

2. Reflect on a time when you may have been operating in the "flesh" versus the "Spirit." What was the difference in your sense of peace and your connection with God?

3. Who in your life might be living in deception, believing they are following truth when they are not? How can you begin to pray for God to reveal His truth to them in a loving way?

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

FAITH: BELIEVING WHAT GOD SAYS

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- What does the word “faith” mean to you in everyday use—and how is that different from how Hebrews 11 defines it?
- When you face a hard circumstance, what tends to be louder in you: the circumstance, or the voice of God?
- Have you ever sensed God speak something to you that was clearly bigger than your situation? What did you do with it?

2 And I, when I came to you, brothers,^[a] did not come proclaiming to you the testimony^[b] of God with lofty speech or wisdom. **2** For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. **3** And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, **4** and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, **5** so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men^[c] but in the power of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:1–5 ESV)

Our role is not to persuade people that God’s word is true. We are not to convince them you “should” or to do things correctly. Rather, you’re bringing the power of God into their situation because it’s God’s Word that leads them there and fulfills what God has to say.

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Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² For by it the people of old received their commendation. ³ By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

(Hebrews 11:1–3 ESV)

Faith is the certainty of what God speaks. You can't see it, but you can hear it, and then you gain certainty that it will be fulfilled. And he said in verse three, remember, the world was created How? The spoken word—what God said.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

(Genesis 1: 1-2 ESV)

Let there be light. And God creation. Are our circumstances too difficult for God? No. Why? He created the material. He created the circumstances by the Spirit. I speak it into existence. So, our physical life, our circumstances are always subordinate to His power.

So, faith believing what I say. So, if faith is believing what God says what then will be one of roles of intercession? Help them hear what God says. They have an issue, a problem. Why? because they are in the world. And it may not receiving God's resolution because they are not walking with God. So, our role is to help them learn to receive what? What God says, which is superior to the circumstances, which will lead you to the victory that you're seeking. Why? I believe it and I can confirm it with you.

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For the word of the Lord is upright,
and all his work is done in faithfulness.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

⁶ By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

(Psalm 33: 4-6 ESV)

The word is from who? God. And it says when he commands, what happens? The heavens were made. What else? He says when I commanded in verse 9, what happened? It stood firm. It stands up. It's established. It's finished. If I'm going to be an intercessor, what am I doing? I'm confirming that word that He will perform—which will stand up. You help others move away from: I have to fix this problem and go to God—to hear God's Word and walk into His will which will happen., will bring resolution—the covenant.

12 Now the Lord said^[a] to Abram, "Go from your country^[b] and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

(Genesis 12: 1-2 ESV)

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I'm going to bless you to make you a blessing. That's the covenant. And we know that it still stands. We read it in Psalm 111. We read it in Galatians 3. We read it in Ephesians 1. Jesus said in John 10:10—I've come to give you life and give it to you what? Super abundantly. The covenant. That's what I've come to do. And he said, so I want to deliver the covenant.

28 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. ² And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.

(Deuteronomy 28: 1–2 ESV)

He states that if we hear and follow, the blessings of the covenant shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord. The next 12 verses describe what the blessings are. The key is that I'm ready to deliver this to you, and it will come upon you. And do what? Overtake you. He said that we are to hear and follow. Hearing what I have to say. Not looking at the blessing—If you turn around and look at the blessing, it stops. But if you keep following Me, it'll come upon you, because I'm going to command it. So again, as an intercessor, if we believe that, what are we going to encourage people to do? Be focused on what he's saying, and the blessings of the covenant will happen. As people learn this, they build confidence. They will continue to live in the Kingdom, receive the covenant and enjoy the grand life that God promises them. As they then learn this, they too will become an intercessor for somebody else. See how it works. It's an ongoing process is to let's step together to receive it.

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You visit the earth and water it,^[a]
you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water;
you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.

¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly,
settling its ridges,
softening it with showers,
and blessing its growth.

¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.

¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

(Psalm 65: 9–13 ESV)

God promises that your paths will drip with abundance. I will meet you with goodness. While I'm in the kingdom. I'm going to walk on a path for Him to provide the abundance which is going to drip along my path—the covenant, the abundance, the super abundance. It's all there on my path.

We have now learned there are two things that we're going to be called as intercessors to invite people to. 1) you need not live in the flesh, but live in the spirit and live in God's kingdom. So come and be with God's kingdom. That's where it's all going to happen. 2) there's a path for you uniquely in that kingdom, and we would encourage them to do what? Take that path. Walk on that path. And I'm going to help you walk on that path, which means I've got to have instruction from God. Receive His steps, processing to be in the right place at the right time to receive the covenant

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where are you currently trying to “fix” a circumstance instead of asking what God is saying about it?

2. What does it mean, in practical terms, to “help someone hear what God is saying” rather than to give them advice?

3. What is God saying to you right now about your own path? Write it down before you finish this lesson.

LESSON 1: THE CALL TO INTERCESSION

RESTORATION, HEALING, AND WORKING OUT SALVATION

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Where in your life do you most need restoration right now?**
- **When you hear the word “salvation,” do you think of a one-time event or an ongoing deliverance? Why?**
- **What “work” are you currently doing to try to be acceptable to God—and what would it look like to lay that down?**

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation^[a] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

(Colossians 1: 19–23 ESV)

Christ’s purpose is to reconcile all things on heaven and earth back to its original condition, which, remember, we said were seven exceptional things. I want to reconcile your life back to that. And the word there is bring to harmony the things of your life that go in sync with the beautiful abundance that I have planned for you. My role is to bring restoration, which we all need, because we’re in a fallen world. we have a sin nature, so it all has to be restored—Christ’s promise to us.

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The Year of the Lord's Favor

61 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;^[a]
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;^[b]
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.^[c]
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

(Isaiah 61: 1-4 ESV)

Jesus says: I've come to bring the good news, and that is I'm going to restore what's brokenhearted, what's discouraging you, overcome your negative patterns, the things that are ruined. I'm going to bring them back to life. I'm going to give you gladness instead of the losses that you've experienced. The work of God is restoration. The work of God is redemption and bringing back to wholeness through the covenant. When you're interceding, are people that you're interceding for are going to be broken? Yes. Are they going to be discouraged? Yes. Are they going to have ruined things? Yes. He said your role will be to facilitate what I'm up to, which is what? Restore that and not say: just accept it or I'll pray for you wishes and nothing really happens. No, I am called to engage them in a process of being in a place of restoration.

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⁶Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.

(Jeremiah 33: 6 ESV)

He says: I'm going to bring health and healing and the abundance of shalom and truth as you step into that healing. By the way, if I'm bringing healing, what do you need? The Healing. Why? Because you're not well. I will bring that healing to you. You can trust it.

THE HEALINGS OF MATTHEW 8

In Matthew eight, we have a series of stories. The leper says: if you're willing, you can make me clean. Jesus says, I'm willing, be cleansed. The centurion says: come and heal my servant who's tormented. Jesus said, I will come. And he said, you know what? You don't even need to come. Just speak it and it'll be done because of your authority. And Jesus said: I have not found such great faith in Israel. He said, go your way, and as you have believed, so let it be done for you. Why? You believed what I said. You understood authority. He then goes and heals Peter's mother in law, and immediately she gets up and served him. When evening had come, they brought to him many who were demon possessed, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet. He himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. He fulfilled this at the cross—where he fulfilled the power to heal all our diseases. Our role will be to facilitate that process of healing. I will be called to help others walk into the healing.

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¹⁶ But when one^[a] turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord^[b] is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,^[c] are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.^[d] For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

(2 Corinthians 3: 16–18 ESV)

Jesus says He is going to “metamorphize” you. Change your nature. Caterpillar to butterfly, and you’ll receive My nature. And you’ll receive My image and start to live in My image. I’ll do that work. It’s a soul issue as well. We do want circumstances to get resolved—for physical things changed. He said, I’m also going to change you so that you start to live out this life. This is interesting: If you’re being changed step by step, you then become the ability to become the agent of intercession, not because you’re completely transformed (remember, it’s step by step by step, and you’ll be doing it the rest of your life). This means I now will be Christ’s representative to as I walk step by step in life—not when everything is transformed. It’s not about when you get there. It’s as you’re getting there. Because where the spirit of the Lord is there is what? Freedom. So, our role will be to invite people to walk with Him where they will have freedom right now while being transformed.

The King Rejoices in the Lord’s Strength To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

21 O Lord, in your strength the king rejoices,
and in your salvation how greatly he exults!
² You have given him his heart’s desire
and have not withheld the request of his lips. Selah
³ For you meet him with rich blessings;
you set a crown of fine gold upon his head.
⁴ He asked life of you; you gave it to him,
length of days forever and ever.
⁵ His glory is great through your salvation;

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splendor and majesty you bestow on him.

⁶ For you make him most blessed forever;^[a]

you make him glad with the joy of your presence.

⁷ For the king trusts in the Lord,

and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved.

(Psalm 21: 1–7 ESV)

He says: I'm delivering salvation. And the word again isn't a ticket to heaven. It's deliverance and wholeness. And he describes it. I'll give you the desires of your heart. I'll give you goodness. It'll be great joy. It'll be great enthusiasm for life. And you'll be with Me as I deliver this salvation to you. Who needs this salvation? All of us. Not as a transaction—but rather deliverance and wholeness—not just conversion.

My Soul Waits for God Alone

To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 For God alone my soul waits in silence;

from him comes my salvation.

² He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.

(Psalm 62: 1–2 ESV)

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Who's the salvation? God is my salvation. Remember, it's not a system. It's not a bunch of do's. It's walking with him as He delivers the fullness of life, because He's the salvation. He is the essence of that. And remember, we're the physical representative of the invisible God to be the messenger and to help people receive this. Are we going to deliver salvation? No, we don't deliver salvation. We receive salvation. And now we help people get into the place of them receiving salvation.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Philippians 2:12–13

This is one of the most interesting verses in Scripture. Work out your own salvation. We tend to think this means we have to figure this out—do better, do better—work it out on my own. No, He clearly says that He is who works in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Your own salvation, it's unique to you. And it's Me doing My work in you, unique to you, to fulfill what I'm going to deliver to you. Your work is what? Walk with me. And you will work out your own salvation. Because it's not a system. It's not a bunch of theology. It's not a bunch of law that you're supposed to perform. He said, no, you have a unique path that will deliver the covenant to you. If you have a heart to go and stay on my path. Your work is to stay in the path, and I'll deliver it. So, it's not me doing the right things—It's me walking with Him who works for me and in me. So, God's great work is what? While operating the world controlled by Satan and is trouble, God is going to deliver the covenant. I'm going to restore the things that you've lost. I'm going to have all the problems that you have resolved. I'm going to work out the salvation of wholeness and deliverance and the goodness—for you to experience that abundance. And it's available for every single person.

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REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where do you see God's "step by step" transformation already at work in you, even if it is incomplete?

2. Who in your life is broken or discouraged in a way that the covenant of restoration directly speaks to?

3. What would change about how you intercede for them if you trusted that God Himself is the salvation—and that your job is to help them receive Him, not to deliver Him?

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CLOSING SUMMARY

Intercession is not a wish list. It is being drawn into the work of God—joining Him to open eyes, release from prison, and help others walk with Him into the covenant. We are sent as Christ was sent, as the physical representative of the invisible God.

Our assignment rests on our own life of abiding. As we walk with Him, He develops our heart, transforms us step by step, and uses us to invite others out of the flesh and back into the kingdom—to receive truth instead of deceit, to live in covenant instead of darkness, and to walk the unique path on which He delivers His abundance.

Our role is not to persuade, fix, or carry the burden of outcomes. Our role is to help others hear what God is saying, separate from darkness, and step onto the path where He has already commanded the blessing to come upon them and overtake them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Scriptural Understanding

1. According to Isaiah 42:5–9 and Isaiah 49:1–7, what does it mean to be given as “a covenant to the nations,” and how does this reframe the role of an intercessor?

2. In John 13:18–20 and John 20:19–21, Jesus connects being sent with how others receive Him. What does this teach about the nature of intercession and what the intercessor is and is not responsible for?

3. From Romans 8:5–8 and Colossians 1:13–14, describe the difference between living in the flesh and living in the kingdom. Why does this distinction matter for someone called to intercede?

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Deeper Understanding

4. The lesson contrasts intercession-as-wish-list with intercession-as-joining-God's-work. What practical differences would you expect to see between someone praying the first way and someone praying the second?

5. Why does the lesson insist that the intercessor carries no burden for the outcome or for what the other person chooses to do? What does that protect, and what does it free us to do?

6. How does the seven-element life before the fall (authority, provision, work, fellowship/marriage, health and healing, identity, communion with God) shape what we are inviting others into when we intercede?

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Personal Application

7. Who has the Lord placed around you right now—by name, situation, or assignment—that you sense He may be inviting you to intercede for? What is one next step?

8. Where in your own life are you tempted to live in the flesh rather than in the Spirit, and how is that limiting your readiness to intercede for others?

9. If your role as an intercessor is to help others hear what God is saying rather than to fix their circumstances, what would you need to change about how you currently pray for the people on your list?



LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR



"It's not about performance; it's about participating in the life of God and extending that life to those around us."

As we deepen our understanding, we will see that God Himself is the ultimate Intercessor. Our role is to join Him in that place. We've learned that the key is to walk with Him in His Kingdom, not in the world of deceit and darkness. It is on the path of the kingdom that life drips with abundance.

A CONDUIT OF GRACE

Our first call is always to abide in Him, as branches connected to the vine (John 15). We cannot be an effective intercessor unless we are connected. It is from this place of connection that we become conduits of His grace to others.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Where does fruit actually come from in the vine-and-branches picture? Who does the producing?**
- **Why can't a disconnected branch be an intercessor—what is missing?**
- **Notice the sequence in this passage: "they gave themselves first to the Lord, and then by the will of God to us." What does that order tell you about how grace flows through a believer?**

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also.

(2 Corinthians 8:1-7 ESV)

The sequence is crucial: we first give ourselves to the Lord. As we do, He will then have us give ourselves to others so they can experience His grace. It's not about performance; it's about participating in the life of God and extending that life to those around us.

REFLECT

1. Where in your life right now are you tempted to skip the “give yourself to the Lord first” step and jump straight to giving to others?

2. What is the difference between performance and life when it comes to ministry to those around you?

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

A CONDUIT OF THE SUPERNATURAL

Walking with Him gives us boldness—and the word “confidence” here means you know this is going to happen because of your interaction with Christ. The purpose is to manifest to the principalities and powers, which by definition involves the supernatural. If it is just natural, you are actually demonstrating the opposite—that they have power over you. When we go the other direction, the church together is to manifest these supernatural things that demonstrate to the principalities and powers that God is real.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does it mean that the church is meant to make God’s wisdom “known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places”?**
- **What does Paul mean by “boldness and access with confidence”—boldness to do what?**
- **Where is the line between the natural and the supernatural in the believer’s life?**

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that He has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in Him.

(Ephesians 3:8-12 ESV)

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

So we are a conduit of the supernatural—manifesting the supernatural work of God. And remember, He says it is the church. We together are to manifest these things. And by definition, the church will see it as well. But it involves the supernatural.

REFLECT

1. If God's wisdom is meant to be displayed through the church, what does that say about your role inside your circle?

2. Have you ever experienced something supernatural in prayer that you could not have produced yourself? What did it stir in you?

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

BUILDING UP THE BODY

This life is meant to be lived in community. Our primary assignment as intercessors is to build up the Body of Christ—the circle of believers around us.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Why did Christ give apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers? What is the goal of all those gifts?**
- **What does “mature manhood... the fullness of Christ” look like in everyday terms?**
- **What does the body do for itself when each part is working properly?**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

(Ephesians 4:11-16 ESV)

Our purpose is to help the people in our circle get stronger by helping them walk with God and experience His will. This work takes place within the Kingdom of God.

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- What is the kingdom of God, according to Paul, and what is it not?
- What three things characterize life lived inside the kingdom?
- Where does the experience of righteousness, peace, and joy actually come from?

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 14:17 ESV)

As our community learns to walk together in the Kingdom, it becomes easier to stay there. We recognize when we or others are not experiencing peace and joy, and we can gently invite one another back. This is why our role is not to tell people what they “should” or “ought to” do. That approach is rooted in the flesh and actually encourages them to stay outside the kingdom, trying to fix their problems on their own. Instead, our role is to invite them back to the place of power.

 PAUSE & WRITE

Think of one person in your circle right now whose situation tempts you to say “you should, you ought to, you better.” Write what an invitation back to the kingdom might sound like instead.

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FOLLOWING THE SHEPHERD

Think of yourself as a faithful sheepdog. A sheepdog doesn't take care of the sheep; it directs them to the shepherd, who provides everything they need. We are to direct people to Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does Paul contrast the kingdom of God with in this passage—and why does that distinction matter for an intercessor?**
- **What does it mean for Paul to say, “not the talk of those arrogant people, but their power”?**
- **What kind of “father” does Paul see himself as to the Corinthians?**

I do not write these things to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you then, be imitators of me. That is why I sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church. Some are arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. But I will come to you soon if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk of those arrogant people, but their power. For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk, but in power.

(1 Corinthians 4:14-20 ESV)

REFLECT

1. Where in your own ministry to others have you relied on “talk” more than power? What would change?

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2. What does it look like to admonish someone “as beloved children” rather than to correct them in the flesh?

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What two voices are described in this passage, and how do the sheep distinguish between them?**
- **Jesus says, “I am the door.” What is the difference between entering by Him and climbing in another way?**
- **What does Jesus say He came to give—and how does that contrast with the thief?**

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.”

(John 10:27-30 ESV)

The abundant life comes from hearing and following the Shepherd’s voice. As intercessors, we assist people in learning to hear His voice for themselves. We help them depart from the noise of the world and enter the quiet of the Kingdom where His voice can be heard.

REFLECT

1. What does the sheepdog metaphor change about how you think of your role with the people God has placed in your circle?

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2. What is one practical way you can help someone you know move toward hearing God's voice this week—without telling them what to do?

FAITHFUL TO THE SHEPHERD, NOT TO THE SHEEP

As an intercessor, we have to understand: intercession involves somebody else. He says, "That person, that situation—I want you to join in intercession." Are you going to be faithful to that? There are two elements. One: do I even do it at all? You are being called as an intercessor and you are too busy. "I do not have the time. I cannot get involved with this person." That is the first issue. Two: as I get involved, what am I faithful to?

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does the master commend in the faithful servant?**
- **What is the relationship between faithfulness in "few things" and being entrusted with "many things"?**
- **As an intercessor, who is your loyalty ultimately to—the person you are praying for, or the One who sent you to pray for them?**

²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

(Matthew 25:21ESV)

So we think, "Oh, now my loyalty is to the sheep—to this person I am helping." But really, it is to God. Because we are cooperating with what He is desiring to do in their life, and pointing them to the Great Shepherd, not taking the place of the Great Shepherd.

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And we know the nature of God: He is always inviting people into His will with the freedom of choice. He never forces us, and He never hammers us, or even tries to persuade us. He just says, "If you will come with Me, I will deliver the covenant. So will you come with Me?" Does our role change when He is inviting them? No—our job is to stay where He is, which is inviting people. He will let them fail if they do not have a heart to go. They cannot receive it if they are not in the kingdom. And if they choose not to be there, He says, "I cannot solve that for you now. I will keep inviting you."

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What did Barnabas do when he saw the grace of God in Antioch?**
- **Why did Barnabas go look for Saul, and what does that say about how God grows His work?**
- **What does this story show us about the limits of one intercessor and the role of community?**

Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

(Acts 11:19-26 ESV)

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So God sent Barnabas to exhort them—to encourage them, to help them develop their purpose of heart. He stayed there. And what happened? It grew. So what did Barnabas recognize? “I cannot do this by myself anymore. It is beyond me.” And God said, “Go get Saul.” Interesting enough, what had Saul been doing for the previous three years? He had been in Tarsus, going through the Old Testament and journaling: “Now that I know Christ, what does this mean?” That is why the New Testament is full of Old Testament. Saul had spent all that energy at his current assignment. He was not even thinking he was supposed to do anything else at the moment.

Then Barnabas got overwhelmed, and he needed help. Keep remembering this: we are part of a body. The burden is not on us. When something starts to become bigger than you can handle—you have your business, your family, your marriage, your friendships, and you are also called to be an intercessor—God will say, “Go get some help. I will tell you who to get help with.” And you start to do this with other people. It could be your spouse. It could be others in your circle. “Would you get engaged here?” Now, what did Barnabas do? He taught Paul how to do this. Paul did it. Paul expanded it. So do not be afraid of that.

REFLECT

1. Where in your life is the intercessory load larger than what you can carry alone? Who has God already placed beside you to share it?

2. How is faithfulness to God’s assignment different from loyalty to the person God has assigned you to pray for?

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THE PRIVILEGE OF THE THRONE ROOM—DISCERNING HIS WILL THROUGH DIALOGUE

If you are going to be an intercessor, He says, “I give you a privilege: you get to stay connected to Me all the time.”

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **On what basis do believers have “confidence to enter the holy places”?**
- **What does it mean to draw near “with a true heart in full assurance of faith”?**
- **How does this passage frame the responsibility we have toward one another in the body?**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

(Hebrews 10:19-25 ESV)

So He says: the privilege you have is, with boldness, to march right in. With confidence—“I am going to hear God”—into the throne room and have an authentic heart-to-heart dialogue. “You are asking me to be an intercessor. I need to hear what You have to say. Here is what I see. Here is what I understand. What do You want me to do next?” He says, stay there. Always have that privilege of staying there.

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And the basis of it is what Christ did. Did He say, “You have to be perfect to come on in. You have to fix your problems first”? No—“Just come on in. I have opened the door. All you have to do is come.” Now by the way, when you come, you are coming with a surrendered heart, which means you are in the kingdom. And the surrender is, “What do You have to say? Not, ‘I am going to go do this,’ or, ‘I am going to tell Him this and have Him bless what I am going to tell Him.’” He says, “You are not even with Me. Come with Me. Dialogue with Me. Have a heart to hear what I have to say.”

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does Paul say believers should “look carefully” about?**
- **What is the alternative to being foolish, according to this passage?**
- **What posture toward one another does Paul call for at the end of this passage?**

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(Ephesians 5:15-21 ESV)

Remember—He says, when you come into the throne room, what are you to do? Discover His will. Understand His will. “Father, what do You have to say? What is Your will for this person You have asked me to be involved with?” Your role is to guide them so they can celebrate, with song and thanksgiving, that they are learning God’s will. And we know something about God’s will: if they engage with it, they receive the covenant—superabundant life, the grace, the favor, shalom. That is absolute.

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A lot of people think, “If I follow God, it is actually going to get worse, because He is going to make me do something I do not want to do, or I am going to have to change what I am up to.” And God says, “Do not worry. I will change you if I have to. But I will do the work. You will start to recognize that My will is spectacular. Your role is to be in the throne room, connecting, and facilitating others walking into My will.” That is your role. Stay in the light.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What invitation does God give in this single verse, and what does He promise in response?**
- **What kind of seeking does this verse describe—a demand for outcomes, or a posture of “What do You want to show me?”**
- **How would your prayer life change if you took this verse at face value tomorrow morning?**

“Call to me and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know.”

(Jeremiah 33:3 ESV)

Our role is just to call upon Him. And what will He do? He will answer us. He will show us great and mighty things that we do not even know. Well, that is not that complicated. By the way, when you call to Him, by definition you are seeking His will. He is not saying, “Call to Me and go do what I want you to do.” He says, “If you call to Me, I will show you great and mighty things you do not know”—because you are asking, “What do You have to say to me? What do You want to show me? What do You want to reveal?”

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THE INTERCESSOR'S KEY ROLE: DIALOGUE AND DISCERNMENT

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What were those who feared the Lord doing, and how did the Lord respond?**
- **What is a “book of remembrance,” and what does it tell us about how God values our conversations with Him and with each other?**
- **What does the passage say will once more become visible—and what does that imply about discernment?**

Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed His name. “They shall be Mine,” says the Lord of hosts, “in the day when I make up My treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.” Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him.

(Malachi 3:16-18 ESV)

“I will give you discernment,” He says. While you are talking to one another, what is He doing? Listening. “I am listening. And then I am going to lead you to discern the answers—what is between the best and not the best.” So as an intercessor—and this is really critical—one of your key roles is to process. By doing what? Talking with one another. Asking questions. Discerning.

Let me say this really simply and clearly. As you are interceding with someone—and God says, “Here is the person, here is the situation, I want you to intercede”—one of the best things you do, and the first thing you do, is get them to talk about it. “Tell me about it.” What I usually do is say, “Okay, you have described this situation. Now write it. What do you believe about this? What do you understand about this? Tell me what is going on, and do not censor it. Just let it go. Describe it as best you can, and put it on paper.”

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What does that do for them? It starts to concentrate. And I am not talking about solution. I am not talking about activity. I am just talking about: what is it? I have got to get them to talk about it. Then they say certain things, or they write certain things. "Okay, well, tell me about that. What do you think about that? What do you understand about that? What do you believe God is saying about that?" The more I can engage them in the conversation, I am actually praying to God. Because while we are doing that, what is He doing? Listening. And then He can start to deliver. The more we process, the more insight we get, the more understanding we get. "Oh, that is what this is about. Oh, this is what God is saying." So—dialogue, dialogue, dialogue.



PAUSE & WRITE

Bring to mind one situation God has placed on your heart for intercession. Set aside any solution you have been forming. Just describe the situation as fully as you can, in the third person, on the lines below.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What is the confidence we have when we approach God?**
- **What two conditions does John attach to being heard?**
- **Notice the phrase “we have the requests.” What does that say about how confident discernment changes prayer?**

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

(1 John 5:14-15 ESV)

If we ask according to His will, He hears us. And then if we know that He hears us, and we understand His will, it will be done. Now think about it. He is listening. What is He listening for? Did we get His will? “Do you understand this? Well, not yet. Keep going. Do you understand this? Well, not yet. Keep going. I have more to show you. I have to have you process further. You have not got there yet. ... You got there. Okay. Now pray. Amen.”

And when we are doing that with others, we are confirming that spirit of unity—Psalm 133—where both of our hearts are saying, “Yep, that is it.” Because God has brought us to that place.

Think of the two most difficult things in this process. The person has an issue, and even I might begin to understand God’s will. But in order for this to be fulfilled, that person has to know God’s will. They have to confirm it. It cannot be me telling them what to do. They have to hear God’s voice. So number one: are you hearing God’s voice? I have got to help you with that. Number two: do you have clarity about God’s will? That is fuzzy stuff that takes time. People have a hard time with it. “Is that really right? Is that really right?” And you are helping confirm. “Yep. You are in the right direction. Yep, you got there. That is God’s will. Let us go.”

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- What does the psalmist ask to hear in the morning, and why?
- Notice the phrasing “teach me to do Your will.” What posture is that?
- How does the psalmist tie deliverance to walking in God’s will?

Let me hear in the morning of Your steadfast love, for in You I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to You for refuge. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For Your name’s sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! And in Your steadfast love You will cut off my enemies, and

(Psalm 143:8-12 ESV)

If I seek God, He is listening, and He will direct me into His will. “Father, would You cause me to hear what You have to say? I am asking You to speak. Cause me to hear.” And by the way, He says, “I will. I will show you exactly what to do. I will lead you on level ground. I will restore you. I will fulfill it. And all it starts with is: give Me a heart to hear.” And the person you are interceding for? What are you praying for them? Give them a heart to hear. They have to hear this. They have to confirm it.

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REFLECT

1. What is the difference between asking God to bless your plan and asking God to reveal His will?

2. Where in your prayer life have you been pressing for an outcome instead of pressing for clarity?

CHRIST OUR INTERCESSOR—LIGHT, TRUTH, WISDOM

As we discover His will, He says, “I will lead you and declare things.” What He is going to do is supernatural and mighty. So begin to listen to what He says. He is going to speak it, and He wants you to join Him in receiving it and speaking it—because that is where the power is. He is going to declare His promise, which is His will. And He needs you to understand it, and then help the person you are interceding for begin to receive it.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Jesus’ statement “I am the way, the truth, and the life”—what does it claim, and what does it rule out?**
- **Whose words and whose works does Jesus say He is doing?**
- **What does “greater works than these will he do” mean for an intercessor?**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does His works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do;

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and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it."

(John 14:6, 10-14 ESV)

"I am the way, the truth, and the life." So where is He? He is everything. "Go with Me. I am the truth. I am the way. I am the life. As you do that, I will declare to you what I am going to do. And what I am going to do is supernatural, mighty stuff." So begin to listen. Begin to receive. Begin to speak. That is where the power is. You can trust it. He says, "I will declare My promise—My will. I need you to understand it, and then help the person you are interceding for receive it."

HE IS THE LIGHT, HE IS THE TRUTH

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What did the Word do "in the beginning," according to John?**
- **What does it mean that "in Him was life, and the life was the light of men"?**
- **What two things came through Jesus, according to verse 17?**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

(John 1:1-5, 14-17 ESV)

He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the light. The light is truth. What does the light do? It shines. It clarifies. It overcomes the darkness. When you are walking at night, and you are going off on a path, what do you need? A flashlight. It is dark. The light makes it visible. "That is Me," He says. "I am the light. I am going to show you the way. I am going to illuminate things. I am going to reveal things. And it will lead to grace—the fullness of God, the covenant. You will receive the fullness of that as you walk with Me, who is the light."

So it is connecting to the light. As you are helping people, it is simple: "What are you seeing? What light has been given?" And usually, by the way, it is enough for the next step. Take that next step. Like the man who told me this week that God said to change his business model. He had only an indication; he did not know yet what the new model would look like. But you have to be willing—instead of staying this way, go a different way. The light says, "That fork in the road—do you see it? Are you understanding it?" At the moment, he was not. Okay—let me help you see it. Let me guide you to the light, and the light will guide you down the path. We do not know yet where it is going to go, but we know it is going to be good. The fullness of grace will be there. So let us go. He is the light. He is the truth.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- How does Moses describe the way the Lord's teaching falls on His people?
- What four characteristics describe God's work in this passage?
- Why does it matter that His ways are "justice" and that He is "without iniquity" when we are seeking His will?

"Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is He."

(Deuteronomy 32:1-4)

How does that describe God? He is the Rock. He is just. There is no one else like Him. He is above everything. He has all perfection, all security, all strength. So where are we to receive all of this from? Him. Why? Because that is who He is. It is not figuring things out. It is not maneuvering things better. It is, "Let us go to Him, because He is the truth, He is the light, He is the greatness, He has all the power." So we have to keep being led to Him.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- What does the Lord promise He will faithfully give His people?
- What kind of covenant does He promise—temporary, conditional, or everlasting?
- What does it look like for offspring to be “known among the nations” as those the Lord has blessed?

“For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed.”

(Isaiah 61:8-9 ESV)

So He says, “My work is going to provide you the covenant—and I guarantee it. Come to Me. Be directed by Me. Follow Me. Because I am going to deliver what I promise, and I can deliver what I promise.”

HE IS WISDOM

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- How does Wisdom describe herself in this chapter?
- What does it mean that “counsel” and “sound wisdom” belong to Him?
- What does the passage say happens to those who seek Him?

¹² and I find knowledge and discretion.

¹³ The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.

Pride and arrogance and the way of evil
and perverted speech I hate.

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¹⁴ I have counsel and sound wisdom;
I have insight; I have strength.
¹⁵ By me kings reign,
and rulers decree what is just;
¹⁶ by me princes rule,
and nobles, all who govern justly.
¹⁷ I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.
¹⁸ Riches and honor are with me,
enduring wealth and righteousness.
¹⁹ My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.
²⁰ I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the paths of justice,
²¹ granting an inheritance to those who love me,
and filling their treasuries.

(Proverbs 8 ESV)

"If you walk with Me, all these things will be delivered. Why? Because I am wisdom. I am the source of wisdom. I will deliver it. Let Me deliver the wisdom."

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What did Christ “become” to us, according to Paul?**
- **What four things does Paul list?**
- **If Christ Himself is wisdom, what does that change about where you go for it?**

And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

(1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV)

Who is righteousness? He is. Who is wisdom? He is. He became wisdom. He is wisdom. He is full of wisdom. He will give it to you. So what should we go seek Him for? Wisdom. “I need wisdom. I need to know how to walk on the path I have. I have circumstances. I have difficulty. I have things that are not working. I need wisdom.” And He actually says, it is not that difficult. “You are in Me. It is right here.”

CHRIST HIMSELF IS OUR INTERCESSOR

The most profound truth is that when we intercede, we are joining a work that God is already doing. Christ Himself is our intercessor.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does the passage say the Lord did to His servant, and why?**
- **What does the servant accomplish through His suffering?**
- **What two things does verse 12 say about the servant in relation to transgressors?**

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush Him; He has put Him to grief; when His soul makes an offering for guilt, He shall see His offspring; He shall prolong His days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. Out of the

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anguish of His soul He shall see and be satisfied; by His knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the many, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

(Isaiah 53:10-12 ESV)

He did the work on the cross, and now He intercedes for us to come and join Him in the covenant life He secured for us. The Holy Spirit also intercedes for us, perfectly aligning with the Father's will.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Why, according to Paul, do we need help from the Spirit when we pray?**
- **On what basis does the Spirit's intercession succeed?**
- **What is the connection between "according to the will of God" and "all things work together for good"?**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

(Romans 8:26-28 ESV)

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Its purpose is to deliver the covenant—and all things work together for good. The Holy Spirit is interceding, and Paul gives us the clue: according to His will. So now we are starting to define intercession. The Holy Spirit says, “I have to discover the will for Rich.” Who does He talk to? The Father. “Father, what is Your will for Rich? I am interceding for Me to discover that.” Then He gets it. Now His next thing is for me. He says, “I have to have you discover God’s will. I will start to speak God’s will, and you have to discover it. I will work with you, because I know God’s will. I cannot force you to live God’s will, but I am going to invite you to discover it. And by the way, if you do, you will learn what ‘all things work together for good’ actually means.”

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Where is Christ now, and what is He doing on our behalf?**
- **What does Paul mean when he asks, “Who is to condemn?”**
- **How does Christ’s ongoing intercession affect how you pray?**

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

(Romans 8:34)

the Holy Spirit is interceding for us. Christ is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us. And the intercession is, “I would like them to receive Your will. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done—so they can receive the covenant.” It is all geared toward that: the fullness, the truth, the wonder. “Come and experience that.” He is interceding for that, both from the Father and then directing us to receive it.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Why is Jesus' priesthood different from the priesthoods that came before?**
- **What does it mean that He "always lives to make intercession"?**
- **Why did Jesus only need to offer Himself once?**

And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever. Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for His own sins and then for those of the people, since He did this once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

(Hebrews 7:20-28 ESV)

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So He is the High Priest, and He is interceding. What was the role of the high priest? To help the nation discover God's will. It started with him, and then he had priests and other people, but it was to have them all understand it—based on the privilege of the one-year covering, where they did not have to focus on sin and iniquity. They came, walked with God, followed God, clung to God, heard God. That was his role. And Christ said, "I am the High Priest. By the way, I did the work, and I am going to guide you into My will. I am interceding for that." So keep thinking—what is intercession? "Come and follow Me. Come and follow Me. Come and follow Me. Learn to follow Me. Come on—let us go." Everything is geared toward that. And He serves as the Intercessor.

HEARING HOW JESUS PRAYS

We can get a glimpse of this as Jesus prayed to the Father. This is in John 17—His prayer right before He goes to Gethsemane.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that

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they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.^[a] ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them^[b] in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself,^[c] that they also may be sanctified^[d] in truth.

(John 17 1-19 ESV)

So He says, “This is eternal life—that they may know You.” The word “know” is experience, participate with, receive the life of God. Not learn about God, or have a ticket to heaven, but experience the life that is available to them. “That is what I pray for.”

Then He says, “God’s will for all of us is to become one with Him”—as Christ is one. So we know something about His will: we have to walk in unified position with Him, with the oneness of who He is. Agreement with His will. “May they get us, and walk with us, in oneness.” He prays that they would have His joy fulfilled in them—because if you are living in the covenant and you are blessed to be a blessing, you are going to have joy. You are experiencing the superabundant life. “That is what I have come to do.”

Now listen to this. Just start paying attention to what people say when they ask you to pray. Mostly it is, “God, get rid of the problems of the world. Get rid of this. Just work on a global basis so I do not have any more trouble.” And Jesus said, “Sorry. I am not praying that way. I am not praying that we change the world. I am praying that I send you into the world.” He said, “I do not pray that You take them out of the world. Remove me from the place of trouble—I am not praying that way.” Therefore, if we are intercessors, we cannot pray that way either. So when people ask, “Would you pray to remove this?”—“I cannot do that. Let me help you a different way. Let me help you understand it differently, and I will pray. I will help you see the truth of what the prayer is.”

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“Sanctify them by Your word. Your word is truth.” Give them God’s word. Get them to the truth. Have them have a different perspective on where their problems are. “I cannot join you in your global prayer to just have God remove all evil from your life, or remove you from that problem.” Now, He can take something away—but according to His will, not because we have requested it.

“My intercession is geared primarily that you will come and walk with Me—because I am the source of truth, of wisdom, of life. I am going to deliver to you the covenant.”

So as we see that He is the Intercessor, we hear Him saying: “I have done the work. I have given you the privilege to walk with Me. My intercession is geared primarily that you will come and walk with Me—because I am the source of truth, the source of wisdom, the source of life. I am going to deliver to you the covenant.” So we do not take a different position as intercessors. We do not have to persuade somebody. We do not have to hammer them, judge them, fix them, or correct them. We just have to walk with them and invite them. And if they have any heart at all, we keep interceding. If they do not, God says, “Do not worry about it. It is not your responsibility. There are other people I have you assigned to.” Because this is going to take time.

Think about it. “I have to hear God’s will. I have to help them hear God’s will. I have to get clarity. Then I have to have them believe it.” What does that take? God’s work. We just have to stay with it.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the truth of all of this—that You show us You are our Intercessor, and that You are the source of all the power that comes behind it. We pray that we would understand that. You have a will, and it is our privilege to participate in interceding for others to receive it as well. What a joy it is, that we will have, as we give that away. So we pray for insight, for wisdom, for our role, and for clarity in that role—so that we have wonder as we walk this way. We thank You in Christ’s name. Amen.

PAUSE & WRITE

As you close this lesson, sit with these two questions: Am I in that place of receiving God’s will? He is interceding for me. And: how could I help others discover His will—not what I think they should do, but rather walk with Him and experience Him?

LESSON 2: JOINING THE INTERCESSOR

For Deeper Understanding

1. Explain the role of an intercessor using the analogy of the “sheepdog” and the “Good Shepherd.” What is our primary function?

2. This lesson says the Kingdom of God is not about “talk” but about “power” (1 Corinthians 4:20). What is the difference between these two approaches when helping someone?

3. According to Romans 8 and Hebrews 7, how are the Son and the Holy Spirit already acting as intercessors? What is the focus of their intercession?

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For Personal Application

1. Who is the “body” or community that God has called you to help build up?
How can you begin to see your interactions with them as an opportunity for intercession?

2. Reflect on a time you tried to solve a problem with “talk” (logic, advice, telling someone what to do) versus a time you invited them (or yourself) to seek God’s “power.” What was the difference?

3. Knowing that Jesus is praying for you to be “kept from the evil one” while you are in the world, how does this change your perspective on facing daily troubles and challenges?

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR



“Maturity is demonstrated when you become an intercessor,” or “Our first ministry is not to people, but to God.”

As we move into this chapter, we will look specifically at our role and how we can serve as an intercessor. We’ve established that the world is full of trouble, but God’s intention is to restore us and give us the superabundant life of the covenant. This happens as we choose to live in the Spirit, inside His Kingdom, rather than in the flesh. Jesus Himself prayed not that we would be taken out of the world, but that we would be sent into it, demonstrating the power of His will. This is because He is the way, the truth, the life, the wisdom, and the light. Our role is to bring people to Him, that He might fulfill His heart for them.

GROWING INTO MATURITY

Our calling as intercessors is a sign of our own spiritual maturity. It shows that we have moved from simply receiving from God to partnering with Him in His work.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **When you hear the word “intercessor,” what comes to mind? Where do you think that picture came from?**
- **In your own words, what would it mean to “present someone mature in Christ”? What would that look like in a real person’s life?**

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory

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of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

(Colossians 1:24-29 ESV)

Maturity is demonstrated when you become an intercessor. Why? Because to invite someone into the Kingdom, you must first know how to live there yourself. You must be abiding, hearing His voice, and experiencing the covenant. God's power has made a difference in your life, and now you are ready to be used by Him to help others experience the same. Our goal is to help present everyone mature in Christ, and then to multiply that maturity.

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

(2 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV)

As you build up the body, you are always looking for faithful people who are receiving God's will so you can entrust the message to them. They, in turn, will become intercessors, and the work of the Kingdom multiplies.

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

REFLECTION

1. Paul says he is “filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of His body.” What does that suggest about the cost of intercession?

2. Where in your life right now are you experiencing the life of God deeply enough that you could honestly invite someone else into it?

3. Who in your life is a “faithful person” you could entrust what you are learning to? What would that look like practically this month?

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

THE ROLE OF THE WATCHMAN

One of our primary roles as an intercessor is to be a watchman. A watchman observes, sees the truth of a situation, and speaks the warning or instruction God gives them.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **In ordinary life, what does a watchman do? Why is the role so weighty?**
- **When was the last time someone “warned” you in a way that turned out to be from God? How did you receive it at the time?**

The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, ‘If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman’s hand.’

So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. If I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked one, you shall surely die,’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. And you, son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus have you said: surely our transgressions and our sins are upon us, and we rot away because of them. How then can we live?’ Say to them, ‘As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?’

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And you, son of man, say to your people, 'The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him when he transgresses, and as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall by it when he turns from his wickedness, and the righteous shall not be able to live by his righteousness when he sins.' Though I say to the righteous that he shall surely live, yet if he trusts in his righteousness and does injustice, none of his righteous deeds shall be remembered, but in his injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, though I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' yet if he turns from his sin and does what is just and right, if the wicked restores the pledge, gives back what he has taken by robbery, and walks in the statutes of life, not doing injustice, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of the sins that he has committed shall be remembered against him. He has done what is just and right; he shall surely live.

Yet your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just,' when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways."

(Ezekiel 33:1–20 ESV)

God's truth stands on its own. To the righteous (those living in the Kingdom), the warning is to stay there. To the unrighteous (those living in the flesh), the invitation is to turn back and live. Your role as a watchman is to speak the truth God gives you for the specific situation. You don't do it with judgment or pride; you simply deliver the message He gives, inviting them to His heart. The outcome is their choice, but your responsibility is to faithfully speak what you hear from Him.

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Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep. Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

(Psalm 127:1–5)

Unless the Lord is building the house, you are doing it in vain. And what house is He building? He is building the body, and we are participating with Him in building the body. We are joining Him. The watchman's work is not in vain only if he is on the right wall.

This is a clever turn. Where are you being a watchman? If you are not watching on behalf of God, you are wasting your time. Where are you called to be a watchman? Where He is, what He is up to, what He is doing—He is protecting that place, and you are walking with Him on His wall. Are you on the right wall? Because as soon as you say, "My job is to make sure everybody is correct," you have just become the judge. You have stepped out of the Kingdom. Anytime you take on the burden of "I have got to set somebody straight," you are watching the wrong place. Make sure it is with Him.

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

REFLECTION

1. What is the difference between “warning from God” and “correcting from your own opinion”? How can you tell which one you are doing?

2. God says He has “no pleasure in the death of the wicked.” How does that change the tone with which you would deliver a hard word?

3. Where in your life right now might you be standing on the wrong wall—watching for things God has not actually called you to watch?

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

THE ROLE OF THE PRIEST

God also calls us to serve as priests. This role is first and foremost about our relationship with Him.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What words come to mind when you hear “priest”? Which of those are biblical, and which are cultural?**
- **In your spiritual life, where do you most often place yourself: as one who comes to receive from God, or as one who comes to minister to God?**

And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

(1 Samuel 2:35 ESV)

God raises up a priest for Himself. We are carrying out His assignments, according to what is in His heart and mind. To be a faithful priest, we must know His heart. His heart is to invite people into the Kingdom to experience the covenant. Our first ministry, then, is not to people, but to God. We minister to Him through praise, worship, listening, and simply being with Him in the Kingdom. It is from that place of communion that He sends us out to minister to others.

Our prayer life is central to this role. It is the incense at the altar.

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For Aaron's sons you shall make coats and sashes and caps. You shall make them for glory and beauty. And you shall put them on Aaron your brother, and on his sons with him, and shall anoint them and ordain them and consecrate them, that they may serve Me as priests.

Now this is what you shall do to them to consecrate them, that they may serve Me as priests. Take one bull of the herd and two rams without blemish. The holy garments of Aaron shall be for his sons after him; they shall be anointed in them and ordained in them. The son who succeeds him as priest, who comes into the tent of meeting to minister in the holy place, shall wear them seven days.

(Exodus 28:40–41; 29:1; 29:29–30)

First of all, you must be sanctified. As New Testament believers, what causes us to be sanctified? The blood of Jesus, when we are with Him. He covers us with His sanctification. So first, we are sanctified. And then, when we are, what is our first priority? To minister—to whom? To God.

Now, what does that mean—to minister to God? It is not yet to do what He says. It is not yet to speak what He says. Ministering to God is praise. Worship. Listening. Experiencing the blessing He has for us. It is being with Him.

It is interesting how often we miss this. The body of Christ—churches, small groups, even our quiet times—we mostly come to receive something from God, to receive benefit. We are not really thinking, “I am also coming to minister to Him, to bless Him, to thank Him for all that He has done.” And of course, that is what brings us into alignment with Him and into the enjoyment of relationship with Him. He keeps saying, “My joy is you. And you have to be with Me.” I am in the Kingdom, and you must be in the Kingdom—and that is My joy. So ministering to me is being with me. It really is.

Remember, our role is to help people hear God's voice. When we are bringing them into His presence, and they begin hearing God's voice, God is rejoicing. “I have fellowship now with you. I get to enjoy you, because we get to talk to each other. My joy is you, and ministering to Me is you being with Me and hearing My voice.” And then He says, as you do that, you will go to the

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tent of meeting—the place where others come in and process what God is saying—and you will be a conduit of that. But before you go there, you must be with Him.

Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the people of Israel, to serve Me as priests—Aaron and Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar. And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. You shall speak to all the skillful, whom I have filled with the spirit of skill, that they make Aaron's garments to consecrate him for My priesthood. These are the garments that they shall make: a breastpiece, an ephod, a robe, a coat of checker work, a turban, and a sash. They shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons to serve Me as priests. They shall receive gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen.

(Exodus 28:1–5 ESV)

He says, “I want you to be consecrated, holy. Live in the holy place. And with these holy things you are going to demonstrate the glory and beauty of God.” We are reflecting the image of God. We were created in that image. Adam and Eve had that perfect image as intercessors, and we are moving back into that role. We are coming back to the same place where we reflect the very image of God Himself, because it is glorious and it is beautiful.

Our role is coming out of glory and beauty—not out of, “I wonder if...” or “I don’t think this is going to work,” or “God is mediocre.” No. It is glorious. It is beautiful. It is fantastic. So in the holy place, reflecting God’s image, we are then sent to the altar of incense.

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And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. Every morning when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations.

(Exodus 30:7–8 ESV)

He says, “Burn incense—a regular incense offering.” Hold that for a moment, and look at Psalm 141.

Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!

(Psalm 141:2 ESV)

This prayerful life requires the sacrifice of our own will so that we can hear God’s will. You help those you intercede for to move from a prayer life of wish lists to a true prayer life of surrendering their will to hear His.

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

REFLECTION

1. What does it mean for you, this week, to “minister to God” before you ask Him for anything?

2. Where in your prayer life do you see the “wish list” pattern showing up—telling God what you want, rather than offering your will as a sacrifice to hear His?

3. Glory and beauty are part of the priestly identity. Where have you settled for mediocrity, hesitation, or low expectation in how you carry the things of God?

LESSON 3: THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERCESSOR

LED BY THE SPIRIT INTO TRUTH

If we are in the role of hearing God, we must then be led by the Holy Spirit. The intercessor does not just hear once and then run on his own steam. He is continually being led.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What is the difference between “knowing about” the Holy Spirit and being “led by” the Holy Spirit?**
- **Think of a recent decision you made. Were you operating with “the things of the flesh” in mind, or “the things of the Spirit”? How could you tell?**

For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

(Romans 8:5–8, 12–17 ESV)

When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.

(John 16:13–15 ESV)

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Life comes from walking in the Spirit. He guides us. He confirms to us that we are children of God, able to hear His voice and follow. And He makes us co-heirs with Christ to receive all that is Christ. The way He does this—and we go into great detail on this in the abide course—is that He guides us into all truth, gives us a heads up about things to come, and declares what is Christ to us as a promise to fulfill the abundant life in the middle of our trouble.

So if we are walking in the Holy Spirit because that is what He is doing, what are we participating in? We are facilitating the connection of someone else to be led by the Holy Spirit. That is why it is not our job to lead them, or to think about what they should be doing. Our job is to be in sync with the Holy Spirit and get them connected to following Him, understanding Him, receiving the life He is giving, and being guided into truth.

He will guide you into all truth—and that is not theological truth. It is the truth about His stuff, and what God would say to you about it.

Let's say you are facilitating someone being led into truth. There is one question you can keep asking them: What is the truth? Don't censor the truth. Don't evaluate the truth. A lot of people don't want to share the truth, because the truth is, "Well, I don't trust God," or, "This person is opposing me, and I want them eliminated."

You are speaking about their personal truth at that moment. Not necessarily the final answer that God has—but where they actually are. Because He will guide you from the truth that you are involved with, into His truth. We do not know where it will go, but we know it will get there. And it starts with: What is your truth? You are helping them be honest. And God wants to meet them and lead them in the situation.

As an intercessor, since the Spirit will guide them from the truth into the truth, the question is, "Tell me about what is going on." And—for you, are you to bring any judgment to what is going on? No. The more you live the life of God, you literally don't have it, because you don't even think that way anymore. If I am talking with someone—and I do this a lot—and they confess that they are addicted to pornography, my attitude is, "Okay, so do you want to get healed?" Now I am going to have him describe what triggers it, what happens that drives him there, because God has to get underneath it all. The

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pornography is not the issue; it is solving something else going on, in a very unhealthy way. We have to get to the “something else.” “Tell me about that.”

If I do not come with judgment, will it be easier for them to share the truth? Yes. Because I am not condemning them. I am actually saying, “You need to get the truth out, because that is how God is going to heal you.” God’s Spirit will guide you into truth—my role is to facilitate that. I am going to help them be led by the Spirit. I am going to be led by the Spirit. I am going to help them be led by the Spirit.

REFLECTION

1. Where, in your typical conversations with people you care about, does judgment show up—even subtly? How might that be blocking them from sharing the truth?

2. When you ask the Holy Spirit to guide you into truth, are you willing to follow if the first piece of truth He shows you is uncomfortable about yourself?

3. Who in your life right now might need someone to simply ask, “What is the truth—what is really going on?” without you fixing or judging it?

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UNITY AND THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION

As we are led by the Spirit, He brings us into unity, and from there into the ministry of reconciliation—the bringing of all things back into harmony.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **When you hear the word “unity,” do you tend to think first of agreement between people, or alignment with God? Why does the difference matter?**
- **An ambassador represents a kingdom not their own. What would it mean, practically, for you to live this week as an ambassador for Christ?**

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the Lord commanded the blessing—life forevermore.

(Psalm 133 ESV)

God uses an interesting analogy here. Unity is like the anointing of Aaron—the consecration of the priest. When he is consecrated, when he is hearing God’s will and communicating it, you arrive at unity, because you are arriving at unity with God. And then He tells us why that is even possible.

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I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

(Ephesians 4:1–6 ESV)

Work very hard to get to the unity of what? The Spirit. So it is not about you agreeing with somebody. It is about you, together, going to unity with the Spirit and saying, “Yes, we now know God’s will.”

There, God commands the blessing. The reason is that the Holy Spirit is in you and in the other person. So what are you driving someone toward? What are you hearing? Do you understand God’s will? Is it being confirmed by His Spirit? My role is to confirm what He is confirming, because I have that same Holy Spirit, and I am facilitating coming together with the Spirit so that the answer is, “Yes. This is the way. Walk in it.”

Now—am I to tell them, “This is God’s will, go do it”? No. I am to bring them to a place of unity where they understand it themselves. You understand it. They understand it. Particularly if they are married, help them with their spouse. Get involved in their inner circle, their friends. If they are single, help facilitate the people around them. Are we hearing God’s will? When you facilitate that, what do they then learn? How to go to God and seek truth and get confirmation.

Interestingly enough, you may have an assignment, and that is the end of that assignment. The person gets it, understands it, walks in it. It is not your job to keep making sure they live it out correctly. Now that they understand it, they are going to go do it and teach other people the same thing. Why? Because your role is confirmation—that is what you are looking toward. And you have to be honest with that. So be careful not to get caught up in, “Isn’t that a good idea? I would like to support you in that. I would encourage you to go that

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direction,” when God says, “I didn’t say that.” You have to be in the place of, “No, I don’t confirm that yet. Keep going.” And then they have to have a heart to keep going.

We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:12–21 ESV)

You have the ministry of reconciliation. As intercessors, we are broadening that definition. He says, “My purpose is to reconcile the world into your life.” He is saying, “I want to line up circumstance to sync up with you living in the covenant and receiving the covenant. I am going to restore it all. I am going to bring it all back into harmony—together. And I would like you to serve as an ambassador for that.”

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What does an ambassador do? An ambassador represents the kingdom they are from, and says, “I invite you to receive this truth.” In our case, the truth is that God is restoring your difficulties—back to the seven exceptional things of the covenant. So as an ambassador, I first appeal: “Would you like to receive this?” Then I help them understand it is doable, it is possible. And then God reconciles, and I get to be the one engaged with them, drawing them to that place—so that when they look at it, they are not looking on a short-term basis (“We have to fix this little problem”), but rather, “I want to lead you into the full reconciliation of the harmony of the life that God has for you.” I get to show them what that looks like, because that is His ministry.

REFLECTION

1. Have you ever confirmed something “out of agreement” when in your spirit you were not yet at unity with God on it? What happened?

2. Where in your relationships are you tempted to keep managing the outcome instead of releasing the person to God once they understand?

3. If you are an ambassador, what does the kingdom you represent actually look like? Could the people around you describe it from watching your life?

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COME AND SEE: THE INVITATION TO FOLLOW

Inviting people into reconciliation requires that we are living in the Kingdom ourselves. Remember, that means we are abiding, being led by the Spirit, connected to the Vine, letting the Vinedresser direct traffic. The result is that we are experiencing fruit. We are in the Kingdom because we are abiding, and we are full of joy and righteousness and peace. Now, in order to make sure we stay there—first for ourselves, and then for others—we must understand a hard word from Jesus.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Why is it possible for someone to genuinely love Jesus and still, in a moment, end up “following Satan,” as Peter did?**
- **In your own discipleship, what is the most appealing thing about “Come and see” as an invitation? What is the most uncomfortable?**

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “Far be it from You, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” But He turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a hindrance to Me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done. Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

(Matthew 16:21–28 ESV)

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Peter had just been identified as the one to whom the Father had revealed, “You are the Christ, the Messiah.” He was very spiritual. Then Jesus says, “By the way, I am going to have to go to my death, and then be resurrected.” And Peter says, “No way. I will never let that happen to You.” And Jesus says, “Get behind Me... Satan.”

You just exited the Kingdom—and you are actually following Satan now. That is the definition of it: if you are outside the Kingdom, you are following Satan. He says, “Here is why: you do not have the things of God in mind, but the things of men. You have decided on your own what you think is a good idea.” Jesus is essentially talking to fellow believers in the church who have a lot of good ideas. He says, “No. You are going to intercede for them, and you are going to have to teach them an important truth. If anyone would come after Me—by the way, be in the Kingdom—he must surrender his will. Deny himself. Take up his cross. Take up the truth of the cross, which I have given you the privilege now of being with Me. And follow Me.”

Think about the simplicity of intercession. If I am going to help someone get to the “following” part—which, by the way, is the majority of the time, where they should be walking—there are a lot of steps along the path that they need to be on. They cannot constantly be exiting the Kingdom; they have to stay forward. If they are going to enter the Kingdom, I have to show them and help them understand a very important truth. What are they going to have to do? Give up themselves. There is no other way. I cannot bring them with me. They have to enter as a child and say, “I deny self. I am willing to go with God.” We must teach them that as they recognize they have to be connected—which is why our ministry spends so much time on abiding.

Apart from Me, you can do nothing. Because you are not with Me.

Our role is not to define everything for them. It is to invite them to this place.

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Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed Him.

(Mark 1:14–20 ESV)

Did the disciples know any of the things we have been talking about? No. They knew nothing. All Jesus said was, "Just come and follow Me. Just learn to follow Me. Let's go. I will show you everything." And of course, they said, "Okay. I am willing to go."

Our invitation is not, "I have to define everything." Our invitation is, "Why don't you come and follow?" Follow Christ. We do show them a couple of things about that—abiding, surrender of will—so they will understand what they are stepping into. Then: do you have a heart to do that? Okay. Let's go. Come and follow.

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The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as He walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to Him, "Rabbi (which means Teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ... The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." ... Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ... [Jesus said to Nathanael,] "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

(John 1:35–51 (selections) ESV)

Do you see the pattern? It is, "Just come and find out. Come and see." He says, "If I told you I saw you under the fig tree and you believe, you will see greater things than these. You will see heaven opened, and the angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

This is a remarkable statement: come and see. If you follow Me, and you experience who I am by being with Me, you will see the truth of the Spirit, the Kingdom, and the world. Everything. He is the ladder—Jacob's ladder is Christ—and you will see heaven and earth, earth and heaven, how it works, how to be led by the Spirit, how to hear God's voice. The whole thing will come together for you. That is what He is leading you to. So if you are interceding, what are you doing? Helping them get there. Just come and see. And God will get them to that spiritual place.

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Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

(John 5:24 ESV)

This is important. He says to unbelievers, they can pass from death to life—if they hear His words. So you do not need to persuade them with some clever evangelical approach. Why don't you just start speaking in God's words and say, "Come and see, and let's go find out"? If you do, they will be transferred from death to life.

REFLECTION

1. When you talk to a not-yet-believer, are you defending an argument, or speaking the words God has actually given you? Which one transfers life?

2. What part of "deny yourself" do you most resist when it comes to following Jesus right now?

3. Who in your life is one "Come and see" conversation away—but you have been waiting until you have all the answers?

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SEEKING THE KINGDOM AND DELIGHTING IN HIS WILL

To believers, Jesus' appeal is different. They have already passed from death to life—but the question now is, are they actually living in the Kingdom?

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What is the difference, in your prayer life, between seeking the King and seeking the Kingdom?**
- **When was the last time you genuinely delighted in doing God's will—and how did you know it was delight, not just duty?**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

(Matthew 6:33–34 ESV)

Seek first—what? The Kingdom of God. Notice He did not just say, "Seek Me." Why? Because if you are seeking the Kingdom, by definition you are seeking Him—He is the King. But He says you have to enter the Kingdom: experience Me, the King, and all these things will be delivered to you. And stay. Learn to seek the Kingdom. Live in the Kingdom. Surrender your will. Experience the fullness of the Kingdom—which, by the way, is walking with Him in the Kingdom on the path.

It involves a whole new way of thinking, with principles that are different than the kingdom of the world. If we are in the Kingdom, and not just seeking the King—"I will hang out with You, but how You set up and structure everything, the way You roll in all that, I need to understand that, and then bring it down into the earth realm when we are dealing with people"—then He will show us all of that.

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When you pray, say: “Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

(Luke 11:2 (cf. Matthew 6:9–10) ESV)

As you pray, He says, may I live in Your Kingdom, and may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven—which means it is done in both places. What I am seeking is to live in the Kingdom. I have to ask for it. By the way, it is not automatic. And I am seeking Your will—which is going to be best, and none better.

Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work.”

Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that You are the Holy One of God.”

(John 4:34; 6:68 ESV)

Jesus is saying, “I came to do God’s work by surrendering My will, so that I could experience the fullness of life. I want you to experience that same thing.” It is learning to surrender my will, to be in the Kingdom, to experience the Kingdom.

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In sacrifice and offering You have not delighted, but You have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your law is within my heart."

(Psalm 40:6–8 ESV)

As we are interceding, we want to help people get to the point where it is written of them that they delight to do God's will. Now think about it—why would they delight to do God's will? Because they have experienced that it is best, and none better. It is great.

It is not about being known for what we have accomplished, or for all the work we did for the church. Rather, I would like to be known that I delighted in doing God's will, which leads to the covenant—best and none better. You are delighted. You are known for being delighted. And if you are delighted, are you going to keep following His will? Yes. You will experience the covenant. And remember, the covenant says, "I am going to bless you, to bless. It will flow. It will flow through. You will be engaged in My work, which will be thrilling." So it is not just to be blessed and accumulate; it is rather to pass it through.

And what I delight to do—that—we all get to experience. We have known what it is to be blessed and to have things resolved, and it is good and it is great. But there is nothing greater than someone who finally understands, "Oh—I am just supposed to come and see, and surrender my will, and He delivers me the covenant." And it really happens. When that happens, what does that do for your heart? It thrills you. And you are delighted that you got to be part of it. They got to experience it. And you rejoice. Delight to do His will.

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

(Jeremiah 29:11–14 ESV)

God says, “I have the plan. I have plans for good—not to harm you. I am not leading you to awful places.” Now, you will experience awful places. Why? Because we live in an awful world. So He is not exempting you from that. You are in an awful place. You will experience awful things. But His plan is to restore you. His plan is to give you the covenant in the middle of the awful place.

Our role then, as intercessors, is to help them find the plan. Help them discover this great plan—which, by the way, is unique to them. That is why, when you are discipling or interceding for somebody, it is never out of, “You should do A, B, and C.” It is not a book. I cannot disciple somebody by giving them a book. No—I am going to help you discover your plan, and I will walk with you along that plan, and help you confirm it. Because I know something: if you walk along His plan, what is going to happen? You will be blessed. You will be blessed with the covenant, because His plans for you are good, not to harm you. I have to help you surrender your will. I have to help you get into the Kingdom. And I have to help you stay there to experience God’s plan.

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REFLECTION

1. Does your prayer life sound more like “Your kingdom come, Your will be done” or more like a list of preferred outcomes? What would shift if you led with the first?

2. What would change in your life if you became known for delighting in God’s will rather than for what you accomplish?

3. What is one specific situation where you are tempted to label God’s plan “awful” because the circumstances are awful? How might He still be at work to restore?

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EXERCISING GIFTS WITHIN THE BODY

Finally, intercession is exercised in the context of the body. We are facilitating the exercise of gifting that involves the body and involves us. None of this is meant to happen in isolation.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Have you ever experienced a moment where someone's spiritual gift was clearly "for you" at exactly the right time? What did that look like?**
- **In your current circle—spouse, family, inner circle, small group—where do you most need the gifts of others, and where might God want to manifest a gift through you?**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ... For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

(Romans 12:1–8 ESV)

As you are walking with Him, you will prove out God's will. You will join Him in proving it out, and you will begin to experience that. He says we have many members in the body, but the members do not all have the same function. We, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

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We have different gifts according to the grace given us—prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, mercy. He says, in effect, “Stimulate the receiving of the gifting to be used for the purpose of the body. I will exercise mine at the right moment—but I am going to actually help you exercise yours.” So we begin to realize that prophetic and intercessory work is, first of all, helping someone discover His will—but really, what God is up to is for them to participate in their role in the body of Christ. And we help them get there, which, by the way, will be best and none better.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ... Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills.

(1 Corinthians 12:1–11 ESV)

He is saying, “I am at work. I am going to manifest this gifting at the right time, with the right people. It is not a permanent gift.” We will not go into a great discussion of this here, but consider faith as one example. God says, “Without faith, it is impossible to please Me.” So do you have to have faith? Yes. Then wait—I thought somebody else had the gift of faith, so why don’t you just go to that person? It cannot be that. While you are learning to grow and live in faith—which we all must do, in order to please God—at a certain moment, He will give a special anointing or manifestation of the gift on your behalf, while you are working that through.

God may say, “Will you believe it, Rich? Tell them you believe it. Encourage them. Know it is going to happen. Stay with it.” He has already given me the unction of faith—but not permanently. It is specific to today’s assignment. Everyone is going to experience all these different gifts at various times.

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And, by the way, if you are going to experience these gifts in the body, you have to be involved with the body. So you must have fellowship with the people around you—your spouse, family, inner circle, small group, others you participate with. There will be a circle of community. That is where He wants you to exercise His gifts. You will do it as you have a heart to, because what are you doing? Exercising gifts is to draw people into the life of God. And when they experience the life of God, you are participating. Your intercessory work might be to exercise a gift in a particular situation—exhorting them to join you in that process—so they get drawn in, too.

You can see, then, the beauty: we are privileged to be called as intercessors, to join Him in the work, to live in the Kingdom, to walk in the Holy Spirit, and to guide people to that same place.

REFLECTION

1. Where in your community are you currently isolated from the body? What gift may God be wanting to flow to you—or through you—that you cannot receive in isolation?

2. When was the last time the Spirit gave you a momentary “unction” for someone else (faith, encouragement, mercy, knowledge)? Did you act on it?

3. How does seeing gifts as “for the assignment” rather than “permanently mine” change the way you would step out this week?

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CLOSING REFLECTION

As we finish this lesson, take time to go back and think about your community. Begin to think differently about how you interact with them. Instead of either judging them, or telling them what to do, or not being involved with them at all, ask: What can I be called to do to invite them to experience the life of God? To hear God’s voice? To receive His will? To have His plans be done for them?

And first of all—is that being done for me? Then, how can I help and assist others in that same place? It is a shift. It is no longer, “I will go off and pray for you.” It is, “I am going to actively participate with you as you engage with God.”

Father, we just thank You that we are privileged to be called as intercessors—to join You in the work, to live in the Kingdom, to walk in the Holy Spirit, to guide people to that same place, teaching them to seek the Kingdom of God, to surrender their will, to come and see, to come and experience it, to manifest the beauty of all that You have. Our role is really just to invite them to that place, and then walk with them in that place, which means we have to be in that place. So we just pray that we will, and that we will enjoy it. And we thank You, in Christ’s name. Amen.

PAUSE & WRITE

Look at the people around you this week. Name two of them, and write what God might be inviting you to do—not to fix or instruct, but to invite, to walk with, to be present with—so they might experience more of His life.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these nine questions for personal reflection or for group discussion. Each builds on the others—work through them in order if you can.

SCRIPTURAL UNDERSTANDING

1. In Ezekiel 33:1–20, God repeats that His desire is that the wicked “turn... and live.” In light of that heart, how would you describe the attitude with which a New Testament watchman is meant to speak truth—and how is that different from how Christians often picture a “warning”?

2. Romans 8:14 says, “All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” Connecting that with John 16:13, what is the Holy Spirit specifically promising to do in the daily life of a believer who chooses to be led—and how is that distinct from receiving a one-time set of theological truths?

3. Jesus tells the disciples, “Seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). Why does He say to seek the kingdom rather than simply, “seek Me”? What does that distinction reveal about how God’s rule and His relationship with us go together?

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DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

4. Rich teaches that maturity is starting to be demonstrated when you become an intercessor—because you must already be experiencing the life you are inviting others into. In your own words, why is it that you cannot lead someone into a Kingdom you have not yet entered yourself?

5. The lesson connects three priestly images: ministering to God (being with Him), the altar of incense (continual prayer), and the sacrifice of will. How do those three images fit together as a single picture of intercessory prayer?

6. Rich repeatedly emphasizes that the intercessor's role is to confirm what God is confirming—not to "support a good idea." Why is the difference between confirmation and encouragement so important, and where is it easiest to confuse the two?

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PERSONAL APPLICATION

7. Where right now are you most tempted to step out of the Kingdom and become “the judge”—the watchman on the wrong wall? What would it look like this week to step back onto God’s wall instead?

8. Pick one person in your life who is in the middle of something hard. What would it look like, this week, to ask, “Tell me about what is going on” without bringing any judgment—and then simply help them be honest before God?

9. God’s plans for you are for welfare and not for evil (Jeremiah 29:11), even in awful places. Where is one specific “awful place” in your life right now, and what would it look like to begin seeking His plan in the middle of it rather than waiting for it to be removed?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION



"We are to bring the expectation of the supernatural into every situation," or "Do you have a heart to get well? Then come with me."

We conclude this study by getting practical. How do we apply these principles in real-life situations? We've learned that we are called to join God in His work, inviting people into the Kingdom where they can hear His voice, surrender their will, and receive the superabundant life of the covenant. Now let's look at what to do when we encounter specific challenges.

INVITING TO THE LIGHT AND TRUTH

People who are struggling are often living in darkness and don't even know it. They may be afraid of the truth because they fear exposure and judgment. Our role is to lovingly lead them to the light.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does it mean to "come to the light" in your own walk with God?**
- **Why might someone resist coming to the truth, even when the truth is what they need?**
- **As an intercessor, are you afraid of the truth? Why or why not?**

And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

(John 3:19-21 ESV)

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We invite people to the truth by asking them to talk and process what is going on without censorship. We don't bring judgment; we bring a desire to see everything exposed so God can heal it. We pursue truth with them, asking God to show us His ways and teach us His paths, because all His paths are steadfast love and faithfulness (Psalm 25).

PAUSE & WRITE

Is there a part of your own life right now where you are resisting coming fully into the light? Write what comes to mind—not to fix it, but to expose it.

HOW YOU APPROACH SOMEONE WHO IS STUCK

So picture someone you are interceding for. They are struggling, or hiding something, or unwilling to deal with what is in front of them—perhaps they don't even know what is wrong. How do you approach them? You ask the question first: are they interested in knowing the truth?

And then—talk to us. Talk about what is going on. What I tend to do is say, "Why don't you write it out?" Because as you write, things come to you, and you expose it better. Then I will discuss with you. Tell me more about this. Tell me more about that. And God will use you to keep saying, "You're not quite there yet. Keep going. There's more truth to be known." Or maybe three days from now, as you are processing, something comes—either to you or to them—because of a question you asked that brought a piece of truth into the open.

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And what are you doing? You are leading them to the truth. God is leading them to the truth, because He needs to get them there. You are looking for one thing: the heart. Do they have a heart to go? If not, let me help them at least see the beauty of coming to the truth.

THE DISCIPLINE OF NO JUDGMENT

Here is a critical discipline. We cannot bring judgment to the truth. If they are doing something that isn't correct or off-base, you cannot say, "Oh yeah, that's bad, you shouldn't be doing that." That shuts the whole thing down. You have no judgment, because you are not vested in fixing the problem. Your role is just—let's get to the truth, and expose the truth, and keep opening up to the truth. "What did you learn? What new information came today?" And by the way, this is dynamic. As you walk with someone, new truth may come on any given day. Somebody may call. Somebody responds. They face a choice and make a lousy one. Okay—we have to know that, too. So we process that as well.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice how the psalmist asks God to teach—not just inform.**
- **Pay attention to the link between mercy and truth as God's paths.**
- **What kind of person does God promise to teach and guide?**

Show me Your ways, O Lord. Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me. For You are the God of my salvation. On You I wait all the day. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your loving kindness, for they are of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to Your mercy, remember me for Your goodness sake, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord. Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. The humble He guides in justice. The humble. He teaches His ways. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth. Such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our iniquity, for it is great.

(Psalm 25:4–10 ESV)

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Have a heart to be guided into truth. And remember what truth is: “Let Me show you everything that’s going on here—including your response, all the self-centered people around you, all the issues. I’ll show you what’s going on. Let Me guide you, because I have an answer. I am going to deliver the covenant. All My paths are justice. All My paths are truth.”

So have a heart to go to truth, and recognize the difference in your role as an intercessor. You could sit on the side and say, “God, I hope they know the truth. I hope they get to it. I hope it becomes clear to them.” And God says, “Why don’t you help? Get going.”

Intercession is interaction. It is involvement. You are not sitting on the sideline praying that something will happen. You are facilitating. “Talk to me about the truth. What do you know? Let me help you understand it.” You have discernment. You have wisdom. Something will land in you and you will say, “I need to probe that a little further. What about this? Tell me about that.” Because you are walking in the Spirit, you have a sensitivity. They will say something and the Spirit will say, “Pay attention here. React to that. Help them talk about that longer.” Why? Because He is guiding them into truth, and you are the facilitator who stimulates the heart to go there.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. In your own words, what is the difference between sitting on the sideline praying and “intercession as involvement”?

2. Think of someone you are praying for who seems stuck. What is one specific question you could ask that would invite them to talk about what is actually going on?

3. Where have you felt the Spirit prompt you to “probe a little further” in a conversation? What did that prompt feel like, and how did you respond?

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EXERCISING THE PROPHETIC AND SUPERNATURAL AUTHORITY

As intercessors, we are called to speak God's truth into situations. This is the gift of prophecy.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice how Paul ranks the prophetic among the spiritual gifts.**
- **What does it mean that prophecy is for "upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation"?**
- **How might this gift work alongside the conversations of intercession you read about in Section 1?**

Pursue love and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. But one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men, but to God. For no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the spirit. On the other hand, the one who properly speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

(1 Corinthians 14:1–3 ESV)

If you are going to speak prophetically, you must do it by following Him, not by developing your own truth. The pattern is set in Jeremiah.

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As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Watch how Jeremiah objects to his own calling—and how God answers.**
- **What does God put in Jeremiah's mouth? What does He say He will do with it?**
- **Why a watching almond branch? What is God promising about His own word?**

Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you. I appointed you a prophet to the nations. Then I said, ah, Lord God, behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth. But the Lord said to me, do not say, I am only a youth. For to all whom I send you, you shall go. And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the Lord. Then the Lord put out His hand and touched my mouth. And the Lord said to me, behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant. And the word of the Lord came to me saying, Jeremiah, what do you see? And I said, I see an almond branch. Then the Lord said to me, you have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.

(Jeremiah 1:4–12 ESV)

Jeremiah's response is essentially, "I'm not very practiced at this. Don't you want to use someone further down the road?" And what does God say? "This isn't about you. I'm doing it because you have a heart to follow. Yes, you're a youth, which means you don't have a lot of wisdom—but I'm not actually interested in your wisdom. I want you to speak what I tell you, what I show you."

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This is important because remember what you are doing: you are interceding. When you speak God's words, you are speaking spirit and life. They are powerful. They fulfill things. They refine things. They blast apart things. They create things. You are His conduit—the mouthpiece for what He is saying—and He needs you to say it now.

PAUSE & WRITE

Why does God need you? There is a person standing right there—and if they could simply hear God's voice for themselves, it would break apart their stuff. So why does He need you?

BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW HOW

The answer is simpler than we often make it. They are not hearing God yet. They don't know how. And God says, "I need you to speak, and then teach them how to receive it—ultimately, how to confirm it for themselves." It is not, "God said, go do it." It is, "I'm going to speak some things here. Now let's go together. Do you have a heart to go?"

The reason He uses you is because they don't yet know how. That is what makes it a privilege. And think about who He sends you to: the people around you. You are the only person who can do it at the moment. Ideally, as you build capability in them, more people can do it too. But right now, in that spot, you are it. And God says, "I'm using you to intercede for that person, and I have a heart for them. Interestingly enough, they have a heart to follow—they just don't know how. You're going to be the conduit."

If they already have other people around them who can hear from God, then He may send you somewhere else. He has plenty of people for you to work with in your sphere of influence. That is exactly how it tends to play out.

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People I have never met call and say, “I heard you can help me discern God’s will.” God arranges that. And once someone learns how to follow God’s will, my involvement lessens. I can still engage—“hey, let me help you a little bit”—but primarily they are off and running with their own circle. That is how it works.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does it mean that God “bore witness” to the message?**
- **How might “neglecting so great a salvation” show up in everyday intercession?**
- **What signs, wonders, and gifts do you expect to see when you bring God’s word into a situation?**

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. But since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just retribution. How shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

(Hebrews 2:1–4 ESV)

So prophetic speaking—the speaking of His word, which is power—brings with it bearing witness through signs, wonders, miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is not, “I hope you do okay here.” It is, “You’re going to see God working and doing supernatural things, and that builds you the confidence.” Because the covenant is not just a few natural improvements. It is supernatural—stuff that occurs, and we get to experience it, and then they get to experience it because you are bringing it by not neglecting so great a salvation.

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 PAUSE & WRITE

How would you neglect this? What does “neglect” look like in real intercession? Be specific.

To be silent. To not even spend energy on it. To just try to help them get through this problem and manage it better. And God says, “Well—you’re supposed to be an intercessor bringing supernatural stuff. Don’t neglect what I’m up to.” Which means you yourself will be experiencing it, and then you will express it, because you will have built confidence that God will act—and that He wants to.

THE THIRTY-DAY PROMISE

Here is something I tell people, particularly when they are first starting. We do this in our Abide retreats. We say: if you do this for twenty minutes a day for thirty days in a row—don’t skip days, don’t skip weekends, just every day process with Him—at the end of those thirty days, you will never stop doing it.

 PAUSE & WRITE

Now—if that is true, what must have happened during those thirty days?

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Supernatural things must have happened. Enough miraculous things must have occurred for someone to say, “Oh my gosh, this is unbelievable. Let’s go.” If nothing happens, people slip back to checking the box—“I read a devotion. I read a Bible story. Off to work. Why bother?” That isn’t abiding at all.

So why do I tell people the supernatural will happen? Because I do not neglect so great a salvation. God will do it. He will do it because that is His heart. As Jeremiah saw, He watches over His word to perform it.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Jesus invites those who struggle to believe Him to start with the works themselves.**
- **What does “whoever believes in me will also do the works” mean for an intercessor?**
- **Notice the promise about asking in His name.**

Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you, I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me, or else believe on the account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in Me will also do the works that I do, and greater works than these he will do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

(John 14:10–14 ESV)

It is kind of cool what He says here. “I know sometimes you have a hard time believing what I’m saying. Why don’t you just believe the miracles as a beginning point and then go the other direction? I saw it happen. Help me understand it further.” He says you will get to a point where the works actually come through you, because you will be the one bringing them to that situation—praying over somebody, laying hands on somebody, speaking a word of promise that breaks free the supernatural. There is no limitation to that. It will happen all the time, if you have a heart to go.

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WHEN SOMEONE EXPERIENCES A MIRACLE

When you have somebody experience a miracle, what happens to them? They cannot deny it. Their faith is encouraged. They get an upgrade of faith.

Now consider the deeper picture. Think of their biggest disappointment and heaviness: “I don’t think God cares about me. I’ve been praying and praying and nothing is happening.” The reason nothing is happening is they are not in the kingdom. But they don’t know they are supposed to be in the kingdom. So they conclude, “I’m not good enough. God doesn’t care. I’m just unlucky. Maybe God’s will is sometimes to suffer.” That whole stack of conclusions.

Then you say, “Let’s walk together,” and God does a supernatural thing. What does that do for them? “God cares about me. He can fulfill that.”

This is part of the depth and profoundness of intercession. The miracle is happening because of you, not because of them. They don’t know anything about it. They are not meeting any requirements at all. But you are. You are hearing, receiving, speaking, believing—and it is happening into their life. And suddenly they say, “Wow, look at this. I’d like to learn more about that. I’d like to grow.” So you are the encourager of the supernatural. Why? Because you believe it. You are getting authority, and you are exercising it. As intercessors, we don’t sit on the sideline and pray, “I hope you do something.” God says, “Bring them the supernatural—and I’ll show you what that looks like.”

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. Where have you neglected the supernatural in your own intercession—settling for managing the problem instead of expecting God to act?

2. Recall a time when a miracle, however small, broke open someone’s belief that “God cares about me.” What changed in them?

3. What would it look like, this week, to walk into a situation expecting God to bear witness with signs and wonders?

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RECEIVING WISDOM AND SPENDING CONCENTRATED TIME

Next on the list is wisdom—which we need a great deal of as intercessors. We start with the Queen of Sheba, who came testing Solomon with hard questions.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Why did she come? What did she bring?**
- **What did she observe besides Solomon's answers—and why does that matter?**
- **Notice where she finally lands: "Blessed be the Lord your God."**

Now, when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions. She came to Jerusalem with a very great retinue, with camels bearing spices and very much gold and precious stones. And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. And Solomon answered all her questions. There was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. And when the Queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, the food of his table, the seating of his officials and the attendants of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord. There was no more breath in her. And she said to the King, the report was true, that I heard in my own land of your words and of your wisdom. But I did not believe the reports until I came in. My own eyes had seen it, and behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpasses the report that I heard. Happy are your men. Happy are your servants who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom. Blessed be the Lord your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel. Because the Lord loved Israel forever, He has made you king, that you may execute justice and righteousness.

(1 Kings 10:1–9 ESV)

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WORKING BACKWARDS FROM WHAT SHE SAW

Working backwards: she experienced him and recognized excellence. She recognized grandeur. She noticed that his servants were happy working for him. Everything about him was excellent. Everything was grand. Part of your intercession is that you can testify to the grandeur of your own life—they observe it. They see the excellence and the story behind it. So she goes—and what does she do? She asks every difficult question she has.

Now, she is queen. She is smart. She has a lot of resources. But there were things she just did not understand. They were hard—really hard. So she gives him all the difficult questions, and Solomon answers every one. We have already learned from him that he sought God. She recognized it: “You’re getting this because of God.”

SO—THE PEOPLE YOU ARE WORKING WITH HAVE HARD QUESTIONS

Do they? Yes. Their questions get more tricky and more difficult, because the questions produce enigmas, contradictions. “How come? Why not? How does this work?” Questions that aren’t easy to answer.

Do you encourage them to ask the question? Sure. And then what do you do? “Let’s go together and seek God’s wisdom. Let’s pray. Even if it takes time, that’s okay.” So it isn’t that you have to know the answer. It is that you encourage the question, because you know who is going to answer it. And when they have a hard question and you assist them in seeking it—and they get the answer, and it resonates as true—what does that do for them? It thrills them. “Oh my gosh—this isn’t because I’m so smart, or even because you’re so smart. It’s because God answered my question. Maybe next time, I can go ask Him myself.” See how it goes? You are building the strength of the body.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- Notice the value placed on wisdom—better than silver, gold, or jewels.
- What does the text say about “her paths”?
- What kind of fruit does wisdom produce in someone who lays hold of her?

Blessed is the one who finds wisdom and the one who gets understanding. For the gain from her is better than the gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can

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compare with her. Long life is in her right hand, and in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are the ways of pleasantness. And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her. To those who hold fast her. To those who hold her fast are called blessed.

(Proverbs 3:13–18 ESV)

So we are told to seek wisdom and go after understanding. You will be led on a path—and all the paths of God that give you wisdom produce shalom, favor, covenant, and pleasantness. Notice that. That is your indicator.

IS THE PATH PRODUCING PEACE?

So you are interceding, helping them walk down the path. What are you watching for? Is this path producing peace? Is it producing pleasantness? If it is, keep going. If it is not, it isn't your fault—we just have to keep going on the path. And here is the discipline: do not sanction their path when it is not at peace. They may say, "Yeah, this looks good to me." But if it is not pleasantness, it is not there yet.

As Linda put it: people often say, "You don't understand—I'm dealing with these difficulties over here. That's what's agitating me. I just need to resolve those before I can feel okay again." But God's way is different. He wants to bring us into the kingdom where there is peace, and we operate from peace—rather than trying to achieve peace by fixing problems first.

So you help them identify it: is it becoming pleasant? If not, something isn't right yet. We aren't there. Keep looking. Keep processing. You know something about His path, and you don't see it yet. So keep going. You are the encourager. Don't let them accept mediocrity. Don't let them quit. Don't let them say, "Oh, the heck with it." Wisdom will get them there.

"Is it becoming more pleasant?"—the question that keeps the path moving forward.

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Some people object, “I’m not at a ten yet—I’m only at a three.” And the answer is: it’s working. Keep going.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Wisdom in the kingdom is spiritual revelation—not just being smarter.**
- **Notice how the Spirit of the Lord is described.**
- **How does He judge?**

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him. The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear.

(Isaiah 11:1–3 ESV)

Wisdom is really spiritual. It is not just getting smarter. It is spiritual revelation—it comes from God Himself. You will not base it on what you see and observe, but on what He reveals. “Father, give us wisdom. Give us insight. What revelation do You want to show us?” Wisdom is not divorced from the truth we have been processing—it has context to it—but it is not based on logic. We seek wisdom and He gives it. We ask, “What steps do I take? Where do I go to be in the right place for You to develop the supernatural? I want wisdom. I want to see things properly.”

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SOMETIMES GOD CALLS YOU INTO FASTING

Often, as you are doing this work, God will call you into a time of fasting. Mark 9 tells the story of the disciples—out doing supernatural things, having a good time, and then a father brings his tormented son. The disciples cannot help him. They bring him to Jesus.

Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit

¹⁴ And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵ And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. ¹⁶ And he asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” ¹⁷ And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸ And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” ¹⁹ And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” ²⁰ And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹ And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. ²² And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” ²⁵ And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” ²⁶ And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸ And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” ²⁹ And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

(Mark 9:14–29 ESV)

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Jesus says, “How long do I have to put up with you?”—because of their lack of faith. Now, was it okay that they reached the limit of their faith? Yes. What He was really saying was, “When you reached the limit of your faith, why didn’t you come to Me? You quit. ‘I guess we can’t do it.’ You quit. How long do I have to put up with that? I’m here. I want to show you and demonstrate to you. I understand you have limitations—so when you have a limitation, why don’t you keep coming to Me?”

So He says, “Bring him to Me.” The boy has been like this a long time. Jesus says, “If you can believe, all things are possible.” And the father says, “I believe—help my unbelief.” That father has understood what the disciples didn’t. “Yes, there’s a limitation in me. I believe up to a certain point, but I don’t believe far enough for this. My faith is weak. I’d like You to help my unbelief.” And Jesus heals the boy.

Then privately the disciples ask, “Why couldn’t we do it?” Jesus says, “This kind comes out only by prayer and fasting.” Was that true? Did Jesus Himself have to go pray and fast before this miracle? No. He didn’t. So when He says “this kind,” He is not setting up a hierarchy of difficulty—“when the problem reaches a certain level, you better go pray and fast.” He is saying: when you reach the end of your faith and you still aren’t seeing the result, I want you to go into a time of fasting with Me. You need more time with Me.

PAUSE & WRITE

What does fasting actually mean here? Read carefully—fasting is not just skipping meals.

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Fasting is changing from your normal and stopping the normal—spending concentrated time on this particular thing you are struggling with. “I don’t understand. I prayed and it didn’t happen. I thought I had authority and I don’t.” He says, “Spend time with Me. Then I’ll show you that if you believe, all things are possible. I’ll have to give you the faith to believe it—but as you dialogue with Me, spend time with Me, get into the Word and journal and fast—it will come.”

So when you are with someone and they are stuck and not seeing much, you might say, “Why don’t we go spend some time with God privately? You spend some time. I’ll spend some time. I’ll fast. You fast. Then let’s see what God has to say.” You are concentrating energy toward this particular thing. There may be a time of fasting God calls you into—not a system. Don’t say to everyone you intercede for, “Okay, we have to do our fasting.” God just says, “Hey—this one. You need to spend more time with Me. And this person actually needs to spend more time with Me too.”

AND SOMETIMES—CALL A SACRED ASSEMBLY

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What is the urgency in Joel’s call?**
- **Who is to be gathered?**
- **How might this apply to a person you are interceding for who is stuck?**

Put on sackcloth and lament. Oh, priests wail! Oh, ministers of the altar. Go in. Pass the night in sackcloth, O ministers of my God. Because grain offering and drink offering are withheld from the house of your God. Consecrate a fast. Call a solemn assembly. Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the Lord your God, and cry out to the Lord.

(Joel 1:13–14 ESV)

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Beyond fasting, God may have you call a sacred assembly. So it is not just you and this person—you gather a smaller group around them and come together to process truth. God says, “Together, lift each other up. Let Me give you revelation. I’m going to increase the sensitivity and the power at this moment because you need a group of people to join you.” A sacred assembly is, “Let’s go see what God has to say. Let’s process.”

A STORY FROM FLORIDA

We did this for a friend in Florida who had cancer. The doctors told him, “You are going to die by December.” He let us know. We said, “We don’t believe that. Don’t quit. Stay with it. Let’s pray for wisdom and understanding.” God gave him some steps—supernatural steps. “Hey, this is a new therapy. I want you to go do that.” He did. He lasted past December.

In January, God said to Linda and me, “Call a sacred assembly. Bring some people around him to hear what I have to say—to encourage him and bring the power of it.” Sure. So we did. And Linda was very careful about this. “Rich, the people you invite have to be people of faith—people who can hear God’s voice. A sacred assembly isn’t gathering a bunch of people and hoping we do well. It is gathering people around you who have a heart to hear God and faith to believe what He says. Then let’s see what happens.”

So we went. And all I can tell you is the remarkable revelations given to people who didn’t have a clue what was going on with this man. God used them to say, “Do you see? Do you see? You can believe it. Hey—you can believe this. It’s going to happen. I’m going to heal you. It’s going to be fulfilled.” Visions, ideas, thoughts, words. He got healed. He is fine. Calling a sacred assembly was an important piece of it. There is no magic to it—it is not, “Every time you have a problem, call a sacred assembly.” It is when God says, “I want you to gather some people around.” They come for encouragement, but also to share the truth. We had each person share: What do you know? What are you seeing? What do you understand? They had to share.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. When have you reached the end of your faith—and what did you do? Did you come back to Him, or did you quit?

2. Who are the people of faith in your life that you would invite into a sacred assembly setting? List them by name.

3. What is one specific thing right now that God may be calling you to spend concentrated time on—to fast and pursue with Him?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

BRINGING COMFORT AND HELPING WITH DECISIONS

As you intercede, you will encounter people who have a heart to go but are simply discouraged. It just isn't coming yet. They need a sign of God's favor—not the finality of the answer, just a sign that He is there and He cares.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- Notice how the psalmist describes God's character.
- What does "show me a sign of Your favor" ask for?
- How might this prayer apply to someone you are interceding for who is at the edge of giving up?

But You, O Lord our God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Turn to me and be gracious to me. Give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant. Show me a sign of Your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame, because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

(Psalm 86:15–17 ESV)

I see this often. You are interceding for someone, helping them walk down the path—and they are kind of discouraged. They have a heart to go, but it just isn't coming yet. So I will go to this psalm with them and pray, "Father, would you show them a sign of good in some way? They need encouragement. They need comfort. I believe you will do this, because You have a heart for them. Would You please?"

And by the way, we are not asking for a big step or for the finality of the answer. They just need a sign that He is there and He cares. Guess what? They get the sign. It shows them that God cares. It is amazing. You are joining that process because you want to bring them comfort—and they kind of need it to move over the hump.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

HELPING WITH DECISIONS

Another big part of intercession is helping someone make a decision when they are stuck. Two passages set the foundation.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What is the condition for having confidence that God hears?**
- **What does it mean for the request to be “according to His will”?**
- **Compare this with the John 15 passage that follows.**

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him.

(1 John 5:14–15 ESV)

If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, so you will be My disciples.

(John 15:7–8 ESV)

If you pray according to His will, He hears—and remember, that means He is listening to understand. “Do you know My will? Do you have it confirmed?” If not, keep going. “If you abide in Me and My words abide in you, you’ll get My will, and it will be done.”

So when you are helping someone with a decision, what are you really doing? You are discovering what God’s will is. It is not, “I think you should,” or, “Isn’t that a good thing to do?” It is, “Is this God’s will?” Because the decision is to follow His will—which is what delivers the covenant and resolves the problem.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

Abide. Ask: is what He is saying in you? Do you understand it? Do we have confirmation? You are walking with them until you can both say, "I now confirm that you are in God's will, and you understand it." At that point, you simply pray, "May it be so." You are waiting for fulfillment, but you have already discovered His will.

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. How is "discovering God's will" different from "giving someone good advice"?

2. Describe a decision in your own life where you were tempted to choose a wise option without confirming it was God's will. What happened?

3. What does it look like, practically, to walk someone toward confirmation—"is this God's will?"—instead of opinion?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

WALKING THROUGH SIN, DIFFICULTY, AND CONFLICT

Often the people you intercede for are dealing with adversity—and the first form of adversity is sin. Not always sin in the dramatic sense—sin is missing the mark. It is operating in the flesh and reaping the consequences.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice the move from confidence in asking to praying for a brother in sin.**
- **What does it mean to ask, and “God will give him life”?**
- **Read the closing line: “keep yourselves from idols.”**

And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him. If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death. I do not say that one should pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin that does not lead to death. We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him who is true in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

(1 John 5:14–21 ESV)

As you intercede, you will see things that fit the word “sin.” They are off-base. They are missing something. In essence, they are operating in the flesh and reaping its consequences. You may discern this clearly. So what is your role?

Not to tell them to shape up. Not to issue judgment. Your role is to help them understand what God is saying—to bring them, gently, to the place where they recognize, “Yeah, I’m missing the mark there. Maybe I have a few

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

pieces in place, but I'm not quite where I need to be." And you stay in the process with them, helping them come to the will of God.

Remember what missing the mark means: I am not consistently walking in the kingdom and letting Him heal whatever issue I have. So your role is not to say, "You need to fix this." It is, "Keep letting God heal you of this. It is hampering you. You are stuck. I'd like to assist you. You can't fix it yourself—but if you can repent and come back here, I'll walk with you with no judgment. Let God heal you up of that sin." Sometimes the issue is something in their nature that needs to be healed.

DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Track the rhythm of seeking, hearing, and being delivered.**
- **Notice the line about "keeping your tongue from evil."**
- **What does "seek peace and pursue it" mean for someone surrounded by trouble?**

I sought the Lord, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. The poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all of his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. Oh, fear the Lord, you His saints. You His saints. For those who fear Him have no lack. The young lions suffer, want and hunger. But those who seek the Lord lack no good thing. Come, O children, listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life and loves many days that he may see good. Keep your tongue from evil and turn and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.

(Psalm 34:4–14 ESV)

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

"I know you're in trouble." That's the truth. So—what trouble? Remember, you are pursuing truth. You have processed it. What is going on?

One thing for them to understand: God will deliver you. From what? From all your fears. All your troubles. All of it. Start to recognize, "He is going to help me with this."

STOP SPEAKING EVIL

Watch this carefully. The word "evil" in this psalm is not dark, awful, black evil. It is the things that annoy, frustrate, irritate, and cause difficulty. What does it mean to stop speaking about it? Quit focusing on, "Woe is me," and, "I can never get past this," and, "This is awful." Stop dwelling out loud on the problem.

Now—He is not saying ignore it. He is saying stop speaking about it. Move away from it. You don't need to put up with this. It's there. You have it. That's okay. But you don't need to stay here with it. What you need to do is pursue shalom and truth—pursue what He is going to deliver. Go that way.

So you say, "Why don't you realize you don't need to stay here? Are you willing to pursue God's answer?" "Yes." Now what do you do? "Let me help you find God's answer." The focus shifts onto what God is saying—not on the problem.

As Linda put it: He uses the word "turn." Turn away from focusing on the evil stuff and speaking it. The mindset of the Spirit is life. So we help them adjust and turn toward the Lord. Pursue good. Pursue benefit. God starts to act. They start to get excited. And we don't let them drift back to "woe is me." Keep going. He is showing you a sign for good. He is encouraging you. He is comforting you. Let's go.

PAUSE & WRITE

Where in your own life have you been speaking the "evil"—the annoyances, the frustrations, the irritations—instead of turning to pursue His answer? Write what you hear.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

CONFLICTS AND BIG RELATIONSHIP ISSUES

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice how Paul re-frames our role as ambassadors.**
- **What does it mean that we have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation?**
- **How does this connect to a friend you are interceding for who is in conflict?**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation that is, in Christ. God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Corinthians 5:16–21 ESV)

You've got conflict—and remember, you are interceding for someone else. This is their conflict, not yours. They are struggling. "I've got these problems with these people." Okay. You are going to teach them about forgiveness. You are going to teach them to make an attempt to reconcile. And reconciliation is built on what an ambassador does—inviting the other person to the truth.

So the one with the conflict, who has a heart to get it resolved, goes and sees if the other party is willing to process truth. They either are or they aren't. They might say they are and just throw it back. Or they might say no. Either way, you teach: "Don't compromise your truth, but don't go in with harshness or anger. Go with honor and respect."

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

WHEN RECONCILIATION IS REFUSED

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **What does it mean to “leave room for the wrath of God”?**
- **Notice the surprising counsel about feeding an enemy.**
- **How does this protect the heart of the one you are interceding for?**

Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Behold, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God. For it is written, vengeance is mine. I will repay, says the Lord. To the contrary, if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him something to drink. For by doing so you will heap burning coals on his head.

(Romans 12:16–20 ESV)

So the other party rejects them. They are not going to reconcile. What now? “Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t manipulate to get back at them. Don’t take vengeance yourself.” Why? Because God says, “Vengeance is Mine. I will repay their injustice. I will take care of it—because they don’t have a heart to process.”

In effect, He says, “Get out of the way. Leave room for My wrath. Don’t rescue them. I don’t even want you engaged with them anymore, because they’re not willing to process.” This goes back to the covenant: “I’m going to bless you to make you a blessing. I’m going to bless those who bless you. I’m going to curse those who curse you.” Remember how this works—if they receive you, they’re receiving Him. If they reject you, they’re rejecting Him. They are cursed automatically. You can trust it. You can let it go.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.'

(Luke 10:5–11 ESV)

So as you help with intercession—and conflict is a big deal, because most people have no idea what to do with it—you teach: a Christian is not just supposed to put up with it. God says, "I want to resolve it for you so it isn't a burden." Make an attempt. If they receive it, keep going. If they don't, you let it go. You can know it will not go well for them—but that is not your job, and not your burden. Dust your feet off and move on.

And by the way—if they come back three months later and say, "You know what, I'd like to talk about this," what would you do? Good. Why? Because you are free. You have already resolved it. It is not a burden to you. "I'd like to talk about it." Great—let's talk about it.

Intercession spends a lot of time on conflict. It is universal. Everybody has conflicts and few people know how to deal with them. They have been taught to put up with it and stuff it, and they live in turmoil over it. This is a big area to bring wisdom into. You will help them understand the truth, what happens next, and how to follow the truth.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. What is the difference between “leaving room for the wrath of God” and passive resignation?

2. Where in your life have you been carrying a conflict that God may already have resolved—if you would just let it go?

3. Picture someone you are interceding for who is in conflict. What is the next step you would walk them through this week?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

HEALING, RESISTING THE ENEMY, AND STAYING ON THE PATH

Much of intercession will involve physical illness. God's posture is clear, and so is the way He invites us to bring others into healing.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice the link between listening, doing what is right, and healing.**
- **What does He call Himself at the end of the verse?**

If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God and do that which is right in His eyes, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes. I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer.

(Exodus 15:26 ESV)

Help them understand that He wants to heal them—and help them learn what it means to be healed.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- What does James say about anointing, prayer, and faith?
- What is the role of confession and corporate prayer in healing?
- What does “the prayer of a righteous person has great power” mean for the intercessor?

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

(James 5:13–16 ESV)

You begin to believe: God has a heart to heal. “What is Your will? I am going to pursue that. You have the authority to heal.” Then often—and this is the sacred-assembly approach again—you bring elders or people of faith into the situation. You lay hands. The text says faith will heal them, because you are bringing faith to it. Don’t be afraid to bring people with you into a healing situation. Seek God. Listen for what He has to say. Help people learn about healing. It is not an easy, quick learn. You will have to stay with it.

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

WHEN THE ENEMY COMES AGAINST US

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice the order: humble, cast anxieties, be sober, be watchful.**
- **What does it mean to resist him “firm in your faith”?**
- **What is God’s promised work after suffering for a little while?**

Humble yourselves, therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. Be sober minded and be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him. Firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of sufferings are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world, and after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, confirm, strengthen and establish you to Him. Be the Dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 5:6–11 ESV)

This is an act of the enemy—we know it. So let’s stand against it. Let’s resist. God will fulfill it. He will give us peace, security, protection. The enemy has no power here. We bring that authority into the situation, which is the kingdom of God. So you don’t fret about it, and you don’t let him keep doing it. “Wait a minute. The enemy is doing something here. We need to come against this—and I’m going to help you with that.”

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

STAYING ON THE PATH

Ultimately, remember: all the paths of God are pleasantness and peace. So part of your work is helping them stay on the path.

As you review these verses, answer the following questions/thoughts:

- **Notice the call not to lean on your own understanding.**
- **What does “He will make your paths straight” mean in the rhythm of intercession?**
- **Why “do not be wise in your own eyes”?**

My son, do not forget My teaching, but let your heart keep My commandments. For length of days and years of life and peace, they will add to it. Let not let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you. Bind them around your neck. Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

(Proverbs 3:1–8 ESV)

“Don’t lean on your own understanding. Trust the Lord. Let Him direct your steps—piece by piece by piece. What’s the next step? What’s the next step?” Stay on the path. This is not about the final answer. We will get there—the final answer will be the covenant—but we walk step by step.

Notice verse 7: do not be wise in your own eyes. So as an intercessor: “I know you have ideas. I know you want to go do. But let’s seek God’s wisdom. Let Him direct our steps, and I’ll show you what that looks like. It will be best, and none better. You’ll discover God’s will, and stay with it, step by step.”

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

REFLECT & RESPOND

1. When have you brought—or hesitated to bring—other people of faith into a healing situation? What held you back?

2. Where have you been leaning on your own understanding instead of trusting the Lord step by step?

3. How would you help someone you are interceding for recognize the difference between an enemy attack and an opportunity to walk further down the path?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

PRACTICAL STEPS FOR SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

As you intercede, you will encounter many different needs. Here are some key principles for specific challenges:

- **Receiving Wisdom:** When people have difficult questions, don't feel you need to have the answer. Instead, lead them in seeking God's wisdom together, trusting that He will provide it. God's wisdom leads to paths of pleasantness and peace (Proverbs 3:17).
- **Fasting:** When you reach the end of your faith and a situation seems stuck, God may call you and the person you're helping into a time of fasting. This isn't a formula to get what you want; it is a dedicated time to set aside normal routines to focus, listen, and receive the breakthrough He wants to give (Mark 9:29).
- **Calling a Sacred Assembly:** Sometimes, a situation requires corporate faith. God may lead you to gather a small group of faith-filled believers to come together to pray, process truth, and bring encouragement and power to bear on a situation (Joel 1:14).
- **Resolving Conflict:** Teach people to seek reconciliation by speaking the truth in love. If the other party is unwilling, instruct them to release the person to God, leave room for His justice, and move on without bitterness. As far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all (Romans 12:18).
- **Ministering Healing:** Believe that God is Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord, your Healer (Exodus 15:26). Pray with authority, and don't be afraid to call on faith-filled elders to join you in praying the prayer of faith over the sick (James 5:14-15).
- **Standing Against the Enemy:** Recognize when a struggle is the direct work of the adversary. Lead people to humble themselves before God, cast their anxieties on Him, and resist the devil, firm in their faith. God Himself will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish them (1 Peter 5:6-11).
- **Staying on the Path:** In all situations, the goal is to help people trust in the Lord with all their heart and not lean on their own understanding. Our job is to help them acknowledge Him in all their ways, so He can make their paths straight (Proverbs 3:5-6).

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

A FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

As you can see, intercession is far from a passive activity. It is active, energetic, and deeply involving. It is the great privilege of joining God in His work of redeeming and restoring lives. Remember, though, you cannot be an effective intercessor for too many people at once, because it requires time and focus. But when God calls you to someone, He is trusting you with a sacred assignment.

Your role is to help an invalid get healthy. You cannot fix them, but you can say, "Do you have a heart to get well? Then come with me. I will walk you into the character of God, the truth of the covenant, and the power of His will. We will walk together until it is resolved." What a joy and a privilege it is to be a part of that journey.

For Deeper Understanding

1. According to John 3, why do some people love darkness rather than light? As an intercessor, how does this understanding affect the way you approach someone who is hiding or avoiding the truth?

2. Explain the purpose of fasting as described in the context of Mark 9. When might it be appropriate to employ this spiritual discipline?

3. Based on Romans 12, what are the key steps for handling a conflict when the other person is unwilling to reconcile?

LESSON 4: INTERCESSION IN ACTION

For Personal Application

1. Which of the practical situations discussed in this chapter (conflict, healing, decision-making, etc.) feels most relevant to your life or the lives of those you are praying for right now?

2. Has there been a time you felt you reached the end of your faith for a situation? How does the idea of “coming to Jesus” for help (like the disciples should have done) encourage you?

3. Take a moment to identify one person God has placed on your heart. Using the principles from this chapter, what is one active step you can take this week to begin interceding for them in this deeper way?

CONCLUSION: YOUR GREAT ADVENTURE

We have come to the end of this study, but we are at the very beginning of a great adventure. We began by asking what intercessory prayer truly is, moving beyond the simple idea of a wish list and into the profound reality of partnering with God in His redemptive work.

You have learned that you are not just a petitioner; you are the **covenant** He sends to the nations. You are His ambassador, His watchman, and His priest. Your role is not to carry the weight of the world's problems, but to invite people out of the darkness of their trouble and into the brilliant light of His Kingdom. It is in the Kingdom, abiding in Him, that they—and you—will experience the fullness of the superabundant life He promises.

This is not a duty to be performed but a **privilege** to be enjoyed. It is the joy of seeing blind eyes opened, prisoners set free, and the brokenhearted restored. It is the thrill of exercising His supernatural power and watching Him do miracles in the lives of those around you. This is not a life for a select few; it is the normal Christian life He has called every one of us to live.

Do not be afraid. Do not feel you are not “spiritual enough” or wise enough for the task. Remember, it is not about your ability but about your availability. It is not about your eloquence but about your willingness to speak the words He gives you. Your primary job is to stay connected to Him—the True Vine, the Good Shepherd, the King of the Kingdom—and from that place of intimacy, simply invite others to “**come and see.**” Step into this calling with boldness and confidence, for He who has called you is faithful, and He is with you always.

AN INVITATION TO GO DEEPER

This workbook is a starting point, designed to open your eyes to the incredible life of partnership God has for you. But the journey of walking in the Spirit, hearing His voice, and ministering His power is a daily one, and we are committed to providing resources to help you live it out.

If this material has stirred your heart and you are hungry for more, we invite you to explore the other resources our ministry provides. We have developed these tools specifically to equip you and your community to walk in the fullness of what you have learned.

- **Books and Small Group Curricula:** For those who want to build a solid, biblical foundation, our books and curricula provide in-depth teaching on abiding in Christ, hearing God's voice, and living in the freedom of the Kingdom. They are perfect for personal study or for creating a powerful small group environment where you can learn and grow together.
- **Podcasts:** For encouragement on the go, our podcasts feature practical teachings and real-life testimonies of how these principles are transforming lives, families, and businesses every single day.
- **Retreats:** For a truly immersive experience, we invite you to attend one of our retreats. These are dedicated times set apart to unplug from the world, press into the presence of God, and receive personal ministry and revelation that can accelerate your journey in Him.

You were not meant to walk this path alone. To explore these resources and take the next step in your adventure with God, please visit our website. We look forward to partnering with you as you discover the joy and power of living the full covenant life He has for you.

More information is available at www.AbideMinistries.com





History of **Abide Ministries**



In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit.

In the 1990s, Rich and Linda Case received a call from God to dig into what it means to truly live in the Spirit. They had been believers for most of their lives and regularly attended church and Bible studies, but began to realize that, despite knowing the Bible intellectually, their personal experiences seemed disconnected from the promises and truths found in scripture. As they then learned these essential truths through their abiding and hearing God's voice – and began to see the grand life play out in their lives God called them to give that knowledge away. In 2001, God initiated the ABIDE ministry at a retreat with friends in Austria, and through their personal experience of this abiding life, their friends noticed the change in their lives and inquired if Rich and Linda could host a similar retreat the following year. This was repeated three years in a row, and then God called them to host weekend retreats in their home in Colorado.

Through the formal development of the truths revealed by God with Abiding and additional electives, they founded All for Jesus – Living Waters Ministries, now Abide Ministries – and have seen it grow exponentially since then, with 24+ retreat leaders all over the world, 29 online courses, eight books on various aspects of living life with Christ, and a daily podcast. Rich and Linda have also worked with various churches to strengthening them with the truths of an abiding life in Christ, and seeing Christ bring reconciliation and new vision to desperate situations.

Their heart is to bring the truths and promises of God to as many people as possible, showing everyone that when you abide in Christ and seek Him daily, your life can be completely and utterly transformed – enabling you to experience the grand life promised by God.



Vision

At our core, we believe in walking along God's path and connecting to the vine (abiding). As we walk in unity with others and understand God's Word as the truth, we are sure to experience His promised grand life and thus, willingly accept God's will as our chosen path.



Mission

1. Live out and invite everyone to experience the grand, spectacular, abundant life by hearing God's voice.
2. Share God's majesty, a close relationship with us as he yearns for our restoration.
3. God is majestic, grand and pure goodness, so that we can experience His nature in real life.
4. Communicate to everyone, irrespective of their condition, that all are meant to experience God's Divine Life (grand, majestic), by receiving His personal plan for us.
5. God delivers this life for us in a SUPERNATURAL way, transcending human comprehension, and thus, becoming normal in our life.
6. Teach that personal truths are revealed to us by God, grounded on His word – the embodiment of Truth.
7. Recognize that abiding in Christ changes our life in tangible, real ways, and is not just learning about or studying this life.
8. Teach that as we abide in Christ, we learn to understand and follow God's will for our lives, as He leads us personally into His grand, Divine plan for us. His personal plan calls us into His bigger story with our best interest at heart (blessed to bless others).

Statement of Non-Profit Status

Abide Ministries is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that has been fully funded by our founders, leaders and retreat participants since its inception.

Tax-ID number: 27-1731819

Testimonies

"If I'm not abiding, I feel like I'm dying. Abiding is living...It's powerful to know that you have God's perspective on something."



Steve

"This was the first time that I understood what people meant by God's living Word. And I've been a Christian for a lot of years, but this was the first time it really came alive for me and I really could experience that."



Dan

"It doesn't matter where you are at in your walk. If you just got saved yesterday or if you've been a 20+ year believer like I have, learning how to hear God's voice and learning His will is just as important in day one as it is in day 3,426. You wanna hear God's will and this course has helped me hear Him more clearly."



Bob

"Abiding turned out to be the most transformational thing I've ever had since salvation in my Christian walk and in our marriage, and it's just been amazing. God has a path for us and He is there and He's showing it to us."



Heath

"Before, in my quiet time, it was more of a checklist thing for me to do in the morning, and, honestly, some mornings it was the thing that went if I was busy, and some days it didn't even happen. Now, it's become so personal to me and the time flies by in the morning and God speaks so directly to me and I just never felt that way on a daily basis before. That has been life-altering for me."



Rebecca

"I heard about people living in peace, I heard about people living in joy, and realizing all kinds of things around them are happening. And then we realize, wait a minute, we're there, we have peace beyond understanding."



Brad

Giving to the Ministry

Have you experienced abundant blessing from your time with Abide Ministries?

Pay it forward by donating at abideministries.com/donate and help us support others in learning how to seek Christ and abide in Him! We appreciate your desire to help us share the Abundant Life with the rest of the world.



Learn More at abideministries.com

Podcast

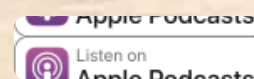
Escape the chaos and uncertainty of the world with our podcast, ***“Come and See, Finding Truth in a World of Chaos,”*** available on YouTube, Apple Podcasts, and Spotify.



CHANNEL



PLAYLIST PAGE



Tune in five days a week as our hosts, Rich Case and Kathy Rocconi, dive into the scriptures and discuss what it looks like to live an abiding life with Christ. Join us as we seek God's truth in a world of turmoil and darkness.

Online Courses



Abide Ministries online courses uncover life-changing biblical truths, with practical application and wisdom. Our courses are joyful and life-giving and are perfect for small groups as well as individuals.

Each course has an accompanying workbook. Join us as we learn about biblical topics like Hearing God's Voice, Discerning God's Will, the Covenant, Living in Forgiveness, Living in the Kingdom of God, Living in the Supernatural, Christ, Clutter and the Calendar, Living the Grand Life, and many, many more.



COURSES

Abide Retreats



Learn more at
abideministries.com

Do you have friends or a small group that you would like to experience what you just experienced?

Would you be interested in attending another retreat, which we call electives to go deeper in your walk with God?

See the various options on our website.
The topics for retreats and courses are the same.

RETREATS



COURSES



STORE

