



Intercession

I. WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

A. INTERCESSION IS INTIMATE PARTNERSHIP AND AGREEMENT WITH GOD.

1. **Intercession is intimacy.** Prayer is an exchange of romance. God speaks to us and it moves our hearts. When we speak back to God, His heart is moved. God desires to establish or deepen this romantic relationship with us. He desires intimacy with us. He wants us to know His heart and more so, to feel the very emotions of His heart, and then He wants to hear us cry out for the longings of His heart to come to pass. His longings become our longings. It's partnership at the most intimate level possible.

a) We begin to feel and do what God feels and does.

“For Zion’s sake I WILL NOT HOLD MY PEACE, and for Jerusalem’s sake I WILL NOT REST...”(Isaiah 62:1)

“I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; THEY SHALL NEVER HOLD THEIR PEACE day or night. You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and GIVE HIM NO REST...”(Isaiah 62:6)

2. **Intercession is partnership.** Intercession is the means by which God’s will is established on earth. God does not act apart from human beings partnering with His heart. Intercession expresses the bridal identity of the church. There is nothing more powerful that can fuel God’s heart to move upon the earth than the cry of His bride, whose desires reflect His own.
3. **Intercession is agreement with God.** Intercession is agreement with what God promised to do. When we ask God to do what He desires to do, we are declaring that we agree that His desires are good, and that His desires have become our desires.

B. INTERCESSION EXPRESSES GOD’S DEFINITION OF THE CHURCH.

“...My house shall be called a HOUSE OF PRAYER for all nations.”(Isaiah 56:7)

“...PRAYER ALSO WILL BE MADE FOR HIM (JESUS) CONTINUALLY, and daily He shall be praised.”(Psalm 72:15)

“PRAY WITHOUT CEASING...”(1 Thessalonians 5:17)

II. WHAT DO I DO DURING AN INTERCESSION SET?

A. **EXPERIENCE ENJOYABLE PRAYER.** Experiencing God's beauty and God's burning desire for us is what makes prayer enjoyable. Experiencing God's beauty and desire is the primary source of power that will fuel the End Time prayer movement. The power to engage in night and day prayer is found in having a heart that enjoys God. Encountering God's beauty and desire for us is where we most enjoy our primary reward, which is God Himself. Our primary reward is not the breakthrough of revival. Revival is fantastic, but it is our secondary reward. Jesus Himself is our primary reward. We carry this reward inside our hearts. In other words, we live with a fascinated heart as we drink deeply of God's beauty and desire for us.

1. **Experience God's beauty.** This means to understand and experience revelation of the attributes of God as given by the Holy Spirit. This leads to an elation of our spirit, which can be felt in our emotions and which transforms the way that we think and feel about God, ourselves and others.

- a) How do we experience God's beauty?

(1) Simply ask God to reveal His beauty to you.

“PLEASE, SHOW ME YOUR GLORY.”(Exodus 33:18)

“That the Father of Glory would GIVE TO YOU A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM (JESUS), THE EYES OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING BEING ENLIGHTENED, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us...”(Ephesians 1:17-19)

(2) Read the Word, turning it into dialogue with God.

- (a) The Bible is the Living Word of God, Jesus Christ. When we dialogue with God about His Word, we invite Him to tell us about who He is and we open our hearts to the very nature and therefore, beauty, of God.

(3) Pray in the Spirit and sing spontaneously.

- (a) Pray in the Spirit.

- (i) Our personal prayer language edifies us by renewing our inner man, or, charging our “spiritual battery.” It tenderizes our spirit with the knowledge of God. Praying in the Spirit makes us sensitive to small fragments of divine information. The Lord imparts divine information about who He is and how to pray.

- (ii) The way the Bride prepares for war is that she engages with the Holy Spirit through speaking in tongues. When we speak in tongues, our heart

becomes connected with God's heart in an exchange of love between Him and us. Tongues open the human spirit to God as we focus on the Father's Throne with a heart cry of "I love you" to Jesus.

(b) Sing Spontaneously.

(i) Singing spontaneously releases both the faith and intensity to encounter the manifest presence of God. This opens the human spirit to the Holy Spirit in an enhanced way.

(ii) There are two ways to sing spontaneously:

(a) Singing with our spirit in tongues. The human spirit both prays and sings.

(b) Singing with our understanding from the Scriptures. The human mind both prays and sings.

***"I will SING WITH THE SPIRIT, and I will also SING WITH THE UNDERSTANDING."*(1 Cor. 14:14-15)**

***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another IN PSALMS AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD."*(Col. 3:16)**

***"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, SINGING AND MAKING MELODY IN YOUR HEART TO THE LORD."*(Eph. 5:19)**

(c) The Benefits of praying and singing in tongues:

(i) It is a universal benefit. It is not just reserved for those with a special calling.

(ii) It is easy to operate in tongues. It does not require special training.

(iii) It is a free gift to all without the need to earn anything; therefore, there is no pride of attainment.

(iv) It unifies intercessors instead of isolating them in individual prayer.

(v) It inspires our spirit rather than leaving us with spiritual dullness before God.

(vi) It focuses our spirit on God rather than requiring the need for constant creative language.

- (vii) It has a deep impact reaching the inner man and not just our intellect.
- (viii) It expands our capacity in the Lord. In other words, when our spirit is engaged, our mind can still receive from God and others.
- (ix) It gives us the ability to continue long hours in prayer without being limited by our human language and affection.
- (x) It is a springboard into other spiritual gifts.

2. **Experience God's desire.** This means to understand and sense, or feel, what God wants do in us, in others and in the events of human history on the earth and into eternity. When the Holy Spirit reveals this information to us, we can actually feel the emotions of God's heart inside of us. It is an exhilarating sensation that energizes and frees us from wrong mindsets.

a) How do we experience God's desire?

(1) **Pray the prayers of Scripture.** Prayer that comes from God's heart expresses His desires. This is the kind of prayer that the Holy Spirit releases Divine authority on. This is the kind of prayer that God answers. Praying the prayers that come from God's heart enhances the enjoyment of our intimacy with Jesus. Apostolic prayers are prayers that the apostles prayed. The chief apostle is Jesus, and the 12 apostles have prayers recorded in the New Testament. These apostolic prayers are God's very prayers, or desires.

(2) **Practice Praying Positive Prayers.** When we pray positive prayers, we enter into the delight of asking for the things that bring pleasure to God. This is a gateway into feeling His desire in our inner man. New Testament Biblical prayers focus on releasing God's grace instead of hindering or removing negative realities like sin or demons. There is a positive focus on the impartation of good instead of a negative focus on removing the realities of sin. The New Testament focus usually flows along themes of joy, thankfulness and victory.

**We do incorporate the negative dimensions of prayer that target confessing, resisting and renouncing the realities of the world, flesh and devil. However, we recognize that they are not the major focus of the New Testament model of praying.*

(a) Practical tips for Praying Positive Prayers:

- (i) Pray to God instead of talking to people when you pray corporately. Focus on "asking" instead of "explaining." Speak directly to God – be more conscious that He is watching and listening than that others are watching and listening. This will prompt you to direct your heart toward Him in love and partnership.
- (ii) Lift specific promises of Scripture up to God and ask for their fulfillment in our present day context.

- (iii) Ask for the in-breaking of positive things rather than the removal of negative things.

Examples: Positive Prayer: *“Father, I ask that Your light and truth would break in upon the church in Houston!”*

Negative Prayer: *“Father, I ask that You would remove darkness and deception from the church in Houston!”*

**Note: God hears, cares about and discerns all prayer, whether positive or negative. Because of our natural human tendency to become weary and discouraged, praying positive prayer allows us to maintain prayer day in and day out by helping us engage in joyful supplication rather than trying to bear the emotional weight of negative realities expressed through negative prayer. This is especially relevant in a 24-7 prayer ministry such as IHOP-KC. It is because of both the Biblical model and human dynamics that we encourage positive prayer.*

B. PRAY ON THE MICROPHONE

*Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to pray on the microphone. Praying on the microphone is in no way mandated, but encouraged as a way to engage your heart in intercession and to help lead the prayer meeting. Anyone can do this, no matter what their personality, style, or disposition.

1. A few helpful tips for praying on the microphone in front:

- a) If you wish to pray on the microphone, make your way to the front row of blue chairs. They usually fill up quickly. Be prepared to wait at least 45 minutes for your turn since the prayer meeting is intermingled with worship and other prayer focuses.
- b) Select a New Testament prayer or Old Testament prophetic decree to pray out of. The “key apostolic prayers” list is a great place to start.
- c) Please hold the microphone VERY close to your mouth (to prevent sound feedback in the room). Don’t feel any pressure to shout on the microphone, rather speak at a moderate volume level.
- d) You have the option to pray with the singers or not. If you pause, the singers on the platform will begin singing spontaneous prayers. Within every 2-3 short songs, you may interject more short prayerful phases. In this way, we are going back and forth in team ministry in intercession.
- e) Pray “positive prayers.” (See “practical tips for praying positive prayer,” page)
- f) When you are finished, feel free to simply set the microphone down and walk away.

Please note: The Tuesday 10am and Tuesday 4pm intercession times are all-staff meetings where generally, the Mission Base leadership lead out in prayer. In addition, the main leadership of IHOP may suddenly “jump” in line to capture and drive home a key (kairos) moment in God in prayer.

2. How to Pray Using the Apostolic Prayers or Old Testament Prophetic Decrees in the Harp and Bowl Model:

- a) Decide what or who the target of your prayer is.
Examples: The church in Houston, the church in any city or nation, the government of a country, the lost of any city or nation, etc.
- b) Using the “Key Apostolic Prayers” List or “Prophetic Decrees and Promises from OT Prophets” List (Harp and Bowl Syllabus, part 2, page 142-145), pick the prayer or decree that best expresses what you want to pray for.

Example #1: If you want to pray that the church in Houston would grow in the knowledge of Jesus, you might pick Apostolic Prayer #1:

“THAT THE GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER OF GLORY MAY GIVE TO YOU THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power.” (Ephesians 1:17-19)

Example #2: If you want to pray that the church in Houston would experience revival, you might pick the Prophetic Promise found in Isaiah 35:1-2:

“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM AS THE ROSE; IT SHALL BLOSSOM ABUNDANTLY AND REJOICE, EVEN WITH JOY AND SINGING...” (Isaiah 35:1-2)

- (1) No matter what you want to pray for, you should be able to find an Apostolic Prayer or a Prophetic promise to match the cry of your heart – they cover pretty much everything. Feel free to ask the associate prayer leader to help you find an Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise that matches the burden of your heart.
 - (2) It’s okay if you don’t feel anything “burning” in your heart. If you don’t feel something specific that you want to pray for, just pick any prayer or promise – all of these prayers and promises are on God’s heart all of the time, so it’s impossible to pray the wrong prayer!
 - (3) You can choose to pray through just a phrase or a section of the Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise. You don’t have to pray through the whole prayer/promise.
- c) If helpful, create an outline of the prayer. This may help you to organize your thoughts and therefore present a clear train of thought for others to follow as you lead the room in intercession.
- (1) Pick 2-3 points (actual phrases from the Apostolic Prayer or Prophetic promise) to pray through. Your prayer will be more focused if you concentrate on a few points of the prayer, rather than trying to pray through all of the points and themes of the prayer.

Example: Ephesians 1:17-19:

Point #1: “That the Father of Glory may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him”

Point #2: “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened”

Point #3: “That you may know what is the hope of His calling”

Example: Isaiah 35:1-2:

Point #1: “The desert shall rejoice”

Point #2: “the desert shall blossom abundantly”

Point #3: “Even with joy and singing”

(2) Make notes under each of your main points as you prepare to pray. Include cross-references and your own expression of the Biblical prayer or promise.

(3) Pray through each of your points, one at a time, either pausing to let the singers sing or not.

d) Practice articulating your heart:

(1) Why is it important to articulate our hearts?

(a) It is exhilarating to develop language to express the truth that God deposits in our hearts through His Word. We feel the sensation of pleasure in our heart when we express God’s truth through our own understanding and with our own vocabulary. Human Beings are the only creatures on earth who are given the gift of language. It is an awesome and fascinating privilege to be able to communicate the depths of our heart to each other and to God. By developing an ability to put the ideas and feelings that are in our hearts into words, we do a couple of things:

(i) We explore the emotions of God’s heart more deeply.

(ii) We inspire others to identify stirrings in their hearts.

(iii) We expand our own understanding of the Word of God.

(2) How to articulate your heart:

(a) Practice putting passages of Scripture into your own words.

Example:

“That the eyes of your understanding would be enlightened”

“That the innermost part of your spirit would be illuminated”

“That your innermost man would be awakened by the light of God”

“That the eyes of your heart would fully comprehend”

(b) Cross-referencing is another wonderful tool – finding other Bible verses that explain or expound upon your point to articulate yourself. How good it is to use the Bible to expound on the Bible!

(c) It may be helpful to use a thesaurus to expand your vocabulary when meditating on the apostolic prayers.

(3) *How to lead others in intercession:*

- (a) When you pray on the microphone, you are helping to lead a prayer meeting. When prayer leading or praying on the microphone, the goal is to serve the room.
- (b) The following are IHOP-KC Values that are important to remember when praying on the microphone:
 - (i) Team ministry – we go farther together;
 - (ii) Inclusiveness – everyone can participate;
 - (iii) The centrality of the Scripture – God’s language unifies our heart with His and others
- (c) The following are some dynamics to keep in mind when you are praying on the microphone.
 - (i) **Volume** – Though it is necessary to hold the microphone very close to your mouth and to speak clearly, there is no need to shout on the microphone. A moderate volume level is encouraged, with an occasional projection or shouting volume. The room is not engaged by continual shouting, but rather by dramatic contrasts. Theologically, shouting does not mean that we are more gripped with the Holy Spirit or that we are making a greater impact in the spiritual realm. Authority is not manifested by volume, but by Divine activity.
 - (ii) **Clarity** – This means that it is clear to the room what your prayer focus is. Your main points are clearly defined and prayed through and they follow each other in a logical way. Repeating key phrases and using concise statements creates clarity.
 - (iii) **Topic** – Is your prayer focus one that the majority will be eager/ excited to partner with you on? Praying for the church in Houston, or the government of our nation, etc., are examples of focal points that the majority can join with you in. Praying for a friend or relative that no one knows except you may cause disinterest and disengagement of others. Again, we pray on the microphone to lead and serve the room in intercession. Praying on the microphone does not make our prayer any more important to God; rather, it is a tool that helps us join together in prayer.
 - (iv) **Enthusiasm** – Are you passionate about your prayer? Does it show? Others will be more inclined to join in with your prayer if they sense that your heart is engaged and burning. This does not mean shouting or exaggerating your emotions. This means being aware that you are being heard by others and that you are trying to bring them along with you in

intercession. Monotone speech or a casual delivery may cause others to disengage. Remember that you are speaking to God – connect with Him and your passion will be expressed.

- (v) **Length of Prayer** – 5 minutes is a pretty good length. If you go longer than 5-7 minutes, often the room will lose interest and disengage. Also, there are usually others waiting to pray after you.
- (vi) **Timing**– You may want to add little 2-3 second phrases in between the singers' singing – not during their singing – to reiterate your point to the room. Please do not shout over the choruses. Also, it is helpful to read the room in terms of when to begin warring in the spirit. Usually it is best to go into a time of warring in the spirit when the music and the singers are the most intense-sounding.

**There are more dynamics to be aware of when praying on the microphone, but these are the main ones. It will take time to learn to lead the room, but the more you go up there and pray, the more you will learn, the easier it will become and the more enjoyable it will be.*

C. RAPID FIRE PRAYER

1. **What is Rapid Fire Prayer?** Rapid Fire Prayer is a series of short prayers, prayed on the microphone one after the other, interspersed by choruses from the prophetic singers.
2. **Why do we do it?** Rapid Fire Prayer provides an opportunity for more people to pray on the microphone per intercession set and it also can bring energy to a prayer meeting because of the energizing dynamic of the short “bursts of prayer” from several different voices.
3. **How does a Rapid Fire Prayer cycle work?** The prayer leader will announce a rapid fire cycle. He or she will announce what the prayer focus is and will invite 10 – 15 people (anyone who wants to) to come up and pray a ten to fifteen second prayer on the microphone. The Rapid Fire cycle leader will start by praying a one or two minute prayer. After that prayer, the singers will sing a chorus. Then one by one, those in line will pray a ten to fifteen second prayer. In between every few intercessors’ prayers, the singers will sing a chorus. Then, the next person will pray and so on until everyone in line has prayed.
4. Rapid Fire Prayer is a great way to begin praying on the microphone if you are nervous or just want to get a “feel” for it.

D. SMALL GROUP PRAYER

1. **What is small group prayer?** Small group prayer is the gathering together of a small number of people to pray for a particular people group, nation, event, etc.
2. **Why do we do it?** Small group prayer is an opportunity to connect our heart with others as we agree together in prayer. This connectivity strengthens us in community and love for one another and also gives us energy in continuing in prayer.
3. **How does small group prayer work?** The prayer leader will announce a small group prayer time. He or she will invite anyone so desiring to gather into small groups of 4-5, all over the room, to engage in prayer over any burden the group would like to intercede for together. Do not wait to be invited into a group; simply approach and join a group.