

"Touching Heaven Sermon Series"

Part 3 –Qualities/Attributes of an Intercessor

Sunday, January 8th, 2012 – Eastgate Community Church

Pastor Dale Campfield (**DID NOT PREACH**)

Intro:

Today, we will continue our sermon series entitled, "Touching Heaven" that follows our 40 day fast.

Intercession is to stand in the gap.

Who are intercessors? What are they like? Are there any identifying characteristics or behavioral traits that distinctly mark intercessors? How do you know if you are an intercessor or not?

How to Spot a Possible Intercessor

They are...

- Those who pray longer than anyone else.
- Those who pray often.
- Those who see prayer as a higher priority.
- Those who are usually the first to agree to pray for you.
- Those who rarely miss a prayer meeting.
- Those who derive the greatest fulfillment from praying.
- Those who are particularly sensitive to the traumas and moral decay in society, and consider prayer to be the primary answer.
- Those who are anointed when they pray aloud.
- Those who carry God's burden and who experience travail.
- Those who are committee dot coordinating prayer networks, developing prayer strategies, organizing prayer chains, etc.
- Those who operate more in the prophetic gifts: words of knowledge, dreams, visions, prophecy, etc.

“WARNING: Intercessors tend to be a bit more radical and emotional than the rest of us. After all many of them are on the cutting edge of what the Lord is saying and doing in the earth today!” Eddie Smith Book: *Intercessors*

10 Qualities/Attributes of an Intercessor...

1. ABANDONMENT

Willing to abandon all self-interest about what is being prayed. They understand that it is not about them, but about the needs of others. They can abandon their own desires, dreams and wishes to pray for the needs of others.

Phil 4:4-6

4 Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice! 5 Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

TLB

2. ACCOUNTABILITY

Faithful to the call and life of prayer. They are willing to loan God their vocal cords; they understand their call to intercede and are held accountable to that calling. It would be great if every intercessor would find someone to who they can be accountable to and share with them. Staying under authority and accountability.

Rom 3:19

...all the world may be held accountable to God.

AMP

3. ADVOCATE

Willing to go in another person's place and plead their case before God, acting like Jesus. An intercessor is one who stands in the gap for someone else or situation. They plead the case of another.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.² And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

NKJV

4. AGONIZING

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Willing to bear the hurts of others and feel what they feel. Jesus was touched by our infirmities. They have an overwhelming burden for what they are praying about and it usually doesn't lift until that need is met, or God releases them.

Matt 8:16-17

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,¹⁷ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities; And bore our sicknesses."

5. ARMOR

Willing to be a soldier who never retreats; who faces the devil in the Name of Jesus under the authority of His Blood, knowing that the armor is your spiritual protection for your front parts. God protects your back parts. He is your rear guard. The Blood of Jesus and the Word of God are the whole armor of God. This is spiritual warfare!

2 Tim 2:3-5

3 You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.
NKJV

6. AVAILABILITY

Willing to always be available for God; 24/7. Giving up your own schedule and walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit. Holy, submissive, yielded, and humble. The world looks for ability. God only needs availability He can enjoin and equip.

Ex 18:24-26

25 He chose capable men from all over Israel and made them judges over the people. They were put in charge of groups of one thousand, one hundred, fifty, and ten. 26 These men were constantly available to administer justice. They brought the hard cases to Moses, but they judged the smaller matters themselves.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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A true knowledge of God's Word.

Ps 119:11

11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Isa 34:16

16 Search from the book of the LORD, and read...

Praying the Word of God is powerful. It ushers in help from our Angels in heaven that have charge over us. As believers, we must study to show ourselves approved unto God. We must keep our minds transformed and renewed with God's Word that we not be conformed to this world. Vain repetitious prayers do not move God. We must keep the Word of God on our mouth, in our eyes and ears, writing it on the tablets of our hearts. The Word of God says in Isaiah 34:16 to seek out the book of the Lord and read. We must read to know what to say. We must meditate so we can believe what we speak. We must speak to release the power. Knowledge of God's Word is the only way to know your blood-bought rights and authority against the devil.

8. AWARENESS

Willing to be sensitive, and look beyond the person to make it happen for someone else. They share the unique quality of an unselfish willingness to bear the burdens of others. True intercessors often spend less time praying for their own needs than they spend praying for the needs of others. They live a life of almost continual "spiritual pregnancy," that is, they are "pregnant" with a burden to see the Great Commission fulfilled. Willing to accept the assignment to pray for someone that you do not even like.

John 3:30-31

30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

The greater the Father increases in my life, the less I'm going to want to satisfy my own desires to satisfy His – and to be aware of the needs around me. The more I get of the Father, the less there is of me, the more aware I can be.

9. **AUTHORITY** – Willing to go boldly before the Throne of God without begging, understanding the authority that belongs to the born-again believer.

Titus 2:15

15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Matt 28:18-19

18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

10. ACCEPTANCE –

1 Cor 13:13

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE - God's love is described as Agape, that no matter what we do, His love NEVER changes. He always wants the best for us. We are His children. His mercy endures forever. As an intercessor, we cannot be a respecter of persons, and we must walk in unconditional love! The same Jehovah is doing good work in all of us that are called by His Name. It is a divine privilege to be used by God to pray for someone, especially in the Body of Christ. We are our brother's keeper. God wants His people totally free.

Closing Thoughts:

- **Intercessors take their job seriously.**
They know that prayer is shaping the future. They understand the seriousness of the situation around them. It is no laughing matter. They are focused and armed for battle. They have the "eye of the tiger"...and nothing is going to stop them! No hell...demon...man...etc...is going to stop them!
- **Intercessors are persistent, not quitters.**
Fully aware that this war is for souls, and commitment is required to win it, they have counted the cost and will gladly lay down their lives in the prayer closet. They not only ask, but they keep asking! Jesus promised that those who would keep asking would keep receiving.

Luke 18:1-2

Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

- **Intercessors are fearless and unafraid to obey God.**
- **Intercessors are excitable.**
They're like racehorses; often high-strung and always set to go. At time it can be a challenge just to keep up with them.
- **Intercessors are loyal to God.**
Always staying receptive to Him and His purposes.
- **Intercessors are loyal to authority.**
If authority says something, they listen with respect.
They never talk negative about authority.
They go to authority when an issue arises.
They communicate with authority.

- **Intercessors are loyal and sympathetic to the needs of others.**

- **Intercessors are understanding of their role.**

They understand their role as an intercessor. They understand the differing assignments and goals: some pray for cities or nations while others pray for social issues. Some intercessors pray for pastors and church leaders while others pray for people in crisis and crises situations.

God's anointing will differ from intercessor to intercessor, as well their methods of praying. Some pray through lists, while others find lists restrictive. These people pray prophetically, that is they pray according to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Once they're in their prayer closets, they follow the Holy Spirit's leading and give Him control.

- **Intercessors are Unique!**

No two intercessors are the same!
Don't compare yourself to others.

- **Encouragement to Intercessors – BE WHO GOD MADE YOU!**

Don't be ashamed of being an intercessor.
You are on the front lines! God trusts you! GO FOR IT!

Conclusion:

As we continue this journey to "Touch Heaven", let me encourage you to stay focused, stay on track and don't give up. 40 days is a long time to fast and pray; don't stop now. Keep moving forward. It'll be worth it.

You watch... you wait... you'll see!