

"Touching Heaven Sermon Series"

## **Part 1 – What is an Intercessor?**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Eastgate Community Church

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### Intro:

This morning, we will begin our new sermon series entitled, "Touching Heaven". This will be a six week series that will follow our 40 day fast. I have found many resources that are out there that deal with Intercessory Prayer. For example: Cindy Jacobs, Andrew Strom, Alice Smith, Fred Price, T.L. Osbourne, Dutch Sheets, George Kern, Peter Wagner, Dick Eastman, etc. The teachings I share with you are a compilation of the works from these individuals as well as things the Holy Spirit has laid upon my heart.

Possible overview of what to expect the next six weeks.

*(But this could change as the Holy Spirit leads us.)*

Part 1 – What is an Intercessor?

Part 2 – The Purpose of Intercession

Part 3 – Qualities/Attributes of an Intercessor

Part 4 – Practicalities of Intercession

Part 5 – Intercession for a Hardened Heart

Part 6 – Pitfalls for Intercessors to Avoid

## **Part 1 – What is an intercessor?**

Intercession is one of the most profound and powerful ministries available to all Christians.

**To "intercede" means literally to "come in between".** The intercessor "came in between" two persons: God, and those who justly deserve God's wrath. Intercession pleads for mercy, not justice.

An intercessor is someone who talks to God, on behalf of someone else. If you are praying for your country or child, you are interceding for them with God. It is standing in the gap that is left when they fully cannot stand on their own

### Definitions of "intercessor".

## **Definitions of “intercessor”.**

"An intercessor is a man or woman-or child-who fights on behalf of others. As such, intercession is the activity that identifies us most with Christ. To be an intercessor is to be like Jesus because that is what Jesus is like. He ever lives to intercede."

Dick Eastman

“Intercessors are people whose ministry it is to pray on behalf of other people or causes. Intercessors are front-line troops in the ancient war between God and Satan. They are spiritual warriors who assume an awesome task.”

Eddie Smith – author of “Intercessors, How to Understand and Unleash Them for God’s Glory”

“Intercession is the act of going on behalf of someone else that needs help from Almighty God, to be merciful and gracious unto someone else and not self. In most cases it is prayer for those whose situations or circumstances need the mercy and grace of God’s immediate attention. Intercession touches the very heart of God, the Ministry of Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit. Intercession requires a giving up and giving unto, as an act of God’s love, mercy and compassion. The intercessor must be ready and sensitive to God at all times, totally yielded to Him, and willing to be touched by the infirmities of someone else. Intercession requires you to become selfless, forgetting about your needs, desires and wants.”

Pastor Galvano's – author of "Intercessory prayer & Warfare Manual".

## **The word *intercession* is from the Greek word – “*entugchano*”**

= to confer with or to entreat in favor or against something or someone.

*Sounds a lot like an attorney, doesn't it?*

## **Church...We need intercessors!**

We are living at a day of age when intercession must be made. We are living in the end times and the devil is fighting. God has a purpose for our church, for the people, for each of you as individuals and the devil will try to stop it! But...as we pray...You watch...You wait...and You'll see the power of the Lord move in such ways that are unprecedented. We need intercessors!

Look at what it says in...

**Isaiah 59:1-16** gives a detailed and fearful list of the sins of God’s people...

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2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.

4 ...They trust in empty words and speak lies; They conceive evil and bring forth iniquity.

6 ...Their works are works of iniquity, And the act of violence is in their hands.

7 Their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed innocent blood; Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; Wasting and destruction are in their paths.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before You, And our sins testify against us

15 So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey.

**...but the climax to it all comes in...**

**verse 16:** "And He [God] saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor..."

The fact that there was not even one person to intercede actually caused wonderment to the heart of God. Apparently this grieved Him more than all the sins previously listed.

Think about this statement: "there was no intercessor". Is the same true today? Many to criticize, to complain, to condemn, but no one to intercede. – where is the intercessor?

**Ezekiel 22:23-31**

...presents another picture of God's people in desperate spiritual need. Every section of the community has been corrupted – prophets, priests, princes, and the people as a whole. But even so, the situation was not altogether hopeless. God declared that final judgment might yet be averted if He could find one man to intercede:

**verse 30...** So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall (hedge), and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

Once again, the climax is contained in the last words: "but I found none". One man of the right caliber could have averted the final disaster, but not even one was to be found. As a result, God could no longer withhold the full outpouring of judgment.

**Verse 31** ...Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

Here, the ministry of intercession is presented in two aspects. The intercessor "stands in the gap", he interposes himself in the breach made by the sin of God's people, thus holding back judgment. But he also makes up the hedge." By calling God's people back to repentance and obedience he rebuilds their spiritual defenses.

## Biblical Examples of Intercessors

### Moses

#### Exodus 32:7-14

**Moses** who provides the picture of the intercessor. Israel had fallen into idolatry by worshiping a golden calf. God told Moses: "Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them..." However, Moses refused to "let God alone." Instead, he reminded God of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Israel, and pleaded for mercy. As a result, "the Lord repented".

7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!'"9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" 14 So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. (KJ – "the Lord repented")

#### Exodus 32:31,32

**Moses** renews his intercession on behalf of Israel praying...

31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin -- but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

Here is the heart of the intercessor laid bare. Moses was willing to take upon himself the consequence that was due.

#### Psalm 106:23 the psalmist also describes this incident:

...“Therefore He [God] said He would destroy them [Israel] had not Moses His chosen stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He should destroy them”. The ministry of intercession is summed up in the statement that Moses “stood before Him in the breach”. Israel’s spiritual defenses had been breached by their sin. But Moses interposed himself and stood in the breach, to hold back the judgment. God delights to show mercy, but is reluctant to administer judgment. Therefore, in each situation where judgment is due, God looks for an intercessor who can hold back the judgment.

## Aaron

### Numbers 16:46-48

**Aaron** provides a vivid picture of the intercessor. Israel had sinned by rebellion against their leaders, and God sent judgment upon them in the form of a plague that was taking the lives of thousands.

46 So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire in it from the altar, put incense on it, and take it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the LORD. The plague has begun."47 Then Aaron took it as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the assembly; and already the plague had begun among the people. So he put in the incense and made atonement for the people.48 And he stood between the dead and the living; so the plague was stopped.

## Joshua

### Joshua 7:6-9

The story of the sin of Achan, and how Joshua stood in the gap for the people.

6 Joshua and the leaders of Israel tore their clothes in grief, threw themselves to the ground before the LORD's Covenant Box, and lay there till evening, with dust on their heads to show their sorrow.

## Jehoshaphat

### II Chronicles 20:2-13

2 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi).3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court,6 and said: "O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,9If disaster comes upon us -- sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine -- we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir -- whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them --11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."

Biblical Examples of Intercessors con't...

## Isaiah

### II Chronicles 32:20-23

Assyria is about to attack King Hezekiah and his people...

Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah, the son of Amoz, prayed and cried out to heaven.<sup>21</sup> Then the LORD sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own offspring struck him down with the sword there.

<sup>22</sup> Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all others, and guided them on every side.<sup>23</sup> And many brought gifts to the LORD at Jerusalem, and presents to Hezekiah king of Judah, so that he was exalted in the sight of all nations thereafter.

## Daniel

### Daniel 9:3-19

#### Dan 9:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.<sup>4</sup> And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments,<sup>5</sup> we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments.

#### Dan 9:16-19

<sup>16</sup> "O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.<sup>17</sup> Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.<sup>18</sup> O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.<sup>19</sup> O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

## Christ

### John 17:1-26

Jesus Christ, as he prays in the Garden of Gethsemane for Himself and His disciples.  
He is standing in the gap.

## Paul

### Colossians 1:9-12

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;<sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

## What is an Intercessor?

### An intercessor is someone...

**1....who is a follower of Jesus Christ.**

How can you pray to a God you've not committed your life to?

**2....who intercedes on behalf of someone else.**

They understand, "It's not about me", but it's about them. The needs of the one don't outweigh the needs of the many.

**3....who is God fearing.**

Understands the truth of the Word and respects it. They understand prayer is not an option, but a command from God. Obedience is their lifestyle unto the Lord.

**4....who is willing to give up their schedules, time and plans on behalf of another.**

When it's time to pray, they are willing to lay it all down, to make the time to pray.

**5....who does not mind being interrupted by the Holy Spirit for prayer.**

This is unscheduled times of prayer as led by the Holy Spirit. No excuses!

**6....who willingly submits to authority.**

If you can't submit to spiritual authority, you are in disobedience. **Illus:** Mission Field, "Let's go". Means now!

**7....who has a heart after God's own heart.**

The heart of God is LOVE for all SOULS! He is not willing that anyone should perish!

**8....who lives a life of repentance.**

Is sanctified unto God, holy and set aside to be used of God, presenting their bodies as a yielded vessel.

**9....who lives a life of humility.**

They don't lord it over people... "I have heard from God, I'm special, etc."

**10....who walks by Faith.**

Is confident that Jehovah God hears their prayers and will answer them according to his Word. They will not give up!

Take a picture of faith – it's blurry! It's putting action to what we believe – in Faith!

Faith is believing; though I don't see it or hear it or feel it!

Seeing those things that are not as though they already are!

**Conclusion:**

**You say...** "We've been watching, waiting, and we haven't seen nothing yet."  
The world needs more intercessors – are you willing? **You've got to Jump In!**