



## Christ Intercedes—You Can Too

***"Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them."***—Hebrews 7:25

Do you ever feel all alone when massive struggles and hardships roll up like storms on the shores of your life? Go ahead and remind yourself, *"I am totally graced by Christ's prayers."* Yes it's true, because Jesus Christ is watching over you. He is actually

*I have an Advocate above,  
and though I cannot see  
His face, I know His heart is  
love, and that He pleads for  
me. —Tydeman*

interceding for you. This Savior—the Shepherd of Israel, that's Him! This ruler; the King of all kings—He prays. This Prince of peace is a peacemaker, but He is warring against evil for you. And guess what ...He wants you to intercede too. How often do you pray for your friends, for this nation and for those in other lands!

Do you feel encouraged thinking about Jesus praying? Man, I sure do! Just to know that the Christ who hung on Calvary's tree ***"ever liveth to make intercession"*** for me; that's HUGE! And He really cares for this nation too. He lives to stand in the gap for you and me.

## You Have a Fulltime Intercessor

He's not half-hearted in this priestly ministry; He's fully committed. What a more-than-awesome God we serve! He shows us mercy and strong grace even when we don't deserve it! So why fear? Be STOKED, because you my friend are on His prayer list! Jesus knows you through and through. He's familiar with the details of what you're going through. It reminds me of what Scottish minister Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843) said, *"If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies. Yet distance makes no difference. He is praying for me!"*

What about you; are you in Him? Do you intercede? Perhaps you're wondering why it's important. Well, as we scan the spiritual landscape in the United States today, one thing has become abundantly clear. Our problems are too far gone; they're so *beyond developed* that no mere human can resolve them. No change of administration in Washington, or in other levels of government, will be capable to fix them. They can talk non-stop about growing problems and their resolution theories. Let's face it, our

*"I urge...that requests,  
prayers, intercession and  
thanksgiving be made for  
everyone—for kings and all  
those in authority."  
—1 Tim. 2:1-2*

Western culture is ill. We see it in reckless violence, in immorality and in countless broken homes. The searing pain pierces many like a sharp dagger!

But rather than complain, let's focus on the solution and get to the root of the problem. Many of us Christians have foolishly turned aside to fight the world on its own terms with its own strategies. But we have the answer and need to start utilizing it instead. God and prayer go together; to neglect one is to neglect the other.

Hey, it's cool to use a prayer list if you desire. Go through that list today and pray for America—she needs it badly. Pray for someone you might not have prayed for in a long while, as well. And then trust God to answer, even today! Expectant obedient faith—that bridge of trust—moves the hand of God ...not faith in faith, not faith as some energy force from Tulsa ...not word-faith blab-it-grab-it weirdness! No, we are to express simple faith upwards to the object of faith—God, who is sovereign, who can not lie or change, but certainly acts to changes things on earth where we're concerned!

Remember how Ezekiel wrote about God actively looking for a man who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Him on behalf of the land, that He wouldn't destroy it. Ezekiel said God couldn't find anyone back in the day (see [Ezek. 22:30](#)). Well, let's make it so He can in our day. We can't allow the American Church to become prayerless! Too much is at stake!

### Therefore Intercede...

- *A Gallop Poll showed that of those who believe that God exists 70% engage in prayer daily as do 10% of those who say they don't believe in God. Wow, when you talk into the phone, you kind of expect someone to be on the other end don't you? I do. You can stand in the gap for others and God will listen and act. God can give you wisdom and open their eyes so they will see their need for Jesus as you tell them the Good News.*
- *Make a list of the leaders in your life. Ask the Lord to reveal prayer needs for them, and commit to praying for them on a regular basis.*
- *Paul wanted prayers voiced for all men! And as a result of Paul's bold witness for Jesus, he had some interaction with those in authority over him. Read [Acts 22-26](#) and gain insight from Paul's example.*
- *Check out the exchange between Paul and King Agrippa (see [Acts 26:28-29](#))? Do you intercede for your leaders as he did?*
- *Remember, we need to contemplate Who we are talking to—God almighty. He is far from our equal, but not far away. He can do anything! Actively demonstrate your prayer support for candidates running for office and for existing leaders but not as a show so that others will be impressed. Pray in private first. Organizations such as the National Day of Prayer ([ndptf.org](#)) can help you get started.*

*Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed, the motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast. —Montgomery*

**God answers every prayer coming from a Christian with a *Yes*, a *No*, or a *Wait*.** I've found that when He tells me to wait, it's often because He wants to give more than I am asking Him for. Remember this: when God blesses you, He has more than just you on His mind—He wants to bless others through you! Sometimes God says **Go**, sometimes **Slow** and sometimes **Grow**! Do you remember the early church praying for Pete the jail-bird to be released? They prayed, and boom, it was done quickly. God

said **Go**, they did, and got an instant YES! We all love to receive a response from God in the affirmative, don't we? Peter was free and knocking on their door. God says, ***"It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear"*** (Isa. 65:24, nkjv). **Occasionally God says: *Slow***. (Do you recall how Moses wanted to deliver the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage, so what did he do? He just hastily killed an Egyptian and buried him in the sand, but then he fled to the back side of the dessert to work and wait on the Lord. But God had His own timing and way in with that desire Mo had and God did accomplish the job of liberating the children of Israel through Moses' leadership. **Occasionally God says: *Grow*** (He basically told Paul No when Paul prayed to be delivered of his thorn in flesh. He wanted Paul to grow spiritually and remain dependant upon Him. The thorn was there for a good reason. But when it comes to us praying for a lost person's salvation, God says: *Do pray for them as long as they have breath!*—even if the unbeliever resists and says "No" to God their entire life.

God delights to make His power available to His praying children so they can do *His work*, not their own independent work.<sup>1</sup> He ignores the stubbornly religious, the neglectful husbands and the prideful who pray. The Bible says, ***"Ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered"*** (1 Pet. 3:7, kjv). Do you want to find out how you can rely on God's supernatural power as you witness?<sup>2</sup> You should, because surveys show that 95% of Christian believers never share their faith. Jesus gave that responsibility to all of us! Do you ever pray about that?

Are we praying or overly focused on politics, entertainment, work and other stuff these days? Please do be informed of the issues and the people running for office. Do participate in the political process and vote. Maybe like a lot of Americans, you feel sick of politics and are turned off by all the potential leaders on the horizon. Well God still wants you to prayerfully do what is best for this land. Don't lay out on Election Day!

God promised Israel this: ***"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made..."*** (2 Chron.

***"When they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken."***—Acts 4:31

7:14-15). The Bible says, ***"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people"*** (Prov. 14:34).

Do you remember reading how the first century Christians actively went out on the streets with placards, griping, protesting and picketing? No. Were they with petitions trying to unseat or impeach the wicked Roman Emperor of their day? No. Were they harassing or bombing abortion clinics? No! Were they as a group hyper-dependant upon their size as a large voting-block to bring about change in the Roman Senate? No, no!

But they were fully given to the Lord for His purposes and were spreading the Good News to their unbelieving coworkers, friends, family and neighbors ...and get this ...their daily behavior was matching what they said. How cool is that! They were practicing what they preached by the power of the Spirit in a non-religious, non-creepy and non-hateful way. They prayed and believed together and turned their world upside down with the Gospel.

The believers of the early church didn't out-campaign or out-argue the pagans, they out-lived them. They out-thought, out-prayed, and out-loved them too—they loved them with God's love ...to the very end. Their weapons weren't negative, but positive. They sought to reach people one by one. They didn't have the technology that we have, but they made a lasting impact. They were walking in the Spirit and prayerfully evangelizing, having their horizontal ministry responsibilities properly prioritized. Don't get me wrong; God wants us participating in the political process. And I do think there is a place for protesting. Martin Luther was an effective protestant.

*“... the Spirit  
Himself makes  
intercession for us.”  
—Rom. 8:26*

I don't equate political liberalism with evil per se, or political conservatism with righteousness. We are to love and evangelize people on both sides, but I personally don't agree with the liberals who are fighting for bigger government, more laws and higher taxes—those who want us to support them for life with all their bulky bureaucracy in Washington.

Liberals are pushing for aberrant alternative lifestyles, easy-access-abortions, gay marriages, illegal aliens automatically turned into citizens, off-the-wall-judges lacking sound judgment and more “tolerance” in this pluralistic society ...and yet they themselves remain intolerant of real Christians and our own military.

Liberals says we Christians have no right to impose our views on others; no grounds for enforcing our Christian beliefs with everyone ...like that's our aim. That would be stupid! I don't know, maybe some dim prayerless Christians or religious posers have done this.

On the other hand, maybe you know some rich conservatives that really could give a flip about helping the poor and needy (...as they've often been stereotyped and accused of). Perhaps you even know some that are *“half-ignorant carnal-minded war-mongers.”* I wouldn't doubt that some exist, who even start little wars on the highways as they commute.

*“There is not a word on  
my tongue, but behold, O  
Lord, You know it  
altogether.”  
—Ps. 139:4*

Decent conservatives say they want smaller government. They want to “take back America” to its former glory. They want to win in the culture war and restore a way of life that we all knew and loved in our childhood, so that we can *“get back to the good ole days”*—you know, when there was a love and respect for God and country. Maybe you can relate to those

feelings as I can. I just don't know if I can agree with every so called conservative in the way they are going about achieving all that they want. Not everyone who claims to be conservative is above reproach.

Hey, I won't tell you how to vote or how I will. I'm not out to promote a certain party here. Maybe you don't need to hear my personal preferences to know how to pray, but this nation needs the Lord and something ought to be said! Both Democrats and Republicans must learn what's right and best for this great country ...on bended knees with an open Bible.

Are we Christians more interested in that which is temporarily good or in that which is eternally good? Are we more into politics today than into seeing the salvation of family members and friends? Are we more interested in who will be in the White House than who will be in God's house? Are we forfeiting time in prayer or in the pews so we can have more time with Larry King or Rush and Bill O'Reilly?

News flash: **The solution is not political, it's spiritual! We are to fight with spiritual weapons rather than with carnal ones.** We need to keep the main thing the main thing and not make secondary things into the main thing. Prayer is a primary weapon that we need to reemploy! I'm not saying: Be spiritual and do not be practical. I'm saying don't allow a good strategy to become the enemy of, or replace the best strategy in this fight for the hearts of people.

It's too early for Christians to give up on prayerfully spreading the Gospel! We have largely abandoned intercession and supplication. Is it because we've heard too many flakey and immoral televangelists talk long on prayer ...as a selfish tool to break down people's defenses before they go to ripping-off more widows as they allegedly use the gifts to "take" another radically belabored offering?

Do not do as they do! Do not utilize a token verse or two for selfish gain, putting an overemphasis where God would never have put it. Don't listen to them; don't follow them, don't allow them to get in the way of you doing what you are called to do!

[Pray!](#) Please effectively stretch yourself out to the Lord earnestly, intensely, daily, agonizingly for this country and for the lost! The situation is far beyond repair through political wrangling. Do you and I really have that much time to waste?

Ask and keep on asking, knock and keep on knocking, seek and keep on seeking, witness and keep on witnessing—close the deal for Pete's sake ...if you know a Pete! Ask people you lovingly witness to, to come to Christ today. Jesus is interceding for you to succeed because families are in trouble and need protection.

What do you do when a loved one is in trouble? You dial 911. Well, what do you do when you have a spiritual emergency on hand? You dial 911—that's Psalm 91:1 which states, ***"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.' Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with***

***His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler. You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.***"

Christians, God promises to protect you as a mother hen would diligently protect her little helpless chicks. Jesus even talked about this saying, ***"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!"*** (Lk. 13:34, nkjv). This country is in trouble right now. Let's dial 911!

Now, you can't necessarily *"claim someone for the Kingdom"* as many televangelists insist. Why? Because each person we meet needs to exercise their own free will, but you can give yourself to God in constant prayer and intercession. Praise God for the throne-room-access that born again believers have. Praise the Lord for an example-setting King who prays!

The Bible tells us that Christ came from God ([Jn. 8:42](#)) and has returned to God ([Jn. 14:1-4](#)) where He ***"lives to make intercession"*** for us who are born again. That means that when Satan comes to accuse us before God (like he did in [Job 1:9-11](#)), Jesus immediately speaks up and tells the Father, *"It's okay Dad. I know this one— [name] is one of Ours. All his sins are washed away by My blood."* [Do you know Jesus](#) the intercessor? Call out to Him in repentance and faith. Pray to the Father in His Name right now!

Have Kurt's fishing devos blessed you? Click on ["Contact"](#) and let him know!

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<sup>1</sup> See 1 Pet. 3:12.

<sup>2</sup> See 1 Tim. 2:1.