



Intercession Or Inordinate Compression?

Constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. —Acts 12:5

Do you remember back in the day during the *Days of Unleavened Bread* when Pete was thrown in the slammer? Sure you do! Was he harming anyone? Go check out what it was for.

Did you know that you and I could also one day be arrested for doing the right thing in Jesus Christ? Are you ready for that? I don't desire that of course and do not want any of us going to jail for acting like an idiot.

Listen, we always need to make very sure that it's for obeying God's Word and not for presumption or folly when we are witnessing for Christ or doing His will! There are too many so called Christians getting in trouble today for flat out rebellion and yet they cry "persecution." It's so stupid.

But it was cool how Pete's Christian buds went to bat for him spiritually in his time of need. That's how the body of Christ is suppose to act.

Yup, they hit their knees in intercession for Pete. They were real friends! I'm not sure if they all called it intercession back then but that is was what it was.

And this type of prayer made all the difference in the world for Pete when he was behind those cold bars of injustice (see [Acts 12](#), nkjv).

I personally find that it isn't always easy to intercede for others or even take the time away to go get alone to pray. You see, real intercession takes inner self-discipline and resolve of purpose. The devil indeed will do what he can to distract you away from any time on your knees, because he knows that is the time that is most dangerous for his evil kingdom of darkness to be halted.

So many people who call themselves Christians (and I'm sure you've seen them..) enjoy waxing religiously eloquent when they bow for prayer. They know how to say their prayers to impress, but they don't really know how to selflessly pray ..especially for others.

Have you ever gotten alone to go worry with God? I have, when there was nothing really to worry about. God often allows very difficult circumstances into our lives so that we will see our need for Him and then humbly turn to Him in faith.

Life has a way of driving even the strongest ones to their knees at times, and that is where they should be if they are smart—if we are smart! Yes, and we also need to regularly go to God for our struggling friends who are counting on us to help them make it. I challenge you today to press in and know the Lord and know what His concerns really are all about.

He loves people; He wants us going to bat for people, but we are to love Him at all times more than anything and anyone else. The Bible implores us to, “**seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore**” (1 Chron. 16:11).

*“There’s a beautiful garden of fellowship sweet, where our prayers plant the seeds of reward; and if there we will frequently make our retreat,
We shall gather rich store from the Lord!” —Bosch*

“And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force” (Matt. 11:12).

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:17-18).

God and intercession always go well together; to neglect one is to neglect the other.

Listen, we are either going to be walking and abiding in the Spirit of love ..prayerfully, or we will be strolling and striving in the flesh. You choose!

We are either going to progress forwards ..prayerfully or we will literally regress spiritually.. we are either going to be used of God to draw people to Christ or we will be (perhaps unwittingly) scattering people away from a close relationship with God. We each must choose!

You're either going to be engaged in aggressively sowing to a higher life of victory as you whole heartedly seek the Lord ..for Himself and for the benefit of others ..or you will be sowing to your old nature and to your own unfortunate hurt. What can I liken this to?

The Christian life is kinda like a semi-greased pole with us either climbing upwards or sliding downwards. Will you advance in Him or go backwards? Will you pray for real revival and real spiritual awakening—for your friends and for their friends or will you sin by neglect?

Are you self confident or smug with your strengths and in your giftings, and absolutely sure that you will be an effective witness for Christ based merely upon your past victories that He has given you?

Hey, an unguarded strength is a double weakness! You and I can do nothing apart from Him and we need to always depend up Him so we won't fall!

Do you remember Peter's time of prayerlessness in the garden earlier in his life? Do you recall how he was following Jesus at a distance after that? Do you remember him

subsequently blowing-it three times by the fire.. basically fearing what a young girl might do or say if he was to identify himself as Christ's disciple?

Perhaps you need to repent of the sin of omission right now—yes, of prayerlessness.. of your non-intercession, when this kind of communication session was totally called for and appropriate.

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly...” (Jam 5:16-17).

“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified, just as it is with you” (2 Thess. 3:1).

Following at a distance, having missed your personal quiet time of supplication and devotion with Jesus can leave you weaker. And that lack of obedience automatically puts you in a place of greater vulnerability. And you knew that already, but I like to remind you of these things.

Hey, why backslide when you can continue to front slide (I'm talking going forwards to fight by his power rather than your own). Why miss it when you and I can take some dear friends home with us by faith? I mean, you know how God delights to use His children to lead others into a righteous union with the Lord. You might feel like a clod at times, but I feel He wants to do that much more than you know. Start today in bringing your lost loved ones before God in fervent prayer! Why? It's because you are a prime candidate for winsome soul-winning and this is where it all starts!

Just talk to God as you would to a friend ..for others.. for yourself to be strong.. for others to hear His voice.. or simply groan as you call out their names to Jesus!

“Pray for us; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably” (Heb. 13:18).

“O God, too weak and worn for words, I shrink from trials that deeply wound, and yet to think Your Holy Spirit helps me as I pray.. and gives a voice to what I cannot say!” —Gustafson

I say everyone ought to fervently pray, intensely pray ..and intentionally stay ..in Him! In fact I challenge you to pray at least one violent prayer every day.. you know what I mean.. *the-Word-and-I-seriously-mean-business-about-this-issue-God* ...kind of prayer! It's a simple plea for His help and intervention.

And I don't mean pray like this in some dumb religious ritual sort of way, putting faith in faith, or faith into a mere written form prayer, or in how many times you can verbalize your request.. but simply staying in that selfless soul-winning Spirit of prayer—that sweet communion of friendship—all the day long, as you encounter lost and needy individuals wherever you go.

You've got to see it the way He sees this cooperation of passion! It's about a loving fellowship that we enjoy in an ongoing way, not about lighting candles to take your place

or about some dead works to employ as we attempt to earn God's favor or twist His arm. It's not my kingdom come; my will be done on earth.

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. Brethren, pray for us” (1 Thess. 5:24-25).

“I needn’t worry about getting my request exactly right. I need only to hunger for God and to reach up, knowing that He cares.” — David H. Roper

What am I talking about? I'm not talking about instructing God and directing God. He doesn't need that and has nothing to learn from you. It's about an intercessory priestly duty every Christian has from God. Yes, it's [offering up yourself first](#) as a living sacrifice.. it's a noble obedient rescue effort, a beautiful but intense missionary partnership as you roll up your sleeves and work shoulder to shoulder next to the One who leads and cares the most! Your flesh will not feel like interceding for others—it can be joyous but challenging work—so tell your flesh to be quiet as you open your mouth to God!

Have a prayer request or some questions about knowing God and how to properly walk in Jesus Christ? At fish4souls.org click "[Contact](#)" and let us know! Perhaps we can help.

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