

CALL TO INTERCESSION

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Meaning: Intercede, intercession, is to intervene or come between, on behalf of another, especially by prayer, *Rom 8:26,27,34, Heb 7:25, Ezk 22:17-31*.

Example: *Ezk 22:1-31*

In a time of God's wrath and fury upon His nation because of the sins of her priests, princes, prophets and people, God says, "I sought for a man among them who would make up a wall, and **stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land**, that I should not destroy it, but I found no one," *Ezk 22:30*. "Therefore I have poured out My indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath....," *v31*.

God was looking for a witness among men to stand in the gap, to plead for His mercy, grace and love and to stay His hand of judgment.

The "gap" is a God Appointed Place for intercession. Intercession closes the gap or breach in the wall of salvation, *Is 60:18*.

In this case God was looking for a person(s) **who would stand before Him and plead for His mercy**, long-suffering, kindness and forbearance, so that He might spare the land and not destroy it. A person(s) who would **believe God and cry out to Him, to change the hearts of the people** and bring them to repentance, the fear of God, that they might seek His face and turn from their sins.

In *Jer 18:1-6*, God says, "**I am the potter and you are the clay**. Look as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!" "Can I not do with you as this potter does with the clay?"

Judgment is not inevitable, *Jer 18:7-10*. When God has spoken judgment on a nation, if it turns from its evil, God will relent of the disaster that He purposed to bring upon it, *Jer 18:7,8*.

The intercessor stands in the gap to plead for God's mercy upon the people and to believe God to bring conviction of sin, repentance and a turning to God again by the people.

Moses is an example of an intercessor, *Ps 106:19-23*.

1. ***Ex 32:1-14*. The golden calf had been set up.** God told Moses to step aside so that His wrath might consume them, *v10*. **But Moses stood in the gap**, pleaded with God, and God relented of what He had intended to do. Moses then led the people in repentance, *v20*, brought judgment on the wicked, *v27*, and urged them to consecrate themselves to God, *v29*.
2. ***Num 14:1-21* – The people refuse to enter Canaan,** After spying out the land, ten of the spies persuaded the people that they could not enter their promised land. When Joshua and Caleb tried to change their minds the congregation said to stone them. God declared that He would strike the congregation and disinherit them. **But Moses stood in the gap**, interceded with God, *Num 14:13-19*, and God

pardoned them, v20. However the judgment of God came upon the nation. He turned them back into the wilderness for 40years and refused to allow them to enter their promised land, v26-35. The ten spies who brought the evil report, died of the plague, v36,37.

Jesus is in intercession for us at all times.

1. **1Jn 2:1,2.** If any believer sins we have an **Advocate with the Father**, Jesus Christ the Righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation (to turn away God's wrath) for our sins.
2. **Heb 7:25.** Jesus is able to save us completely as we come to God through Him, because **He always lives to make intercession for us.**
3. **Rom 8:34.** Who can condemn us? It is Christ who died and rose again. He is at the right hand of God and **makes intercession for us.**
4. **Rom 5:9.** After we are justified by His Blood, we are saved from wrath through Him, v10.

Jesus is constantly standing in the GAP for us, interceding for us, that God's mercy might continue to flow upon us despite our failures and sins, *Is 53:12, Lk 22:32, Lk 23:34, Jn 17:9,11,15.* Satan accuses us before God, *Rev 12:10*, but Jesus pleads His blood for us, *1Jn 2:1,2.*

The Holy Spirit also is in intercession for us, according to the will of God. In our weakness we do not know what to pray for as we ought but the Holy Spirit does. He takes over and prays for us, *Rom 8:26,27.*

Other examples of intercessors:

1. **Abraham**, *Gen 18:17-23.* Abraham's intercession delivered Lot, *Gen 19:29.*
2. **Nehemiah**, *Neh 1:4-11.*
3. **Daniel**, *Dan 9:3-19.*
4. **The Church**, *Ac 12:1-12.*
5. **Queen Esther**, *Est 7:1-6, 8:3-6*

Who are called to intercession?

Intercession is not a special ministry of a few believers but is the responsibility of all who believe in Christ, *1Tim 2:1-8, Eph 6:18.* Not all are called to be prophets but all are called to intercession. Not all are called to be apostles but all are called to intercession, *1Cor 12:29,30.* However amongst a group of believers some give themselves more to intercessory ministry than others, who have additional ministry emphases and responsibilities. Avoid having a group in the church called "the intercessors" because the other believers will leave all the intercession to them.

Where are the intercessors? *Is 59:16.*

In times of abounding sin, as we have today, God's people should be **turning to Him in intercession. He is the answer.** We are to cry out for God's truth, mercy and grace. Truth from God through His people, to bring light and release from untruth and the lies of satan, *Ac 26:18, Jn 1:14,17.* Mercy from God instead of judgment, *Jam 2:13.* Grace from God to bring conviction of sin, repentance and a turning to God again, *Rom 2:4, Ac 17:30.*

In *Is 59:1-15*, there is a picture of a flood of sin, evil, injustice and violence. God is amazed that not one man rose up to intercede, v16. No one saw **God as the Answer** to the desperate situation.

So God came Himself to bring salvation through Christ, *Is 59:16,17, Is 53:1*, and to establish total victory over sin, satan and this world, *Rom 6:14,22, Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, Jn 16:33, 1Jn 5:4*.

Through Christ and His church, *Mat 16:18*, the whole of creation will be redeemed, *Rom 8:18-23*, cleansed and filled with the glory of God and His Kingdom, *Dan 2:35,44, Ps 22:27,28, Num 14:21, Hab 2:4, Is 11:9, Rev 11:15, Ps 86:9,10*.

Christ has won total victory over all sin and evil. His Kingdom is ever increasing until it fills all, *Is 9:7*, and destroys the darkness.

Now the victory has been won, we in the church are to enforce this victory through intercession, *Is 59:19,20,21*.

When the enemy comes in like a flood, **the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him**, (and put him to flight AMPV), *Is 59:19*.

The Redeemer will come to Zion, (God's people), and those who turn from transgression in Jacob, says the Lord, *Is 59:20*.

The standard is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, *Rev 5:5, Num 2:3*. He has prevailed and overcome all evil and sin. In Him we have been given the victory. The battle has been won, *1Cor 15:57*.

Intercession rises up in praise, worship, thanksgiving, faith with rejoicing to declare the total Lordship and victory of Christ. This destroys the enemy's power, sets the captives free and sends us forth in power and victory.

The two sides of intercession are:

1. **Godward, in crying out to God through the promises of His Word** for truth, mercy, grace, help, visitation, deliverance and salvation, *Ps 50:15, Ps 91, 1Sam 7:8,9, Mk 10:47,48*. It is crying out to God from the heart with passion. It is persistent and refuses to be quiet or cease. It is bold, loud and has no concern of what people think. It keeps stirring up the heart within, *Is 42:13, 2Tim 1:6*.
2. **Striking against the powers and strongholds of darkness** through exalting Christ, in praise, worship, thanks and confession of His victory over all evil, *Eph 1:20-23*. An example of the power of praise is given in *2Chr 20:1-30*, in the days of Jehoshaphat. Some scriptures of the victory of Christ: *1Jn 3:8b, Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, Jam 4:7, 1Pet 5:7-9, Rev 12:11, Lk 10:19*.

Christ has already won the victory.

Through His death on the Cross, and Resurrection, Jesus Christ totally defeated all His enemies. In His Ascension, He arose to be seated in the Throne of God, *Heb 1:3, 4:14-16, 8:1, Eph 1:20-23*.

In intercession, we are not fighting to win the victory. Christ has already done that. In intercession we are standing in truth, humility, faith and unity, declaring the total supreme rulership of Christ over all things, *Mat 28:18, 1Cor 15:57, 2Cor 2:14, Eph 1:19-23, Eph 6:10-18, Ps 149:6-9*.

As we do this, God destroys all His and our enemies, that are holding multitudes in darkness, blindness, deception, disease and poverty. He establishes His rule and reign of righteousness, justice, truth and mercy in the earth as we exalt and praise Him, *Ac 16:25-35, 2Chr 20:22, Ps 89:14.*

Intercession and truth

Truth is light and it destroys the darkness of satan's lies, *Ps 43:3, Jn 18:37, Ps 119:105,130.*

Truth is the knowledge of God and His ways, *Jn 14:6, Jn 17:17, 1Jn 5:6.*

Intercession like worship must be in Spirit and in truth, *Jn 4:24, Eph 6:18.*

The belt of truth holds our battle dress in readiness, *Eph 6:14.*

Intercession and humility.

God's house of prayer is built on three pillars of humility, *Is 66:1,2.*

1. **A humble attitude of servanthood**, *Mat 20:28, Gal 5:13, Phil 2:8*, to God and others.

2. **A contrite spirit that is quick to confess, repent and turn from sin** *Ps 51:17.*

3. **A trembling at God's Word** and what He says to us, *Ps 119:9,11, Ps 86:11.*

Intercession is only effective when we come to God on these pillars of humility because God gives grace to the humble but He resists the proud, *1Pet 5:5,6, Ps 138:6, Jam 4:10, Lk 18:9-14, Mat 18:1-14, 2Chr 7:14.*

Intercession and faith

God's House of Prayer is built on faith in God and His Word, *Jam5:15, Mk 11:24,*

Mat 21:21,22, Is 57:13. Those who come to God must believe that He is, and that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, *Heb 11:6.* This faith is pleasing to God and attracts His presence and favour, *Rom 4:20.* So God warns against doubting, *Jam 1:6,* because the doubter will receive nothing from God. Doubt is a sin against the truthfulness and faithfulness of God, *1Jn 5:10.*

Intercession and unity.

Jesus said that any house or kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation and cannot stand, *Mat 12:25.*

For this reason **there must be unity and oneness in God's House.** When God's people stand together with one another in love there is God's promised, commanded, jurisdictional, governmental blessing, *Ps 133.*

One major key to unity is forgiveness.

If someone, or a church has hurt or offended you, you must be quick and determined to:

1. Forgive them fully by a clear and definite choice, *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 18:21-35.*
2. Release them from your judgment, *Jam 4:11,12.*
3. Hand the problem over to God to sort out, *Ps 55:22, 1Pet 5:7.*
4. Pray from the heart for the blessing of those who have hurt or offended you. You could pray *Col 1:9-11,* or along the lines of *Ac 26:18.*

Depending on the circumstances there may be a need to work through *Mat 18:15-17.*

Intercession and Righteousness,

Righteousness is right standing before God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Redeemer, *Rom 5:19, 4:22-25, 4:5-8.* This righteousness is **imputed to us** when we believe.

Righteousness is also right behaviour before God, *1Jn 3:7,10,12.* This righteousness is **imparted through faith** in the promises of God, as in *Rom 6:1-3,6,11,14,22.* This second aspect

of righteousness is usually termed sanctification or holiness, *Heb 12:14, 2Cor 7:1, Rom 6:22, 1Pet 1:15, 1Thes 5:23,24, 1Cor 1:30.*

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much, *Jam 5:16-18.* Righteousness is a foundation of effective prayer, *Is 59:1,2, Ps 66:18, 1Jn 3:21-23, Ps 34:15,17,19, 2Chr 16:9.*

Righteousness is the breastplate of our armour, *Eph 6:14,* and is expressed by faith and love, *1Thes 5:8, Gal 5:6.* Practical righteousness is faith working through love. This is what is pleasing to God.

Intercession and the fulness of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of grace, *Heb 10:29.*

One of the benefits of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is effective and fervent prayer. The Holy Spirit leads and instructs us in prayer. He shows us what to pray for and how to pray, *Rom 8:27, Jn 14:26, Eph 6:18.* Praying in tongues is praying with the spirit, *1Cor 14:14,15,* and is to be highly valued, *1Cor 14:5,18.* The Holy Spirit reveals visions, pictures, prophecies, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, and discernment of spirits which direct our intercession. The Holy Spirit's anointing in prayer is the power of God and releases miraculous results. In prayer we expect **the inevitable, supernatural, intervention of God,** we expect His miracle.

God answers by fire, *2Chr 7:1, 1K 18:38, Lev 9:24, Jud 6:21, Heb 12:29, Ac 2:1-4, Gen 15:17.*

Pray with bold expectation.

God gives us His prayers to pray. *Rom 11:36* "For of Him and through Him, and to Him are all things....." We pray them back to Him and He brings them to pass, *Is 44:26-28.* Prayer starts with God and returns to Him, *Rev 5:8.* It is important **to expect the blessing of God.** *Ps 62:5* says, "My expectation is from the Lord." Read *Ps 62:1-10.* Abraham believed God, *Rom 4:20,21.*

God rewards our faith, *Heb 11:6.*

God requires us to believe we receive what we ask for, *Jam 1:5,6, Mk 11:24, Ps 27:13.*

Intercession and the Word of God

Stay close to the Word of God when you are in intercession. The Word is our authority, it is our security and confidence. The Word is our shield and our sword, as well as our belt of truth. **Pray the Word of God** as much as possible and turn the promises of God's Word into prayers of faith, *Ac 4:24-27, 2Pet 1:3,4.*

In intercession we need to **avoid presumption,** *Ps 19:13, Num 14:44,* because in presumption we move out from the Lord's covering and authority and incur defeat, *1Sam 13:9, Deut 17:12,13.*

Intercession and persistence.

Never, never, never give up. **Persist in intercession.** Hold on in faith. Endure and never quit, *Rom 4:17-22.* God is faithful, truthful and all powerful. He will fulfil His Word, *Is 55:11, Num 23:19, Mat 24:35, Lk 1:37 (AMPV).* Some situations of intercession may take years to come to pass, *Is 54:13, 49:25, 44:3-5.*

Be encouraged, *Is 42:13.*

The Lord is going forth as a mighty man, now.
He is **stirring up His zeal** as a man of war, now.
He is **shouting out** and crying aloud, now.
He is **prevailing over His enemies,** now.

Amen.

Intercession and Community Transformation

Today the Holy Spirit is bringing **unity to the whole Body of Christ** in each town or city.

Leaders are seeking one another out for regular prayer, to build relationship links in the Spirit and to pray for each other and their churches. There is Holy Spirit directed prayer for specific needs. They intercede for the lost, for the poor and needy and for the secular leaders of the community. As this is taking place, the Holy Spirit is coming upon **men and women to intercede** for the church leaders, the churches, the lost and the community. **The church leaders and the intercessors** are relating together. The leaders feed to the intercessors many of the prayer needs. The intercessors tell the leaders what the Holy Spirit is saying to them as they pray.

In some towns and cities, leaders and churches are gathering regularly **for whole nights of prayer**, worship, praise and rejoicing before God. The Holy Spirit is falling on leaders of Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Assembly of God, Apostolic, Salvation Army, Independent churches etc. They are all coming together to exalt Christ and God. As the Body of Christ comes together in unity, to worship God and exalt Christ, the blessing of God is falling, *Ps 133*.

The **powers of darkness are rolled back** and the Gospel goes forth with new power and liberty. There is an increase of people being saved. The believers increase in boldness, zeal and liberty to share Christ and sow God's Word. After a time the whole community starts to change. The grip of satan through depression, poverty, violence and vandalism is broken. Prosperity, employment, joy, care of the town become apparent. Crime decreases very markedly. The appearance of the town changes and people come from afar to see the changes in the once despised community. Soon the government sends its officers to see the transformation. The leaders of the restoration are invited to the Parliament Buildings to explain what has happened and how it came about. This is what happens as God's people come together to seek Him, worship Him and call upon His Name.

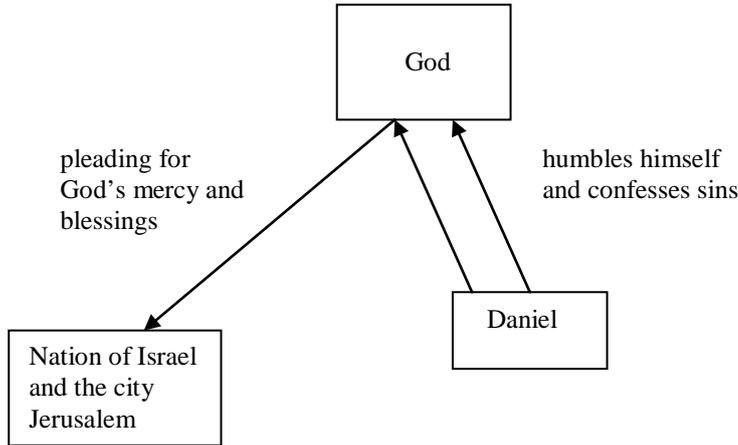
When evil tries to rise up and establish its presence in the town, the united church leaders speak as a body to the town council and the evil schemes of satan are put away.

On Fathers' Day, 1995, Revival came to Brownsville, Assembly of God, Pensacola, Florida, USA. This was a very depressed and poor area of the city. There was much prostitution, drug taking and crime. As the revival continued, the prostitution disappeared, the drug usage declined greatly and the violence and crime decreased. When we visited in 1998 to attend a Pastors' Conference, the queues for the revival meetings started to form at 5.30am for the 7pm service. By nightfall they were hundreds of yards long. People were queuing to get saved. To help the people in the queues, shops supplying camping gear, toilets, fast foods, chairs, umbrellas etc. appeared around the church property. The church in Brownsville is a unified, Holy Spirit inspired, holy, on fire, Word filled power house for God and the Gospel. Tens of thousands have been saved.

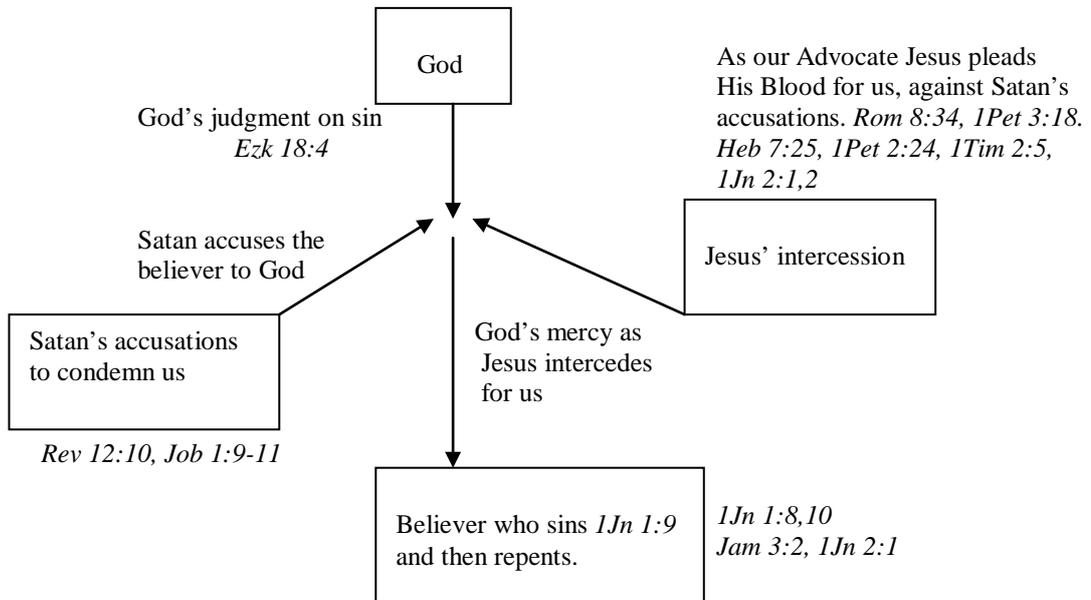
Daniel's Intercession – Dan 9:1-27, Dan 10:1-21

Revelation of the need to intercede by the Word of God, 9:2.

Daniel humbled himself before God to seek His face, 9:3,4, 10:2,3,12. He confessed his sins and the people's sins, 9:5-8,10-15. He declared God's mercy, 9:9,18. Daniel pleads for God's mercy and blessing, 9:16-19. God confirmed that He had heard Daniel's cry, 9:20-27

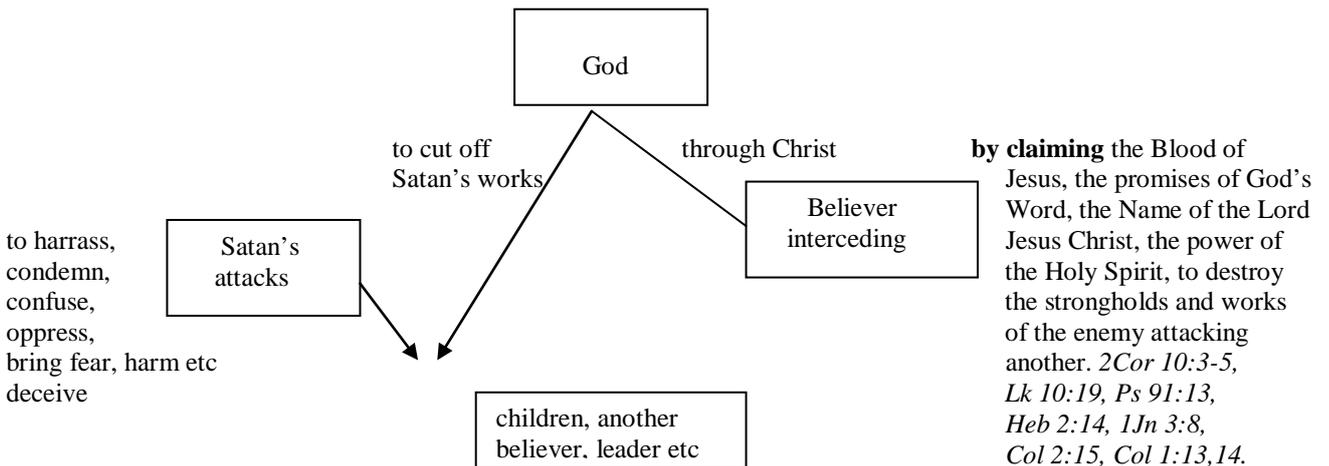


Jesus' intercession for the believer – 1Jn 2:1,2, Rom 8:34

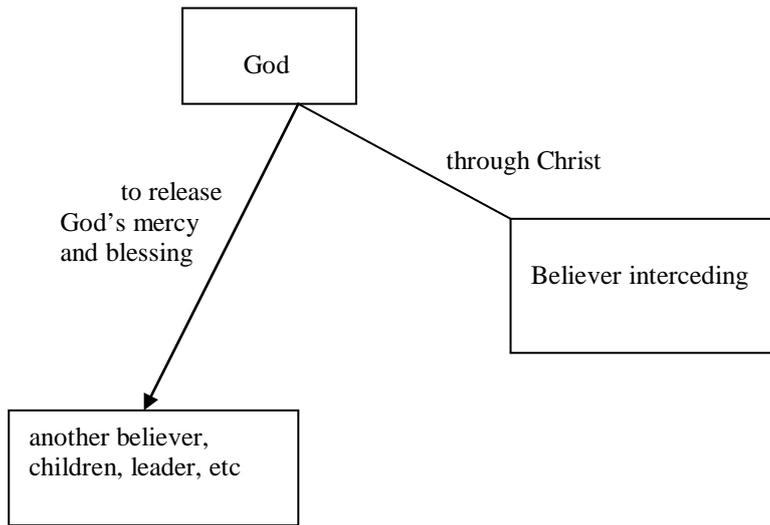


Believer's intercession for children, another believer, leader, church etc.

A. Cut off Satan's influences



B. To release God's blessings and grace



by claiming the promises of God for His grace, mercy, blessing to be upon the other. *Col 1:9-11, Eph 1:17-23, 3Jn 2, Ac 26:18.*
e.g. for our children *Is 54:13,14, Is 49:25, Is 44:3,4.*