

Intercessory Prayer

Ephesians 6:18

“Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere.”

We have looked at deliverance as it relates to us, but in this study, I want us to look at how we might intercede on behalf of another who needs deliverance. Before we can rightly intercede for others, we must learn how to plead the blood of Jesus on our own behalf. Hebrews 9:22-26 reminds us, “According to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore it was necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another - He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.” Revelation 12:11 says, “And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”

The blood of Jesus is far more than eternal salvation. The blood is our protection. Jesus shed sinless blood that the devil cannot cross. When we plead the blood of Jesus we can do it in authority, with boldness and with confidence, knowing there are not enough demons in existence to cross that line. If they all join hands and push together, they still could not cross that line.

My property has a bloodline. My house has a bloodline. My family has a bloodline. Your dominion (Authority) in the spirit realm has a bloodline and you have to draw it. In Exodus 12, God told the children of Israel to take the blood of lambs and paint the lintel of their

doors with it, so the angle of death could not cross the blood to reach those inside.

I am convinced that today we can apply the blood of Jesus in realm of the spirit. We can dip our brushes in the eternal, everlasting blood of the Lamb of God and paint it on the doorposts of our hearts. That blood will proclaim, “No entry devil. We give you no place. You cannot come in!” And on the authority of the Word of God the devil cannot cross the line!! Glory to God!!

We have been given this promise in James 4:7, “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” Listen, child of God, if Satan is coming against you to disrupt your family, or to destroy your finances, or whatever his scheme might be, this is not the time to sit down and whine about his attacks, it is time for you to plead the blood of Jesus on your life and family! It is time to stand on the Word of God and confess that you are more than a conqueror through Christ who loves you! It is time to stand in your God-given authority and command him to get his hands off your life and family!

When you stand in your God-given authority you don't have to be afraid of Satan – because he will be afraid of you! Glory to God!!

What can be done in behalf of others who obviously need deliverance, but who are not open to receive it?

First of all, what is the person's spiritual condition? Has he/she been born again? Is he/she backslidden? We must remember that salvation is deliverance. It is the deliverance of a man's spirit. Ephesians 2:1 reminds us before salvation comes a person is “dead in his trespasses and sins.” In what sense is he dead? We know he is not physically dead because he is still breathing and moving. We know his soul (the seat of his personality and/or thinking) is not dead because he is still thinking, feeling and making decisions. But his spirit is dead. He has no comprehension of, nor interest in, spiritual things. It takes the quickenning (life giving) power of the Holy Spirit to resurrect a man's spirit. Jesus tells us in John 3:3 he/she needs to be “born again.”

Ephesians 2:8 reminds us “**salvation**” comes about by the grace of God through that person's faith. And Romans 10:17 reminds us “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” The Greek word for “salvation” is “soteria,” and denotes deliverance. Therefore, salvation of man's spirit is the first stage of deliverance and it is the basis for further deliverance.

So, the priority in deliverance is leading a person to a right relationship with Jesus Christ.

Second, we must realize that salvation involves intercessory prayer that spiritual blindness be removed. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 says the lost person is blinded by satanic power, “But even if our gospel is veiled (hidden), it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age (Satan) has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.” Now watch this – when praying for an unsaved person to be saved, you must first of all use your spiritual authority to bind up Satan in their mind! Ephesians 6:12 gives us this warning, “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 reminds us spiritual warfare consists of struggling against evil forces in our minds, “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.” Spiritual warfare always begins in the “mind.”

Third, intercessory prayer is needed for the saved person as well. Anyone who is closed to the Lord's provision of needed deliverance is held by deception. Whatever excuse is offered for rejecting deliverance represents some form of deception. Satan, the deceiver, is having his way, and that person is held in needless bondage.

In Matthew 6:13, Jesus taught us to intercede for one another that we might be delivered from the snares of the devil, "...deliver us from the evil one." When Jesus used the plural pronoun "us," the indication is we should include others in our prayer for deliverance. That is exactly what Paul was telling us in Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayers and supplication in the Spirit and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

There is one caution that we must deal with in our efforts to lead a person to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, as well as seeking to restore a backslidden Christian to fellowship with the Lord. We must realize that WE CANNOT CONTROL ANOTHER person's WILL. Spiritual warfare has as its goal the releasing of a person's will in order that he/she can respond directly to the Lord and receive the help God has for them. In cases where the person is in the bondage of sin and of Satan by decisions of his own free will, then he has chosen that path, binding the devil will not cause him to turn. But when the demonic powers are bound by others, that individual then has the ability to choose Christ and His kingdom.

The greatest weapon that we can place along side intercessory prayer is our ability to love. 1 Peter 3:8-11 says this, "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. For "He who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it." Listen to me very carefully; buried deep within every man, woman, boy or girl lays the need to be loved. Somehow, you can be sure they have been hurt and/or rejected.

The eye of love distinguishes between the person's true self and the indwelling demons that manifest hatred, rebellion, suspicion or whatever else separates them from deliverance. Such discerning love enables us to love those persons who are unlovable, and not get

blown away by their storms of frustration caused by an unstable personality. Even when those persons do not recognize or respond to our offered love, we can be assured that it is a spiritual wrestling technique that puts intolerable pressure on the powers of darkness.

In the Bible, spirits are equated with breath and air. The Greek word for "spirit" is "pneuma" which means breath or air. Just as carbon monoxide is deadly to our breath, so is love to an evil spirit.

Listen carefully, an evil spirit cannot exist and work when surrounded by love. Our godly love forges a weapon that breaks down the anti-love powers in the lives of others. This is why Jesus taught in Matthew 5:43 to "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." It heaps coals of fire upon their heads. That is, it purifies their minds.

Now, the truth of the matter is this - the very people most needful of deliverance are often the most difficult to love. Although they may turn away from your offers of compassion and love, Jesus still commands us to love our enemies as seen in Matthew 5:43-48. In fact, that is exactly the way God delivered us from our sinfulness. The Word of God says in Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." He loved us even though we were altogether unlovely. His love broke down the barriers! Love has the power to break down every wall. It is a powerful weapon in the hands of a Spirit anointed Christian!!

Pray for one another, love one another, and share the Gospel with the lost!

If you are not saved, why not today?

Father,

Your Word is true. Thank You for loving me when I wasn't all that lovable. Because of Your deliverance in my life I can now know the joy

of loving others. Therefore, I confess I am more than a conqueror through Christ who loves me. In Jesus name. Amen.