

INTERCESSORS IDENTIFICATION, AGONY & AUTHORITY

By Sue Whisenhunt

Believers in general regard intercession as just some form of intensified prayer. This is not true. There are three qualities that develop in a true intercessor, which are not found in the ordinary, even intensified prayer, these are **Identification**, **Agony** and **Authority**.

The Identification of the intercessor with the ones for whom he intercedes is seen perfectly in the Savior. Of Jesus Christ it was said that "He poured out His soul unto death: and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." [Isaiah 54.12]

As the Divine Intercessor, interceding for a lost world, Jesus drained the cup of our lost condition to the last drop. He "tasted death for every man."

To do that, in the fullest possible sense, He sat where we sit. He became a man and took our nature upon Himself, "by being tempted in all points such as we are, by becoming poor for our sakes, and finally by being made sin for us," He gained the position in which, through the effective, [taking the place of-the Divine Exchange], pleadings with the Father, "He is able to save to the uttermost them that come unto God by Him."

IDENTIFICATION is the first law of the intercessor. He pleads effectively because, in a sense, he gives his life for those he pleads; he is their genuine representative; he has submerged his self-interest in their needs and sufferings, and as far as possible has literally taken their place.

Secondly, it is through the Holy Spirit that we see the **AGONY** of this ministry. It is the Holy Spirit who "maketh intercession with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Romans 8:26 NKJV

Likewise the Spirit also **Helps** in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Romans 8:26 AMP

So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid *and* bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer *nor* how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication *and* pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings *and* groanings too deep for utterance.

This word **Helps** in the Greek means = takes hold together with against [our weaknesses].

These words 'our weaknesses' and 'in our behalf' represent not only ourselves singly; they also represents us as 'the Body of Christ,' for we are one body.

I Corinthians 12:14-20 NKJV

For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body *were* an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole *were* hearing, where *would be* the smelling? But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. And if they were all one member, where *would* the body *be*? But now indeed *here are* many members, yet one body.

This Divine Intercessor, now seated at the right hand of the Father God, has no hearts upon which He can lay His burdens, and no bodies through which He can suffer and work, except the hearts and bodies of those who are His Dwelling Place. Through Believers He does His intercessory work on this

earth, and they become intercessors by reason of the Intercessor being in them.

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

It is the real life, of **IDENTIFICATION** and **AGONY**, to which He calls them, the very same kind of life, in a lesser measure, which the Savior Himself lived on earth.

Before the Holy Spirit can lead them into such a life of intercession, He first must deal with that person's love of money, personal ambition, appetites of the body, the love of life itself and the love of life unto oneself. Additionally, he must be free from the fear of man which is identified by: What will and what do other people think of me? If your answer to that question is: I do not care what others think of me; I only am concerned with: What Does my Father-God, think? What Does Jesus and Holy Spirit think of me? Then you have been freed from one of the greatest hindrances in your life as an intercessor and a believer.

All that makes the believer live for comfort or advantage and for his own advancement, even for his own circle of friends, has to go to the cross.

There is no theoretical death but a real crucifixion of our ways, with Jesus Christ, such as only the Holy Ghost Himself can make real in the experience of His servants; the ones, the believers, who say yes, to Jesus in being one with Him, and enter in to intercession with Him.

Thus Paul's testimony becomes ours: "I have been and still am crucified with Christ." [Galatians 2.20]

The self is released from itself to become the agent of Holy Spirit and with Holy Spirit. As crucifixion proceeds, intercession begins.

By calls to outward obedience, the Holy Spirit begins to live His own life of love, compassion and sacrifice for the lost, the hurting, the brokenhearted, and the captives and for a lost world through His cleansed vessel.

We see this in Moses, the young intercessor, leaving the palace by free choice to identify himself with his slave-brethren.

Later we see him reach the very same summit of intercession, when the Israelites provoked and grieved God for their idolatry, murmuring, grumbling and their disobedience. It is not his body he now offers for them as intercessor, but his immortal soul. Again and again Moses interceded for the Israelites.

Exodus 32:32 NKJV

"If thou wilt forgive their--; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of the Book."

The apostle Paul offered his body, through the Holy Ghost, as a living sacrifice, that the Gentiles might have the Gospel. This is the intercessor in action. Paul says, "**I travail in birth for you again.**" This means that he interceded with groanings, for the lost Gentiles, to birth them into the Kingdom of God, but he also travailed, with groanings, **again** to get them delivered, healed and walking as a son, a servant and a bond-servant of the Most High God.

I Peter 2.9 NKJV

"...you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

When the Holy Spirit really lives His life in and through chosen vessels of honor, there is no limit to the extremities to which He will take them, in His passion of intercession to save the lost, heal the brokenhearted, and bring people into the freedom that has been purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross.

Every greatly used instrument-vessel of God has been, in his measure, an intercessor:

Wesley for backsliding England;

Booth for the down and outs;

Hudson Taylor for China;

If any intercessor knows Identification and Agony, he also knows **AUTHORITY**. He so identifies with the sufferer that it gives him a prevailing place with God; A position of **AUTHORITY**. He moves God with pleadings for compassion and mercy for the one he intercedes for. He even causes God to extend His mercy instead judgment. Moses by intercession became the savior of the Israelites preventing their self-induced destruction and judgment over and over again.

In Numbers 21:1-9, the plague of the fiery serpents upon God's people was, in reality, 'a self-inflicted punishment,' resulting from their frequent murmurings. God's judgment was in allowing what their own presumption invited, and many died from the bites of the serpents. But in answer to the repentance of His people, God prescribed an erection of bronze [refers to judgment in the Word of God] serpent to which any might look in faith and be healed.

Jesus referred to this account in John 3:14-15. He clearly implies that the bronze serpent typifies His being raised upon the cross. He took the judgment that was due us, on Himself. Our healing both spiritual and physical comes from looking to and identifying with Christ crucified, "by His stripes you are healed." I Peter 2:24

Numbers 21:7 states when the people repented, Moses prayed for the people and God gave Moses specific instructions of deliverance for them.

Romans 10 & 11 speaks of Paul's supreme act of intercession for God's chosen people, and how it resulted in the great revelation given him at the time of worldwide evangelism to the Gentiles and the final salvation of Israel.

This **Authority** is often spoken of as "the gained position of intercession." The obedience to prayer is fulfilled, the inner wrestlings and groanings take their full course, and then "the Word of the Lord comes." The weak praying vessel is clothed with Authority by the Holy Ghost and speaks the Word of Deliverance. Greater works are done!!! Not only is this, but a new position in grace is gained and maintained by the instrument or vessel used by Holy Spirit.

When an intercessor has gained that place of intercession, for authority in a certain realm, then he has entered into "the place of Grace of Faith" in that area. At that point, the measureless sea of God's grace is open to him.