

## INTERCESSION

Quite simply, intercessory prayer is the act of **praying on behalf of and/or standing in for of others**.

- The role of **mediator** in prayer was prevalent in the Old Testament, in the cases of Abraham, Moses, David, Samuel, Hezekiah, Elijah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel.
- **Christ is pictured in the New Testament as the ultimate intercessor, and because of this, *all Christian prayer becomes intercession since it is offered to God through and by Christ.***
- Jesus closed the gap between us and God when He died on the cross.
- Because of Jesus' mediation, we can now **intercede in prayer** on behalf of other Christians or for the lost, **asking God to grant their requests** according to His will. **“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). “Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” (Romans 8:34).**

A wonderful model of intercessory prayer is found in [Daniel 9](#). It has all the elements of true intercessory prayer.

- It is in response to the Word (v. 2);
- characterized by fervency (v. 3) and self-denial (v. 4);
- identified unselfishly with God's people (v. 5);
- strengthened by confession (v. 5-15);
- dependent on God's character (vv. 4, 7, 9, 15);
- and has as its goal God's glory (vv. 16-19).

Like Daniel, **Christians are to come to God on behalf of others**

- **in a heartbroken and repentant attitude,**
- **recognizing their own unworthiness**
- **and with a sense of self-denial.**

Daniel does not say, “I have a right to demand this out of You, God, because I am one of your special, chosen intercessors.” He says, “I'm a sinner,” and, in effect, “I do not have a right to demand anything.”

True intercessory prayer seeks not only to know God's will and see it fulfilled, but to see it **fulfilled whether or not it benefits us and regardless of what it costs us**. True intercessory prayer **seeks God's glory, not our own**.

**The following is only a partial list of those for whom we are to offer intercessory prayers:**

- all in authority ([1 Timothy 2:2](#));
- ministers ([Philippians 1:19](#));
- Jerusalem ([Psalm 122:6](#));
- friends ([Job 42:8](#));
- fellow countrymen ([Romans 10:1](#));
- the sick ([James 5:14](#));
- enemies ([Jeremiah 29:7](#));
- those who persecute us ([Matthew 5:44](#));
- those who forsake us ([2 Timothy 4:16](#));
- and all men ([1 Timothy 2:1](#)).

There is an idea in contemporary Christianity that those who should offer up intercessory prayers must be a special class of “super-Christians,” called by God to a specific ministry of intercession. The Bible is clear that **all Christians are called to be intercessors**. All Christians have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and, just as He intercedes for us in accordance with God’s will ([Romans 8:26-27](#)), we are to intercede for one another. **In fact, not to intercede for others is sin. “As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you” ([1 Samuel 12:23](#)).**

We should never “only” seek others to do our praying for us.

**BUT.....THERE IS A GIFT**

People with the spiritual gift of faith ([1 Corinthians 12:9](#)) usually have a (super)natural affinity for praying for others. (GIFT OF INTERCESSION)

The Spiritual gift of Intercessor is **the special ability God gives to use prayer with confidence and power to intervene on behalf of an individual or group.** Groups need someone with this gift to remain intentional about inviting God’s presence and provision in to bless, protect, and guide other members of the body.

Remember that all the gifts, talents, and abilities that we have can be used negatively. When Intercession is used in a selfish, harsh, over-barring, reckless manner or when it is enabling sin or dysfunctional behavior, it would not be Spirit-led or an expression of love. This gift is best used when coupled with Gifts of *Wisdom, Knowledge, Administration and Discernment*.