

Ever Living to Make Intercession

by G.W. North

Intercession is a vital ministry that enables us to grow in Christlikeness and conformity to His image, and is essential for our own personal blessing and the blessing of others.

Scripture: Psalm 122:6, Luke 22:32, Romans 8:34, Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Hebrews 7:25, James 5:16, 1 John 2:1

Topics: "Christlikeness", "Intercession"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the vital role of intercession in the life of a believer, asserting that it is a reflection of Christ's own ministry as He 'ever liveth to make intercession' for us. He explains that intercession is not only for personal blessing but also for the benefit of others, and it is a mark of spiritual maturity and conformity to Christ's image. North highlights that true intercession stems from a heart filled with love and holiness, which prepares individuals to engage in this sacred ministry. He urges believers to recognize the importance of intercession in fulfilling God's purpose and to embody the love of Christ in their prayers for others. Ultimately, he calls for a deeper commitment to this spiritual practice, which is essential for the manifestation of God's kingdom on earth.

Transcript

This constant ministry of intercession in us on God's behalf is for our own personal blessing; parallel with it there is also another branch of ministry to which the Spirit is committed and which ought to be fully functional in each of us, namely intercession for others. This ministry will develop in scope and strength in each of God's children alongside and in accordance with that person's development in conformity to the Son. We may all be sure of one thing, namely that this power of intercession is the surest indication of Christlike-ness; it is the result of growth into His image, 'He ever liveth to make intercession', and because this is so with Him it must be so with us. What a reason for living! Intercession is among the chiefest, if not the very chiefest and most indispensable of the everlasting ministries to which the sons of God are committed. There are many reasons given in scripture (some plainly stated, some obviously implied and others not even referred to at all) why Christ is now living in glory; each of these is vital and necessary, but of them all none is more important than this. We are privileged to be incorporated into it, for it is a highly secret ministry, maintained solely between Jesus Himself with the Father and the Spirit and us. It is absolutely certain that no-one can be conformed to Christ's image if he or she refuses to conform to His present desires by engaging in the ministry for which He lives and to which He is dedicated. He ascended to heaven for this; everything He did on earth prior to His ascension, and His ascension itself also, led Him

to this place; intercession is the logical end-time occupation and function to which all His previous work led.

We must be gripped afresh with the knowledge of this: salvation is no more possible apart from His intercession than it is possible without His death and resurrection. Everything He did led to what He is doing, and everything He is doing depends upon what He did; they are a whole. Every function of His, and all His work, is of vital importance to God's overall purpose; each step was carefully planned and executed, and in all of them He was without fault or weakness. How important then is intercession for us as well as for Him; we must not be found at fault or weak in this area. If we stop short of this we fail to conform to His image. Conformity is not cosmetic; we must not seek false beauty by trying to look like Him outwardly. Christ-likeness is not a mask or an outfit (how can we know what He looks like outwardly?); it is by first being as He is and then doing what He is doing, because, with Him, we share God's identical love for others.

The power of the Spirit to resurrect the spirit of man into holiness, and the love shed abroad in the heart by the Holy Spirit and the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus are the indispensable means of intercession in any man; they prepare and qualify the heart for intercession; let these depart from the heart and life, and intercession, if it had ever begun, will soon cease. Without holiness a man is disqualified from intercession, and without love he has no disposition for it. Love which feels for others with the love and feelings wherewith God loves and feels for them, love which understands and knows that there is little or nothing else that can be done, and realizes that, unless someone intervenes, souls will go to hell, drives many to intercede. Intercession is the outcome of spiritual tuition and intuition, it owes little or nothing to formal education, being less of mind and letter than of heart and love and knowledge of God's will. Contemplation of ultimate alternative destinies is sufficient to fill the heart of sensitive persons with fear or wonder; hell and heaven are inescapable realities to the intercessor. He knows that God commends His love to men and women because they are sinners, and he knows also that, while we were yet sinners and without strength to do anything for ourselves, Christ died for us.

Love is intense feeling, the sovereign virtuous feeling of the heart that makes a person commit the whole being to someone else for that person's good. It is nothing other than the nature and spirit of the God whose heart-feelings for others pour out of Him ceaselessly, evoking words like these, 'He who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?' Love can hold nothing back; 'God is for us', all of God is for us, God is all for us, He is for us; what unqualified wonder grips the soul that knows this! No charges can be brought against the soul for whom intercession is made, accusation and intercession cannot live together. Intercession is made for the elect in the purposes of God who has both justified and glorified them; how then can they be condemned? Christ intercedes for them, He died for them, He loves them; love to the death is the love that intercedes. O God give us all that love. When that love grips the heart it becomes the reason for all intercession; the life that is gladly given over to it, opening up to God for all that it means, shall indeed reign in life with Christ.

As in all the precious things he preached and sought to impart to others, Paul was an example of all he taught about intercession. He never sought to impress others with his knowledge, nor did he constantly boast of his experiences, great as they were; he simply lived the life of Christ, and sought to impart that (life) to everybody. So truly did he enter into the Spirit and live in Christ there, that he could speak all those things about which his conscience bore him witness in the Holy Spirit, whether on this matter or that; specially about the great ministry of intercession. How tremendously great it would be if every one of us could, in all honesty, do the same thing. The immensity of need in the world is so great, all around us the

creation is groaning in pain, waiting for this manifestation of sonship. Things would change so radically if only the sons of God grew up to become intercessors after the image and example of Christ. But to those not in the Spirit this is quite impossible. Intercession is an entirely spiritual ministry, it cannot be engaged in outside of Him for it only exists in that realm. Although it may affect both bodily and material conditions (as for instance when it is accompanied by fastings) it only functions in the spirit of a man abiding in the Spirit of God. Seeing that it consists basically in the groanings of the Spirit, they who engage in it must live in the same state of spiritual holiness and love and power as He, and share like feelings of heart with Him.

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