

# Ministry of Intercession

by Zac Poonen

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*The ministry of intercession is a vital part of the Christian life, where we pray for and thank God for others, rather than focusing on their faults.*

**Scripture:** Matthew 5:44, John 3:17, John 20:21, Romans 1:8, 1 Corinthians 1:4, 2 Corinthians 7:8, Ephesians 1:15, Philippians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, Colossians 3:15, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 2 Thessalonians 1:3, 2 Timothy 1:3, Hebrews 7:25

**Topics:** "Intercessory Prayer", "Spiritual Warfare"

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## Description

Zac Poonen preaches on the ministry of intercession and salvation, emphasizing that God sent His Son not to condemn but to save the world. Believers are called to have a full-time ministry of intercession, following the example of Jesus. By replacing the spirit of accusation with the spirit of intercession, believers can be effective instruments in God's hands and overcome Satan in the church. Paul's practice of thanking God for fellow believers before correcting them serves as a model for appreciating and interceding for one another.

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## Transcript

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world (Jn. 3:17). And the reason our Lord is able to save us completely is because He always lives to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

The ministry of accusation and condemnation is the ministry of Satan and we should have no part in this. Our Lord, on the other hand has a full-time ministry of intercession and salvation. This is the ministry that we should have.

God has given us to Jesus as His Bride and His 'helpmeet' for this ministry. So we are to be co-workers with our Lord in this ministry of intercession. As the Father sent Jesus into the world - not to condemn (judge, accuse) the world, but to save it - even so, He has sent us too, into the world, not to condemn, judge, or accuse others, but to save them. (Jn.20:21). Therefore, we can be effective instruments in God's hands in His work in the world today, only if we get rid of "the spirit of accusation" (the spirit of Satan) totally from our lives and replace it with "the spirit of intercession" (the Spirit of Christ).

The ministry of intercession is one that every one of us must take seriously. There is no other way to overcome Satan in the church. Our Lord has told us not only to forgive those who persecute us, but also to pray for them (Mt.5:44). If we only forgive them but do not pray for them, then the spirit of accusation can

re-enter our lives. Let us begin to thank God then for one another, for this is where all true intercession begins. "You were called in one body - be thankful (for one another)" (Col.3:15).

In Paul's letters, we see how he had this habit: He invariably began his letters by thanking God for the Christians - at Rome, Corinth, Ephesus, Phillipi, Colossae and Thessalonica and also for Timothy and Philemon (Rom.1:8; 1 Cor.1:4; . Eph.1:15, 16; Phil. 1:3; Col.1:3; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Thess.1:3; 2 Tim. 1 :3; Philemon 4). No doubt, there were many faults in all those Christians, that a godly man like Paul could easily see. But he refused to join hands with the Accuser in accusing them. God had sent him to help them and save them, not accuse them and condemn them.

Even when writing to the Corinthians, who had such serious problems in their midst, Paul began by thanking God for the good that he could see even in them. It was only after saying that, that he corrected them. Perhaps this was why the Corinthian Christians accepted Paul's correction readily (2 Cor.7.8,9). Perhaps this is also why others do not accept our corrections and exhortations - because we have never appreciated the good that we have seen in them!

You who are parents, consider this: Haven't you been quicker at pointing out the failures and mistakes you see in your children than in appreciating the good that you have seen in them? Have you ever spoken words of encouragement and appreciation to your children? Have you ever knelt down with them and thanked God for them? If you have criticised but not appreciated, then it is not surprising that your children haven't got any better!! Why not try another - more Divine - approach? When you change your attitude, you will find that your children change too. Try it out and see if it doesn't work. We who are believers could also ask ourselves this question: Is it really true what Satan keeps telling us that there is nothing good at all in those other believers whom we have been accusing for so many years??

God grant that, as much as the spirit of accusation and complaining and backbiting against others has found its place in our thoughts and in our hearts in the past, we will now be equally filled - and even more - with the spirit of thanksgiving and intercession for one another. Thus the enemy will no longer find a place in our lives. The Accuser and his spirits will be overcome and driven out by the spirit of intercession. Will you be radical now and forsake this habit of accusing others - once and for all - and replace it with the spirit of intercession? May the Lord help us all to do so.

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