

Principles of Intercession

I. WHAT IS SUCCESS?

- A. God is looking for intercessors at the end of the age who live “from heaven to earth”. Intercessors must embrace a God-centered, Christ-exalting, heavenly paradigm of success.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10 ESV)

“The intercessor is God-centered. He is not problem-focused; he is not focused on what man can or cannot do. He has a vision of what God can do. When no intercessor can be found among God’s people, it is the supreme mark of failure in our responsibility to God and to our fellow man.”¹ –Derek Prince

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless [“fully committed” - NIV] toward him. (2 Chronicles 16:9 ESV)

- B. When our paradigm of success is rooted in this “**present evil age**” (**Galatians 1:4**), we are often unable to cope with emotional disappointments. Disappointment leads to misinterpreting the previous season or trial and the heart of God Himself. We tend to insulate ourselves from God, rather than running to God. Often our theology is what changes in these times when it should be our hearts. Faith and importunity is what matters in the darkest hours.

I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)

- C. In embracing an earthly paradigm of success, rather than a heavenly one, we run the risk of actually abandoning our prophetic mandates and experiencing deep regret in the age to come. However, if our paradigm of success is rooted in the age of to come, then we will interpret risk, sacrifice, obedience and love in radically different ways. This is the litmus tests of intercessory assignments.
- D. Earthly paradigms of success are fueled by a calculating spirit. In the early days of Christianity (and throughout Scripture), there is an absence of a calculating spirit. The calculating instinct is death to faith. A spirit of revelation is the solution. God can do more in one moment of awe, than in a lifetime spent in careful calculation.

1. Jeremiah

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, 24 but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.” (Jeremiah 9:23-24 ESV)

2. Paul

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

¹ Prince, Derek. *Secrets of a Prayer Warrior*. 83. Print.

- C. God is looking for intercessors whose passions are rooted in the age to come with a vision bent on glorifying His Son and piercing through the darkness of this present evil age.

1 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. (James 4:1-4 ESV)

- E. Gaining understanding of God's heart and ways in this present hour does not come by casual observance, but by standing in the council of the Lord. Standing in the council of the Lord is less about waiting on God to get good sermon points. It is about uniting you heart to fear His name. It is about pursuing agreement with God's heart and ways in every area of our lives.

Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name. (Psalm 86:11 ESV)

- F. In the Kingdom of God, success is measured by your obedience to the call of God on your life (regardless of whether or not that obedience produces impact) as the size of your heart grows in love. Pioneers understand that how you build is more important than what you build.

II. PRINCIPLES OF INTERCESSION

- A. God is looking for intercessors whose passions are rooted in the age to come, but who embrace a vision bent on glorifying His Son by piercing through the darkness of this present evil age. Identification, agony and authority are vital aspects of this ministry of intercession.

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1. **Identification** - the intercessor is brought into the place of identifying with the objects of intercession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15 ESV)

2. **Agony** - the intercessor is brought into a place of experiencing the burdens of God's hearts.

And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 34 And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." 35 And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. (Mark 14:33-35)

3. **Authority** - the place of identification and agony is to bring us to a place of authority: a gained position. God's heart moves in situations with a greater grace and power because we have asked Him.

IV. TORN HEARTS, NOT TORN GARMENTS

- A. God's heart is attracted to a community of intercession and fasting that gets a vision for **"tearing their hearts and not their garments"** (Joel 2:12-16).

1. Torn hearts is a massive contrast to torn garments. It shows the contrast between the external and internal. God is not asking for external displays of holiness and offerings of prayer. That is secondary. God is looking for inward agreement with His Word and Spirit.

- B. A repentance-centric Gospel is a radically diminished Gospel. God is not just asking for people to simply quit doing things. He's requiring that they quit demeaning His infinite worth and matchless glory by gorging themselves on inferior pleasures. He is requiring that we respond in the deepest of love for Him. This is a command.

- C. Intercession is the deepest expression of humility and servanthood. Jesus is the Eternal Intercessor who laid down his life. The Pharisees refused to embrace the humility, intimacy and servanthood that intercession requires, thus authority did not rest on their lives.

"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in. (Matthew 23:13 ESV)

- E. A central sign of true spiritual health is to embrace and live in an internal state of constant spiritual hunger.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:4-6 ESV)

"They devoted themselves to prayer and the ministry of the Word..." (Acts 6:4 ESV)