

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER
Follow Christ
Banská Štiavnica, 31st October 2021

1Tim 2:1-6 Παρακαλῶ οὖν πρῶτον πάντων ποιεῖσθαι δεήσεις, προσευχάς, ἐντεύξεις, εὐχαριστίας, ὑπὲρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων· ² ὑπὲρ βασιλέων καὶ πάντων τῶν ἐν ὑπεροχῇ ὄντων, ἵνα ἡρεμον καὶ ἡσύχιον βίον διάγωμεν ἐν πάσῃ εὐσεβείᾳ καὶ σεμνότητι. ³ τοῦτο γὰρ καλὸν καὶ ἀπόδεκτον ἐνώπιον τοῦ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν θεοῦ, ⁴ ὃς πάντας ἀνθρώπους θέλει σωθῆναι καὶ εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἐλθεῖν. ⁵ Εἷς γὰρ θεός, εἷς καὶ μεσίτης θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπων, ἄνθρωπος χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς, ⁶ ὁ δοὺς ἑαυτὸν ἀντίλυτρον ὑπὲρ πάντων, τὸ μαρτύριον καιροῖς ἰδίους

1Tim 2:1-6 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time

1 John 5:16 Ἐάν τις ἴδῃ τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἀμαρτάνοντα ἀμαρτίαν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον, αἰτήσῃ, καὶ δώσει αὐτῷ ζωὴν τοῖς ἀμαρτάνουσιν μὴ πρὸς θάνατον. Ἔστιν ἀμαρτία πρὸς θάνατον· οὐ περὶ ἐκείνης λέγω ἵνα ἐρωτήσῃ

1 John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask, and God will give him life- to those who commit sins that do not lead to death. There is sin that leads to death; I do not say that one should pray for that.

OUTLINE

0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. MODERN SELFISM
- 0.2. THE BIBLE – A BOOK OF INTERCESSION
- 0.3. INTERCESSION – A WEAPON OF THE SPIRIT
- 0.4. FAILURE TO INTERCEDE

1. RIGHT MOTIVE

- 1.1. INTIMACY WITH GOD
- 1.2. GLORIFYING GOD

2. RIGHT ATTITUDE

- 2.1. FAITH
- 2.2. LOVE

3. RIGHT METHOD

- 3.1. ACCESS
- 3.2. HELP IN PRAYER
- 3.3. AIMS

4. TO REMEMBER

0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. MODERN SELFISM

- “the age of the self”
- **James 4:3** You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions...

[CHAMBERS] The reason so few of us intercede is because we do not understand that intercession is a vicarious work. It is not meant to develop us; it is vicarious from beginning to end. *Approved unto God.*

[CHAMBERS] There is only one field of service that has no snares, and that is the field of intercession. All other fields have the glorious but risky snare of publicity; prayer has not. The key to all our work for God is in that one word we are apt to despise *If Ye Shall Ask*

[CHAMBERS] Intercession leaves you neither time nor inclination to pray for your own "sad sweet self." The thought of yourself is not kept out because it is not there to keep out, you are completely and entirely identified with God's interest in other lives.

0.2. THE BIBLE – A BOOK OF INTERCESSION

- **Job 33:23-25** If there be for him an angel, a mediator, one of the thousand, to declare to man what is right for him, ²⁴ and he is merciful to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down into the pit; I have found a ransom'; ²⁵ let his flesh become fresh with youth; let him return to the days of his youthful vigor';
- Abraham → Sodom
- Moses → Israel in the wilderness
- Paul → for Jewish unbelievers
- **The Holy Spirit** → **Rom 8:27** And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God (ὁ δὲ ἐρευνῶν τὰς καρδίας οἶδεν τί τὸ φρόνημα τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅτι κατὰ θεὸν ἐντυγχάνει ὑπὲρ ἁγίων)
- **Jesus** → **1 John 2:1-2** But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (παράκλητον ἔχομεν πρὸς τὸν πατέρα, Ἰησοῦν χριστὸν δίκαιον). ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world
- **Rom 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- more than that, who was raised- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us

0.3. INTERCESSION – A WEAPON OF THE SPIRIT

- Paul "Pray for us"
 - **1 The 5:25** Brothers, pray for us.
 - **2The 3:1** Finally, brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may speed ahead and be honored, as happened among you
 - **Eph 6:18-19** To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints (ἐν πάσῃ προσκαρτερήσει καὶ δεήσει περὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων), ¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel

0.4. FAILURE TO INTERCEDE

[CHAMBERS] Very few of us understand why clouds of darkness come. It is God trying to get us into line with the prophets and apostles. It is the Holy Spirit seeking to bring us into the place of vicarious intercession, and we nearly always misunderstand it and say, "I must have sinned," or "I must get out of this, I have got the blues."

[CHAMBERS] How can we fill up the sufferings that remain behind? First John 5:16 is an indication of one way, viz., that of intercession. Remember, no man has time to pray, he has to take time from other things that are valuable in order to understand how necessary time for prayer is. The things that act like thorns and stings in our personal lives will go instantly we pray; we won't feel the smart any more, because we have got God's point of view about them. Prayer means that we get into union with God's view of other people. Our devotion as saints is to identify ourselves with God's interests in other lives. God pays no attention to our personal affinities; He expects us to identify ourselves with His interests in others. *The Psychology of Redemption*

1. RIGHT MOTIVE

- God and his salvation

1.1. INTIMACY WITH GOD

[CHAMBERS] The meaning of intercession is that we see what God is doing, consequently there is an intimacy between the child and the Father which is never impertinent. *Not Knowing Where*

1.2. GLORIFYING GOD

- **Joshua 7:9** For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth. And what will you do for your great name? (לְשִׁמְךָ הַגָּדוֹל וְיִמְהַדְּתֵנּוּ)"

- **1Cor 10:31** So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God

2. RIGHT ATTITUDE

- [DEFINITION] An attitude is the categorization of a stimulus object along an evaluative dimension (Zanna & Rempel).

2.1. DISCERNMENT

[CHAMBERS] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. Eph. 6:18. Intercession leaves you neither time nor inclination to pray for your own 'sad sweet self.' The thought of yourself is not kept out, because it is not there to keep out; you are completely and entirely identified with God interests in other lives. Discernment is God's call to intercession, never to fault finding. *My Utmost for His Highest*

- Christ and his love → **Phil 1:8** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus (ἐπιποθῶ πάντας ὑμᾶς ἐν σπλάγγνοις Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ)
- Watch your words... Feed yourself a steady diet of negative words and you will have a negative attitude.
- **James 5:9** Do not grumble against one another, brothers (Μὴ στενάζετε κατ' ἀλλήλων),
- **James 4:11** Do not speak evil against one another, brothers (Μὴ καταλαλέετε ἀλλήλων)

2.2. FAITH

- **Luke 17:3-5** Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, ⁴ and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

2.3. LOVE

- the mind of Christ

[CHAMBERS] The Holy Spirit does reveal what is wrong in others, but His discernment is never for purposes of criticism, but for purposes of intercession. When the Holy Spirit reveals something of the nature of sin and unbelief in another, His purpose is not to make us feel the smug satisfaction of a critical spectator, "Well, thank God, I am not like that"; but to make us so lay hold of God for that one that God enables him to turn away from the wrong thing. *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount*

- **Phil 2:4-5** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
- **Gal 6:1-2** Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual (ὁμεις οἱ πνευματικοι) should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

[CHAMBERS] Intercession must never spring from pity, but from the perfect Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Notes on Jeremiah*

[CHAMBERS] You cannot intercede if you do not believe in the Reality of Redemption, you will turn intercession into futile sympathy with human beings which only increases their submissive content to being out of touch with God. Intercession means getting the mind of Christ about the one for whom we pray, that is what is meant by filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ"; and that is why there are so few intercessors. *Conformed to His Image*

3. RIGHT METHOD

- The Holy Spirit and his power

3.1. ACCESS

- **Heb 10:19-22** Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water

3.2. HELP IN PRAYER

- **Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit

- **Rom 8:26** Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words

3.3. AIMS

- **1Thes 5:23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. TO REMEMBER

- To pray for others (believers and unbelievers) is an important part of Christian worship.
- Prayer is to be more motivated by God's will and glory than by human problems – own or else's.
- The effectiveness of prayer for others must have its source in the power of the Holy Spirit.