

2017

SCHOOL OF PRAYER

SERIES

In Prayer

with **DICK EASTMAN**

NINE "IN PRAYER" CLUSTER-THEMES
FOR FRUITFUL PRAYING

LESSON FOUR

THE INTERCESSION CLUSTER

Serving in Prayer



THE INTERCESSION CLUSTER

Serving in Prayer

- Identifying in Prayer
- Intervening in Prayer
- Fasting in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

“God seeks intercessors. God needs intercessors. God wonders why there are not more intercessors. Do not rest until God sees that you are one.” — Andrew Murray

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV)

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

Note this same passage in the Message Bible:

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live. He wants not only us but *everyone* saved, you know, everyone to get to know the truth we've learned... This and this only has been my appointed work: getting this news to those who have never heard of God, and explaining how it works by simple faith and plain truth.

INTERCESSION DEFINED

Inter meaning:

1. To go
2. To yield
3. To move
4. To pay the price of

Cedere meaning:

1. Between
2. Among
3. Involved
4. Intervention

Intercession can therefore mean:

1. To go between
2. To yield among
3. To move toward involvement
4. To pay the price of intervention

***Philippians 2:5-8 (NIV)***

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant [“slave” NLT; “bondservant” NKJV], being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

VOICES OF PRAYER

“In due time the weeping intercessor will become the rejoicing winner of souls.” — Charles Spurgeon

THE PARABLE OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN
A Lesson in Intercession

Note the response of Jesus to a certain lawyer who was testing Jesus with a question:

Luke 10:29-35 (NIV)

...“And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he

traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’”

VOICES OF PRAYER

“Don’t ever underestimate the mission of prayer. Through it we can love any of the world’s unreached peoples, even at the ends of the earth.” — David Bryant

NOTES



INTERCESSORS ARE SAINT REFRESHERS!

1 Corinthians 16:15-18 (NKJV)

I urge you, brethren — you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves [KJV: addicted themselves] to the ministry of the saints — that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express our love for them.” — John Calvin

NOTES

INTERCESSION CLUSTER - INSIGHT ONE

Serving

Intercession is the act of intentional involvement in the needs and battles of others, by giving ourselves to humbly serve them, with the mindset of Christ Jesus (whether it be loved ones, neighbors or nations), both within the closet of prayer interceding for them, and beyond through responsive action. Intercession, with the attitude of Christ is as much a way of life as it is a type of prayer.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight One, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to serve others as a “bondservant” in prayer. (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you are watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on insight one of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight One (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to serve in prayer.



PART 1

Identifying in Prayer

Romans 12:14-16 (NKJV)

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate [identifying] with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Galatians 6:1-2 (NIV)

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens [identifying], and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“Intercessory prayer might be defined as loving our neighbor on our knees.” — Charles H. Brent

Daniel 9:16 (NIV)

Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors [identifying] have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Nehemiah 1:6 (MSG)

I said, “God, God-of-Heaven, the great and awesome God, loyal to his covenant and faithful to those who love him and obey his commands: Look at me, listen to me. Pay attention to this prayer of your servant that I’m praying day and night in intercession for your servants, the People of Israel, confessing the sins of the People of Israel [identifying]. And I’m including myself, I and my ancestors, among those who have sinned against you.”

1 Corinthians 9:19-20, 22-23 (NIV)

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible [identifying]. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews [identifying]. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law [identifying]... To the weak I became weak, to win the weak [identifying]. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some [identifying]. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Verses 22-23 in the Message Bible read...

I’ve become just about every sort of servant there is [identifying] in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn’t just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it [identifying]!

***Hebrews 4:14-15 (NIV)***

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way [identifying], just as we are—yet he did not sin.

VOICES OF PRAYER

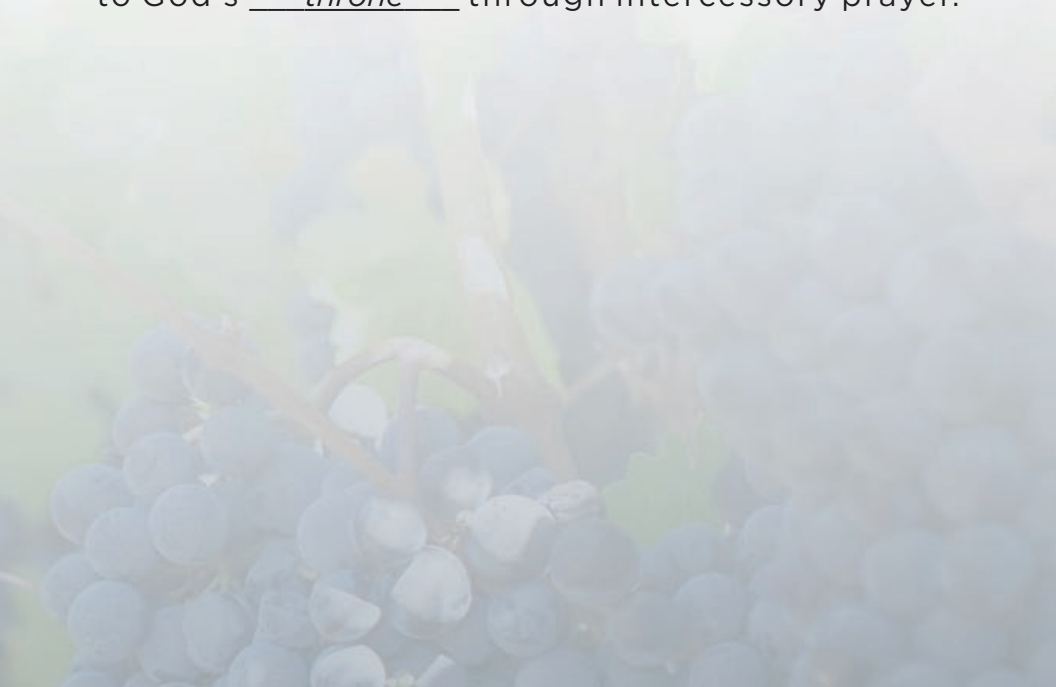
“Since Jesus ever lives to intercede, any time you pray — day or night — Jesus is already interceding. Every time you go to prayer, you can be Jesus’ prayer partner.”
— Wesley Duewel

NOTES

INTERCESSION CLUSTER - INSIGHT TWO

Identifying

Identifying in intercession is to enter prayer with the awareness of the needs and plights of others, as we seek to “become all things to all people” in our praying (1 Cor. 9:22, NIV); it is to “enter their world” to “experience things from their point of view” (the Message Bible) as we earnestly carry them and their sufferings (whether individuals or nations) to God’s throne through intercessory prayer.





THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Two, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to identify with others in prayer. (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you are watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on insight two of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Two (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to identify in prayer.

HARVEST INCENSE *National Focus*

Revelation 8:3-4 (MSG)

“...Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones, rose before God from the hand of the Angel.”



PART 2

Intervening in Prayer

Romans 15:30-31 (NKJV)

Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me [intervening], that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints...

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NIV)

For there is one God and one mediator [Intercessor] between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself [intervening] as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.

Isaiah 59:16, 19 (AMPC)

And He [the Lord] saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right]; therefore His own arm brought Him victory, and His own righteousness [having the Spirit without measure] sustained Him. So [as the result of the Messiah's intervention] they shall [reverently] fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him [intervening] and put him to flight...

VOICES OF PRAYER

“An intercessor means one who is in such vital contact with God and with his fellow men that he is like a live wire closing the gap between the saving power of God and the sinful men who have been cut off from that power.” — Hannah Hurnard

Numbers 16:46-48 (NIV)

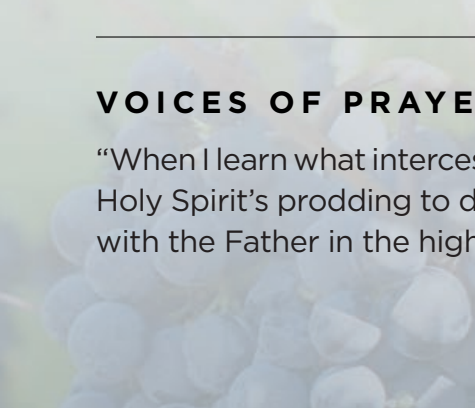
Then Moses said to Aaron, “Take your censer and put incense in it, along with burning coals from the altar, and hurry to the assembly [intervening] to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started.” So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly [intervening]... He stood between the living and the dead [intervening], and the plague stopped.

Psalms 106:19, 21, 23 (KJV)

They [the people of Israel] made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image... They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt... Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach [intervening], to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“When I learn what intercession is, and how to respond to the Holy Spirit’s prodding to do it, I am moving into partnership with the Father in the highest sense.” — Jack Hayford





INTERCESSION CLUSTER - INSIGHT THREE

Intervening

True intercession is an act of prayerful intervention in the needs of others, whether it be individuals, governments or unreached tribes and tongues of lost peoples without access to the Gospel; intervening through intercession is to “stand between the living and the dead” (Numbers 16:48, NIV) as well as to stand “in the breach” (Psalm 106:23, KJV) on behalf of lost and dying humanity so they might be saved.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Three, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding what you think it means to intervene on behalf of others through intercessory prayer. (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you are watching on a DVD, take these moments to meditate on insight three of this teaching.)

Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Three (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to intervene in prayer.

NOTES



PART 3

Fasting in Prayer

VOICES OF PRAYER

“On the basis of the record of the whole Bible, I would say that prayer and fasting combined constitute the strongest single weapon that has been committed to God’s believing people.” — Derek Prince

Isaiah 58:6-7, 12 (NKJV)

Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, To undo the heavy burdens, To let the oppressed go free, And that you break every yoke? *Is it* not to share your bread with the hungry, And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; When you see the naked, that you cover him... Those from among you Shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

VOICES OF PRAYER

“Prayer is reaching out after the unseen; fasting is letting go of all that is seen and temporal. Fasting helps express, deepen, and confirm the resolution that we are ready to sacrifice anything, even ourselves to attain what we seek for the Kingdom of God.” — Andrew Murray

THE ESTHER FAST: FOR THE SAKE OF ISRAEL

Dying to Self for the Sake of Another

Esther 4:10-17 (NKJV)

Then Esther spoke to Hathach, and gave him a command for Mordecai: “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that any man or woman who goes into the inner court to the king, who has not been called, *he has* but one law: put *all* to death, except the one to whom the king holds out the golden scepter, that he may live. Yet I myself have not been called to go in to the king these thirty days.” So they told Mordecai Esther’s words. And Mordecai told *them* to answer Esther: “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king’s palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for *such* a time as this?” Then Esther told *them* to reply to Mordecai: “Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which *is* against the law; and if I perish, I perish!” So Mordecai went his way and did according to all that Esther commanded him.



***Ezra 8:21-23 (NKJV)***


Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers... to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, "The hand of our God *is* upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath *are* against all those who forsake Him." So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.

NOTES

INTERCESSION CLUSTER - INSIGHT FOUR

Fasting

Fasting in prayer is a form of dying to self for the sake of another that adds supernatural power to our prayers of intercession. A true fast that “God has chosen” (Isaiah 58:6, NKJV), looses “the bonds of wickedness” and lets “the oppressed go free” (Isaiah 58:6b, NKJV). Those who fast and pray are called “repairers” and “restorers” and shall “raise up the foundations of many generations” (Isaiah 58:12, NKJV).





THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Thoughts

Based on Cluster Insight Four, share your thoughts within your prayer cluster regarding your insights as to why fasting in prayer can be such a vital part of effective intercessory prayer. (If you are alone as this teaching streams from our website or if you are watching on a DVD take these moments to meditate on insight four of this teaching.)

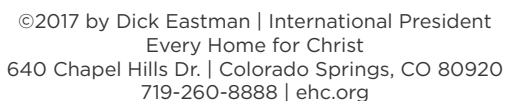
Prayers

Turn your thoughts regarding Cluster Insight Four (or any impression from the Scripture passages shared in this teaching segment) into a prayer of desire to fast in prayer.

HARVEST INCENSE *Global Focus*

Revelation 8:3-4 (MSG)

“...Then another Angel, carrying a gold censer, came and stood at the Altar. He was given a great quantity of incense so that he could offer up the prayers of all the holy people of God on the Golden Altar before the Throne. Smoke billowed up from the incense-laced prayers of the holy ones, rose before God from the hand of the Angel.”

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