

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Dear Friend:

I am sure everyone who reads this is an intercessory pray-er. The definition is pretty simple; someone who intercedes on behalf of others in prayer to our Heavenly Father. Intercessory prayers can be found throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. Abraham gives us an excellent model of intercessory prayer, found in Genesis 18. Abraham is told that God is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham's nephew, Lot, and his family are in Sodom, so Abraham intercedes asking God not to destroy the city, thus saving his nephew. Abraham begins bargaining with God. First, he asks God to save Sodom if there are 50 righteous people in the city. There are not 50 righteous people, so Abraham gets into prayer bargaining with God and goes from 50 down to 10. Abraham prays five times, gets down to 10 but God says there is not even 10 righteous people and God destroys Sodom and Gomorrah.

Look closely at Abraham's intercessory prayer and you can learn three elements of proper intercessory prayer. First, Abraham had a heart for people. You must have a heart for people, if you do not you will not be an intercessory pray-er! Second, Abraham prayed persistently. He did not stop at 50, 40, 30, or 20; only when he got to 10 did he stop praying. He knew Sodom and Gomorrah could not be saved. But he prayed persistently. Third, Abraham accepted the outcome though it was not what he wanted. Nevertheless, he still trusted God and was obedient to him. Just a couple days ago I prayed with a longtime friend who had what was thought to be a limited cancer area. His wife was sitting beside him as he was being prepped for surgery. The operation was going to be anywhere between 3-10 hours. We prayed and then he was taken to surgery. After 1.5 hours the surgeon came out and told his wife, "The cancer has spread, more surgery would do no good." This was not the outcome we prayed for. My friend's wife responded in this fashion, "Though I prayed hard for a different outcome, God is still good and still in control." She accepted the outcome.

Intercessory prayer...have a heart for people, pray persistently, and trust God no matter the outcome.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayer Requests: Pastor Dan Kopp, Missy Dunaway, and Debbie Williams