



CITY CHAPEL
SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

DISCIPLESHIP LEVEL – LESSON 7 INTERCESSION

INTRODUCTION

As we progress with our journey into the life of the Believer, we come to a very important and pivotal subject related to almost everything we have touch on so far. The matter of INTERCESSION is such a crucial one our Lord taught on this extensively.

DEFINITIONS

Rather than get technical about this, it would be beneficial that we understand the principle of intercession rather than just the platonic interpretation of words. This is because this subject is a very practical day to day matter in the life of the Christian.

In his first letter to Timothy, Paul outlines in chapter two the spirit of this lesson. He encourages 'intercession' or prayer for everyone including those in authority and government. He lists four types of prayer for people which include, supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving

First of all, then, I urge that petitions (specific requests), prayers, intercessions (prayers for others) and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all people, 1 Timothy 2:1AMP

The whole passage up to the eight verse is all about prayer and how men everywhere should rise up to the task of standing on behalf of others so that which is pleasing to God may come about. This key vector within the Kingdom is a reality that we as Christians need to understand fully.

We have the authority and ability in God to 'pull' heaven's will into the earth realm if we rise to the challenge. Our default is to seat back and wait for God to do something about the situation. Meanwhile our Lord instructs us to pray and not take NO as an answer:



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Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart, Luke 18:1 AMP

The whole parable has one aim;

And will not [our just] God defend and avenge His elect [His chosen ones] who cry out to Him day and night? Will He delay [in providing justice] on their behalf? ⁸ I tell you that He will defend and avenge them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?" Luke 18:7-8

We are called to persist in prayer and intercession until our prayers are answered from Heaven!

MOTHER'S DAY

In February 1987 when I had my unforgettable encounter with the living God, I was baptised in the Holy Ghost and was converted from a Muslim into a Born Again Believer by the Holy Spirit of God. I had the most incredible dream/revelation where I escaped the fire of Hell.

I was to pray for my Muslim family to "escape the fire" according to the voice of God. So I began to pray for my parents and brothers and sister to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. It was an impossible prayer because both of my parents had been to Mecca on pilgrimage, they were both turbaned ordained elders within the community and were helping to build the central mosque where we lived in Nigeria!

In 2003 years after my Dad's terrible road traffic accident that rendered him invalid and to a wheelchair, my parents relocated to England for my Father's health and care. I invited my Mum to attend our special Mother's Day service



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which she coolly declined. I kept inviting her until she finally caved in and accepted the invite.

My Mother came into the Sunday service gaily dressed as she liked social outings. She sat with the other older Mums and as if my fate, I was scheduled

to preach that day. I do not recall the contents of my sermon, but the incredible thing was that my ordained, turbaned, mecca pilgrimage muslim mother stood up to receive Christ during the altar call! I almost fainted! She got gloriously saved and was baptised with the Spirit. I had prayed for sixteen years for my parents to come to Christ and my prayers were answered in the most unusual unexpected manner! My Dad came to Christ shortly afterwards and 18 months later, he was in heaven. Today my entire immediate family are all believers. GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS!

DO NOT FAINT

Men always ought to pray and not faint Luke 18:1

In todays church, there has been a diluting of persistence in prayer because the world is geared towards quick returns and faster delivery of wants. Everything evolves around what we want rather than what the Lord wants. Men always ought to pray and not faint is the challenge of the Bible. So we need to respond to this urge from Heaven and become men and women who have the Grace from God to become landing strips for His Will on Earth.

³² When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. ³³ He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. ³⁵ He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 2 Kings 4:32-35



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These stories are as real today as they were back then. The power of intercessory prayer cannot be underestimated.

Intercession is a work of grace to transfer the will of heaven into the earth despite whatever might be present in the natural realm at the commencement of prayer. Elisha was confronted with the impossibility of death yet he interceded until life push away death or reversed the process of rigor motis in the physical body.

FAITH DOES NOT NEED GLASSES

The interceding Believer does not look at the natural for cues but allows the spiritual realm to be their guide.

¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor 4:18, 2 Cor 5:7

Faith does not need to see to see. Faith, even when there is nothing to see in the natural has another fixation point in the spiritual realm. In these last days, heaven needs collaborators on the earth to echo what reality is saying.

⁵ Peter was therefore kept in prison, but ^[b]constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. ⁶ And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were ^[c]keeping the prison. ⁷ Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands Acts 12:5-7

I love this story because it shows the dramatic answer to a praying interceding church which should encourage us who live in the last days. These stories cannot stay on the pages of our bibles, they need to leap into the reality of our existence now!



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COINCIDENCES HAPPEN

One of the exciting things about prayer is that you will have stories and testimonies to tell. An archbishop called Temple from England is quoted as saying “when you pray, coincidences happen, when you stop praying these coincidences stop”

I love this quote because it’s so English! I have used this statement on my many trips across the British Isles during my adventures with the prayer movement in the twenty first century. Two coincidences involving Football Clubs will emphasis this point;

WEST HAM FOOTBALL CLUB

The first stadium mass prayer gathering was at the Boleyn Inn West Ham Football Club. It took a lot of strategy and supplication to get us in and we were granted great favour with the staff and grounds crew. It helped that many of the local churches were fans. West Ham FC were fighting a relegation battle that year and had bought two new players from South America, Tevez and Mascherano. As we were preparing for our event, some intercessors had a prophetic word for the club and the financial hit to local businesses and community if the club was relegated.

So, we prayed over the club with the prophetic word and interceded in particular for Tevez and Mascherano. If you Google “greatest last day relegation escapes in premiership history” West Ham FC is in the top five with a last day sensational escape goal by none other than Carlos Tevez!

For context, in 2010, the same Football Club had undergone some changes and they treated us and our third prayer event very shabbily. They moved our dates last minute without due process and made our prayer gathering clash with the start of the World Club. That year, they were relegated. Coincidence?



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LEICESTER FOOTBALL CLUB

The second football club coincidence happened in 2014 into 2015. I had visited Leicester many times on our prayer tours. They were having church unity issues, so we kept going back. The church leaders then decided that we should hold a national prayer conference in Leicester.

We had hundreds of the Intercessors and prayer movement converge on Leicester. The Prayer Conference was an incredible meeting as ALL the leaders came to the front to declare their unity and pray over Leicester. Coincidentally Leicester were in a relegation battle in 2014 and running parallel almost to these prayer meetings, they escaped Relegation despite being at the bottom of the table that year.

In 2015 during the conference, the Church Leaders took up the challenge to prayer walk their city and dedicate it to God and walk in unity. They met every Friday and went to all corners of the city and prayed over their communities.

Coincidentally that same year and running parallel to these prayer events, their city's Football Club began doing very well in the league. So well that they went on to win the league that year and creating one of the greatest football fairytale stories ever! Coincidence?

We didn't set out to pray for football clubs, but I mention these two clubs stories to make a point. The fallout of any praying community or family or individual is great blessings and fantastic testimonies!

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

I want to challenge you today to and try out these principles and see if God will not respond. He is a rewarder of those who press into His Presence and principles:

"...try Me now in this, says the LORD of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it...Malachi 3:10



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Even though the context of this scripture is tithes, the principle is the same. If you walk in obedient faith and action, you will see the strong performance of God. You will no longer wonder if Christianity is real or God is real. You will KNOW that He is alive and active in your life and others because you have tasted of His Grace and Power and demonstration. This is what separates the Disciple from the Convert. Which one do you prefer to be?

HOMEWORK

Draw up a list of family members who are not in Christ or have wandered off. Write down their names in your notebook and begin to pray for them daily.