

Types of Intercession – Nita Johnson

What will make me a strong intercessor for the days ahead?

Verses 12, 13 of Hebrews 12

So then brace up and reinvigorate and set right your slackened and weakened and drooping hands, and strengthen your feeble and palsied and tottering knees.

And cut through and make firm and plain and smooth, straight paths for your feet – [yes, make them] safe and upright and happy paths that go in the right direction – so that the lame and halting [limbs] may not be put out of joint, but rather may be cured.

1. God wants us healthy.
 - The way to strengthen our hands is to have a pure heart.
 - The way to strengthen our feet is to stay out of the world
2. Pure heart, Clean life
 - Those two things will make you a strong intercessor for the days ahead.

Now come with me please to Ephesians. We are going to change gear here.

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

Nita's Comments

I am going to talk to you about the **different forms of prayer and intercession**, but I want to encourage you that whether you are in the earliest stages of becoming an intercessor or whether you are mature, what I share with you today is going to be important every step of the way.

So often people want to know the recipe, you know the, the secret recipe for exactly what to say when you are in the prayer closet - those most powerful words that will always turn God's heart. And I'm going to disillusion you greatly by telling you there is no such thing. The only way to ever be assured that you are always going to turn God's heart is to pray His Will, except sometimes. There are times when you will not want to pray His Will. I see all those perplexed looks on your face. For two days you have been telling us to pray God's Will. Now you are saying not to pray God's Will. There is a time when we don't pray God's Will, but I'll talk to you about that in a minute.

What does it mean to pray the Word of God?

1. So first of all Paul says to take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God and pray at all times.
2. Now, that doesn't mean that you take on the stance of a swordsman.
 - Start quoting Scriptures – Take that, Devil
 - Or Take back, Devil
 - That is not what it means
3. Let me tell you some examples of what it means to pray the Word of God

Example One from Nita

When I go to Isra'el, I pray very lofty prayers, just prayers that are very high, very holy. Do you know why I know that? Because I open the Bible, and I pray His Word. I go through the prophets, and I hear what God has said about my people over and over again through the prophets. And those things that have not yet come to pass, I talk to the Lord about through His Word.

I can remember one time recently I was in Isra'el, and my heart was just burdened over the last 2000 years of Jewish history. And I began to pray the thoughts that were flowing through my heart. I felt like a 2000 year old person, on the one hand, looking back through history seeing the rebellion, the stubbornness, the wanderings of my people. My heart was gripped with agony and lowliness, sorrow over the fact that we have spent 2000 years so far away from God.

On the other side, I felt like I was looking down to the future. And as far as I could see, it was so dark without the Presence of God. And I wept and I wept and I wept. And I said things to Him like, "Father, it seems like even our father, Jacob, has forsaken us. I complained about the past, and I mourned over the future. Sounds like a very powerful prayer, doesn't it?

Well, as I wept and I wept – this went on for several hours – as I wept and I wept, I was suddenly lifted up in the Spirit, and I saw Jacob standing at the head of our path. Beside Jacob was Jesus, and arms were open and embracing our people Isra'el. They were totally surrounded by light, and the light was creeping down the tunnel of eternity, and Hope was born in the heart of Isra'el.

When I finished my prayers, I picked up my Bible, and I turned to a certain passage that was three chapters long, and I read the three chapters. And I am telling you the truth, I saw that Jeremiah had prayed the same prayer so many years ago. I saw exact phraseologies that had come out of my heart, right here in the book of Jeremiah, prayed by the prophet Jeremiah himself. And God gave him the same Hope. So I reprayed the Scripture and confirmed in my heart what God was going to do with Isra'el.

Example Two from Nita

But that's not usually the way it goes. Jesus appeared to me the 2nd time I went to Isra'el. He took me up into the heavens, not into heaven, but into the heavens hovering over Isra'el. He said, "I'm going to teach you how to pray for your people every time you come to Isra'el." And He then proclaimed a Scripture, and as He shared the Scripture He would move into deep weeping, weeping, weeping, weeping over the Scripture. I was so overwhelmed by His weeping that I joined Him and wept with Him. And we prayed together over that Scripture for long periods of time. Suddenly the weeping would break. The Lord returned to peace, He would say the next Scripture. The minute He would finish reading that Scripture to me, He would begin to weep over the Scripture and weep and weep and weep and weep. And I was weeping with Him. That too would last for a very long time, and suddenly lift, and the Lord would return to peace. Then He would pull another Scripture out of the Bible, and the whole process would start all over again.

He took me up to hover above Isra'el with Him at about 11 or 12 o'clock at night. He returned me to my room at 7:00 in the morning. And through all those many hours, we prayed the Scripture over Isra'el. And He said to me one more time, "Whenever you come to Isra'el, this is how I want you to pray over your people."

4. So you see, we pray the Word.
5. We allow God to anoint our prayers over the Word.
 - You may weep.
 - You may not weep.
 - You may just pray the Word over the situation, over the city, over the state, over the province, over the nation – what ever it is you are praying for.
 - It may be packed with great emotion or it may not.
6. The important thing is that you pray the word with faith.
7. This is a very powerful form of intercession.

What are groanings?

Turn please to Romans chapter 8, verse 26. AMP

So too the (Holy) Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.

1. The word I want to focus in on is **groanings**

2. There is a form of intercession that is called groanings.
3. When the spirit of groanings comes upon you, you may feel it clear down in your belly
 - And you will find yourself groaning like someone who has a bad stomachache
 - And you may groan and groan and groan and groan
 - And you may think in your mind, "There are so many words I want to say"
 - But you are so busy groaning you can't speak
4. You don't ever have to worry about trying to intertwine words with this kind of intercession
 - Because the groanings of the Holy Spirit is doing the work
5. It's groanings of unspeakable words
 - This is called a birthing prayer
 - As you groan, you are birthing something in the Kingdom
6. If you know the thing you are groaning over, perhaps someone's salvation
 - All you need to do is obey the Holy Spirit and let the groanings come forth
 - And the Holy Spirit will give birth to that soul that you're praying for
7. This is a very, very powerful form of intercession
8. When you see revival break out on a location or a nation, you will always see this kind of prayer

Nita's Comments

I can remember when Charles Finney would go into an area to preach the Word. It was not uncommon to find him laying in the middle of the road between where he was living or staying at the time and the church or huddled up behind the church or out in a wooded area groaning, groaning, groaning in the Spirit before he would go in and preach the Word.

As he began to preach, the Spirit of God would fall. Revival would hit the area, and souls would get saved. This was not uncommon for Finney.

He also had two intercessors who would go on before him or, at times, meet him in cities - Father Nash was one of those – that were known for their groaning prayers, birthing revival in the city where Finney was going to be.

You will never see revival without this kind of praying. It takes this kind of praying to birth revival.

What is weeping intercession?

Turn with me please to Lamentations in the Old Testament.

Lamentations chapter 1 verse 20

Behold, O Lord, how distressed I am! My vital parts are in tumult, my heart cannot rest and is violently agitated within me; for I have grievously rebelled; outside the house the sword bereaves, at home there is [famine, pestilence] death!

He says, "My vital parts are in tumult and are deeply disturbed. My heart cannot rest and is violently agitated within me." I have heard Bible commentators and I've heard preachers talk about Jeremiah, and they called him a very depressed man. They didn't realize that Jeremiah was a weeping prophet, weeping under the Spirit of intercession. He wasn't depressed. If anyone was depressed, it was the Spirit of God weeping through him. Since we know God doesn't get depressed, we have to understand that he was moving in the passions of the Lord for the healing of Isra'el.

1. It is called a weeping prayer.
2. When weeping intercession comes upon you, you may or may not cry physical tears
 - Sometimes the tears will be profuse
 - Sometimes you'd give anything for one tear to come out, but you're feeling all the same passions as though you were crying very hard
3. The passions that you are feeling is a great love for the thing that you are praying over
4. Since your prayer is going to make that which is wrong turn to right
 - Not only are you feeling a great love for the person or situation you are praying over, a great love for God
 - But also, you are feeling distress, agitation, grief over the wrongness of the situation you are praying over
5. There's not a critical thought in your mind
 - The person could be in the most terrible sin
 - But there is no critical thinking in your mind
6. Your heart is filled with compassion for the person that is in sin
 - And your heart is agitated
 - Because the heart of the Holy Spirit is grieving through you

7. This, too, is a birthing prayer
8. Whenever you see revival, you are going to see this kind of praying
9. It is very, typically, the kind of deep intercession for the salvation of souls
10. In our Gatherings, you will find a lot of this going on
 - When we repent for the sins against the First Nations People
 - We are repenting with broken hearts
 - People all over are weeping in great agony
 - Over the sins against the First Nations People
 - When we begin to intercede for the healing of the First Nations People
 - Our hearts are filled with love for God to heal and restore them to Himself
 - The same thing happens when we are repenting for the African American issue
 - It feels like we are reliving the days of slavery
 - And our hearts are in great anguish for the suffering of the African Americans
 - When we intercede for their healing, our hearts are filled with loving compassion for God to heal and restore them as a people group
11. You will always see this kind of praying when you are dealing with the healing that is upon God's heart
12. You are feeling the wounds of God's heart
13. If you are praying over nations
 - The chances are you may even be feeling the blood crying out from the ground
 - And it's coming out in deep anguish, in deep sorrow, and many tears
14. Again, this is a very, very powerful form of intercession

What is a bewailing prayer?

Let's look at II Corinthians 12:21 AMP

[I am fearful] that when I come again my God may humiliate and humble me in your regard, and that I may have to sorrow over many of those who sinned before and have not repented of the impurity, sexual vice and sensuality which they formerly practiced.

Nita's Comments

In my Amplified Bible it says that I may have sorrow over the many who have sinned, but in the King James it reads that I might **bewail** - I don't know how it read in the Chinese.

1. So this word **bewail** speaks of a grief, a wailing that is so deep, so overwhelming
2. It is a much increased level of intercession along the lines of the weeping prayer.
3. With the bewailing prayer, you are going to hear – how can I explain this?
4. The bewailing prayer comes with much weeping
 - But also much cries of anguish
5. The force of this prayer is so great that you would think what you were listening to was a man who had just lost his only son in death
6. Truly everything that inside of you is in anguish
 - Such anguish as only come out in deep cries of anguish
7. Of the travailing form of prayers, this is indeed the most powerful
 - And God will give this when the need is the greatest

Nita's Comments

I can remember recently in our G8 Summit. When we began to pray for the African America situation, the Holy Spirit came upon us, there was such anguish that ripped through that – do you remember that Nikki – such anguish that ripped through that room. People praying in this bewailing prayer as we were pleading for God's forgiveness for what we had done to the African Americans.

Later we had some African Americans come up so that we could do personal ministry to them. A friend of mine that I had not seen for several years was there at that particular meeting, just a very tiny little person. You know, she's one of these who always knows the proper etiquette and social graces. You know what I am talking about, don't you? Always dressed just perfect, every hair in perfect place. This intercession came upon her – do you remember this, Nikki? – this intercession came upon her. She went from her feet to her knees, from her knees to her face and then she was crawling across the floor in utter anguish, crawling - this really isn't funny, I don't know why I am laughing – but crawling, crawling to the feet of one of the African American pastors. She was in such anguish. When she finally got to his feet, she wrapped herself around his feet crying, "We're sorry! We're sorry! We're sorry!" But it wasn't human passion. It was

bewailing the sins of the past. The whole building was undone. We were all undone watching this one precious, little lady.

8. When you are in this form of intercession, God is in control
 - And He is going to restore what it is you are praying for

What is the prayer called travail?

Also the Bible talks to us about a prayer called travail. (Let me see if I've got this marked in my Bible. Well, I can't find it real quick so let me just say this.) You'd find that particular prayer talked about in – here it is – Galatians 4:19

My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you! AMP

In the KJV it says, suffering travail or enduring travail, something of that nature. In the Amplified, it reads suffering birth pangs.

1. Now you saw the prophet Elijah in this kind of prayer
2. He'd had the great battle with the prophets of Ba'al
3. He went up to Mt. Carmel
4. The Bible says that He got down, his knees were bent up, his head was bent down between his knees, and he was wailing
 - But what he was doing was travailing
5. A true travailing prayer will pull your body automatically into a birthing position
6. Whether you are male or female, you will feel like you are giving birth to a baby
7. Your very loins will feel like they are being pulled apart to give birth to a baby

Nita's Comments

Early on in my life of intercession, when the Lord was teaching me so much about intercession, I was involved in this kind of intercession. And every day as I would bow in prayer and this travailing prayer would come upon me. He would give me a vision. I

was in prayer for this Bible school I was ministering in. And the president of the Bible school felt like revival was going to come during our stay there.

I had never prayed for revival before so I would not have known how to do it, except to ask God to send revival. But everyday, as I would go into prayer, this travailing prayer would come upon me. And as I was under this travailing prayer, He would give me a vision. And everyday in the vision, I would see a baby moving down the birth canal. Everyday it would be further down the birth canal than the day before. After many days of this kind of intercession, I saw in a vision that the baby was born. And as the baby was born, I was released from the travail.

That night in the service revival fell. The fire of the Holy Ghost came down. I was on the platform. People would stand up. They couldn't even get down the aisle half the time to get close enough to the platform for ministry. They would just go down under the power.

If I did the foolish mistake of pointing at someone saying, "God wants to heal you of something." They'd go down under the power in their seat. If they ever made it close enough to the platform, I saw people – there were about 6 or 8 steps going up to the top of the platform and if they made it up that far, they would go down under the power with their head down and their feet up with no one catching them. People saw angels all over the place. The power of God was so rich and so thick. Well, we were in revival. Travail had birthed revival.

We will later add another section concerning Decrees and Declarations