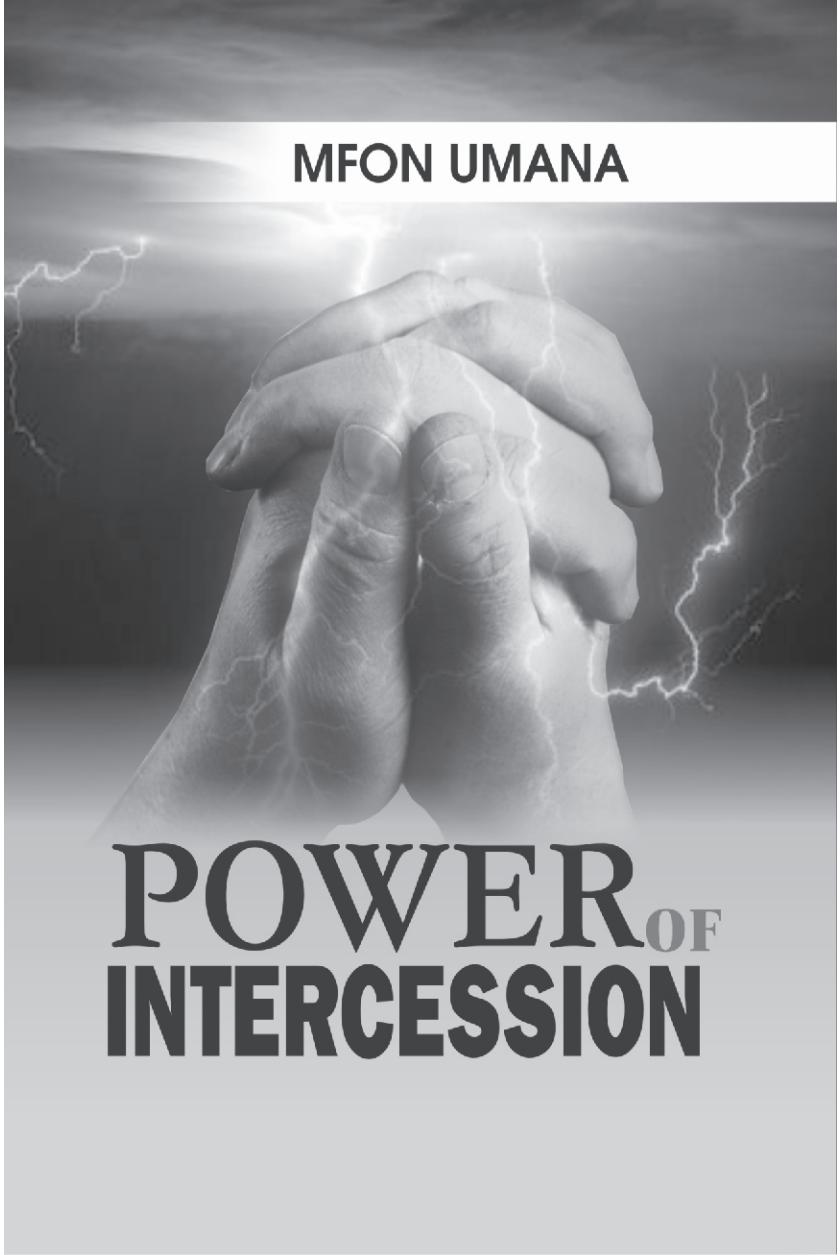


MFON UMANA



A black and white photograph showing two hands clasped together in the center. The hands are set against a dramatic background of dark, cloudy skies with several bright, branching lightning bolts striking around them. The lighting is high-contrast, emphasizing the texture of the hands and the intensity of the lightning.

**POWER
OF
INTERCESSION**

Copyright © by Mfon Umana
POWER OF INTERCESSION

ISBN: 978-978-984-181-3

First Edition: 2021

All rights reserved

This book may not be reproduced in whole or in parts in any form without the express written consent of the author.

For further information or permission,
Please contact Mfon Umana
+234 806 210 7945

Published by:
MUU Security Limited, Abuja
Tel: 08062107945

Printed in Nigeria by:
Supreme Command Int'l Ltd, Abuja.
08035873887

CONTENT

Dedication	iv
In Memory	v
Acknowledgment	vi
Foreword	vii
Chapter 1 Power of Intercession	10
Chapter 2 Purpose of Intercession	21
Chapter 3 Qualities of an Intercessor	29
Chapter 4 Biblical Intercessors	34
Chapter 5 Divine Intercessor (Jesus Christ our Divine Intercessor)	41
Chapter 6 Benefits of intercession to an Intercessor	47
Chapter 7 Benefits of Intercession (general)	53
Chapter 8 Hindrances to Intercession	59
Chapter 9 Prayer of Intercession	64
Chapter 10 Conclusion/word on gold	70



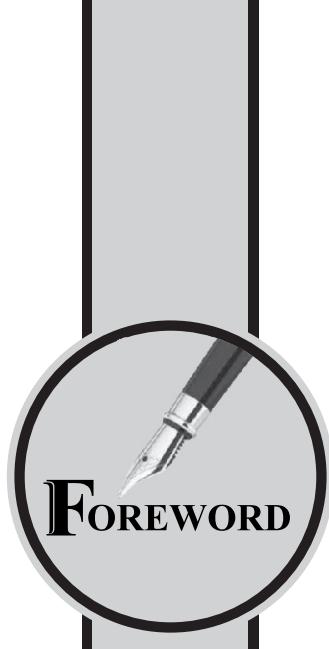
D edicated to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Also, dedicated to men and women of goodwill, all over the world.



In memory of my Late mother and a great intercessor in her own right, Mrs. Eka Udo Moses Umana, who transited to glory on Sunday, 6th December, 2020, and was laid to mother earth on 20th february, 2021, you were a mother per excellence, GOD rest your soul.



I wish to thank various people that God has put on my path, to enable me actualize the deep aspiration of touching lives through writing. My Church, Dominion chapel International for the spiritual growth, mentorship, friends and partners, my wife, children, family members and In-laws for all their support and encouragement, thanks to Idris Ogbeide SHAIBU for proof reading the works and finally to all persons of good will and faith, appreciate you all.



This book is written out of passion for the recent events happening in and around the world. Thank God for the “POWER OF INTERCESSION”, by my dear Deacon Mfon Umana. For all who desire to partner with God, this end time should take time to read through each chapter.

The Prayer of intercession is not any kind of prayer, earnest powerful and effective to produce result. According to James, 5:16-18 “Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed”. The prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like us, he prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not. Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops.

Prayer itself is fellowship and communion between a person or a group of person and the Almighty God. It should be an integral part of the believer (Christian). It is talking with, making requests and receiving answers from God. It is building a Father-son relationship. You cannot refer to God as your Father if you do not have a relationship with him.

Prayer is the “Breath of the Believer, the same way the word of God is our spiritual food” –Anonymous.

Intercessory prayers are one of the most powerful forces on earth that can help anyone prevail over any challenge. It turns around the hand of God that rules in the affairs of men. Prayer is the key that unlocks any closed door.

“Prayer is a spiritual cable through which the power of God flows to the praying believer” –Chinyere M.

There has not been Personal, Family, City or Nations revival without prayer of intercession. All moves of God are birthed and sustained through prayers.

“Prayer begins, sustains and concludes everything”.–Chinyere M. Prayer is a powerful and reliable weapon of warfare, it guarantees victory. Every believer is in a spiritual battle. The battles we are now fighting are not physical battles that can be fought with conventional weapons, but majorly with spiritual weapons. – Ephesians 6:18. Prayer paralyzes the works of darkness. Prayer is the key to success achievements, breakthrough, anointing, spiritual maturity and revival. It's necessary for your survival and not something you do to bribe God. These are those who know their rights and have been liberated from his grips and their myopic thoughts patterns. I see Men/Women take up their weapons of war and raised as a great army that will not be silenced by the devil .This is the season for these victorious Men/Women to arise and bring the kingdom of God down to earth.

The church will carry out the final onslaught God has ordained for her to execute, which will usher in the end-time revival.

The church, the body of Christ can confront the devil only as one indivisible whole, not fragments (denomination), we must all be ready to advance and run to the battle. We must be at the offensive not always defensive.

A prayer-less Christian is a powerless one. We must intercede for one another for divine empowerment and spiritual fortification.

Thanks my Deacon Mfon for this inspirational book, may God bless you all as you read, buy and pass it to others, In Jesus Name, Amen.

BISHOP (MRS.) HOPE PRAISE DANIEL.

CHAPTER ONE



Power of **INTERCESSION**

Introduction

“And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge and stand in gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it, but I found none. Therefore, have I poured out mine indignation upon them. I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath, their own way I have recompensed upon their heads, says the Lord”(Ezekiel 22: 30-31) (KJV)

Every human endeavors or activities are fraught with errors and misinterpretation due to lack of or inadequate knowledge which affects communication, leading to conflict or disagreement(s), in general.

Disagreement in this context, is looked at from two (2) levels, lateral and vertical, lateral that is, disagreement between a man and another man, and vertical, a disagreement between man and God, his creator.

Conflict between man and man usually manifests or arise from the following:

- I. Resource application or misappropriation
- ii. Value or cultural differences
- iii. Communication breakdown
- iv. Misinformation or dis-information.

The vertical conflict, that is between man and God is manifests or arise from man's disobedience against the laws or commandments of God. Equally, it could be through disobedience of man to God's instruction as directed through his words (Holy Book), prophesies, dreams and revelations.

The word conflict is used here in the sense that, when man disobeys God and does things his own ways, he is in disagreement with God or God's words, as doing things his(man's) way means that he is capable of taking responsibility for his action.

Disobedience is sin and attracts a lot of negative consequence.

In the creation story, Genesis 3:1-5, the serpent caused Adam and Eve to disobey God, thereby causing enmity between man and God, and they paid dearly for it, as a curse was placed on the deceiver and the deceived.

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent, because thou hath done this, thou art curse above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shall thou go, and dust shall thou eat all the days of thy life. (Genesis 3: 14)

“And I will but enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

TO THE WOMAN

“Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception, in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and shall rule over you”(Gen. 3:16)

TO THE MAN

“ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shall not eat of it; cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shall eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Gen. 3:17-19)

Thereafter Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. The curse pronouncement activated the intellectual of Adam, to enable him name his wife Eve. One wonders what name he was calling her prior to naming her Eve.?

Prayer: May we not wait for a curse or situations to prompt us to self-realization in Jesus name.

The above story could have been different, had they (Adam and Eve) or one of them interceded on their behalf. All they could have done was to accept their sin and asked for forgiveness, rather than trading blames or passing buck.

“And the man said, the woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree (fruits) and I did eat” (Gen. 3:12)

“And the Lord God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said “the serpent beguiled(deceived) me and I did eat” (Gen. 3:13)

Equally, it need be noted that, specific instruction, not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was to Adam, as Eve was not yet on the scene (created).

“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying of every of the garden thou mayest freely eat; But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shall not eat of it; for in the day that thou eatest

thereof thou shall surely die" (Gen. 2:16)

Eve was not yet created from the rib of Adam, when the instruction was given. She came into the scene in verse 18

"And the Lord God said, "it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper meet (suitable)(appropriate) for him"

(Gen. 2:18)

The import here is that, Adam got the instruction firsthand and ought to have enforced it or put in place measure(s) to enforce the instruction. Equally, the devil realizing that it will be difficult to confuse Adam, being the original person to receive the instructions, went for Eve to realize his goal of causing enmity between God and man. Let's watch out, as the devil is lurking (lying in wait) around trying to use someone or something dear to us to create enmity between God and us.

Prayer: God grant me the grace to decipher between the smooth voice of the deceiver and the hard truth of the master in Jesus name.

The story equally could have been different, if Adam having realized his folly (silliness) had taken the blame and interceded for himself and wife. So there goes the power of intercession lost out and its consequences realized in the world today.

On a deeper thought, could it be reasoned that, had there been a sane third party in their midst, may be there could have been an intercession for the duo and a soft landing for mankind. However,

thank God for our generation, that has a comforter domiciled in us. The Holy Spirit is always with us in the spirit to abridge, advocate or intercede for us anytime we lose our hearts and minds and cry to God.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” (John 14:26)

Are we indeed interceding today, or appropriating the Holy Spirit effectively in intercession or are we doing it carnally? These days abound men of God and Christians leading protest against government, its actions or other situations or happenings in the world. Begins to wonder, where the place of intercession through prayers is. **I reason that the act of protesting be left to critics and civil society bodies while the church does the intercession, no need for conflict of roles or role switching.**

In the days of Elijah, he stood in most cases to intercede for the country or leadership, all he had to do at worst case scenario, was to invoke the word and declare, “As the lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years but according to my word”¹ king;17;1B, and so it was at his word. We could well appropriate that today and change situation in our life, family and country. The Church should be the Societal catalyst in the regard.

Prayer: God grant us the power to intercede through prayers and not by protest in Jesus name

Aside the Holy Spirit, which is our higher intercessor, we are equally empowered to stand in gap or intercede for one another and even intercede between man and God.

“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” (1 Timothy 2:1-2) (NIV)

God is love and before he does anything, he reveals it to his prophet or man after his heart, to enable for intercession. God is a God of second chance, the chance might be for you to change or stand in gap for somebody, your church or country to avert the judgement of God. So let's listen to the voice of God and arise and intercede.

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us, that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it is with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people for not everyone has faith. (2 Thessalonian 3:1-2)

The above, was the request from Apostle Paul to the brethren (church) in Thessalonian, to pray or intercede for them. They realized that they are Humans with all the frailties and therefore, pleaded for prayers. The church and its members should stand up today and intercede for men of God in the land to enable them remain and maintain their callings.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem,
may those who love you be
secured”(Psalm 122:6)

“May there be peace within your
walls and security within your
citadels”(Psalm 122:7)

“For the sake of my family and
friends, I will say peace be with
you”,(Psalm 122:8)

It is an instruction to pray (intercede) for the peace of the church and country and the reward is that he who loved to pray for our church, country and other brethren will be secured and peace will remain within him or her.

God is seeking for men and women, who will separate themselves for intercession to prevent souls from going to hell, save families from going astray, men of God from losing their callings, churches from losing their commission and Nation from going into ruins.

Though God is God, the maker of the heavens and earth, that who heavens is his throne and the earth is footstool, the Alpha and Omega, yet he establishes his spiritual democratic attributes, by giving men the ability or chance to be co-partaker and ruler of the universe. He grants man the dominion over all the animals and happenings on earth, even the power to intercede against his

(God's) decision. So are we appropriating these awesome responsibility and magnanimity?

In Genesis 18 God revealed his plans to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham, and God was merciful to allow Abraham intercede, though God could not find even ten (10) righteous person in Sodom, yet he saved the lives of Lot and his two (2) daughters.

Intercession is simply the act of intervening for or on behalf of another person or group of persons. It could also mean prayer, petition or entreaty in favor of another. Some of the other synonyms of Intercession, are Prayer, Mediation, Petition, Appeal, Intervention, Request, Interagency.

FORMS OF INTERCESSION

There are about five (5) forms of intercession;

- i. Active intercession (Matt,9:36-38)
- ii. Continuous intercession (Hebrew 7:25)
- iii. Effective intercession (James 5:16)
- iv. Preventive intercession (Psalm 119:11)
- v. Specific intercession (James 5 :18)

ACTIVE INTERCESSION

“When he (Jesus) saw the crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without shepherd”. (Matt, 9:36)

Jesus teaches us by his show of compassion how to be active in intercession. It is an intercession for souls that draws actively from the well of Compassion.

CONTINUOS INTERCESSION

“But because Jesus lives forever, therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him because he always lives to intercede for them”. (Hebrew 7:24-25)

All we need do, is to come and abide in him for he who is Holy, blameless, pure, will continually intercede for us at our point of need. Therefore, we must as Christ, continue in intercession for every human's as the spirit leads.

EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

“The Effectual Fervent prayer of the righteous Man availeth much”. (James 5:16b)

The Application Study Bible states that, 'the prayer of a right person is powerful and Effective.

Here we are being admonished to go into intercession with a Holy mind, for it is only the prayer of the righteous that is effective and bring about results. So for our prayer(s) of intercession in any form to be effective it has to come from a righteous heart.

PREVENTIVE INTERCESSION

“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them”. Hebrew 7:25

“I urge then first of all petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving are made for all people, for kings and all in authority that we live peacefully and quite lives in all godliness”. 1 Timothy 2:1

Christ works in cooperation with the Holy Spirit and scriptures to prevent us from sin. Equally Paul advised that prayers and intercession be made to all people, kings and those in authority, these are all preventive approaches to intercession. A good example of Biblical preventive intercessor is Job as recorded in Job 1: 5.

SPECIFIC INTERCESSION

“Elijah was a human being, even as we are; He prayed earnestly that it will not rain and it did not rain on the Land, for three and half years”. James 5:17

“Again he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops”. James 5:18.

Intercession must be specifically made and with sincerity of heart. Elijah made a specific intercession and the request was honoured.

Prayer: God grant us the grace to be true intercessor in Jesus name.

Song: Who shall I send and who will go for me, oh my God send me oh. 2times.

That would be our songs continuously in Jesus name.

CHAPTER TWO



Purpose of **INTERCESSION**

This chapter will attempt to answer the following questions

- What is intercession?
- Who do we intercede for?
- Why do we intercede?
- When do we intercede?
- How do we intercede?

What is intercession?

Intercession means the following:

- I. To plea for someone's case
- ii. Trying to end a disagreement or dispute between two or more person
- iii. To stand in gap or shield for somebody or people
- iv. Coming between two or more people of different views, opinions
- v. To interpose on behalf of one in difficulty or in trouble by pleading or petition.

- vi. Prayer, petition, or entreaty in favor of another or in disagreement.
- vii. Children running into somebody's arm to intervene or plead for an offence committed.
- viii. Spouse asking for a third party to intervene in martial disputes.
- ix. Christians or men of God intervening for congregation or country.
- x. Countries intervening in other countries conflicts to bring about peace.
- xi. Inviting the Holy spirit into issues of our lives.
- xii. A go between or advocate who represent and plead our case.

..... ***For He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors". Isaiah 53: 12b***

Who do we intercede for?

1. Self:

Jacob prayed or pleaded to God to save himself from the hands of his brother Esau.

***"Save me I pray from the hand of my brother Esau,
for I am afraid, he will come and attack me..."***

Gen. 32:11.

He equally wrestles with an angel for blessing, Gen. 32:24-28 and declared' 'I will not let you go, until you bless me" Gen. 32:26b. His name was thereafter changed from Jacob to Israel.

Also, the prodigal son, came to himself and pleaded for himself Luke 15; 11-24

2. Family:

Job in Job 1:1-5 always do make arrangement to purify his family regularly.

"when a period of fasting had run its course, Job would make arrangement for them to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them thinking "perhaps my children have sinned and curse God in their hearts" this was jobs' regular custom. What is our customs today towards our children?

3. Nations:

Mordecai persuaded Esther to plead or intercede for the Jews, not minding the consequence, she interceded for the Jews.

"Go gather together all the Jews that are present in Susan, and fast ye for me and neither eat nor drink three (3) days, night or day. I also and my maidens will fast likewise and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law, and if I perish, I perish" Esther 4:16

In difficult situation in our Land, we pray that God give us intercessor, like Esther in the land. When we have tried our human capabilities (abilities) and things seems not to be right or going on well, as Christian what is required is either as individual or collectively we joined hands together and intercede for the land our Nation. (Pray for the peace of Jerusalem they shall prosper, that love thee)

Why do we intercede?

"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 1st Timothy 2;1-3(NI)

Intercession is a command and ought to be a way of life for all Christians. Jesus Christ our example interceded and at the end of his life on earth, sent the Holy Spirit, our intercessor to remain with us. In this wise any Christian that possess in the real sense the Holy Spirit, is an intercessor, but do we activate the Holy Spirit in us to enable us intercede?

***“And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in gap for the land, that I should not destroy it, but found none”.* Ezekiel 22; 30.**

Here God was looking for a man, who will separate him or herself for the ministry of intercession, somebody who will stand in gap for his family, people, nation or race, and yet he could not find anyone.

“Finally brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you,” 2Thess. 3;1

Apostle Paul and his fellow ministers were requesting for prayers from brethren, believing they cannot do it all by themselves.

When do we intercede?

Intercession is as motivated by genuine love from the heart, however, there are situations that could prompt it, such as

i. When in danger

***“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him”* Act 12;5**

Prior to the imprisonment of peter, King Herod had James, the brother of John put to death with the sword as it pleased the Jews and intending to do same to Peter.

However, the Lord hearkened to the prayers of the people that had gathered to pray (intercede) Acts 12; 12, even though they showed sign of unbelief until they saw Peter one on one.

ii. To advert the judgment of God

“...if you put all these people to death, leaving none alive, the Nation who have heard this report about you will say. The Lord was not able to bring these people into the land he promised them on earth. So he slaughtered them in the wilderness” Gen. 14: 13

The Israelites had before now grumbled against Moses and Aaron and rebelled against God.

“Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword” Gen. 14;3

“And they said to each other we should choose a leader and go back to Egypt”. Gen. 14; 5

Moses and Aaron hearing this rebellion fell face down in front of the Israelites gathered. Equally Joshua and Nun and Caleb all pleaded to God not to smite the Israelites.

“I will strike them down with a plague and destroy them, but I will make you into a nation...” Gen. 14; 12

God was annoyed and promised to strike down the Israelites, however, the prayer of intercession from Moses, Aaron, Joshua, Nun and Caleb pacified God and he decided to save those below 20years as they did not partake in the census and could not have witnessed the miracles of the Lord. Gen. 14:30-33

The above shows how God view the sin of rebellion, which he regards as wickedness. Gen. 14;35

Equally in Gen. 18;16-19 Abraham pleaded for Sodom and Gomorrah, consistently putting God to all manners of test just to make God alleviate their penalties. Abraham could have just been silenced even as his family was exempted from the destruction.

iii. TO SEEK THE LORDS DELIVERANCE

In 2nd chronicles 20;2-24 when the multitude from beyond the sea on the side of Syria, came against Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah. Jehoshaphat sought help from God through intercession, on behalf of his people for deliverance from their enemy. The Lord intervened and gave them victory.

“ye shall not need to fight in this battle, set yourselves stand still and see the salvation of the Lord with you”.2nd chronicles 20:17

“And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set an ambush against the children of Ammon, moab, and Seir who came against Judah and they were smitten” (vs 22)

iv. SECURE HEALING

In Genesis 20, we saw the story of Abimelech, king of Gerar, near attempt at taking Sarah, Abraham's wife; even though he did not know she was Abraham's wife. Abraham had earlier lied that Sarah was his sister for fear of his life. The consequence of taking her in to his house was dire, as the Lord closed the wombs of all the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah, (Gen 20;18) However, due to the integrity of Abimelech, God directed that Abraham prays (intercede) for him and his household was restored.

“So Abraham prayed to God and God healed Abimelech, and his wife and his maidservants and they bore children”.
(Gen 20 :17)

V. WHEN FAMILY, CHURCH, COUNTRY OR NATION HAS SINNED AGAINST GOD

If in our estimation, the Family, Church, Country or Nation has sinned, instead of joining the bandwagon of condemnation and vain accusations, it will be apt to pray or ask the Holy spirit to intervene in the situation. Job did this for his family and got the result. Others are:

- When there is injustice in the Land- Esther
- When enemies or their powers rises against us: 2kings 18:17-3;19
- When the word of God is no longer being preached in sincerity and truth.
- When judgment is looming, Numbers 14:13,20, Gen. 18:23-32
- When the church is being persecuted – Act 8:24, Act 12:5

How do we intercede?

There are many ways of interceding; however some will be discussed here;

Prayer and fasting:

“I urge then, first of all, that requests prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone; for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleasing before God”. 1 Timothy 2:1-3.

“Then Abraham approached him (God) and said, “will you sweep away the righteous and the wicked”. Gen. 18:23.

“David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into his house and spent day and night lying on the ground”. 2Sam 12:16.

Prayer could be through remembrance, warfare prayer and in travail. Equally using the word of scripture and asking the Holy Spirit to show us a specific verse or passage in the Bible that might apply to the situation we are praying against.

“And I myself also am persuaded for you my brethren, that ye also full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another”. Romans 15;14

SACRIFICE

“And Noah built an altar unto the Lord and took of every clean beast and of every clean fowl and offered burnt offering on the altar

And the Lord smell at a sweet savor and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground anymore for man's sake”. Gen. 8:20-21

Sacrifice has to do with presenting to divinity a token acknowledgment or thanksgiving to immolate (slaughter) on the altar of God, in order to atone for sin, to procure favor or to express thanksgiving.

It need be mentioned that intercession could be done on individual basis, family basis, as a church and a Nation.

CHAPTER THREE



Qualities of an **INTERCESSOR**

Pastor Rotimi E. Jesusanya (2014) JP in his book “Hast thou heard to intercede” stated that an intercessor is a two (2) edge sword man or woman, who stays the hand of God from carrying out his wrath, travail and likewise to prevent evil power from carrying out their evil enterprises (warfare).

An Intercessor is one who intercedes, a mediator, one who interposes between parties at variance, with a view to reconcile them.

An Intercessor is someone who prays, petitions or begs God in favor of another person.

DUTIES OF AN INTERCESSOR

The following are the duties of an intercessor.

- Reminds the Lord of his promises until they are fulfilled,
Isaiah 62:6-9
- Fight or pleads for justice to prevail on behalf of another.

- He builds the walls or hedge of protection, Ezekiel 13:4-5
- Stands between God judgment and his people, Ez. 22:29&30

Qualities

Sincerity: An intercessor must be sincere to redeeming soul

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our heart sprinkled to cleanse us from guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water”. Heb. 10:22

- Right living:

Living right with God within his laws and doing

“The prayer of the righteous man is powerful and effective” James 5:16b

- Good to all man.

Right standing with God

“When the righteous strive the people rejoice”. Prov.29:2

“The tongue of the righteous is a choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value”. Prov. 10vs20

- Fear God

“The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love. Psalm 147: 11

- **Diligent:**

“Keep thy heart, with all diligent, for out of it comes the issues of life. Psalm 4:23

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men. Psalm 22:9

- **Passion for soul**

“We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves”. Rom. 15:1

- **Humility**

“Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son”. 1King 21:29

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace but with humility comes wisdom. Prov. 11:2

- **Wise**

“The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools, dies for lack of judgment”. Prov. 10:21

“Mockers stir up a city but wise men turn away anger”. Prov. 29:8

- **Courageous**

It means boldness and confidence

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain”. I Corinth. 15:58

“For the spirit God gave us does not make us timid but gives us power, love and self-discipline”. 2 thimothy1: 7

-Integrity

“And the Lord said to Satan hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth. A perfect and upright man. One that feareth God and escheweth evil. Job 1:8

The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. Proverb. 10:9

- Discipline

“He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever, ignores correction leads others astray.” Prov. 10:17

“Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid”. Prov. 12:1

- Passionate prayer warrior

“My heart says of you, seek his face, your face, Lord will I seek” Psalm 27:8

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you” I Cor. 29:12

- Strong faith

“And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well, the Lord will raise him up, if he has sinned he will be forgiven” James 5:15

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” Heb. 11:1

“Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong” 1 Corinth. 16:13

- Love the Lord

“I love those who love me and those who seek me, find me”
Prov. 8:17

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. Deut. 6:5

Intercession is a serious business born out of sincere love for mankind, so an intercessor must realise that he need to be in right standing with God to succeed in intercession. Biblical men of intercession were men who stood straight and tall with God. Some were even regarded as friends of God. So it takes determination, good will, love for mankind, integrity of heart and the in dwelling of the Holy Spirit to be an intercessor. It is do-able.

CHAPTER FOUR



Biblical **INTERCESSORS**

This chapter will look at some Biblical intercessor and the circumstances surrounding their intercession. It will enable us to draw inspiration in the task of intercession.

i. Abraham pleads for Sodom

“Then Abraham approached him (God) and said, will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Gen. 18:23

Even though Abraham knew God will punish sin, however he equally knew from experience that God was a merciful God, so he interceded for Sodom. However, the city was destroyed as there were no ten (10) righteous persons in the city, he however interceded and Lot, His Nephew and Abraham house- hold except his wife were saved.

ii. David Plead for his sick child

“David pleaded with God for his sick child. He fasted and spent nights lying in sackcloth on the ground” 2Sam. 12:16

The event leading to this passage occurred after David has taken Bathsheba, Uriah's wife, and in the course of event Bathsheba got pregnant for David, a plot was conceived by David leading to Uriah's death. The child that came out of the evil deeds was struck by the Lord (2 Sam. 12:15). The Child on point of death caused David to intercede in prayers and fasting. Though David confessed and repented of his sin, fasted and prayed, the child still died, as the consequences of David's sin in these case was irreversible. God is God today and forever, seeing the consequences of tomorrow from today, so the consequence of tomorrow was averted.

iii. Job for his children

“When a period of feasting had run its course, job would make arrangements for his children to be purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts. This was job regular custom.”

Job 1:5

Job was not only a father, but a priest in his house, and anytime especially after a feast, he would go to God in sacrifice, prayers and fasting to plead for the course of his family, peradventure they had sinned in their heart.

The above suggest that he had checks on ground to monitor that his family including his children walked in the way of the Lord. However, peradventure they sinned in their heart, he will plead that God have mercy. The lesson derived therein is for the Head of families to periodically do a sort of family prayer (spiritual checkup) of atonement and thanksgiving and as prompted, by the Holy Spirit.

Equally David prayed for his people and the Nation of Israel and for Solomon's rule as recorded in Psalms.

David's plea for his people – Psalm 20;1-5

David's plea for the Nation – Psalm 74; 79

David's prayer for Solomon's rule Psalm 72

iv. Esther interceded for the Jews

“Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai, go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susan and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three (3) days night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish” Esther 2:15-16

When the lives of the Jews were threatened by Haman, Mordecai sort the help of Esther who was made queen. She did not consider the inherent danger and the fact that she could be undressed or even lost her life. She went ahead, held a prayer and fast with her attendants and interceded spiritually and physically to rescue the Jews from being slaughtered by Hamman.

“If I perish, I perish” that's the love and passion for the souls of her people”

v. Hezekiah plead his cause

“In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz went to him and said, this is what the Lord says' 'put your house in order because you are going to die, you will not recover” 2Kings 20:1

“Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the Lord, remember Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with whole hearted devoted and have done what is good in your eyes, and Hezekiah wept bitterly.

2Kings 20;2-3

“...I have heard your prayer and seen your tears, I will heal you”

2King 20:5

“...I will add fifteen years to your life...”

2Kings 20:6

Hezekiah, King of Judah who instigated civil and religious reforms had a personal relationship with God, he developed a powerful prayer life and faith in God. When he was sick and Isaiah through the prompting of the Lord advised him to put his house in order as he was going to die “will not recover”

However, Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, prayed, reminding God how he has walked his way faithfully. God heard his true plea, remembered his faithfulness healed him and added fifteen (15) years to his life. Equally his personal intercession brought about deliverance of the city from the hand of the kings of Assyria.

vi. Peter interceded for Tabitha (Dorcas)

“Peter sent them all out of the room, and then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning to the dead woman, he said Tabitha get up, she opened her eyes and seeing Peter, he sat up”

Acts 9:40

Tabitha, a woman who was always doing good and helping the poor died, Peter got on his knees and prayed and Tabitha came back to life.

The disciples sent for Peter to intercede for Tabitha using her good deeds as the surety to intercession. When she died, the room was filled with mourners, who remembered and equally interceded for her because of her good deeds and God heard the prayers of intercession and she was healed.

vii. Paul for Timothy

“To Timothy, my dear son, grace, mercy and peace from God the father and Christ Jesus our Lord” 2 Timothy 1:2

Paul continuously prayed for Timothy his son in the ministry. Although the two were separated from each other's, yet their mutual prayers provided a source of mutual encouragement. The above brings to fore the need for cross prayers between men of God and from church members to church leaders.

viii. Church for Peter

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him” Acts 12:5

Earlier King Herod had James the brother of John put to death with sword. As he saw that it pleased the Jew and being the festival of the unleavened bread, when much of the Jews were around, he got Peter arrested and put in prison, pending his execution.

However, the church in one accord was praying for Peter. So the earnest prayer of the church caused the angels of the Lord to strike Peter and the chain on his wrist fell and the angels led him to safety.

The import is that if the church can in unity, pray for its brethren in persecutions anywhere in the world or in the unity of purpose, then

the prayers will be answered and they will be saved as it was in the days of Pentecost in Acts 2;1-4.

ix. Christians against persecutors

“But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” Matt. 5:44

This is a very difficult saying or instruction, but they were Jesus Christ teaching about loving the enemies. Jesus went on to say, “if you love those who love you, what reward will you get (vs46). So we need to continually intercede for those who persecute us that they will come into light and be saved, that is our commission as the children of God.

x. Interceding for missions

“Ask the Lord of the Harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field” Matt. 9:38

Jesus looking at the crowd was overwhelmed with compassion, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. So he pleaded with the disciples to pray for workers (missionary) that will go into the field. So therefore we as individuals and church need to constantly intercede in prayers and our substances to the missionaries and mission field to help them rescue the lost or wandering sheep.

The areas to pray for the missionaries are:

- a. Strength and perseverance Isaiah 40vs31
- b. Encouragement – Psalm 112;6-7
- c. Provisions – Phil. 4;19

- d. Protection and safety – Psalm 121;8
- e. Joy in trials – Psalm 126;5-6
- f. Darkness lifted – Isaiah 61;1
- g. Divine opportunities – Col. 4;3-4
- h. Open hearts – Jer. 24;7
- i. Spiritual wisdom – Eph. 3;14-10

These Biblical intercessors were men who lived these earth, giving credence to the fact that, if they could do it, we too can do it. More so, that we have the Holy Spirit, ever abiding to help us in all things.

CHAPTER FIVE



Divine Intercessor

JESUS CHRIST OUR DIVINE INTERCESSOR

“*therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he pained out his life unto death and was numbered with the transgressors for he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors”* Isaiah 53;12

“Therefore, he is able to save completely, those who came to God, through him because he always lives to intercede for them” Hebrew 7;25

“In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness, we do not know what we ought to pray for, but the spirit himself intercede for us through wordless groans” (moans) Romans 8;26.

“Who then is the one who condemns? No one, Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us” Romans 8;34

“I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me.” John 14:6

Priests in the ancient Israel, offered sacrifices for the people and also offered prayers of intercession for them as at when due. However, the new law is that Jesus Christ is the high priest who died for our sins, rose from the death, that we might be justified and live at the right hand of God to intercede for us before God.

In John 17, Jesus poured out his heart praying diversely for mankind.

“I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me for they are mine” John 17:9

“I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy father protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one” John 17:11

“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world, but that you protect them from the evil one” John 17:15

Here Jesus Christ was interceding for the unity of the body of Christ and its protection, our divine security was of utmost importance to him.

“Sanctify them by the truth, your word is truth” John 17:17

As followers of Christ, we are sanctified, that is set apart for God's use not through any special experience but by believing and obeying the word of God (Heb. 4:12). Daily reading and application of the word of God, points out sin, motivates us to confess, renews our relationship with Christ and guides us back to the right path.

***“father I want those you have given me to be with one where
I am and to see my glory, the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the creation of the world”***

John 17:24

Jesus prayed for our ultimate glorification that as the father loved him and glorified him, so he prays for our ultimate glorification for his name sake. Jesus Christ's intercession is motivated by love for mankind to redeem man from external condemnation.

Other instances of Jesus Christ intercession are:

a. Jesus prayed for Simon

***“But I pray for you Simon, that your faith might not fail and
when you are turned back, strengthen your brothers” Luke
22:32.***

b. Jesus prays for his disciples

***“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for
those you have given me, for they are yours” John 17:9***

c. Jesus Prays for future believers

***“My prayer is not for them alone; I pray also for those who
will believe in me through their message” John 17:20***

d. Jesus prayed for enemies

***“Jesus said father forgive them, for they do not know what they
are doing” Luke 23:34***

Jesus Christ our Lord and savior shows us the power in intercession by his intercession for Simon, one of his disciples, whose faith was failing, then for his disciples to empower them

with power and the Holy Spirit to do the works of bringing men to God.

Jesus equally prayed for future believers, those not yet in the faith, this is a great lesson for the Christian faith, to always pray for the unreached souls in diverse places and situations.

And finally Jesus prayed for his enemies, even at the point of death. This might be a difficult one, but it is as shown by Christ and worth emulating.

Jesus our Divine intercessor when leaving the earth, in love to mankind and the realization of man's weakness promised an advocate, an intercessor, the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us in all truth.

“And I will ask the father, and he will give you another advocate, to help you and be with you forever” John 14:16

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But the advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” John 14:26

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity- Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. As such he is a personality and also fully God, co-equal with God, the Father and Son of God

The Holy Spirit is the very presence of God within us and all believers, helping us live as God wants and building Christ church on earth.

God speaks to us by the inner witness of the Holy Spirit to our spirit (Rom 8;14-16)

As we appropriate the Holy Spirit, we can trust him to establish the truth in our mind, convince us of Gods will, and remind us when we stray, even in the area of intercession.

The Holy Spirit came Fifty (50) days after resurrection, ten (10) days after ascension, as promised on the day of Pentecost, when they all gather together in one place (accord), they saw what seemed like tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”. Act 2:4

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- Spirit of truth (john14;17)
- Spirit of Holiness (Rom 1:4)
- Spirit of Life in Christ (Rom 8:2)
- Spirit of Adoption (Rom 8:15)
- Spirit of Faith (2Corinth 4:13)
- Spirit of Promise (Eph 1:13)
- Spirit of Wisdom (Eph 1:17)
- Spirit of Revelation (Eph 1;17)
- Spirit of Power (2nd tim 1:17)
- Spirit of Love (2nd 1:7)
- Spirit of sound mind (2nd tim 1:7)
- Spirit of grace (Rom 10:29)
- Spirit of glory (1st peters 4:14)

Arising from the above example, intercession is not only as commanded but as exemplified by our Lord Jesus Christ and equally prompted by the gift of the Holy Spirit which is available for us to appropriate accordingly. So if we do not have the strength and the will, the Holy spirit is available at our prompting to direct as appropriately.

CHAPTER SIX



Benefits of **INTERCESSION** **TO AN INTERCESSOR**

“I believe when you pray for someone else, you are praying for yourself” - Frank Akamo

“Intercessory prayer not only aids others in need, but can also bear fruit in our own lives” - Phillip Kosloski

“The Liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself” Prov. 11:25

The benefits derived from being an intercessor are varied, however, the following few are enunciated below:

a. God confidants

“Then the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham, what I am about to do” Gen. 18:17

God confided in Abraham before destruction of Sodom, because he was a righteous man close to his heart and could intercede in any situation. Abraham interceded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah before God. Gen. 18:23

b. An intercessor is an available vessel

“I look for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one” Ez. 22: 30

“Villagers in Israel would not fight, they held back until I, Deborah arose, until I arose, a mother of Israel” Judges 5:7

The Israelite failed to drive out all the Canaanites. The Canaanites regrouped and attempt to restore their lost power. Deborah led Barak into a battle against Jabin the king and Sisera his commander.

“Barak said to her (Deborah) if you go with me, I will go, but if you don't go with me, I won't go” Judges 4:8

“Certainly, I will go with you said Deborah, but because of the course you are taking, the honour will not be yours, for the Lord will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman” Judges 4:9

God gave them victory of the battle to Israel led by Deborah a woman and great intercessor for the Israelites, and indeed Sisera was delivered into the hand of a woman.

c. An intercessor is a watchman to warn God's people

“Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them the Lord, the God of your father the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.” Ex. 3:16

Moses was sent as a watch man, to warn and put back the Israelites on line to avoid those breaking ranks or falling into sin.

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel, so hear the word I speak and give them warning for me” Ezekiel 33:7

Ezekiel was placed as a watchman over Israel, to preach a message of hope, while warning against persistent, rebelling against God.

d. Mobilizer of Gods power

“I have posted watchman on your walls, Jerusalem they will never be silent days or night, you who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her praise of the earth. Isaiah 62:6

An intercessor is a mobilizer of God's presence and power, consistently, and anywhere they are they continually do everything to bring down his praises.

e. Peculiar grace of God

“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you. That you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured” Col. 4:12

An intercessor is endued with the grace of God to be able to sustain in prayers and travailing for souls. Equally the Holy Spirit is available to assist in all situations and circumstances.

f. Increase spiritual fervency:

“Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls all your waves and breaker have swept over me” Psalm 42:7

As an intercessor, our spiritual life will be that of fasting and prayer and studying the word that will increase our spiritual life and put us in a good stead to stand against all the vices of the enemy, the Satan.

g. Agent of revival

“When I heard these things, I sat down and wept, for some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven” Neh. 1:4

Even though, the exiles had returned to Jerusalem, the walls and city remained unrepaired, exposing the people to all sort of vulnerabilities. Nehemiah, returned to Jerusalem to mobilize the people to begin rebuilding the wall. Even in the face of opposition within and without, he persevered until the project was completed and the city resettled. Neh. 1:1-11

h. An intercessor is a mediator

“And Abraham approached him and said “will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked” Gen. 18:23

Abraham mediated on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah before God. The level of commitment by Abraham is worth emulating, showing we as mediator could hold God's hands against any punishment.

On many occasions on the sojourn of the Israelites to the Promised Land, Moses had to intercede to God for the corrupt and stiff-necked Israelites, averting much of Gods anger on them.

“I have seen these people, the Lord said to Moses, and they are stiff–Necked people” Exodus 32:9

***“Now leave me alone so that my anger burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.* Ex. 31:10**

“But Moses sought the favour of the Lord his God, Lord he said “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand” Exodus 32:11

Share in God's redemptive love

Redemptive love is the ability to sacrifice oneself because of love. As sin entered the world through a man, Adam, equally Christ came in form of man, died for man to be purged of sin and made whole. So as an intercessor, we share in the ability to turn man away from sin and make them whole, therein love in manifestation.

***“very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this; while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:6-7**

HELP TO MATURE THE SAINTS

***“my dear children, for whom I am again in the pain of child birth until Christ is formed in you. How I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you.* Gal. 4:18-19**

“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured” Col. 4:12

In Galatian, Paul not only led many people to Christ, but helped them mature spiritually over the time. Equally over Epaphras report which caused Paul to write the letter to the Colossians church, expressing his intercessory attributes as a sign of deep love and concern for the church. The one you love you chastised and intercede on their behalf.

Intercession is a very important tool for the continuous existence of mankind, the benefits are dual to the intercessor and those interceded for. In my days in the secondary school in the early eighties, a message was once preached during the church sermon on Sunday, with the title, “the unconcern shall be concern” the topic was and is still apt today, we need to be concern about happenings in our families, villages, local government Areas, States and Country at large, as what we fail to be concern about today, may explode tomorrow on our face and everybody including oneself being gravely affected.

As at the time of writing this book, the COVID-19 pandemic is still ravaging and of world concern. The question to ask is; could there have been a concerned person that could have interceded at the early phase or experimentation or origin of the virus, to avert the pandemic. (Just thinking aloud ?). Equally the consequence of the END SARS protest is raging as at the time of writing this book. The event resulted in deaths of lives and destructions of properties over the Nation. All this prompted by angers of all sorts, the question is, could there have been a better way of expressing grievances rather than the resort to protest, which resulted into the infiltration of the protest, by hoodlums disrupting the peace and order which resulted in breakdown of law and order in some parts of the country. Could intercession by individuals, groups or the body of Christ through various means have made the difference?

CHAPTER SEVEN



Benefits of **INTERCESSION (GENERAL)**

In the last chapter, the benefits of intercession to the intercessor were enunciated, in this chapter, the general benefits of intercession to mankind will be highlighted.

As stated in the tail end of chapter six, intercession is the only thing that can keep the world afloat, intercession is love in practice, so if we inculcate the attitude of intercession, we are indirectly developing attitude of love, and as it's often said, love makes the world go round (Acon Jackson)

The benefits of intercession are:

1. Escape or avert judgment:

On many occasions, the Israelites escaped the wrath of God due to Moses and Aarons constant intercession to God on their behalf on their journey from Egypt to the promise land (Exodus 32).

“So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him” Acts 12:5

Arising from the prayer of the brethren, Peter was released from prison by an angel of God, who took him past the first and second gates, while the iron gate leading to the city opened on itself and they went through it.

2. Restore and reconcile man to God

He came from Heaven to Earth, to show us the way, from earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky, Lord I lift your name on high.2ce

“God made him who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” 2Corint. 5:21

Jesus came in form of a man, died for our sins and reconciled us forever with God, as long as we live off sin.

3. God's blessing bestowed

“The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Number 6;24-26

When man is reconciled to God and lives within his rules, the priestly blessing will be bestowed to man in all ramification.

4. Smooth ministry of the word

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. And pray that we may be delivered from wicked and evil people for not everyone that has faith”
2 Thess. 3:1-2

This is an earnest request from the saint, for they know that by their power alone, they cannot do it, so they solicit for the continuous prayers of the brethren. The brethren in church today should do well to indulge in regular intercession for our religious leaders to enable them stand firm in these perilous times.

5. Bring about restoration of life

“...He cried out to the Lord, Lord my God have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die” 1King 17:20

“The he stretched himself out on the boy three (3) times and cried out to the Lord, Lord my God let this boy's life return to him” 1King 17:21

It was the act of the widow of Zarephat that drew the passion and love of Elijah towards her, so when she lost her only son, Elijah, the prophet stood in gap and interceded to God and got back the life of the son for the generous widow.

This is the power of faith inspired by true love and manifesting in a miracle.

6. Effective leadership in authority and ministry

“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 a peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” 1Timothy 2:1-2

Here Paul commands that prayer and intercession be made to those in circular and spiritual Leadership position to enable them rule properly and with the fear of God.

Effective leadership in authority brings about good governance, where things are done with the fear of God and there is equity in distribution of wealth, jobs, justice and in the long run good society. This can be prompted by prayers of intercession.

7. Salvation of Souls

Salvation is the saving of a soul from sin and its consequences; it may also be called deliverance or redemption from sin and its effect.

The plan of salvation was created by God to save, redeem and exalt human kind through the atonement of Jesus Christ.

“...do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans, god rather to the lost sheep of Israel.” Matt. 10:5-6

The emphasis here, was to the lost sheep of Israel to be able to preach salvation to them, though it was first to the lost sheep, the message of salvation is today to all people regardless of race, nationality (Acts 10:34-35, Romans 3:29-30).

In view therefore an intercessor can preach the message of good news and salvation to bring back a sinner to Christ and path of salvation even in prayers and admonition.

8. Peace and security of nations

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem may those who love you be secure” Psalm 122:6

“Also seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile, pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers you too will prosper” Jer. 29: 7

When we pray for our land, it will prosper and peace will reign, where there is peace, we can live and prosper and have the peace of mind and resources to serve God and draw men to God.

9. Forgiveness of sins

“...I am too ashamed and disgraced my God, to lift up my face to you because our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached to the heaven” Ezra 9:6

Ezra prayed confessing the sins of his people, weeping, he expressed shame for the sin of his people and fearing for the consequences, called his people to repentance. The people were moved by his intercession to tears and confession of their sins to God. They then ask God for direction in restoring their relationship with God. Sin is a great obstacle to a true relationship with God. If as individuals or nation, we could all be prompted to confess our individual and collective sin to God, he is willing and able to forgive us and restore the land to its plenty.

10. Dominion restored

“And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness and let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over the fowl of the air and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” Gen. 1:26

The original plan was for man to have dominion over all Gods creature, dominion means to have “complete authority” or “rule over”, but man, the first man, Adam and Eve lost it. However, intercession through the birth and death of our Lord Jesus Christ restored us back to the original plan of God.

Equally, the Holy Spirit is always available to direct us in all things and to live a holy and acceptable life, if we can appropriate it.

May God help us to be good intercessor or his true ambassador that we might derive the benefit, therein and remain rapture-able in Jesus name, Amen.

CHAPTER EIGHT



Hindrances to **INTERCESSION**

“The church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayers. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves into prayers.”

John Mott

In 1st Timothy 2:1-3 it was established that intercession is as commanded to all Christian. Equally in chapter 3, the qualities of an intercessor were espoused, just as the benefits of intercession in chapter 6 and 7 therein. However, this chapter will look at the hindrances to intercession. Elvis Glass in his writing “Hindrances to effective intercession” listed Six (6) factors viz

- = **Lack of Intimacy with God**
- = **Intentional Sin**
- = **wrong motives**
- = **Unforgiveness**

- = **Fear**
- = **Ungodly attitude**

Lack of Intimacy with God:

***“Come near to God and he will come near to you.....
James 4:8***

In Hebrew 11:6, it is recorded that God is a rewarder of those who delicately seek him. We must deliberately spend time with the word and prayers and seek his face always before taking any action.

The passion translation of Hebrew 11:6 says'

***“He rewards the faith of those who give all their
passion and strength seeking him.***

The Benefits of Intimacy with God are:

- He will in turn draw near to us
- There will be closeness between us and God
- A fellowship or friendship will evolve.
- The doors of communication will be wide open
- Intimacy will make us amenable to Gods.
- Instruction, correction and encouragement
- He will guide us ion all truth.

Intentional Sin:

***“If I had cherished sin in my heart the lord will not
listened. Psalm 66:18”***

Sin is an immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law. It is also an act of offence against law, and by injuring others.

Sin is a reproach and a barrier him hearing or communing with God. An intercessor should be devoid of sin, to be able to intercede

Wrong motive

“When you ask, you do not receive because you ask with, with wrong motive, that you may spend what you get on your pleasure”

James 4:3

What is the motive of our interceding, is it to truly win soul to the lord, or bring sinners out from sin to the righteousness of God? Why are we interceding, is it within the depth of our heart or shallow intercession? What is the intention of our intercession, when we intercede? Intercession should come out for genuine love for humanity and not a show.

Unforgiveness

“Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone forgive as the lord forgive you”

Col. 3:13

un-forgiveness, it is said is like a corrosive acid, that eat up its container (our hearts). Un-forgiveness can hold us down, deny us. Un-forgiveness can hold us down, deny us our peace and lead not only others to sin, but obstruct us from relating or hearing from God.

When un-forgiveness enters our heart, it erodes our ability to love, bond and trust, therefore, negating the qualities or characteristic of an intercessor.

Fear

*“Don’t fear, for I have redeemed you, I have called you: I have called you by name: you are mine”
Isaiah 43:1*

The spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you have in fear again, rather the spirit you received brought about your adoption to son ship

Heb 5:15

Fear is a great set back to intercession, as the will instill fear in us to stop us from interceding. Fear will cause us to buckle and settle for less than Gods best and promise us for us

To overcome fear, we need to stand by his word and promises variously in the bible

*He will never leave you nor forsake you-----Deut 31:8
Perfect love cast out all fear-----Ist john 4:8*

Ungodly attitude

Some of the ungodly attitude intercessor or a Christian should avoid are: Abusive tongue, bullying, backbiting, murmuring, impatience, lies etc.

Other hindrances

Other hindrances that should be watched out for are

- ✓ Pride
- ✓ Lack of time management
- ✓ Unconfessed sin
- ✓ Lack of faith/doubting heart

It is said that, there will be a greater provocation to intercede, when we realize the benefit of standing in gap for others and the land.

Intercession is a duty of all Christian, that derives many benefit however, Satan will always place obstacle on the path of intercessor, so it, behold on us all to identify this hindrances and with boldness overcome it.

“History belongs to the intercessors, those who believes and pray the” future into being” (Walter wink)

CHAPTER NINE



Prayer of **INTERCESSION**

Intercession is praying God's heart into a specific situation or standing in gap on behalf of a person, or group of people who are in need of mercy and grace. Intercession can be carried out mainly through prayers, petitions or entreaty in favour of another.

Intercessory prayer is the act of praying to a deity or to a saint in Heaven on behalf of oneself or others. It is a situation where we stand one on one with another person in the presence of God and support him or her in our prayer, we make a plea and mediation before God on behalf of oneself, but most importantly for others.

The Apostle Paul exhortation to Timothy specifies the import of intercessory prayer.

"I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercession and giving of thanks be made for all men".

For kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. 1st Timothy 2:1-3 (KJV)

In intercessory prayer, you allow the needs of others to take preference to your needs. It is like a warfare it takes place first in the spiritual realm, where the battles of our families, nations and us is lost and won.

STEPS IN INTERCESSORY PRAYER

There are some steps to intercessory prayers, but are herein divided into two (2) steps

Step I

- i. Right standing with God (John 1:12)
- ii. Praise God and bless his Holy name (praise worship) – Psalm 100:4
- iii. Search for sin in your heart and confess them. Psalm 139:23-24, I John 1:9
- iv. Yield your heart and trust in God (Prov. 3:5-6)
- v. Bind every distraction and contrary thought. 2Corinthians 10:4-5
- vi. Put on the armour of the Spirit (Eph. 6:11-12)
- vii. Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in all things (Romans 8:26)

Step II

- i. Pray from your heart – Psalm 37:4
- ii. Pray according to the will of God (I John 5:14-15)
- iii. Pray all times and in the spirit (Eph. 6:18)
- iv. Pray with fervency – James 5:16(b)
- v. Pray with faith – Mark 11:24, Heb. 11:6
- vi. Pray specifically (not amiss) James 4:3
- vii. Pray with thanksgiving – Phil. 4:6-7

viii. Pray persistently and consistently – Psalm 55:17

WHO DO WE PRAY FOR?

- i. For Christian church and church leaders over the world – Eph. 6:19-20, Col. 4:3
- ii. Head of states and peace of the world 1st Timothy 2:1-3
- iii. For the conversion and salvation of people around the world
- iv. For those who proclaim the gospel throughout the world.
- v. For suffering and deprived people all over the world
- vi. For persecuted Christians all over the world
- vii. For the sick, suffering and deprived persons James 5:14-15
- viii. For one and another James 5:6, Roman 1:5
- ix. For our enemies and those that despised us – Matthew 5:44, Acts 7:59
- x. For ourselves – Matthew 14:30, Luke 23:42, Luke 6:27-28

Intercessory prayer aside the good it brings to others, equally, transformed the person praying as much as the person prayed for, it creates a strong bond between the intercessor and God.

HOW DO WE PRAY

- We pray in tongues
- In songs
- We pray with the scriptures
- We decree and declare
- Pray in gratitude
- We could write and read our prayer to God

INTERCESSORY PRAYER POINT FOR FAMILY

- Dedication prayer – Joshua 24:15, Proverb 12:7
- Release of vision - Proverb 29:18
- Unity of the home – Col. 3:13-18, Psalm 133
- Good health – Exodus 23:25

- Financial needs – Phil. 4:15
- Wisdom – Prov. 4:6
- Protection – Eph. 3:17
- Prayer of peace – Num. 6:24-26
- Discipline life – Heb. 12:11
- Spirit of kindness – Eph. 4:29
- Spirit of perseverance – Psalm 16:8
- Spirit of Encouragement – Lamentation 3:22-23
- Love of God in the family – Duet 4:4-7

NATION

- Righteousness – Prov. 14:34
- Humility and integrity in the land 2Cor. 7:14
- Wisdom – Dan. 2:20-21
- Healing of the Nation – 2Cor. 7:14
- Honour and respect for people in authority – Romans 3:1
- Fear of the Lord – Prov. 9:10
- Leaders to work in unity
- Love for each other – 1st Cor. 13:4-7
- Justice in the land – Isaiah 18:3-10
- Prayer against disorder and unrest
- Peace in the land – Numb. 6:24-26
- Let go Anger in the land – Eph. 4:31-32
- Compassion – Eph. 4:32
- Will of God in the land – Matt. 6:9-10
- Prosperity in the land – Jer. 29:7

INTERCESSORY PRAYER POINT FOR LEADERS

- Wisdom
- Work in unity
- Have right adviser
- Righteous living – Psalm 132:9

- Fear of God
- Divine protection – Psalm 20:9
- Good health in body and soul
- Humility and integrity
- Spirit of justice
- Create a pure heart – Psalm 51:10

INTERCESSORY PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

1. Almighty God, Ruler of all the people of the Earth forgive our shortcomings as a Nation purify our hearts to see and love the truth.
2. Give wisdom to our leaders and steadfastness to our people and lead us at last to that fair city of peace, whose foundations are mercy, justice and goodwill of which you are the designers and builders, through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

- **Woodrow Wilson**

INTERCESSORY SONG

WE'LL STAND IN THE GAP BY TOM INGLIS

The eyes of the Father run to and fro
He's searching the earth
He's looking for those who make intercession
On behalf of their nation
those who will rise up and pray...

We'll stand in the gap on behalf of our land **2ce**
Down on our knees
we'll take our stand
and there intercede for our land
we'll pray for the needs of our land...

The powers of darkness released on our lands

Will never prevail
Will never withstand
the deep intercession
by a people of passion
those who will rise up and pray
You stand in the gap on behalf of our land **2ce**

Down on our knees
we'll take our stand
and there intercede for our land

Intercession can be done mainly by prayer, fasting and equally by sacrifice. However prayer is the key medium of intercession. May God grant us the grace in this regard.

CHAPTER TEN



CONCLUSION

“Intercession is truly a universal work for the Christian, no place is closed to intercessory prayer, no continent, no nation, no city, no organization, no office, no power on earth can keep intercession out”. –Richard Halverson

“And if one member suffers, all the parts (share) the suffering, if one member is honored, all the members (share in) the enjoyment of its” 1 Corinthians. 12; 26

God acts when people intercede for one another. Equally, it's worth noting that when a member is suffering or passing through pains, it affects others. Also when a member(s) of a family or community are happy its radiates on all. There lies the import of intercession.

“For I know that through your prayers and Gods provision of the spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance” Phil. 1;19

The above was the confidence of Paul even in prison in Rome. His faith grew as he believed that brethren were continually praying and interceding for him.

“In the same way, the spirit helps us in our weakness, sometime we may not know what we ought to pray for, but the Holy Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groan”(Romans 8:16)

“Who then is the one who condemns no one. Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us”Rom. 8:34

The above is a clear justification that, even when we do not know what to intercede for, all we need do is to activate love for ourselves, neighbors, family and country, then go to God in prayer of intercession through Jesus Christ, activated by the prompting of the Holy Spirit to help us arrange our request or intercede for us.

The book, Power of intercession brings to fore the importance of intercession in the life of man in his sojourn on earth. The book did a little introduction on intercession, stating that in life, disagreements arise and that when not properly handled, leads to conflict. Consequently, there is need for a sane onlooker to intercede or mitigate to avoid escalation.

It thereafter, looked at the importance of intercession lost in the lives of our first parents; Adam and Eve suggesting that had any of them interceded rather than pass the buck. Humans would have probably been spared the agony of the curse on Humanity. Equally, the forms of intercession were discussed, as Active, Effective, Preventive and Specific.

The chapter two looked at the purpose of intercession, by answering the questions; what is intercession? Who do we intercede for? Why do we intercede? When do we intercede? And how do we intercede?

Chapter three, challenges us to some of the duties and qualities required as an intercessor.

Chapter four looked at examples of some Biblical men of intercession to enable the stirring up of the spirit of intercession in our heart.

Chapter five talked about the Divine Intercessor, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who sits at the right hand of God, interceding for us, after sending the Holy Spirit to live in and within us to help us in our weaknesses

Chapter six and seven looked at the benefits of intercession to an intercessor and intercession in general. Chapter Nine is on Prayer of Intercession. The book ends with some select word on Gold as regards intercession culled from the archives of motivational authors.

It is the hope of the writer that, this book will be beneficial to the reader and indeed prompt us to be worthy intercessor deriving the benefit therein in Jesus name.

WORD ON GOLD

1. Each time before you intercede, be quiet first, and worship God in his glory. Think of what he can do, and how he delights to hear the prayers of his redeemed people. Think of your place and privilege in Christ, expect great things. -Andrew Murray
2. To make intercession for men is the most powerful and practical way in which we can express love for them. -John Calvin.
3. Discernment is Gods call to intercession, never to faultfinding. - Corrie Ten Boom.
4. Jesus Christ carries on Intercession for us in heavens, the Holy Ghost carries on intercession for us on earth, and we the saints have to carry on intercession for all men. - Oswald Chambers.
5. Intercession is Gods brilliant strategy for including the saint in ruling with him in power, yet it has such great impact on us as it draws us into intimacy with God. Protects with humility, transform with holiness, anoints with power, unifies in community, releases revelation and increase our inheritance while it reins us to rule with his wisdom. -Mike Bickle.
6. “There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer. -Arthur Tappan Pierson.
7. We are preserve because we are by our high priest's intercession. R.C Sprout
8. A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another or it collapses – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

9. History belongs to the intercessors that believe and pray the future into being. - Walter Wink
10. God's greatest agency: man's greatest agency for defeating the enemy and winning men back is intercession. -S.D. Gordon.
11. Talking to men of God is great thing, but talking to God for men is greater skill. - Edward McKendry Bonds.
12. Intercessory power recognizes the reality that God is alive and active in the world today. Anonymous.
13. If we had more sleepless nights in prayers, there would be fewer souls to have a sleepless eternal night in hell –Leonard Ravenhill
14. The amount of time you spend interceding for others is a testimony to the love you have for them –Bobby Gene Redding
15. Prayer is the purest form of Pleasure-Lailah Gifty Akita
16. Intercessory prayer might be defined as loving our neighbour on our knees - Charles Bent
17. The real business of your life as a saved soul is intercessory prayer - Oswald Chamber
18. Intercessory prayer is the purifying bath unto which the individual and the community must enter everyday - Dietrich Bonhoeffer
19. Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon their knees - William Cowper
20. Intercessory Prayer is an act of communion with Christ, for Jesus pleads for the Sons of men - Charles Spurgeon
21. Intercession is the most unselfish thing anyone can do - Paul Billheimer

REFERENCE

- Otité, Albert (eds) (1999): Community Conflicts in Nigeria: Management, Resolution & Transformation. Spectrum books Ltd, Ibadan
- Albert, Olarinde (eds) 2010, Trends and Tension in Managing Conflict: John Archers, Ibadan.
- basic....
- www.Christianity.comm
- www.prayerrelay.comm
- www.prayer point.comm
- www.aninaking.com
- mcdowell
- [https://www.beliefnet, com](https://www.beliefnet.com)
- [https/prayray.com](https://prayray.com)
- [https/www.biblesprout.comm. /articles](https://www.biblesprout.comm./articles)
- [https/www.dictionary.comm](https://www.dictionary.comm)
- [https//www.cbn. comm](https://www.cbn.comm)
- [https/ymi.today.](https://ymi.today)
- [https/www.amazon.comm](https://www.amazon.comm)
- [https/www.inspiringquotes.us](https://www.inspiringquotes.us)
- Betsy lee: 7 secrets of effective intercession.
- Gracegems.org>macduff1
- Jesusanya(2004): Hast Thou Heard to intercede, Kaduna
- Prayray.com>intercessory prayer
- Prayerventures.org
- Petrainternational.org>benefits of intercession.
- Preventsatans.com>7 benefits of intercession.
- Comparative Study Bible NIV/AV/KJV/NAS: Zondervan, Grand Rapids Michigan, USA
- Inspired. Motherhood .com>scripture
- [https/Connectusfund.org](https://Connectusfund.org)
- [https/www.bibletruths.org](https://www.bibletruths.org)

- <https://www.gatewaysoftheslight.com>
- <https://eemiey.com>
- <https://www.enterthebible.org>