

# **PERSPECTIVES**

The background of the cover features a man with dark hair, eyes closed, and hands clasped in prayer. He is positioned in front of a large, glowing, circular portal or vortex that radiates light. The overall color scheme is dominated by warm tones of red, orange, and yellow, suggesting a divine or spiritual atmosphere.

**In**

# **Effective Intercession**

**(A PRACTICAL GUIDE)**

**ROWLAND WORLU**



**PERSPECTIVES IN EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION**  
**(A Practical Guide)**



**MACROWLY KONSULT**  
**PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA**

All scriptural quotations are from the King James Version, except where otherwise stated.

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# **F O R W A R D**

Without overstating the obvious, it is my candid belief that every book is written to fill a gap and therefore satisfy a need. "INTERCESSION" is a very important aspect of our Christian faith since our Lord JESUS CHRIST is the greatest intercessor. (Heb. 7: 25(b)). It is an important reminder to Christians on the need to pray fervently for others and our nations.

This book "PERSPECTIVES IN EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION" exposes the essence of intercession and describes the qualities of an intercessor as well as the tools required for intercession. It also highlights the different categories of intercession stating clearly the relevance of spiritual gifts in intercession. The introduction of this book is timely, not only because of the day to day events on earth which point to the impending return of the saviour but because intercessory prayer to the Christian is a sacred call. (1 Tim. 2:1)

The reading of this book therefore, will greatly assist in equipping the Christian on how to approach prayers. It is highly recommended to all Christians and Churches who realize that prayer is one of the focal points in the Christian faith.

**Bro. G. I. UMOH (Ph.D)**



# DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to every intercessor of my generation

Rev. G. L. UMOH (Ph.D.)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A text of this nature is necessarily based on a wide variety of original source. While I have made original contributions in some specific areas of analysis and in the conceptual framework, the bulk of the materials on which the text is based comes from other contributors. I have shown the sources of these materials at the appropriate points. May I therefore acknowledge my gratitude to the authors of these materials and indeed several other intercessors who responded favourably to my request for interview.

Also worthy of mention are the valuable interactions and series of mind-rubbing sessions I had with servants of God. Prominent among them are Reverends C. Allison, A. U. Ferdinand, T. Osilem, A. I. Luke, G. Asuru, F. Mbanyi, E. Udo, E. E. Ngaha, Pastor Oliver Sunday, etc. These men serve as guiding lights in my spiritual development, and so my debt of gratitude is in order to them all.

As I remain grateful to friends, relations, brethren in the fold who aided me in diverse ways, special mention must be made of the following persons, whose association with me ignited my zest to succeed: Dr. G. I. Umoh who made personal sacrifices to ensure that this work appeared in print, Prof. I. L. Nwaogazie whose persuasive and inspiring advice made an indelible impression, Victor Patrick, Tony Osuji, Grace Omunakwe, Ogbonna Nwagbara, Gabriel Onyekuru for their co-operation and encouragement which insured my success, Elder G. N. Chukwumati for his moral support, Engr. Dave Orunta for his critical comments and inspiring advice, Sister Esther Ukariwe for typing the manuscript.

Above all, I lift up my thanks to God Almighty who granted me the vision and grace to record this feat. May His name be praised! Amen.



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## INTRODUCTION

The level of moral decadence in our society is already on its crescendo. What used to be frowned at are now reckoned as issues of modernity. Bribery and corruption are now hardly viewed as offences. Examination malpractice has now become part of our academic culture. Rigging in elections does not matter. Secret cults and their diabolic effects are menacingly threatening the very fabrics of our existence. Political and economic upheavals have found their roots on our soils. Every hope is tottering as abortion, murder, suicide and war ravage every continent.

What is more? Our leaders think that the solution could be found in political and economic alliance rather than seeking the face of God. This has never paid off. Israel tried it in the time of Zedekiah to escape the yoke of Babylon, which had already received divine empowerment to lord it over all the nations. Failure was the result!

We are indeed helpless! And if that is apparent, what is the way out? The church of Jesus Christ has the answer, which is found in the presence and power of God. Unfortunately, the church is generally powerless now that the world needs her most. The reason is not far-fetched. The condition of the church is pitiable.

Sin has taken a firm grip on the church, and this has led to disunity and prayerlessness. Jesus told us:

*...believe me for the very works' sake, verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my father'. (John 14: 11, 12)*

Right now, we are unable to do as much as Jesus did, let alone doing greater things than He did. The apostle Paul was confident to say that his works were a demonstration of the Spirit's power (I Corinthians 2:4)

Things can not continue this way, we must seek an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ (the owner of the church) who told us that He did only what He saw the Father doing (John 15:19). The secret of intimate relationship with the father as Jesus has is intercession. Intercession is the key. Intercessors form the inner circle of God, and have the first-class privilege of receiving spiritual insight. Peter, James and John formed the inner circle of Jesus and were taken to the mount of Transfiguration. There His inner glory shone out in scintillating light revealing both His deity and His perfect, sinless humanity. Today, Jesus is in search of people to form the inner circle of His church, and who will be entitled to mysteries of the kingdom.

Such inner circle can stand in the gap for the church, which needs to unite for the sake of the Kingdom. Doctrinal trivialities should not continue to cause disunity in the church of Jesus Christ for "every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined and every city or household divided against itself will not stand"



God is indeed looking for people to stand in the gap for that is His tradition. When the entire humanity was lost in the knowledge of God. He picked up Abraham and used him as a point of contact to reach the earth. When the Israelites lost hope in Egypt, He sought for a man to stand in the gap and found Moses. During the days of Israel's captivity in Babylon, He identified Daniel who stood in the gap for his people. Before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God spotted Abraham —the intercessor of that time who thought he could find at least five righteous persons so that God could withdraw His anger. Above all, as the entire human race "fell short of the glory of God", Jesus volunteered to stand in the gap. Thus the task of intercession is a divine profession, and must thrive among God's people. The church should therefore rise to the challenges of our time. It should begin to pursue the substance of the matter instead of the shadow like the Scribes and Pharisees.

Jesus will return and judgement is imminent! It must begin with the church, we are told. But how prepared is the church? Intercessors who form the intelligence team must rise to the challenges of this question.

Interestingly, a few believers have answered the call or rather volunteered to minister to the Lord in this area. Yet they are oblivious of an effective approach to it. Here lies the justification for a text of this nature. It does not only explore the intricacies of successful intercession, but also reveals the secrets existing therein. It is indeed a blueprint for the intercessor.

An intercessor who knows his onions is the most powerful man on earth. He has the power to dictate the course of things because he works in the Spirit, and it is the "Spiritual" that controls the "Physical". Such an intercessor has the authority to decide with his God how the world must be. His authority is scriptural (Matthew 18:18). There was never an intercessor (Moses, Elijah, Daniel, David, Nehemiah, etc) who did not control his world. So yours can not be an exception. But you must know the rules of the game in order to gain results.

The first Chapter examines the concept of intercession viz-a-viz the scriptures. The second chapter identifies the various "make-ups" that distinguish the intercessor from the rest of the world. The intercessor is a soldier, and as such, he needs some weapons to fight with. Chapter three exposes you to these weapons. In chapter four, patterns of intercession are spelt out to guide the intercessor. You need to know them all. Chapter five examines the nexus between intercession and spiritual gifts.

In the concluding chapter, you are privileged to catch a glimpse of the recent developments in the battle of kingdoms, i.e. kingdom of light and that of darkness. The idea is to put you on the alert as a watchman. You need not be afraid.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTERCESSION AND ITS SCRIPTURAL ESSENCE

In dealing with this topic, the first set of questions that comes to mind includes: What is intercession? Who is an intercessor? And what place does intercession occupy in the word of God? How do you know your calling as an intercessor? We shall take them in turn.

#### WHAT IS INTERCESSION?

Intercession is a form of prayer: But while prayer can be defined as “the act of asking for a favour with earnestness” (Webster), intercession is defined as “Pleading in favour of another” (Webster). Intercession is a word derived from a Latin coinage “INTERCEDERE” “INTER” means ‘to go’ ‘CEDERE’ means ‘between’. Thus intercession means ‘to go between’

In the light of the above, it is technically wrong to use ‘prayer’ and ‘Intercession’ interchangeably. This is because ‘prayer’ generally means speaking to, to request, to walk, to commune, to fellowship, to offer petition, and supplication while intercession means coming to God on behalf of another.

It can also be said that intercession is primarily prayer, but a more intense, earnest and desperate form of prayer and supplication unto God. Hence we use such term as ‘Intercessory prayer’ to indicate a form of prayer beyond what is ordinary and common. In other words, intercession is ‘an enlargement in prayer, a going out in broadness and fullness from self to others’



For a deeper appreciation, we shall go further to discuss the various dimensions of intercession:

A. *Intercession refers to a devotional prayer for a person, people, place or thing/system.* This means pleading with God to correct an anomaly in the subject of the intercessory prayer. This correction may require God to withdraw His anger on such subject or whittle down the harsh effect of His anger on such subject. Moses (Exodus 32: 9 – 14) pleaded with God concerning His decision to destroy the Israelites on account of their sins. Intercession in this sense, involves reminding God what He had earlier said concerning the subject. And based on God's earlier declaration, the intercessor can then make a case of mercy or blessing as the case may be. The point in issue is that the intercessor should hold God by His word because He says "command ye me by my words;" Moses applied this method when he directed God to:

***"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, thy servants to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give into your seed, and they shall inherit it forever" (Exodus 32: 13, 14)***

I belong to an intercessory squad in a local church which God has designated THE SOLUTION CENTRE. We faced the case of a man whose health condition had defied the conventional medication, and the man was just close to the grave on arrival to the solution centre. the relations narrated their experiences and the efforts they had already made to restore him but to no avail. They had therefore brought him to the church as a last resort. God immediately revealed that the man's cup was full and that he would die. Without much prayers, we reminded Him of His Covenant with this particular local church as the solution centre.

In making the place the solution centre, God had promised that no case, however bad, would come here without relief. Immediately, the Lord directed him to make confessions before us and to tarry with Him for seven days. At the end of the seven days, the man received his healing and went back home.

B) *Intercession is a self sacrifice unto God and a mediation between God and His Creatures.*

Sacrifice in this sense means going out of one's way, self denial, foregoing pleasure, and even rendering one's life to appease God. Intercession in this respect further means a desperate effort to make peace between God and His creatures. It is a dogged attempt to reconcile God and His People.

Moses exemplified it when he asked God to forgive the Israelites of their sin, or blot him (Moses) out of His (God) book.

C) *Intercession means watching over God's estate (including people) It is the duty of the intercessor to watch over God's cities, people, church and all that there is.*

Every worthy watchman must have a tale to tell about what goes wrong or right in his domain. God made Jeremiah a watchman of his time over the nation of Israel. As a watchman, no evil would befall the nation without his knowing. And God was obliged to reveal to him whatever He intended to do to His People (Israel). God sent watchmen (Intercessors) to watch over Jerusalem (Isaiah 62: 6) Today, every local Church needs such watchmen (intercessors) to explain the mysteries of every condition in the church. it behoves the intercessors 'to ask of things to come' because wherever 'there is no vision the people perish'. Jesus says 'watch and pray'. In other words, discover what is to come and pray concerning it.



In my local church, God revealed to the Intercessory Squad that a member of the church was going to be involved in an accident. We prayed and passed a decree. The accident actually came but our church member was the only survivor of that tragedy. In another instance, God revealed how one of the pillars was cut off. On a closer enquiry, the Lord showed that an elder of the church would die a sudden death. Intercession was made, and on Sunday, an elder of the church testified how he would have been crushed by a tanker that lost control.

*D Intercession posits a spiritual search for a solution to a problem (whether spiritual or physical).*

In this case, the intercessor identifies a problem by virtue of his spiritual alertness and tunes to heaven for solution. Daniel, while in captivity, recognized that it was the sin of his people that brought about their captivity in Babylon. His eyes were immediately opened to understand that God needed to be appeased by confessing these sins. (Daniel 9:4-19)

Jonah's presence in the boat attracted God's anger to the people in the boat so much so that the boat was to capsize until Jonah was thrown overboard. Peace returned.

Achan's sin was to ruin the whole Israel until he was spotted and killed. That was the solution to the problem.

From the foregoing cases, an intercessor is expected to be alert and attentive to hear from God who is the revealer of secrets. Many people pray without giving God the opportunity to respond. Response does not mean answer to the prayer. It refers to what God has to say concerning the problem. And this may be a specific directive on how to get the problem solved.

During one of our ministrations in a local church, a lady came complaining that she was at the dark end of her life. Nothing seemed to be moving for her and her family members. In addition, she contacted

a stubborn disease that was sapping her resources.

On ministration, God revealed to her chagrin, that she was indebted to Him (God). We put it to her that God said you made a vow to Him concerning something you needed, and when God did what you desired, you refused to fulfil your own part. The lady paused for sometime, and suddenly beat her chest in confirmation. 'Yes' she said, 'while I was unemployed, I made a vow to God to the effect that I would pay certain amount of money to His house in appreciation of the gesture if employed. Not quite two months after the vow, I got employment. The day I sent the money to our pastor, he was not available to receive it. I went back promising to see him later. I never went back as things became tough for me financially, she stated.

God confirmed her confession and ruled that she must go back and fulfil that vow before any relief in her life. She did it and later visited the church with wonderful testimonies.

E. *Intercession means communion or fellowship with God. It is a higher avenue for the child of God to express his relationship with God. This rapport offers the intercessor spiritual strength and security, for in the presence of God, there is liberty.*

Furthermore, this constant interaction offers the intercessor wide discretionary power and authority within the confines of God's word and will. His awareness of this unique position enables him enjoy a princely and sacred privileges to negotiate with God on what is to be done and in what manner. Elijah agreed with God to suspend rain for three and a half years in Israel. He further negotiated with God to answer with fire at the most critical time in his ministry.

Jesus sensitized every believer to this princely privilege in Matthew 18:18 where he declared *"Verily, I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven"*.



A good intercessor, by virtue of his calling, can make God alter His decision on any issue. Hezekiah did it when God decided that he (Hezekiah) was going to die. No sooner Isaiah gave him the message of God than he faced the wall and interceded for himself. The result was that God added fifteen more years to his (Hezekiah's) life.

Moses depicts another monument of an intercessor's ability to change God's decision. When God decided to wipe away the nation of Israel and create another one through Moses, Moses refused the decision and insisted that God should forgive them since He (God) had earlier made a commitment to Abraham.

## WHO IS AN INTERCESSOR?

This second question raised at the outset of our discourse can be answered from the foregoing revelations.

In the first place, an intercessor is a co-creator with God because he enjoys the vintage position of changing the course of things or even altering God's decision as in the case of Hezekiah and Moses.

Secondly, an intercessor is a peacemaker between God and His creatures because it behoves him to reconcile God and His people. The evidence of this is contained in Ezekiel 22: 30 where God Himself sought for an intercessor to make peace between Him and His people – Israel.

It is further clear that an intercessor is a hedge around God's people. The intercessor offers protection around God's people. By this we mean protection from the power of darkness and protection from God's anger. He is found in warfront to form the magnet for all dangerous weapons against his people. He wouldn't mind offering to die instead.

Wedded to the above is the fact that the intercessor is a watchman who is diligent and persevering. He has an understanding with God to know



in advance what will happen around him. When God made Jeremiah a watchman over Israel, He was always keeping him in the know of matters ahead of time.

Finally, an intercessor is a prayer-warrior and God's representative who stands in the gap. He commands God by His word and asks God of things to come. He is a selfless, christian whose ambition is to see God's will done in the interest of God's people.

### **WHAT IS THE PLACE OF INTERCESSION IN GOD'S WORD?**

The ministry of intercessory prayers enjoys a pride of place in the entire work of creation.

When man fell, God sought for who would go to restore man. And Christ volunteered to pay the sacrifice. When Pharaoh became too tyrannical to the people of Israel, God sought for an intercessor to stand in the gap; and in fact Moses was called up to the work, yet Pharaoh remained intransigent. At every point in the history of the Israelites, God called up somebody to stand in the gap.

Now the question is why must God need a man to stand in the gap before He deals with His people? This is the design of creation; God created man in His image, and as such prepared him to be part of His creative process.

The fallen position of man made him lose this key that enables him participate in creation. But Jesus came, retrieved this key, by the fact of His death, resurrection and ascension. He handed it back to man. Under normal circumstances, God does not act unless His people ask Him to do so. This is why Jesus said: *"... Men ought always to pray, and not to faint."*

To further stress the importance of intercession in the scheme of God, Paul wrote to advise Timothy: *"I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men."*

The ministry of intercession is time-consuming but quite rewarding. Imagine the joy in having your prayers answered, and dictating for God how things should be done. There was hardly any intercessor who was not a hero in his time. Thus the church today needs intercessors to prove to the confused world that Christ reigns.

Intercession is such a noble ministry that Christ had to release unto us the Holy Spirit who maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered' (Romans 8: 26)

It is unfortunate that we live in a world that yearns for democracy where numbers rule. Everyone desires to be in the majority. God is not in search of celebrities or stars, but dedicated Christians who will give themselves to the kind of intercession that will turn back the influences threatening our society.

## **YOUR CALLING AS AN INTERCESSOR**

Intercession is the primary role of every Christian like evangelism. When Jesus was teaching the right attitude to prayer, He said 'when ye pray', and not 'if ye pray'. This means that prayer is a matter of compulsion for all believers, except that some people notice a greater degree of anointing in their prayer lives that makes them pray for extended length of time.

The same is true of evangelism'. It is a gift (Ephesians 4:11), yet every Christian is required to witness for Christ.

What God desires from intercessors is their availability and not their 'ability' for it is God Himself that gives grace.

The gift of intercession is not listed as a separate gift (1 cor. 12, or Romans 12), but Alice Smith interchanges prophecy with intercession since prophets in the Old Testament were enamoured of uttering the burden of the Lord, and making intercessions where necessary.

The existence of the gift of intercession should spur every local church to recognize the OFFICE of intercession. This has of course, been existing in most local churches as prayer team, prayer warriors, intercessory squad, etc. Whatever is the name, a gifted intercessor should be made to head it. These watchmen, as the Bible calls them, help to equip the Body of Christ. As they pray for the various needs, the Lord's purpose is accomplished.

In addition, every local church may wish to devote an hour out of the entire service period to intercession. The intercessory squad can lead the congregation in such sessions. This does not preclude other intermittent prayers during the service period.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### ATTRIBUTES OF A GOOD INTERCESSOR

#### 1. BORN AGAIN

First and foremost, the intercessor is expected to have given his life to Jesus Christ. It is not a half-hearted surrender. He must believe in the death, resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is a new creature in Jesus. This must be followed by a baptism of water and Holy Ghost. In other words, he must be BORN AGAIN, for "except a man be born again, he shall not see the kingdom of God". And the kingdom is occasionally revealed to the intercessors because they operate in the Spirit realm.

#### 2. PERSEVERANCE

Intercessors are selfless people who pray until something happens (P. U. S.H) Jesus illustrated the need to persist and persevere in prayer with the parable of the widow and the wicked king who did not know God. Just because the widow pestered him to avenge her enemy, he did so to avoid further pestering by the widow. If a wicked king could do such, how much more our heavenly father. This is the authority the intercessor has for persevering in prayer. This is not a show of unbelief as some are inclined to say for thus says the Lord.:

*"I have set watchman upon thy walls O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day and night. Ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence." (Isaiah 62: 6)*

The intercessor continues until a break-through is struck. An intercessor who is intimate with God knows when he strikes a breakthrough. At times, right there on your knees, the Spirit ministers to you. At some other times you experience some joy within you at the end of the prayer session. You may even notice that during another prayer session when you would want to represent the matter to God, there will be an inner voice asking you: 'why not leave that out?; it's been answered'.

When such thing happens, you should continuously thank God for answering that prayer, even though there is no physical manifestation yet.

Another angle of this perseverance is what Alice Smith calls commitment. To her, intercessors are committed to God and other people; and have genuine desires to see needs met. Andrew Murray adds determination and intensity to this traits of perseverance.

### 3. **BURDEN BEARER**

Intercessors, as burden bearers, prove their faithfulness to God. They hardly feel comfortable when things are going wrong either with the society or an individual. Paul says 'let this mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

The compassionate mind of Jesus prompted him to lay down His life that we might live. He bore our burdens out of compassion and granted us liberty in that singular act. Even when our burden was heavy on Him on the cross of Calvary, He still interceded that the father should forgive us. As if that was not enough, the scriptures record that He is on the right hand of the father interceding for us on daily basis.

An intercessor may find himself having heaviness in his spirit or sense of depression as a result of people's predicament or anomalies in the church, community or society. He may feel sad and at times to the point of bursting into tears.

A christian caught a brother in the very act of fornication and burst into tears. Instead of reporting to anybody, he went down on his knees. After two weeks of intercessory prayers for the restoration, the brother who strayed went to the pastor and confessed. This is the power of intercession. You may also notice that at certain times, the urge to pray rushes upon you like a heavy wind even when you can not think of anything to pray about. Go in and pray. Trust the Holy Ghost for details. He wants you to bear a burden.

Put otherwise, the burden bearing attribute of the intercessor is akin to travail. To Paul, intercessors are acquainted with death, like Christ. This means death to self. The intercessor sees himself abandoning all that he cares for in life to be able to fit into the shoes of intercession.

#### **4. INTIMACY WITH GOD**

God is looking for people with whom He can share His heart, and those who delight to be in His presence. The intercessor should recognize this fact. If he achieves this intimacy, he will perforce be alert in the spirit, always ready to receive from the Lord. God is always speaking and only those who are open and sensitive hear Him.

It pays the intimate intercessors to be attentive while in prayers for prayer is a two-way conversation. Once he makes his presentations to the Lord, there is bound to be response, Daniel tried it and saw the result (Daniel 10:9).

God takes us to the length we are prepared to reach with Him. He relates with us at the level we care. A deeper intimacy requires a higher price for the father has no favourites, but He does have intimates.

#### **5. KEEPS SECRET**

An intercessor is always receiving prayer requests from persons who feel afflicted in one way or the other. People will meet him always to bare their minds on problems that keep them restive. As this happens, the intercessor is obliged to keep such matters confidential and discuss them only with God.

He could also receive messages from God concerning certain persons. It is not good to go about discussing such revelations with other people just to show how close you are with God.

Besides, the father will share the secrets of His heart with those He trusts, and not those who will gloat over the revelation of heavenly mysteries which Paul avoided (2 Corinthians 12).



Also after Jesus took His inner circle to the mount of transfiguration where certain mysteries were revealed to them. He warned them not to share the experience with anybody until the Son of Man has risen from the dead. They had no option other than to comply (Mark 9:2-10).

To underscore the importance of this trait, the bible says:

*"A talebearer revealeth secrets: But he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter" (Proverbs 11:13)*

## 6. LOVER OF PEOPLE

It is clear that the intercessor will not be able to bear the burden of people where love for them is lacking. The intercessor's love for people, church, society will ignite his passion to make the necessary sacrifices which intercession requires.

He may need to engage people in conversations with the intent to discover their needs; sometimes, if he is gifted with discerning of spirits, he would spot people who have need for intercession. He shows compassion immediately the need for intercession arises. In other words, the intercessor is a man of compassion. It was this attribute of compassion that drove Moses to hear the request of his people for intercession (Numbers 21: 7)

## 7. ENDOWED WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Although intercession is not listed in the scriptures as a Spiritual gift, many liken it to prophecy. Recall that all spiritual gifts are there to edify the church. Of course, this is what intercession tries to do in the church of Jesus Christ as well.

It is doubtful whether intercession can be effective without being complemented with other spiritual gifts. For instance, how can a man who stands in the gap not have the revelational gifts (word of wisdom word of knowledge and discerning of spirits?) Even the power gifts of faith, healing and miracles are as important as the inspirational gifts

(1 Corinthians 12: 8 – 11). Further treatment of these has been given elsewhere in this book.

He needs also to have some of the gifts of Jesus Christ to the church as listed in Ephesians 4: 11, 12. Any intercessor who is lacking in spiritual gifts should pray the father who calls and equips intercessors to equip him today with spiritual gifts.

## 8. ABIDES IN THE WORD OF GOD

The basis of asking from God is provided in His word. We are asked to seek and we shall find, to knock and the door shall be opened unto us. Jesus gave further impetus to this assurance when he said:

***“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,  
ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done  
unto you” (John 15:7)***

It stands to reason, therefore, that the intercessor should be a depository of God's word if his intercession must be effective.

## CHAPTER THREE

### TOOLS OF THE INTERCESSOR

The intercessor, like a craftsman, has some tools he needs to work with in order to obtain a positive result. He is also like the soldier who needs to go to the battle field with some weapons of war to avoid being a cheap prey in the hands of foes.

But the scripture says that our battle is not carnal because we war not against blood and flesh, but against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in high places. Thus, unlike the secular soldier who battles with man-made weapons, the intercessor goes to the battle field with any or all of the following weapons.

#### 1. **WORSHIP TO GOD.**

Worship is an acknowledgement of the supremacy of God. An intercessor should worship God in truth and in spirit in order to gain result (John 4: 23, 24) He is further expected to worship God with the true intent of heart (Matthew 15: 7 - 9).

There are two aspects of true worship unto God. One is corporate or communal worship. The church falls under this category. And church is a body of people called together in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord says where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in their midst. Any such group also falls under this category.

Another aspect of true worship is the individual / private worship. This happens when an individual decides to fellowship with God alone either in his house or elsewhere.

There are basically two elements of this worship that form the intercessor's tool. These are thanksgiving (which is an expression of gratitude to God for what He does) and praises (which are spiritual songs rendered in exaltation of the name of God.)



The songs must be biblically based, organised, purposeful, meaningful and must be well directed.

Note that the devil is allergic to praises rendered unto our God. And when praises are rendered, God is galvanized into action. "praises move God while prayers move the hand of God".

Note further that man is created to fear and worship his maker (Ecclesiastes 12: 13) As long as man performs this divine assignment, God feels obliged to reciprocate by attending to the needs of man.

As a matter of fact, the intercessor does not always need to itemise his desires in supplication. He can merely worship the Lord in praises and thanksgiving, and then watch Him respond. The Bible records that Paul and Silas woke at midnight and began to render praises complemented with prayer and suddenly the Holy Ghost came down signifying the response of God.

It can also be added that worship is the pre-occupation of angels in heaven. This points to the mystery in worship.

## **2. HOLY GHOST FIRE**

The Holy Ghost Fire is an indispensable weapon of war for the intercessor. This is because our God, as it were, answers by such fire.

During the power contest between Elijah-the prophet of God and the prophets of baal, the Lord proved that He is a consuming fire. When Nadab and Abihu introduced a strange fire in the temple of God, the Holy Ghost fire came down, quenched the strange fire and consumed the two brothers. After Solomon's prayer of dedication of the New Temple, Holy Ghost fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the house (2 chronicles 7:1). On the day of the Pentecost, "there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance”(Acts 2:3,4).

From the foregoing, it can be deduced that the Holy Ghost fire burns away every deposit of the enemy. It incubates the intercessor and wards off every weapon of the enemy. This is why every weapon fashioned against a believer will not prosper.

Furthermore, it burns away all spiritual filthiness in our lives. It does not only chase away the enemy, it torments and tortures him. It is indeed a weapon of war.

When the intercessor senses that his environment is filled with powers of darkness, or that an unclean spirit has gripped somebody, he commands heaven to release the Holy Ghost fire.

### **3 THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST.**

God the father has so highly exalted His son and has given Him a name above all names to the effect that at the mention of the name of JESUS CHRIST, every knee must bow, wherever such knee exists – whether in the heavenly places, on earth or beneath the earth. The devil trembles and has no other choice but to quit whenever this name is mentioned. The implication therefore is that the intercessor should do well to use this name in all his intercessory efforts. What is more; God, in His impeccable wisdom, has decided to honour all prayers made only in the name of Jesus Christ.

### **4. THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST**

God used the pass-over blood rubbed on the doors of the Israelites to hint that THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST would be a solution blood. (i.e a solution for the sin of the world) There would not have been any remission of sin without the shedding of the blood.

It is a seal or mark of ownership by Jesus for we have been purchased with His blood. Any where the blood of Jesus exists, such place becomes “a no go area” for the devil and his agents. And this is why it

was revealed to John that the saints overcame by the blood of Jesus. An intercessor should therefore not be weary of using the blood of Jesus Christ because it preserves him, fights the enemy and constantly reminds him of the finished work of Jesus on the cross of Calvary.

## **5. WORD OF TESTIMONIES**

A corollary to the above, is the word of our testimonies. This is another strong weapon against the forces of darkness

As it was revealed to John, they did not only overcome by the blood of the lamb (Jesus), but also by the word of their testimonies. Testimonies play the tripartite role of putting the devil to shame, establishing the Lord's goodness, and an expression of faith in the power of our God.

An intercessor whose prayers have been answered should make bold to share this testimony with his brethren for by so doing, he makes a public show of the devil's defeat. The Lord is at the same time challenged to perpetuate His victory.

## **6. MEDITATION**

This is a good weapon of war for the intercessor. Meditation occurs when the intercessor finds himself in a pensive mood while still high in spirit. To meditate means to ponder, contemplate or become absorbed in a deep thought. It requires time to practise. It requires the intercessor to ruminate over God's word vis-a-vis the problem in issue.

Meditation involves three basic exercises which Alice Smith calls building blocks. They are:

### **a. ISOLATION**

It is necessary to be alone to renew the mind. Paul said:

*... be transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*

*(Romans 12: 2)*



Note further that meditation involves focussing on the Lord, and since this is the case, it is vital you pick the right time and place to help silence your mind. Finding a place where you can spend an extended time without interruption is imperative. This explains why our Lord had to spend forty days and nights seeking the face of the Father.

b. **CONCENTRATION**

Effective meditation also involves concentration.

“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee because he trusteth in thee” (Isaiah 26: 3)

It is important that the intercessor should have access to the inner chamber of the Lord for a deeper level of intimacy. This access is made possible by submitting your body and soul to the spirit through concentration on the Lord. You may concentrate best by sitting, kneeling, or even lying face up. But your eyes must be closed to avoid distractions and there is a natural tendency for your mind to wander. Bring it under subjection to allow the kingdom of God which is within you to prevail (Luke 17: 21)

I was in this state when the Lord asked me to commence this work. I was hesitant to do so initially because I considered myself incompetent but the Holy Spirit troubled me until I succumbed.

c. **ASSOCIATION**

After you have concentrated and waited in silence before the Lord, begin to glorify HIM. Remember you are fellowshiping with Him. Imagine how good and excellent He has been to you and the world around. Allow expression of love to bubble from within your heart. Gazing on the cross and recall how love for a wretched sinner like you sent Him there. Don't be in a hurry! Praise Him! Enjoy your fellowship with Him!

While you are in this state, you are ministering to the Lord, and you might be caught up in a trance or even in a vision. (if you have the gift). Then ask questions on whatever you see.

The Lord is there to answer the Lord may also use the forum to place a burden on you. Then know that He wants you to intercede on such.

It is expedient for the intercessor to sit silent and allow the word to feed his spirit. C. H. Spurgeon said that meditation for a believer is like a cow "chewing her cud". The bible declares:

***"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverb 23:7)***

In meditation we digest the word so that spiritual growth and effectiveness can occur.

## **7. WORD OF GOD ( THE SCRIPTURES).**

An intercessor who is not well versed in the word of God may suffer discomfiture in the hands of the devil. Even the devil knows the scriptures for he used them to tempt the Lord. Thanks to the Almighty that Jesus was well-grounded in the word, and in fact, was the word. Thus the devil made no inroad.

Apart from using the word against the devil, the intercessor needs to know the scriptures to be able to hold God by His word. He does not deny His word and must bring it to fulfilment.

The word is so important that Paul had to instruct Timothy to study it to show himself approved. It is therefore expedient for the intercessor to know it to his finger tips to be able to apply it. For example, Jesus declared that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven (Matt 18:18) This is the secret of our power. An intercessor who is oblivious of this key will not stand a situation that demands it.

## **8. PRAYER**

Prayer, as a tool of intercession, may be defined as "the act of asking for a favour with earnestness" (Webster). Prayer generally means speaking, to request, to talk, to commune, to fellowship, to offer petition and supplication. It is enjoyment of God. It is the only access to God, and as such a tool to the intercessor.

Prayers can be offered at midnight for best result. Best result in the sense that concentration is higher at night. Besides, forces of darkness that thrive at night are better tackled at night.

Paul and Silas, the bible records, made their prayers with songs of praises at midnight and the Holy Ghost came down. The Lord prayed all night before choosing the twelve disciples. (Luke 6: 12, 13).

Our Lord also prayed on the mountain (Luke 6: 12, Mk. 6: 46). He also found time to pray in the wilderness (Luke 5: 16). It is also proper to pray in the closet (Mathew 6:6) In all cases, maximum concentration is necessary. That is why our Lord had often prayed in solitude. He demonstrated what He taught about prayer. Apart from congregational prayer, it is advisable to pray in solitude.

Prayer is an indispensable tool for the believer since it is an aspect of worship to God. Apart from being the believer's armour (2 Chronicles 20) it indicates our co-operation with God.

You can assume any of the following postures in prayers:

- Bow down your face like Jesus
- Lie down either on your bed or floor like Hezekiah
- Kneel down like Daniel
- Raise hands like Solomon and Paul

## 9. FASTING

The point that has earlier been made or rather implied is that the intercessor is a warrior – warring against the flesh, world, and devil. Just as the soldier needs weapons in diverse war situations, so does the intercessor need. In other words, all the intercessor's tools (weapons) have their specific situations of applicability. Jesus confirmed it:

*This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting (Mark 9: 29)*



The question then arises: what is fasting? And why must we fast to breakthrough in certain cases?

Scriptural fasting means abstinence from the desire of the flesh to enrich the spirit for result. The flesh and spirit are in constant opposition. At every point in time, one must be in control. If the flesh is more in control, then spiritual benefits are denied, but where the spirit is made to be in control, there will be power manifestation which comes as the result of our prayers.

Recall that one angle to the definition of intercession is negotiation and fellowship with God. A man engaged in fasting is more or less holding a meeting with God to discuss what should happen in a particular matter. And we have been reminded that God is a spirit, hence those who come to Him must come in truth and spirit. This indicates that you who want to hold this meeting with God must mortify your members (dead in the flesh).

Note that the word 'DISCUSS' has been underscored to show that fasting must be a two-way conversation with your God. Our God is not dead. He must talk after you have presented the agenda for discussion. That is why you should be alert in the spirit. He talks through vision, audible voice, the still small voice, trance, dreams (in some cases) etc.

In my own case, He talks through vision and trance. These are just pictorial signs. When I see, I will ask questions in the spirit. The answer will come through the still small voice.

On the reason for fasting, we fast to minister unto the Lord (Acts 13: 2, 3) to increase our faith (Matt. 17: 19 – 21), to give ourselves to prayer (I Corinthians 7: 5) to enable us walk in the spirit (Rom. 8)

In the main, we fast to make things happen and let signs and wonders follow our christian lives. The Bible says that we are for signs and wonders.

Below is a list of possible timing for fasting.

6am - 12 noon

6am - 3.00 pm

6am - 6.00 pm

6am - 10.00 pm

The following lengths can also be observed. One day, three days, five days, seven days, 14 days, 21 days, 28 days, 40 ~~days~~

Within the fasting period, the day's prayers can be complemented with night prayers with light food coming in between. But when food is avoided at all, it becomes a dry fasting. Moses, Elijah and Jesus had the dry fasting for forty days.

In your own interest, do not go beyond forty days in your dry fasting at a stretch, unless you are specifically led to do so for you can not do it better than Jesus. In matters of spiritual exercise, Jesus is the perfect example (model). You can do greater works than He did because He had given you the power to do so, but you can not live a better life than He lived. No servant is greater than his master and a servant can perform that portion of the master's duty that has been delegated to him and not more. We have evidence of somebody who attempted to fast beyond forty days, and on the forty third day, she died. God is not to blame and it does not negate the claim that there is liberty (life) in the presence of God.

Again before fasting, decide with your God how long you want to spend because it is a meeting you are holding with Him. All parties to a meeting are entitled to have an idea of how the meeting should last. During fasting, be earnest in prayer (Isaiah 58). Also do some personal heart-searching to reconcile with God at the outset by confessing your sins. Read and meditate on the word of God.

You might need to seclude yourself as Christ did. Do not engage in frivolous conversation nor expose yourself to arguments.

It is the time of the Lord. You can take water and fruits lightly during a long fasting.

## **TYPES OF FASTING**

There are basically three aspects of fasting and these are as follows:

### **1. CORPORATE (CONGREGATIONAL) FASTING**

A number of persons come together to deny themselves the needs of the flesh for purpose of seeking the face of God. It could be a church, a family, or even a whole nation gathering together for this purpose.

*"Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahara, that we might afflict ourselves before our God to seek of Him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substances. For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way because we had spoken unto the king saying 'The hand of God is upon all them for good that seek him but his power and wrath is against all them that forsake Him. So we fasted but besought our God for this and he was entreated of us'(Ezra 8:21 -23).*

The above excerpts shows how Ezra applied the intercessory weapon of fasting to release the power of his God against heathen kings and the result was alarming.

Nehemiah was another man who involved his people in this task of intercession by fasting because of the discouraging reports concerning the conditions in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4). Esther also did it prior to going before the king with a plan to save her nation (Esther 1:16). Corporate fasting was further exemplified when only five persons in the local fellowship ministered unto the Lord and fasted. It was in that fasting that the Holy Spirit said:

"Separate me Barnabas and Paul for the work wherunto I have called them" Act 13:2)

This could also be understood as corporate intercession



## 2. **PRIVATE FASTING.**

An intercessor can be burdened by a problem and then decide to go into fasting. For example, the aim of intercessory effort could be to stem the tide of atheism, materialism, wars, or even salvation of the lost, etc. Although this is called a private fasting, the subject of fasting is private to the intercessor. This can also be seen as private intercession.

## 3. **SELF FASTING**

This is akin to self intercession. It depicts a situation whereby the intercesor is fasting for his own personal problems. It could be a renewal of spiritual strength so that signs and wonders can follow the intercessor like Jesus after the forty days fast. It could also be for material breakthrough. David fasted for the life of his child born as a result of adultery (2 Samuel 12: 16) This is self intercession.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PATTERNS OF INTERCESSION

#### CORPORATE INTERCESSION

Recall that corporate (congregational) intercession is a kind of intercession which involves a group of people. It may be a church, community or a nation. Here everybody in the group intercede on the same (intercessory) points.

First and foremost, the leader is obliged to recognize that the group is composed of believers with diverse intercessory ministries. There are those that engage in *warfare prayer*. These believers have revelatory gifts. The Holy Spirit reveal to them enemy targets and areas of needs for the church. Such believers are encouraged to alert others in the group for immediate intercession.

Some others are *travail or crises intercessors*. They pray for emergencies and their level of discernment in the spirit is sharp. They are like fire services workers or security personnel who answer distress calls with high level of urgency. They may also have other spiritual gifts in addition.

There are others who pray through **prayer lists**. They are gifted teachers and are administrative in nature. They give priority to the ordered *prayer list* compiled on the basis of the Lord's assignment and prayer requests.

Some apply the *Cafeteria style* of intercession. Their prayer life switches from one mode to the other. They are flexible and can discern the direction of the spirit whether in crises, warfare or prayer list.

Many others pray for leaders, some for personal issues and evangelism. Some are prophetic intercessors ie hearing from God as much as they speak to God. Others pray for the nations, etc.

All the gifts work together for the good of the church. Yet they can be ineffective in corporate intercession if the leader loses sight of their existence. Besides, the leader ought to know that the persons in the group are at different levels of spiritual maturity. No one should be encouraged to imitate the spiritual gift of another at the expense of his own. But where such person does not have any one at all, he can 'covet' (desire) the one he cherishes and ask God to give him.

From the foregoing, the leader of a corporate intercession must fathom the importance of teamwork and cooperation. He must know that 'iron sharpeneth iron' He should not see any gift to be inferior. He should begin with a clear instruction and must discern the Holy Spirits direction to enable him orchestrate the prayers in the following fashion.

### **1. INVITING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The leader opens up by engaging the group in a few praise/worship songs. This is followed by a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord. This ushers the group to another segment of prayer – confession. Each member of the group is made to confess sins and admit unworthiness before the Lord, and then ask for forgiveness.

In the third segment, you take authority against every anti-prayer demons, and then invite the Holy Spirit to reveal the father's assignment for the group to pray. It is the time to hear the burden of the Lord.

### **2. EXERCISING AUTHORITY**

The leader gives firm, but loving direction during the corporate prayer time. He receives revelations from individual members of the group and throws them open for intercession. He discerns when the team is drifting from the Holy Spirit direction and makes immediate call to order.

### **3. MAINTAINING UNITY**

The leader helps to maintain unity of heart as each intercessor petition the Lord in diverse ways. The guiding principle for corporate intercession .



is to maintain the same train of thought all through the prayer time. Because of the diversity of the intercessory gifts within the team, for instance, it may not be necessary to itemise problems of Nigeria in a prayer for Nigeria. What is advisable is to call for a general prayer for Nigeria, and people will be led to pray according to the gifts they have. It means that some will be led to pray for economic revival, some for political stability, others for geographical unity, and some others will even pray for the work of evangelism and soul-winning in the same Nigeria. It may be permissible in private intercession to itemize.

The leader can where necessary, direct the team to hold their peace and listen to prophetic message. At the end of the prayer time, he may recap what God said to them individually and corporately.

Note that corporate intercession yielded great dividend in the bible. The early church interceded for Peter in prison and God answered. Esther engaged her people in corporate intercession for favour and God granted it. Although Esther did not congregate her people at a particular place, the fact that everyone had the same prayer topic at that point in time made it a corporate intercession.

### **PRIVATE INTERCESSION**

In private intercession, the intercessor does not focus on his personal problem or affairs. Private intercession is the act of pleading with God by someone in order to obtain mercy for another person who is in need. The private intercessor stands in the gap for another person, group or place. But he may have immediate or remote stake in the matter for which intercession has become necessary. For instance, if God makes you to intercede for a member of your family, church or community, who is being hunted by the spirit of death, you can see that you will be financially or psychologically affected if the death occurs.

Daniel's eye was opened to understand that his people were in captivity as a direct consequence of their rebellion against God. He interceded for his people, including himself (Daniel 9: 1 – 23).

God has always been in need of private intercessors (Ezekiel 22: 30), and there are other biblical examples of private intercessions apart from the case of Daniel. Moses interceded for the nation of Israel and she was spared (Exodus 32 and 34). Anna "served God with fasting and prayers night and day" (Luke 2: 37) Nehemiah interceded for the people of Israel (Nehemiah 1: 4 – 7).

A question may arise, when and how do we know the need for intercession? An intercessor who knows his onions ought to know that he is in partnership with God. As such, he shares from the Lord's burden. The Lord communicates His burden to intercessors. The burden to stand for the lost, against the powers of darkness and for the kingdom of God.

Such burden sometimes comes with a heaviness of the heart when nothing sorrowful has happened around. In such circumstances, the Lord is urging you to go and pray to intercept the plans of the evil one (Matthew 11: 27 – 30)

You may notice that in most cases the burden comes without giving you what to pray about. All you need is to take the first step of going to pray. The second step will come when you obey. (Romans 8: 26).

Urgent need for intercession is further established when you find yourself in a trance or vision where the Lord reveals to you an anomaly that needs to be corrected. This could also be in the dream (Acts 2: 17, 18) At such times, pray as the spirit leads you.

There are also times you would have an intense longing to be alone with God (Psalm 42: 1 – 2). Once you isolate yourself in prayer to the Lord, you might begin to have a mental picture of things or people you did not previously think about. (Acts 21: 10 – 11) That is a direct request by the Lord to pray for them (Acts 9: 10 – 14).

You may also hear a small, still voice in your mind directing you to pray (Matthew 14: 23, Luke 6: 12). In addition, the Lord may also have a personal or peculiar way of inviting you to pray. Recognise it and obey it. All these are invitations to the Lord's inner chamber, and He wants you to stand in the gap, between what the devil is doing and what the Heavenly father wants to happen. The following steps may be followed in your private intercession.

### **1. RECOGNIZE GOD'S HOLINESS AND SOVEREIGNTY**

Jesus taught that the first expression of prayer is to recognize the holiness and majesty of God "Hallowed be thy name" (Matt. 6: 9, Luke 11: 2). This was the basis on which David and Nehemiah began their intercessions. This can be followed by an expression of love and thanksgiving unto Him for all His goodness towards us. Most importantly the gift of Jesus Christ to the world. It was Jesus who carried the kingdom of God down to the earth, and it is now within us (Luke 9: 27) by virtue of our faith in Him. The WILL of the father was accomplished in Him and continually people yield their lives to Him.

### **2. CONFESSION**

Begin to itemise the sins of the fellow for whom you make the intercession, and also identify yourself with such sins. This means to assume the burden of the fellow's sin and include yourself with the person's need for forgiveness. When we confess and forsake our sins, God is bound to forgive (Proverbs 28: 13) After confessing all the known sins, remind God His word concerning the circumstance and use this as a point to persuade Him to show mercy.

### **3. INTERCEDE WITH FERVOUR**

You can now plead with God fervently. The intercession could be for a person, church, community, state or nation. By the leading of the Holy Spirit, identify specific areas of the person's life where God's touch or mercy is needed urgently. When a situation is desperate, halfhearted praying will do no good. If there is one quality that needs to be present in effective intercession, it is intensity, earnestness and even desperation.



It is pertinent to note that the intimacy of an intercessor with God does not mean that he is upright in any sense. It is a sad mistake to think so because "it's not he that willeth nor he that runneth but God that showeth mercy" This is the more reason he should put himself in the shoes of the fellow for whom he is interceding, or identify with his plight.

#### 4. **EXPECT AN ANSWER**

If an intercessor does not expect an answer to his prayer, it means that his prayers are half-hearted at best. In fact, he should not pray at all since he does not believe that God answers prayers.

After pouring out your heart in prayer, observe some moments of silence to hear from God. Meditate if you like. Let your spirit be in tune with the Holy Ghost who reveals God's mind.

Once a breakthrough is attained, stop pressing further in order not to be guilty of unbelief. Evidence of break through can take any of the following forms:-

- A peaceful rest comes over your heart
- Tears are likely to stop
- A bubbly feeling of excitement and joy comes from within
- The Holy Ghost ministers to you
- A vision of victory may appear

Sometimes you may notice the evil one urging you to discountenance the evidence on grounds of your shortcomings. Rebuke him at such times for 'doubt' is his weapon.

#### **SELF INTERCESSION**

Although it is in one sense believed that intercession means pleading with God for someone else, it is clearly a submission unto God's will which must take the form of self sacrifice. It is ministering or service unto God. While in such service, the question then is, can the intercessor also intercede for himself; yes, he needs to do so.

When Hezekiah got the news of his impending death, he did not ask Isaiah to do the intercession for him. He quickly faced the wall and pleaded with God to show mercy. In the same vein, David made self intercession for the life of his child born as a result of adultery. (2 Sam 12: 16)

Abraham had this form of devotional prayer to God for a fruit of the womb, and God gave him Isaac. Isaac, on his part, had no child until he entreated God to bless him with a child (Genesis 25: 21) Hannah similarly interceded for herself and the Lord answered. And Samson prayed God to renew his strength once again. That was self intercession.

Furthermore, in the ministry of our Lord, he secluded himself occasionally to pray for himself and his ministry; and when He was making the final prayers at the close of His ministry (John 17) He prayed for Himself before His church. Thus you can intercede for yourself in order to keep fit with God.

The following steps in self intercession have been suggested.

#### **A. ADORATION**

It is always necessary to begin your prayer with adoration for God. If you don't know how to start, burst into praise or worship songs. Keep singing until the Holy spirit gives you the utterances to make in recognition of His majesty.

Another way to begin adoration is to tune your mind to the cross where Jesus shed His blood for our sins. Raise a song in appreciation of that sacrifice and then follow it up with thanksgiving. This is an expression of gratitude to God for what He has done already and what He intends to do.

#### **B. CONFESSION**

Confession here is two-fold. First is an admission of guilt, i.e admitting that you have done wrong in every ramification of your life and then ask

for His forgiveness.

In the second aspect, you confess your faith in Jesus Christ and also the faith that your prayers will be answered.

### C. SUPPLICATION / PETITION

You can now humbly ask and solemnly request by the leading of the Holy Ghost. Remember to end the prayer with thanksgiving in the hope that your prayers has been answered because you pray in Jesus name. Even then you have to wait for answers. "A very difficult part of intercession is patiently waiting for answers to our prayers". If the answer does not come immediately, note it, it will come some other time.

It is advisable to seal up your prayer with the blood of Jesus; and then pass a decree for a sure answer to your prayer. The idea here is to check-mate the operation of anti-prayer demons.

You may also wish to bind yourself to the peace, favour and glory of God. Once a man is bound to the glory of God, he triumphs over the works of darkness.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### INTERCESSION AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS

It has been stated that the intercessor enjoys intimacy with God. As a result, he should be conversant with the major divisions of spiritual gifts.

The first division shows the gifts of God (the father) to the church, and that gift is JESUS CHRIST for it is written

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3: 16)*

The second division reveals the gifts of CHRIST HIMSELF to the church and these gifts are SALVATION and HOLY GHOST. He brought salvation by laying down his life and when He ascended to the father, He sent the Holy Ghost to the church whose duty is to teach us into all truth and comfort us as well. But Jesus also added other gifts to further establish the church so that the "gates of hell" will not prevail against it.

*And he gave some, apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 11, 12)*

The third division shows the nine gifts of the HOLY SPIRIT to the church. Our discussion will centre on this last division which the intercessor needs most in his ministry unto the Lord. These gifts are;

- a. REVELATIONAL GIFTS, comprising
  - word of Wisdom
  - word of Knowledge
  - Discerning of spirits

b. **POWER GIFTS** comprising

- Faith
- Healing
- Working of Miracle

c. **INSPIRATIONAL GIFTS** Comprising

- Diverse kind of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues
- Prophecy (I Corinthians 12: 8 – 10)

An intercessor who is perforce baptized of the Holy Spirit is expected to have some or even all the nine gifts which are known to lend effectiveness to intercessory exercise. We examine the gifts in turn to show how each can enhance the work of intercession.

## **MECHANISM OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN INTERCESSION**

### **1. REVELATIONAL GIFTS**

REVELATIONAL GIFTS are spiritual privileges extended to the natural man to enable him have an insight into supernatural matters. These privileges can emanate from the flesh, devil or the HOLY SPIRIT ie (GOD) There are times too ill-health like fever can cause one to catch a glimpse of the supernatural. Of all these, it is only the revelation from the HOLY SPIRIT(GOD) that can stand the test of time. It can never be faulted. Every other one can.

### **WORD OF WISDOM**

This is a revelation of present or future spiritual event. It could also be a revelation of the solution to immediate or future problem. In other words, this gift is the ability to make God's will known to men. It is the capacity to apply spiritual principles to contemporary problems. The person with this gift probes God's mind in the circumstance.

The occurrence of this gift was observed in Genesis 41 when Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret save Joseph. Solomon was

another man in the bible who applied the gift of both wisdom and knowledge. For example, when two women disputed over the ownership of a baby, he solved the problem with great wisdom. (1 Kings 3: 25 – 27) Daniel too, applied wisdom in the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. He confirmed that it was God who gave him the wisdom to do the interpretation (Daniel 2: 23)

In the New Testament, the apostles applied the gift of wisdom in settling the allegation of neglect levelled by the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews. It was God indeed who revealed to them that the problem would be over with the selection of "Seven men of good reputation, full of the spirit and of wisdom" To confirm that God was behind the wisdom, 'the saying pleased the whole multitude' (Acts 6:5)

Now how does this gift of wisdom apply to intercessors? Why do they need to possess it? Often times, when we plead our case before the Lord, He gives us specific instructions. Sometime in 1997, I had a private intercession for more anointing on a minister in his ministry. God showed me in a vision how he was panting like a fish thrown out of the river outside his church building. When I enquired from the Lord what this could mean, He revealed that the minister would have a brawl with his members so much that they would want him to go. To nip the devil's plan in the bud, He asked me to direct him to seek the Lord for three days. I directed him, but the man refused since he thought that all was well with him. The revelation came to pass in 1998 when the place became too hot to contain him.

Of course, there is no gainsaying the fact that our God is not methodical. We can hardly predict Him except we are intimate. As a sovereign God, He tackles every problem the way He chooses. So don't be surprised when you present a sick man to Him and He tells you that the man will be healed only when he keeps a date with Him to confess the sin of murder committed three years ago. It was God who directed the Israelites to sing round Jerico seven times to secure their victory.



Sometime ago, I lifted a particular man to God requesting a relief in his plight. Rather than address the matter, God flashed a future date before me and directed me to warn him not to go out on that date.

The point that is being made here is that the intercessor should possess or ask God to equip him with this gift of wisdom to enable him apply it in every intercessory effort. This is particularly urgent because God does not act in only one way, and every problem has its own peculiar solution. God merely issues instruction on how to secure the solution through the word of wisdom. Thus any intercessor that is bereft of this gift will end up in frustration and possibly 'faith without works'.

Note that the wisdom being discussed differs from other kinds of wisdom. For instance, there is the natural wisdom of man that flows from his inheritance which enables him to capably analyse various problems. This is just the wisdom of man which does not oppose God anyway. It is rather the output of an intellectual reasoning process which provides solution to man's problems. This is rickety because those who possess it neither ascribe it to God nor rely on Him for its development.

There is another type of general wisdom succinctly referred to as "WORDLY" wisdom. God is opposed to this kind of wisdom because it makes the natural man to challenge the existence of God. It is the wisdom of Charles Darwin and his cohorts who claim that man came to being by evolution and not the handwork of God Almighty. Such wisdom denies Jesus Christ as the only way to God, and directs men to other gods.

Wisdom in the third case is available to every believer who asks GOD FOR His wisdom in every circumstance. James indicates that God provides wisdom for the daily actions of believers who care to appropriate such wisdom (James 1:5).

In the main, the gift of wisdom runs counter to the first two types of general wisdom but shares a nexus with the third typology since they are biblically oriented. They are consistent with the will of God.

Keep in mind that the intercessor who applies the gift of wisdom stands the risk of being accused of practising occultism especially when God tells you to do what may look unusual. My answer here is that the just must live by faith. God must vindicate His people in the long run.

Although the devil corrupts every work of God, the true intercessor should stem the tide of accusation in the assurance that God's solution comes in diverse ways. Isaiah gave Hezekiah a message of life and concluded "Let them take a cake of figs, and apply it to the boil, that he may recover" (Isaiah 38:21). During our lord's ministry, He made a salve out of clay and spittle on one occasion and rubbed it on the eyes of a blind man. He commanded the blind man to wash his eyes. As he obeyed, his sight was restored. A leper was healed by obeying a simple instruction to fall into a river. When the Israelites were bitten by fiery serpents sent by the Lord, they cried unto Moses for intercession. Moses interceded and the lord instructed him to take his own fiery serpent and set it upon a pole. Those who were bitten by the Lord's snake would look upon Moses' snake and live. That was the lord's solution coming in a word of wisdom to Moses (Numbers 21 :6-7). The examples are innumerable in the bible, so a true intercessor should not be afraid to do what God has instructed for it is better to obey God than men.

There was a man who denounced his membership of a cult. He began to have painful experiences in his family. There were threats to his life and his entire household. When he visited our intercessory squad, the Holy Spirit directed that he should put some sand in a basin filled with water and keep it open for three days as he would be fasting. He was not to bath within the fasting period. Then at the end of the three days, he should separate the sand from the water and then use the water for bathing. That was to mark his final exit from the dark world, and cling to Jesus.

## **WORD OF KNOWLEDGE.**

The gift of knowledge as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, is the supernatural revelation of facts in the mind of God. It is distinct from the natural knowledge which develops out of learning. The revelation that

comes with the word of knowledge hinges on the past and present event.

The old testament is fraught with illustrations of the gift of knowledge. David's sin of adultery and murder was revealed to prophet Nathan by the word of knowledge. (2 Samuel 12: 1 – 14). Elisha was always getting a wind of Syrian's plan of attack on Israel by the word of knowledge (2 Kings 6: 8 – 14)

In the New Testament, Peter used his gift of knowledge to know that his master is the Christ, the son of the living God. He also used this gift to know that Annanias and Sapphira (his wife) sold their land more than they claimed.

Remember that this gift has nothing to do with natural intelligence. It is just the ability to grasp the truth about past or present situation which could not have been known by natural means. The question then arises, How does it apply to intercession?

When an intercessor is meeting with the Lord concerning a particular thing, God will reveal to him what happened in the past concerning that thing. The essence in such revelation is to properly guide the intercessor on how to channel his intercession. Recall the case of a young lady who wanted God to visit her pitiable circumstances. And God revealed to me that she made a vow to God in the past challenging God to provide her a job, and ever since that job was provided, she had not redeemed that vow. God maintained that the vow must be redeemed before anything happens. That was by the word of knowledge.

Another woman visited our intercessory squad complaining that her late sister was chasing her in the dream. She sought to make the squad believe that her enemies had pitched the spirit of the dead against her. Instantly God revealed by the word of knowledge that the two sisters belonged to a witchcraft society where the two covenanted not to leave each other. Unfortunately, the late one was caught up while they were in operation and she died. The survivor became restive because of her



fetish commitment and she made people believe that the dead sister was haunting her. The Lord directed her to tarry for fourteen days and seek his face. That was a profound show of knowledge. Once you are interceding on an issue, be alert. God must reveal something. In some cases God may save you the trouble of knowing what happened. He merely goes ahead to give solution, so it is not in all cases that we get word of knowledge except where God considers it necessary. But it is a gift you must have to enable you probe into the past of something of concern.

It is pertinent to note that a difference exists, albeit thin, between the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. Whereas gift of knowledge dwells on the immediate and past situations, wisdom focuses on immediate and future situations. The only meeting point is the present or immediate circumstances.

## **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**

The devil knows that intercessors are special people. They are members of God's inner circle. As a result, the evil one can not hinder them. All he tries to do is to adulterate intercessory activities by blurring the vision of intercessors, and providing a counterfeit version of spiritual revelations and solutions. How does he do it? He disguises himself as an angel of light to mislead intercessors.

God has provided a way to deal with the problem of false spirits. This is why he gave some believers a special gift known as the gift of discerning spirits. "...and to another the distinguishing of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10)

By way of definition, discerning of spirits is the supernatural insight into the realm of spirits. It reveals the kind of spirit that is actuating a person who is manifesting supernatural knowledge at the time in question. With this gift, the intercessor is able to establish whether the acting spirit is of God, satan or even flesh.

This gift is demonstrated in the scripture several times. It tends to interweave with the gift of prophecy. This explains why Paul directed that every prophecy must be made to pass through the prophetic crucible:

***“And let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgement... And the spirit of prophets are subject to prophets” 1 Corinthians 14: 29, 32***

In a situation where such gift is lacking a problem arises, who will pass the judgement? Then the scriptures become the arbiter or the reference point. Paul told the Corinthians and Galatians that another way to distinguish spirits was to compare the messenger's Jesus, his spirit and his gospel with what Paul himself had already taught. (2 Corinthians 11: 4, Galatians 1: 6 – 10) Any message that contradicts the scripture is a blatant falsehood. Paul himself demonstrated the gift of discerning of spirit (Acts 16: 17)

An intercessor needs to be armed with the gift in addition to the word of God as one of his tools. Notice that in a meditative intercession, a solution may be revealed to the intercessor, and if such solution is repugnant to the scriptures, then it should be discarded because it is a device of the devil. For instance, if you are interceding for a pregnant woman whose labour has lingered, and a revelation comes that sacrifices should first be made to her ancestors or water spirit before delivery could be possible, then that revelation is of the devil because it is not scriptural. On the other hand, if you are interceding for demon-possessed fellow and some days of fasting is revealed as a way of procuring solution, know that it is scriptural because Jesus himself admitted that some demons can only be banished by fasting.

While it is apparent that God can effect solution in diverse ways, intercessors should be active in discerning spirits to ensure that Satan does not make an in-road into our intercession.

## **MEDIA OF REVELATIONS**

Having identified the revelational gifts (wisdom, knowledge and discerning of spirits) it is necessary to explore avenues through which the intercessor can practice these gifts. These avenue are as follows:-

### **VISION**

A Vision is a supernatural revelation made in a visual or pictorial form. It can come when the intercessor is in prayer, worship, meditation, reading the word etc.

This is an area where the intercessor should exhibit sharpness of spirit. So many intercessors have complained that the signs or pictures that come to sight are inexplicable. It is not true! What is true is that the intercessor is simply careless. Once a vision comes to your sight, consider it in the light of the matter you have presented to God at that point in time, or the issue of concern whether or not you have presented it to God.

For instance, if you are interceding for a cousin and suddenly you sight two cars colliding or falling off their lanes, ask God what this vision has to do with your cousin. You may be told that he or she will be involved in an accident. It may even be another close relation. This implies that God is directing you to the area that needs intercession in that person's life.

When God gave visions to Cornelius and Peter, the issue at stake was acceptance of the gentiles into the fold. Cornelius was praying for such acceptance by virtue of his religious observances. The appostles too were in a fix as to how to handle the matter. But God settled it in the separate visions He gave to Cornelius and Peter (Acts 10).

Daniel was busy praying for skill and understanding until angel Gabriel arrived in a vision to explain that God had granted the request, and that he would have arrived since twenty one days ago but for the king of



Persia who cornered him.

Where God wants to reveal a general problem, say state of the church, He gives you the burden first to pray without a specific point. Once you obey, He reveals something and then leaves you to ask Him question concerning what you have seen. He must answer you because He called you to give you the message that calls for intercession.

## TRANCE

This is a brief state of unconsciousness in which you receive a revelation that was not pre-mediated. It is a briefer form of vision (Acts 10: 10)

Anytime you catch a glimpse of something you find difficult to comprehend, pray that God – the great revealer of secrets, should explain. As soon as this happens, you are likely to hear the still small voice or the audible voice in response. In either case, be quiet and ensure that the voice stops before you react by way of thanking the Lord or continuing in your intercession. The Lord does not allow interruption when He speaks except where He comes with a question that requires an answer. Where you do not understand, ask question. He will answer you as long as you sustain the level you are in the spirit.

There are situations where the Lord explains. In one of our Sunday meetings in the past, I and my fellow intercessor ministered to a sick woman. No sooner the woman left the scene that God opened my eyes to see a dark man pointing two short arrows at the intercessory squad in a furious mood. As I observed the threat, I experienced a sharp headache accompanied by tears down my cheeks physically. As I looked unto the Lord for explanation, He took me on further spiritual excursion to a platform where I saw the sky and the moon drawn close to the earth. As I gazed at the moon in motion, a huge black dog appeared and began to bark at the moving moon. And a voice asked, 'can this barking stop the movement of this moon? I answered No! Then the voice came again, 'so also will the threat from the evil one not stop my

glory for I have established my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Tell your brethren what you have seen and warn them to fear not.

Anytime you see something that lacks immediate interpretation, even after you have prayed for it, then don't bother. The Lord may be trying to give you a flashback of past experience. It could also be a glimpse of something that is yet to come. In that case, He will put it in another form some other time, or even show it to another person. In any case, anything that repeats itself has been established. Ensure that you relate every message you receive to their owners, whether or not they receive it. It is not your business. It is God's.

## DREAM

Dream is a vision that comes during sleep. The dream world is a region outside the laws of nature, and this means that the supernatural takes control. This shows why a man could see himself flying in the dream. Ordinarily, within the ambit of the laws of nature, man does not have the capability to fly like birds. But outside this region, man can turn to something else – showing that a higher being (God) is in control of man.

God uses dream, as another avenue to reveal mysteries to man. At times people do not know that God has endowed them with certain gifts until they see themselves exhibiting such gifts in the dream. What this means is that if you see yourself ministering to a congregation in the dream, watch it. It could be that God is calling you to a pastoral or evangelistic office. If you see yourself casting out demons in the dream, it may be an indication that you have the gift of miracles.

You need to be careful to understand how God uses dream to talk to you. In your peculiar case, flying in the dream could mean death for the person concerned. If you observe it happen for sometime, it becomes a way God places on you the burden of intercession for anybody you see flying in the dream.

God further uses dream to expose people in bondage. Some receive oppression as others experience sexual relationships and even eat food they did not cook while in the dream. These are all indications of spiritual weakness which calls for deliverance.

God used dream in the past to reach many people. He used dream to reveal the leadership role Joseph was going to play in his family. It was in the dream he instructed the three wise men to avoid Herod and take a different route back home.

A final point here! If your experience shows that the Lord often speaks to you through dreams, it is advisable to keep writing materials by your side when going to bed. The idea enables you to recall the revelations you get in the dream as soon as you wake up. The temptation is there for you to claim that you will remember them all, even without recording. It is not true. you had better put them down.

## MINISTRATION

Ministration comes in three ways – audible voice, still small voice, intuition. In the case of audible voice, God speaks to the person audibly like He spoke to Samuel.

In the still small voice, there is a special inward witnessing about oneself or somebody in small voice that cannot be suppressed, even when a conscious attempt is made to silence it. But after sometime, the voice flames out on its own. That is the voice of God. It neither struggles with you nor compels you to adhere. It gives the message and goes away.

The third and perhaps the final avenue of ministration is intuition. As you observe a situation in the spirit, God gives an inward feeling toward a particular direction. He is more or less asking you to act that way. Solomon was in this state as he observed the two women disputing over the ownership of the living baby. And the Lord ministered to him by intuition that the woman who wanted the baby to live was the rightful



owner of the baby, and so should possess the baby.

The message here is that the intercessor should isolate himself from time to time for prayers and fasting so that the spirit rules over the flesh. And as long as the spirit is in control, he will not be in doubt when God speaks.

## **2. POWER GIFTS**

Power gifts refer to special grace given to a believer to demonstrate the power of God on earth in a particular situation. The components of the power gifts are:-

### **FAITH**

Faith means believing that God's word is realistic or attainable, and then acting upon it. It is thanking God in advance for what you believe He will do. There are basically four kinds of faith.

First is the saving faith (Ephesians 2: 8, 9) which we exercise in the redemptive works of Jesus. In other words, salvation comes to us by simply believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second kind is Factual Faith. People in this category argue that seeing is believing. They want to see signs and wonders before they can exercise faith. Thomas exhibited this kind of faith. (John 20: 29)

The third kind is Temporary Faith. In this case, the person has got the faith but when this faith is tested, he gives up the faith (Matthew 13:21). Peter had this kind of faith when he walked on the sea and that was why he began to sink when it faded.

The fourth and indeed the final category is referred to as **POWER FAITH**. This is the one Holy Spirit gives as gift to believers. Intercessors who have it command signs and wonders to follow their christian life. And Jesus stressed much on this kind of faith when He told His disciples that

those who have faith as small as mustard seed will command mountains.

The gift of power faith gives open doors. It overcomes the world (1 John 5: 4) and also pleases God. Thus the intercessor needs to have it to please God and receive from God.

It can be developed by commitment to the word of God (Romans 10: 17, Act 17: 11, 2 Timothy 2: 15) and absolute confidence in God. The intercessor who gives time to periodic fasting and prayer with a desire to practise power faith will soon discover how mightily the Lord can use him. In addition, the gift gives him the ability to envision what God wants to accomplish in peoples' life, business or even the church. He recognizes the obstacles that keep the average christian from asking God to fulfil that vision and yet not deterred by them. He does not feel that his dream in life is impossible, even when people discourage him.

As an intercessor, strive not to look on the mountain before you. Hold no brief for the laws of nature. Always reflect on the omnipotence of God and be guided by it. Here lies the secret.

## HEALING

The gifts of healing as used in the scriptures indicate that some believers have the ability to heal the physically sick, others the gift to heal the emotionally sick and others the gift to heal the spiritually sick.

In the area of spiritual healing God uses intercessors who are gifted in healing to heal spiritual diseases. When an intercessor introduces somebody to Christ, spiritual healing has taken place. Jesus came that we might all be healed of our spiritual infirmities. Little wonder then that He asked a question, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and lose his own soul?"

In our intercessory squad most members have the gifts of healing. As people come to find solution for their physical infirmities, the prelude is normally to get such people introduced to Christ so that the physical

healing can be efficacious. Jesus Himself remarked that a man depossessed of a demon ought to be filled with CHRIST and His Spirit so that when the demons returns, he would not find the place empty for other demons to combine and come into him. Otherwise the man's condition would be worse than what it was initially. In the same vein, an intercessor can lead a backslider into a vital relationship with Christ, This too, is spiritual healing.

On the aspect of emotional healing, it is possible for the gifted intercessor to heal people emotionally. He may discover in course of his intercession that the subject is merely 'broken hearted'. This is emotional sickness and requires healing through counselling and prayers.

This gift is desperately needed today among intercessors to enable them bring comfort and emotional stability to an individual who is going through emotional battles. There was a man who lost his wife and the only son in a ghastly motor accident. It took him ten years after marriage to get this son. No sooner the burial ended than his business house got gutted by fire and the wares went ablaze. He got a loan and replaced the stock. Two weeks later, armed robbers made away with the items. As if that was not enough, his younger brother got involved in a drug deal and absconded. The man was then arrested only to be released a month later when the actual suspect was caught. On his release, the man became a psychiatric patient. It took the spirit of God to know that this case was emotional problem. The man was restored within two weeks, and he is now a preacher of the gospel.

The third kind of healing gift is the ability to heal people of their physical illness. This gift was demonstrated by our Lord and some of His apostles – notably Peter and John at the gate of the Temple, Paul and Philip.



An intercessor needs to possess this gift because it popularizes the name of Jesus and serves as the quickest method of winning souls. He can demonstrate it by –

- Speaking the word (Rhema) as directed by the Holy Spirit
- Invoking the written word (Logos)
- Laying on of hands (Mark 18: 1 – 17)
- Anointing with oil (Mark 6:13, James 5: 14)

Most churches today avoid the last case because of the infiltration of occultic practices. Remember that God can not be programmed. You only need to listen to the leading of the Holy Ghost. If you are led to use it, do so, but don't make it a routine for fear of misconception. Keep in mind that healing is instantaneous or progressive (gradual). It is also not out of place for God to heal through medication. Do not be surprised to notice that some infirmities will remain unhealed even after sufficient intercession has been made. It is to the glory of God. (2 Corinthians 12: 7 – 12)

## **WORKING OF MIRACLES**

This is a supernatural manipulation in the ordinary course of nature. It could also be a temporal suspension of natural order (Joshua 10)

Monuments of miracles abound in the scriptures. Jesus turned water into wine; Elijah caused fire to rain from heaven; Moses opened the red sea; etc. These are all manifestations, demonstrations or explosions of the Almightyness of God.

Miracles are part and parcel of Christianity. And intercession, strictly speaking, is synonymous with miracles. We intercede because we want to change the order of things. Jesus Christ promised that signs and wonders shall follow them that believe on His name (Mark 16: 17, 18) In other words, it is impossible to think about Christianity without considering miracles, because Christ our Lord is God of miracles.

As hinted above, the miracles of scriptures are called signs, wonders and powers. Thus a miracle is power beyond man's ability.

Its essence is to display the power of God. It is also aimed at demonstrating the authority of the miracle worker. I can not think of any intercessor who did not demonstrate this authority, right from the days of Moses to the days of Paul.

The intercessor is always desiring miracles – miracles of salvation, casting out demons, health, financial relief, safety, etc. But here is a word of caution. It is important to note that all miracles are not of God. Recall that the magicians of Pharaoh changed their rods to serpents in response to similar miracles performed by Moses. Our Lord has also warned that during the “Tribulations” false prophets and false messiahs would appear to perform miracles (Matthew 24: 24); So when miracles occur in opposition to the will of God, Intercessors can use the discerning spirit to spot the misnomer. This shows that the spiritual gifts are interwoven. Therefore the gift of performing miracles does not move on exclusive lane to the other gifts.

## **DIVERSE TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION**

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural utterance of a language by a christian filled in the Holy Spirit which was never learnt. The hearer may or may not understand the language.

Speaking in tongues is an indication of empowerment from Jesus Christ through the Holy Ghost. This was first noticed in the day of pentecost. (Acts 2: 1 – 15) Other occasions of speaking in tongues occurred among believers at Samaria (Acts 8: 15 – 17) Cornelius and his company (Acts 10:40-44); (Acts 19: 6-7), and Philip's disciples

It is important to speak in tongues for a number of reasons:

First it is an assurance that we have received divine empowerment to witness for Jesus as it was in the day of pentecost. Peter who was

hitherto timid found himself so bold that he could persuade over three thousand persons to surrender to Christ on the spot.

Secondly, it is an effective means of intercession (Romans 8: 26 – 27) The intercessor should desire to speak in tongues because the fact that a strange language which was never learnt is uttered is an indication that the Holy Ghost Himself who understands the mind of God is speaking. And He speaks to persuade our Heavenly Father to hear us.

Notice that there are times when you would want to start your prayers in a particular form, but you see yourself unwittingly starting it another way. That is the Holy Spirit directing you. Remember also times in the past when you did not intend speaking in tongues in your prayers but somewhere along the line you could not help it. It was the Holy Spirit taking over.

Thirdly, speaking in tongue edifies, i.e. causes human weakness to vanish (1 Corinthians 14:14)

Fourthly, it is a means through which we speak mysteries to God (1 Corinthians 14:2) and confuse the devil.

Finally, it is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy (Joel 2:28-30).

As we notice in every other spiritual gifts, tongues have been counterfeited and abused as it is not all tongues that originate from God. Some emanate from the devil and some others from the psychological man. All that is needed is a discerning spirit and an intimacy with God.

The teaching of Paul concerning interpretation applies to intercessors here. He teaches that if tongues are used in public, an interpreter must exist. If there is no interpreter, you are to remain silent (1 Corinthians 14-28). If there is an interpreter, only one person should speak at a time (1 Corinthians 14:27).



This means that some people are gifted to interpret tongues. The person speaking may not know what he utters, but in a situation where he knows, he interprets himself. This is more applicable in a corporate intercession.

In a private or self-intercession, one is at liberty to speak in tongues for as long as he wants. This is not advisable in a corporate intercession. Many a person leading in a corporate intercession yields to the temptation of starting in tongues and ending in tongues. Paul warns against this practice. However, it is permissible for the prayer leader to intersperse his prayer with tongues to allow other members of the congregation comprehend the highpoints of the prayer.

## PROPHECY

A prophecy is a divine message. It can come as a prediction of future events with complete accuracy, and / or the interpretation of God's truth and relate it to life. Consider what Paul said about prophecy.

*"Follow after charity and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.... He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all speak with tongues, but rather that ye prophesy; for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues ... Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not; but prophesying serveth not for them that believeth not, but for them which believe... covet to prophesy" (1 Corinthians 14: 1, 4, 5, 22, 39)*

This gift is expedient for intercessor of our time. The olden days intercessors were at the same time prophets. It is not surprising because a man who is intimate with God ought to predict the actions of God. He is also in a position to make proclamations that reflects the mind of God.

Note that the value of every prophecy lies in its ability to edify, warn, console, encourage or exhort. And any prophecy that is not pivoted on the WORD OF GOD is questionable.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CONCLUSION (BATTLE OF KINGDOMS)**

Intercession is necessary in this end time and those who intercede must be equipped for the work. It is God Himself who calls and equips intercessors. There are believers who 'covet' or desire to join this army and God merely conscripts them into this army of intercessors.

Intercession is particularly urgent now that the battle of kingdoms is assuming fiercer dimension. The enemy of our Lord has taken steps to fight on the following axes.

#### **1. PRAYER AND FASTING**

It has been revealed that prayer and fasting cause terrible blow to the enemy of the church who calls himself the prince of war and darkness. As many more christians pray and fast for not only spiritual things, but for all other things like political leadership and governments, national economy, educational system, national security, etc. the evil one loses balance. The activities of prayer warriors combine with our daily and night prayers to discomfit the devil as harmony returns to our political life. The enemy of the church uses poverty and instability to besiege the kingdom of Jesus in our country. He has also decided to wage war against the FASTING INTERCESSORS along the following lines.

- a. Cause those who persist in prayer and fasting to sleep at prayer and fasting meetings.
- b. Cause their valiant prayer warriors to be hungry and weak on each prayer and fasting day.
- c. Stop their all night prayer meetings by using some members of the church as instruments.

- d. Where the above are ineffective, he assigns his agents to give full sleep, tiredness, prayerlessness, pain and lack of concentration to participants. This is intended to make the activities of the intercessor ineffective.
- e. The agents of darkness are further under instruction to attack believers in their businesses, studies, jobs, families, bodies, etc. Millions of demons have been released to make people ignorant of the authority Jesus has given them to bring the devil under subjection

The instruction also requires these agents to cause people to backslide or return to sin. The devil himself believes that sins like adultery, fornication, stealing, murder, bribery are effective only among a few believers. Even then, they quickly repent and receive the Lord's forgiveness which implies a defeat to the devil. Because of this, the evil one has elected to use the civilized sins which, though seems permissible, will put off intimacy with Jesus. Such sins include jealousy, pride, lust, anger, selfishness, greed, unforgiving spirit, gluttony, idleness etc.

## **2. ATTACK LEADERSHIP**

These agents of darkness have received instruction from the evil one to attack leaders of all shades, particularly leaders of the church, pastors, council members and other leaders who normally withdraw themselves into solitude to wait on his enemy (JESUS) to receive new directions and renewal of strength. This isolation makes the Christians carry the mark of Jesus Christ about so that despite their many faults and failures, they are solidly in control and keep things going against the kingdom of darkness. The evil one knows that he can not do much in this direction but he seeks to limit the impact.

## **3. TARGET THE PASTORS**

They fight for the pastors fall and cause them some heart-ache. They blur their visions to an extent that the pastors live in doubt and get



confused about where they are leading the people to. Attempt is made by these agents to hinder the work of Jesus. This explains why some ministers are now more interested in their material growth than the spiritual well being of the Church.

But in all these, know that 'faithful is HE that calleth thee'. The battle is HIS and you are merely his "Battle Axe". So Fear not!

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### **ABOUT THE BOOK**

**Intercession is a divine profession. As you are required to tell MEN ABOUT GOD, so also are you required to tell GOD ABOUT MEN. Hence Intercession is the converse of evangelism**

**If you have always wanted to intercede, but have simply lacked the KNOW-HOW, then this book is for you. Once you are Born Again, you can control the world around you through effective intercession. But you must first of all learn the golden rule because the secret of successful intercession is simply KNOWING HOW. This text puts at your finger tips the spiritual processes which make your intercession effective. You then see yourself becoming a CO-CREATOR with God - able to dictate what should be.**

**God seeks not only believers to confide in but also those to stand in the gap and demonstrate HIS POWERS in these last days. The techniques in this book give you the master key to such rare privilege.**

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**



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