

# **Summer Semester - Small Groups: Praying with God's Heart**

## **Session One: Entering the Life of Prayer**

### **I. The Place of Humble Beginnings**

#### **A. Singing and Praying from Our Heart**

You can be a worshipful watcher and an praying worshipper. Whatever you do, do it from your heart! Pure worship and prayer are ultimately issues of the heart!

#### **B. We Each Start Somewhere!**

Lift a prayer of consecration to be used by the Holy Spirit today. You can begin a new chapter in your life and you can learn to touch the heart of God! Ask God for His heart to beat in yours.

### **II. We Start with the Act of Worship**

#### **A. What Is Authentic Worship?**

Worship is an act of giving ourselves to God wholeheartedly, with our entire being—spirit, soul and body. Worship means: to bow down before, to adore, to prostrate oneself before.

#### **B. The First Mention of the Word "Worship" in Scripture**

It is first used in Genesis 22:5 after the Lord asks Abraham to offer his son Isaac before Him on Mount Moriah. After three days of journey with his son of promise,

Abraham said to the young men, *"Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you."*

#### **C. Worship and Prayer Go Together**

Worship and prayer is the seamless garment of the Priest. These are not mere functions or duties, they are lifestyle expressions that are an overflow of a heart of consecration. (See 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 22:30; John 4:23; I Timothy 2:1, 8)

#### **D. Worship Is an Integral Part of the Early Church**

The example of the priesthood from the Old Covenant spills over by revelation and application into the lifestyle of the believers in Christ in the New Covenant!

Acts 13:1-3, 16:25; Philippians 4:4-6; I Timothy 2:1-2, 8;

II Timothy 1:3-4;

Philemon 1:4-6

#### **E. Worship Precedes Petition**

Here are three clear examples on how people approached the Messiah.

1. The leper whom Jesus cleansed: Matthew 8:2-3
2. A daughter raised from the dead: Matthew 9:18-19, 23-25
3. The Syrophenician woman's plea: Matthew 15:22, 25, 28

Does Jesus deserve anything less from our lives?

### **III. Clearly Defining Intercession**

#### **A. Defining the Word Intercede**

From two Latin words, *inter* and *cedere*.

*Inter* - meaning between, among, involved and intervention.

*Cedere* - meaning to go, to yield, to move and to pay the price of.

1. "To go between," as when stepping between someone and his enemy in battle.
2. "Yield himself," among those who are weak and need assistance.
3. "Moving in the direction of involvement," regarding the needs and hurts of others.  
(Consider the actions of the Good Samaritan as found in Luke 10:33.)
4. "To pay the price of intervention," as with Christ and the Cross, "To go between."  
Mediation - "entreaty for another - intercession."

#### **B. From Webster's Dictionary**

1. Intercede - (Latin *intercedo*: *inter* - between; *ado* - to go; literally, to pass between); to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to plead in favor of another; to interpose, to mediate or make intercession.
2. Mediate - being between two extremes; to interpose between parties at variance with a view to reconciliation; to mediate a peace.
3. Mediation - entreaty for another, intercession.

### **IV. Four Biblical Expressions of our Intercessory Task**

#### **A. Being the Secretary of God**

An intercessor is one who reminds the Lord of promises and appointments yet to be met and fulfilled.

From Isaiah 62:6-7

*"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen; all day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves; and give Him no rest until He establishes and makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."*

#### **B. Taking Up the Cause of Justice**

An intercessor is one who takes up a case of justice before God on behalf of another.

From Isaiah 59:15-16

*"Yes, truth is lacking; and he turns aside from evil and makes himself a prey. Now the Lord saw, and it was displeasing in His sight that there was no justice. And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished (appalled) that there was no one to intercede."*

### **C. Building Up the Wall**

An intercessor is one who makes up the hedge; builds up the wall in a time of battle.

From Ezekiel 13:4-5

*"O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. You have not gone up into the breaches (breaks), nor did you build the wall (hedge) around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the Lord."*

### **D. Standing in the Gap**

An intercessor is one who stands in the gap between God's righteous judgments that are due and the need for mercy on the people's behalf.

From Ezekiel 22:30-31

*"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Thus, I have poured out my indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; their way I have brought upon their heads, declares the Lord God."*

## **V. The Invitation to Join with Christ in Prayer**

### **A. Our Scriptural Position in Christ**

1. Ephesians 2:6 - *"Raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus."*
2. Colossians 3:1 - *"If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."*
3. Isaiah 61:6a - *"But you will be called the priests of the Lord; you will be spoken of as ministers of our God."*

### **B. Our Authority to Call Forth Targets in Prayer**

Intercession releases the flashing forth of His glory, light, or lightning which covers His hands and directs it to the desired situation allowing it to strike the mark. Job 36:32-33 says, *"He covers His hands with the lightning, and commands it to strike the mark"* (v.32).

### **C. From the Life of Andrew Murray**

The Dutch Reformed preacher, author and prayer warrior, Andrew Murray, stated, *"Through Christ's intercession, Christ is not sitting passively in blissful royal dignity, unmoved, while you intercede. No! Never! You intercede because He intercedes."*

Yes, let's follow in the footsteps of our Messiah, Jesus, and enter a life of making history before the throne of God. We each start somewhere. This can be the start of the greatest adventure in your life as you learn to Pray with God's Heart!

### **D. Answering the Call**

*Father, in Jesus' great name, I present myself to You to be a minister and priest of prayer and worship. The goal of my life is to know God and enjoy Him forever. Right now, I choose to lean into Your heart and listen. I desire to make history before the throne of the Almighty by entering the intercession of Christ and fulfilling Your purpose in my generation. Amen and Amen!*