

The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer

Part 1

For the JOY Class
October 16, 2019
Pat McRight

Bro. Charles Hodge



“Intercessory Prayer involves the sovereignty of God and the noblest intentions of fallen man. To pray for others is the most profound, altruistic, idealistic, unselfish action. This is both God and man at their best!”

Hodge, Charles B., Jr. *Prayer: The Voice of Faith*. Searcy, AR: Resource Publications, p. 65.

1. The Scriptures Portray Prayer
in a Prominent, Influential Role...

Prayer is The Way That...

1. You defeat the devil (Luke 22:32ff)
2. You acquire wisdom (James 1:5)
3. A backslider gets restored (James 5:16-20)
4. The saints get strengthened (Jude 20, Matthew 26:41)
5. We get laborers into the mission field (Matthew 9:38)
6. We cure the sick (James 5:13-15)
7. We (and the Lord) accomplish the impossible (Mark 11:23-24).

Hebrews 7:25 (ESV)

Consequently, he [Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.



Romans 10:1 (ESV)

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them [the Jews] is that they may be saved.



Philip Yancey

- “...the great events of the Old Testament— Abraham’s family, Joseph’s rebound in Egypt, the exodus, the wilderness wanderings, the victories of Joshua and King David, deliverance from Assyria and Babylon, the rebuilding of the temple, the coming of Messiah—took place only after God’s people had cried out in prayer.”

David Jeremiah

“I scoured the New Testament some time ago, looking for things God does in ministry that are not prompted by prayer. Do you know what I found? Nothing. I don’t mean I had trouble finding an item or two; I mean I found nothing. Everything God does in the work of ministry, He does through prayer.”

Jeremiah, D. (1997). *Prayer: The great adventure*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, p. 40.

2. God Seeks and Values Intercessors


Ezekiel 22:30 (ESV)

And I [God] sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none.



John 15:16 (ESV)

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that **whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.**



The vast majority of prayers we read in the New Testament after this point are intercessory prayers for the church and for souls to be reached and saved. The promise (“whatever you ask...”) was used *for intercession!*

The Sin of Failing to Intercede...

1 Samuel 12:23 (ESV)

Moreover, as for me [Samuel], far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you [sinning Israelites], and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.



Our Role as Priests

Our High Priest (Heb 3:1)



Ministry of Intercession:
“Lives to pray for us”
(Heb 7:25)

A Royal Priesthood
(1 Pet 2:9)



Ministry of
Reconciliation
(2 Cor 5:18)



Typology of Aaronic Priesthood versus the Priesthood of Believers

(Adapted from Andrew Murray)

Characteristic	Aaron's Priesthood (OT) - The "Type"	Our Priesthood (NT) - The "Antitype"
HP Term of office	Their High Priest served for a finite period of time. (Heb 7:23)	Our High Priest (Jesus, Heb 3:1), will serve forever (Heb 7:24)
Atonement and Intercession	Their High Priest entered once a year into the Holy of Holies to make intercession (Heb 9:7)	Our High Priest "lives to pray" for us (Heb 7:25)
Purity	They wore special garments and obeyed strict rules to maintain ritual cleanliness (Lev 21:1-15)	"Our priestly power with God depends on our personal life and walk." We must not "defile our garments" (Rev 3:4), i.e. "keep ourselves unspotted..." (Jas 1:27)

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Perfection, completeness	They could have no bodily defects or blemishes (Lev 21:21)	We must be "the man of God...perfect, thoroughly furnished to all good works" (II Tim 3:17), perfect and entire (James 1:4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ephesians 5:27 - that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. (NASB95)

Typology of Aaronic Priesthood versus the Priesthood of Believers

(Adapted from Andrew Murray)

Characteristic	Aaron's Priesthood (OT) - The "Type"	Our Priesthood (NT) - The "Antitype"
Inheritance	They had no inheritance (no land) (Num 18:23)	We must give up all inheritance on earth, since our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20)
Purification	They were cleansed by blood before entering the priesthood (Lev 8:24)	We are cleansed by the blood of Christ to obtain our purity (I Pet 1:17-19)
Anointing	They were anointed with oil. (This anointing connotes being set aside for particular work.)	Like our High Priest, we are anointed with the Holy Spirit (Cf. Acts 10:38; I John 2:20, 27; esp. Cf. I John 2:27 & John 14:26).

Typology of Aaronic Priesthood versus the Priesthood of Believers

(Adapted from Andrew Murray)

Characteristic	Aaron's Priesthood (OT) - The "Type"	Our Priesthood (NT) - The "Antitype"
Sacrifices	They offered animal sacrifices, grain sacrifices.	We offer spiritual sacrifices (I Peter 2:5)
Incense, Prayer	They offered incense. Deuteronomy 33:10 - "They shall teach Your ordinances to Jacob, And Your law to Israel. They shall put incense before You, And whole burnt offerings on Your altar. (NASB95).	We offer prayers. Prayers are the antitype of incense. In Scripture, incense symbolizes prayer and/or is closely linked to it (Psalm 141:2, Luke 1:10, Rev 5:8, Rev 8:4)

Typology of Aaronic Priesthood versus the Priesthood of Believers

(Adapted from Andrew Murray)

Characteristic	Aaron's Priesthood (OT) - The "Type"	Our Priesthood (NT) - The "Antitype"
Blessing others	<p>They blessed others in God's name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deuteronomy 10:8 - At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve Him and to bless in His name until this day. (NASB95)	<p>We call down God's blessings on others by praying (interceding) for others, drawing on the prayer promises given to us from God through our High Priest</p>

3. Examples of Intercession
(briefly mentioned)

2 Corinthians 11:28 (ESV)

And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.



Examples of Intercession in the Epistles

- Romans 9:2-3; 10:1
- 2 Corinthians 13:7
- Ephesians 1:16; 3:14-19
- Philippians 1:3-4; 1:9-11
- Colossians 1:3, 1:9-11
- 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 5:23
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, 3:1
- 3 John 2

The preponderance of NT intercessory prayers reflect a primary focus on spiritual needs and spiritual wellbeing.

Intercession in the Gospels

- Luke 22:31-32: “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you [y’all] like wheat; but I [Jesus] have prayed for [just] you [Peter], that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” (NASB95)
 - Even though Peter denied Jesus, this prayer was fulfilled in Acts 2!
- The High Priestly Prayer (John 17)

Paul's Instruction to Timothy

- 1 Timothy 2:1-2 - First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made **on behalf of all men**, [2] for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. (NASB95)

Closing Remarks...

Closing Remarks

- The objective of this lesson has been to stir us up to love and good works in the area of intercessory prayer.
 - Based on the Scripture's view of prayer
 - Based on examples the First Century church left us
- Let's encourage each other to partner with the Lord in our role as His Royal Priesthood
 - Interceding for others
 - Reconciling others to Him

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