

# KEY 6: INTERCESSION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

## HOW TO ESTABLISH INTERCESSION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- A. Acknowledge intercession as both prevention and cure for ALL things
- B. Practical steps to establish intercession as a value and influence church culture
  - 1. Make a list of current church activities, functions
  - 2. Determine where intercession can be integrated into those functions
  - 3. Senior leaders partner with the intercession leader to begin to integrate intercession into these current church activities
  - 4. Over time, have a variety of church leaders (elders, deacons, youth, young adults, etc) lead out during these times
  - 5. Train on Intercession in both corporate and small group settings
  - 6. Taught Foundations and Caught Demonstration

## HOW TO ESTABLISH INTERCESSION IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

- A. The leader of intercession commits to **guiding the group**
- B. The leader should have a pastoral heart with an apostolic mindset
  - 1. To equip continually
  - 2. To grow each intercessor
  - 3. To defend/protect the leadership and ministry
  - 4. To establish the Kingdom of God in their Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Ends of the Earth
- C. The leader and committed intercessors commit to modeling/demonstrating godly, pure intercession
  - 1. Praying with the gift of faith
  - 2. Praying the Word of God
  - 3. Praying with understanding
  - 4. Praying in the Spirit
  - 5. Prophesying
  - 6. Declaring and decreeing
  - 7. Waiting/listening to hear what the Lord would say/receive strategy
- D. Establish a "greenhouse" in the spirit when you meet
  - 1. A culture of safety
  - 2. A culture of courage and faith
  - 3. A culture of boldness
  - 4. A culture that prophesies in part
  - 5. A culture that accepts correction and instruction

- E. Pray that God would draw those who desire to pray and intercede
- F. Pray that your team would reflect your congregation (age groups, men/women, ethnicities, etc.)

## HOW TO STEWARD INTERCESSION FOR MOST EFFECTIVENESS

### A. Leader:

1. Ask the Lord to show you why He chose you to lead, guide, steward
2. Skill set of an effective leader typically involves
  - a) "Bookends" - pastoral heart, apostolic world view
  - b) Faithful - to the call of God for both the individual and the corporate body
  - c) Steadfast - Not easily moved by numbers or lack of numbers
  - d) Spirit Led - Willing to seek and find the will or Word from God
  - e) Cultivates consistency with God directed initiatives
  - f) Leads from their most holy faith
  - g) Recognizes five fold intercession
  - h) Ensures intercession stays the course in purity and power
  - i) Cultivates ways to encourage and grow the intercessors outside of times of intercession
  - j) Facilitator - "facil" easy
  - k) Collaborator - co-labor with the push of the Spirit

### B. Delineate between prayer and intercession.

1. Debrief format for the time of intercession
2. Verbally shift target
3. Verbalize when intercession has ended and beginning of pastoral care prayer

### C. Format:

1. Spirit-led
2. Targeted Prayer
3. Combination
4. Worship and Intercession
5. Set time

## HOW DO WE CULTIVATE A CULTURE OF PRAYER vs. PRAYER MTGS

- A. Movement happens through three avenues
  - 1. Value established from the lead church leaders (top down)
  - 2. Value established from those called to intercession and those mature who understand the value of prayer/intercession (bottom up)
  - 3. Prayer for wisdom and revelation to be released over all
- B. Key that lead pastors and elders begin to
  - 1. Demonstrate the value of prayer
  - 2. Authentically integrate prayer/intercession into personal life and church life
  - 3. Teach and train the importance of intercession
  - 4. Model intercession as a place to receive directives, power, change
- C. Culture of prayer is defined by
  - 1. Language - is one of the Word of God mixed with Faith
  - 2. Clothing - is the clothing of the Armor of God
  - 3. Food/sustenance
    - a. the Words that proceed from the mouth of God
    - b. Fruit of the Spirit - Character produced in the people
  - 4. Visible - see it
  - 5. Audible - hear it
  - 6. Tangible - feel it, hold it
- D. Those who identify with the culture of prayer are characterized by
  - 1. The intimacy cultivated in our lives with the Father
  - 2. The confidence we have to approach the throne
  - 3. The faith we have to believe in His character and build according to it
  - 4. The empowerment by the Holy Spirit / unction
- E. Practical applications to establish a culture of prayer:
  - 1. Intercession initiating planning "meetings" of any type
  - 2. Teaching/training - at all levels of discipleship (adults, young adults, children)
  - 3. Sermon Series - to establish as a core value
- F. Modeling prayer through a variety of individuals rather than the "prayer leader"
- G. Process for personal prayer requests
  - 1. Examples: prayer request cards, in small groups/community groups, altar ministry, hospital visitation, sick/shut in, or pastoral care directions in church literature.

## HOW DO WE STRUCTURE CORPORATE PRAYER TO BE EFFECTIVE?

- A. Practical guides:
  - 1. Recognize that all are called to stand in the gap
  - 2. Recognize that some are truly called to intercede primarily
  - 3. Set time for “all church” intercession
    - a. Set time for corporate prayer with targets and format
    - b. Those called as an intercessor can continue on in intercession until the Lord releases/closure.
    - c. Posted guidelines during times of intercession to facilitate engagement
      - i. Example of general posted guidelines:
        - A. Pray in the spirit and pray with understanding.
        - B. Declare/decreed/pray out what you hear God saying (scripture, word)
        - C. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
        - D. Pray for those in authority - church, city, nation
    - d. Can change with season or directive
      - i. For example: Evangelistic initiative, elections, etc.
- B. Instruction with church members and leaders who can teach/explain values of corporate prayer
  - 1. Removes confusion
  - 2. Releases expression
  - 3. Empowers the believer
  - 4. Aids in accountability to purity
- C. Facilitate the flow of intercession by having key leaders pray out
- D. Provide resources so all can participate. For example:
  - 1. Written declarations
  - 2. Topical books with scripture
  - 3. Original declarations and decrees specific to the season
- E. Declarative Prayer:
  - 1. Praying out the word of God in a prayer format as a declaration
  - 2. Decree a thing and it shall be established...
  - 3. Model and practice until group becomes comfortable with declarative prayer

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES FACED IN A LOCAL CHURCH WITH THEIR GROUP OF INTERCESSORS?

- A. Immaturity
- B. Rebellion
- C. Discipling within five fold
- D. Spiritually wounded

## HOW DO WE SAFEGUARD AGAINST THOSE CHALLENGES?

- A. Growing in discernment
- B. Intentional plan by church to activate and mature individuals
- C. Integrating wholeness/holiness
- D. Creating a culture of accountability
- E. Relational engagement about spiritual life
- F. Pastoring prophetically.
  - 1. Nurture
  - 2. Pressure for growth
  - 3. Spirit-led insight

## WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES WE SHOULD LOOK FOR IN A LEADER OF INTERCESSORS?

- A. Apostolic World View
- B. Pastoral Heart
- C. Submitted to authority
- D. Leads when delegated authority
- E. Proactive
- F. Faithful to the Lord
- G. Maturity in own walk
- H. Not necessarily one called to "intercession" as primary gift
- I. Spiritual parenting with end goal of emancipation

## HOW DOES AN INTERCESSOR KEEP THEIR HEART PURE?

- A. Understand the strategies assigned against the intercessor
  - 1. Robs you from personal worship and time with God
    - a. Philippians 3:7-11
    - b. Luke 4:5-8
    - c. Why guard personal worship and time with God?
      - i. Continual heart examination
      - ii. Available to hear God's counsel and plans
      - iii. Reminded of dependence upon God
      - iv. An increase for His Word will occur
      - v. Greater revelation
  - 2. Personal petitions will override prayer instruction from God
  - 3. Prayer needs will be so numerous that all the elements of prayer will not be present. Not effective, no discernment.
  - 4. Distractions
    - a. Definition: to cause to turn away from original focus of attention or interest. To divert. To pull in conflicting emotional direction; to unsettle.
    - b. emotions overriding spirit
  - 5. Pride/unguarded heart
- B. Counter response:
  - 1. Guard personal worship and time with God
  - 2. Remain teachable
  - 3. Receive instruction/correction
  - 4. Remember God chastens those He loves

## Resources

1. Appendix 8: Examples of Declarations
2. Developing an Apostolic Prayer Life <https://bible.org/seriespage/4-developing-apostolic-prayer-life>
3. Intercessory Prayer: How God Can Use Your Prayers to Move Heaven and Earth by Dutch Sheets.
4. A City Vision All Leaders Must Have: Cultivating a Passion to Impact Your City by Frank Damazio.
5. Saturation: A Strategy for Gospel Immersion by David Beidel.
6. Prayers That Avail Much, Volumes 1, 2, 3 by Germaine Copeland.