

A JANUARY BIBLE STUDY SERIES

SELFLESSNESS + PRAYER  
**STANDING IN THE GAP**

WEDNESDAYS @ 7:00 PM EST

STAR OF **BETHLEHEM**  
BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSINING 

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LIVE

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# Somebody Prayed for Me

Dorothy Norwood: "Live" With the Georgia Mass Choir



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## Hebrews 7:25 (NIV)

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

# THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF INTERCESSION:



- The ministry of intercessory prayer is based on our calling as priests unto God.
  - We are apart of a holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5)
  - We are apart of a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9)
  - We are apart of a kingdom of priests (Revelation 1:5)
- The calling to priestly intercession is first found in the Old Testament example of the Levitical priesthood.
  - The priest's responsibility was to stand before and between.
  - They stood before God to minister to Him with sacrifices and offerings.
  - The priests also stood between a righteous God and sinful man bringing them together at the place of the blood sacrifice.

Hebrews 7:11-19 explains the difference between the Old and New Testament ministries of the priest.

### The Old Testament priesthood

- The Levitical Priesthood was passed on from generation to generation through the descendants of Aaron, the tribe of Levi.

### The New Testament priesthood

- In Hebrews The Melchizedek priesthood" spoken of in this passage, is the "new order" of spiritual priests of whom the Lord Jesus is the High Priest. It is passed on to us through His blood and our spiritual birth as new creatures in Christ.

# THE MODEL INTERCESSOR:



- The Bible records that God's purpose in sending Jesus was for Him to serve as an intercessor:
  - *Isaiah 59:16*: “And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore, His arm brought salvation unto Him, and His righteousness, it sustained Him.”
  - *I Timothy 2:5*: “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”
  - *Romans 8:34*: “Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”
  - *Hebrews 7:25*: “Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.”

- Jesus brings sinful man & a righteous God together at the place of the blood sacrifice for sin.
  - The blood of animals no longer necessary because of the blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross of Calvary for the remission of sins.
  - ***Hebrews 4:14-16***: “Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

- Jesus was an intercessor while He was here on earth.
  - He prayed for those who were sick and possessed by demons.
  - He prayed for His disciples.
  - He even prayed for us when He interceded for all those who would believe on Him.
  - Jesus continued His ministry of intercession after His death and resurrection when He returned to Heaven. He now serves as our intercessor in Heaven.

# HOW TO INTERCEDE:



- As intercessors following the O.T. priestly function and the N.T. pattern of Jesus, we stand before God and between a righteous God and sinful man.
- In order to be effective standing "between" we must first stand "before" God to develop the intimacy necessary to fulfill this role.
  - Numbers 14 accounts for one of the greatest examples of Intercessory Prayer in all of Scripture.
    - Moses stood between God and Israelites (sinful man) and pleaded on their behalf for God to not destroy them through a plague. He was only able to do this because earlier in Numbers 12 he had stood before God and developed an intimate relationship.

- ***Numbers 12:6-8a***: “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the Lord, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams. But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house. With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the Lord...”
- As N.T. believers we no longer sacrifice animals as in O.T. times. Instead, we stand before the Lord to offer up spiritual sacrifices:
  - **The Sacrifice of Praise**
    - **Hebrews 13:5**: “Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.”
    - **Hebrews 12:28**: “Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakable kingdom, let us be filled with gratitude, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.”

## ■ The Sacrifice of our lives/lifestyle

- *Romans 12:1*: “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.”
- *Romans 6:13*: “Do not present the parts of your body to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and present the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.”
- *Ephesians 5:2* “Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God.”

- It is because of one's intimate relationship with God can they then stand "between" God and others, serving as an advocate and intercessor in their behalf.
- Peter uses two words to describe this priestly ministry: "Holy" and "royal."
  - Holiness is required to stand before the Lord.
    - *Hebrews 12:14* "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."
    - We are able to do it only on the basis of the righteousness of Christ not our own righteousness.
  - Royalty is descriptive of the kingly authority which is delegated to us as members of the "royal family," so to speak, with legitimate access to the throne room of God.

- At times priestly intercession is done with understanding.
  - This occurs when you intercede for others in your own native language and you understand what you are saying:
  - *1 Timothy 2:1-2* “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— 2 for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”
- Other times, intercession is made by the Holy Spirit.
  - It may be with *groanings* resulting from a heavy spiritual burden. (Romans 8:26)
  - It may also be in an *unknown tongue*. When this happens, the Holy Spirit speaks through you praying directly to God according to the will of God (1 Corinthians 14:2)

# THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERCESSION



- Intercession is obviously important because of the emphasis Jesus placed on it in His own earthly ministry.
- Its importance is also revealed in scripture where men and women who experienced powerful results through effective intercession.
- Through effective intercession, you can go spiritually anywhere in the world. Your prayers have no limitations of distance as they can penetrate unreached nations and cross through geographical, cultural, and political barriers.
- You can affect the destiny of individuals and entire nations.
- You can actually help save lives and souls of men and women, boys and girls and extend the Gospel of the Kingdom of God around the world as you intercede in prayer.