

New Testament Prayer

Jim Hoffman

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *What is intercessory prayer?*
 - *The root word points to a meeting of two parties where a petition is presented. (very much like a courtroom)*
 - *In every N.T. case where the word intercede or intercession is used the intercessor is either Jesus or the Holy Spirit.*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *What is intercessory prayer?*
 - *There is an application for believers wherein we meet with God in prayer and make a petition for someone else.*
 - *Conclusion; intercessory prayer is one praying for another.*

Intercessory Prayer

◆ *Rom 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. 27) And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.*

- *We are often ignorant of our real needs. We know that something is wrong, but we do not always know what.*
- *It is very much like this 'Father, I know what he said, but this is what he would pray for if he knew what we know'.*
- *I find His presence the most comforting force in my life, and an awesome thought that God prays for me.*
- *Can you imagine God, the Father, not answering the prayers of God, the Holy Spirit?*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *Rom 8:34) Who then will condemn us? Will Christ Jesus? No, for he is the one who died for us and was raised to life for us and is sitting at the place of highest honor next to God, pleading for us. NLT*
- *Jesus has no interest in condemning us, but rather defends us before the father with petitions on our behalf.*
- *Can you imagine God the Father, not answering the prayers of God, the Son?*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *I John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense —Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.*
 - *On the heels of the teaching about one of the most powerful tools that we have, confession of sin, we learn that our confession is strengthened by none other than our Savior, Friend, and Brother, Jesus Christ.*
 - *And how is it strengthened? By intercession. Jesus takes up our case and represents us before the Father.*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *II Cor 13:9 We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection.*
 - *When was the last time we prayed like this for our brethren?*
 - *God, do those things in my brothers and sisters that will make them perfect (more like Jesus).*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *Col 1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*
 - *I am convicted by these words because as I examine my own prayer life far too many are for me and far too few for others.*
 - *And even those prayers that are for others are often more for their comfort than for their real needs.*

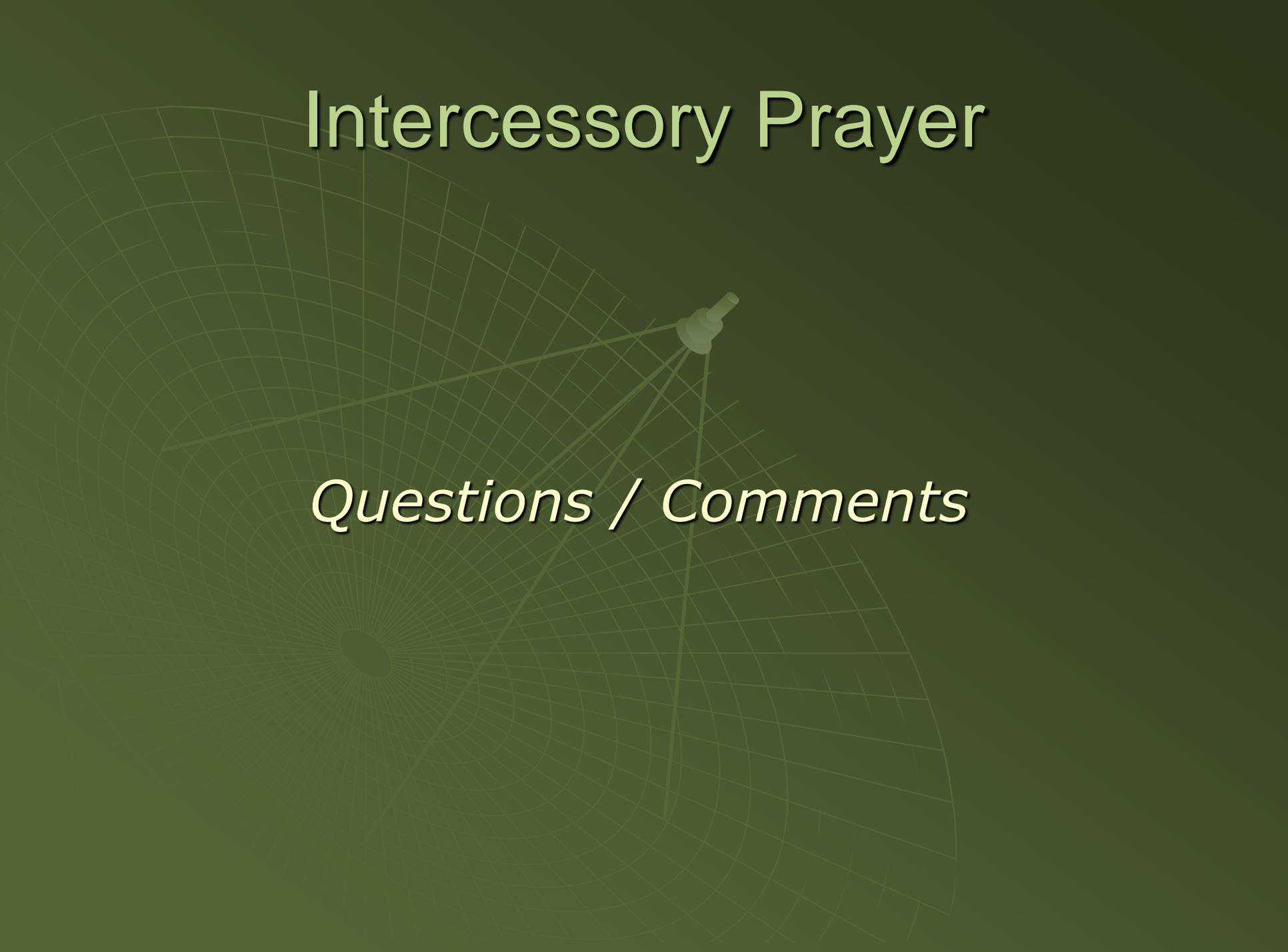
Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *II Thes 1:11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.*
 - *How much more powerful would the church be if we committed to praying for each other after this manner?*
 - *Constant prayer that the power of God would be at work in us to carry out His will through our actions.*
 - *A challenge ... one could have a powerful ministry in the body just by committing to intercessory prayer for fellow brothers and sisters. It will not be glamorous now, but there will come a day when this job well done will be richly rewarded.*

Intercessory Prayer

- ◆ *II Thes 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.*
 - *This is more than asking for our colds to go away and for good weather on our vacations.*
 - *This is prayer focused on the things that last.*

Intercessory Prayer



Questions / Comments

Praying in the Spirit

- ◆ *What is 'praying the Spirit' ?*
 - *Praying under the invited influence of the Holy Spirit*
 - *Praying according to the Word of God*
 - *Praying with a passion determined by our faith*
 - *Praying in the name of Jesus*
 - *Praying with a determined persistence*
 - *Praying for others and not just ourselves*

There are various 'in the Spirit' scriptures.

- ◆ *Rom 8:9) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit , if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*
- ◆ *Phil 3:3) For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*
- ◆ *Gal 5:16) I say then: Walk in the Spirit , and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*
- ◆ *Gal 5:25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit*
- ◆ *Col 1:8) who also declared to us your love in the Spirit*
- ◆ *I Cor 14:2) For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

Praying in the Spirit

- ◆ *The phrase 'praying in the Spirit' is a simple way to illustrate by contrast the emptiness of 'praying in the flesh'?*
 - *The Pharisees prayed in the flesh; they had no relationship with God, but they wanted the appearance that they did. Their prayers were empty and accomplished nothing more than noise.*
 - *I can reason out and rationalize all sorts of prayer requests in the flesh, but that is a far cry from praying for what the Spirit wants to do.*

Praying in the Spirit

- ◆ ***Eph 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.***
- ◆ ***Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,***
 - ***Praying in tongues is one form of praying in the Spirit, but not the only form.***
 - ***Praying with His assistance***
 - ***Praying with His wisdom and His power***

Praying in the Spirit

- ◆ *I think that if we have to spend a lot of time examining and analyzing our prayers to determine if they are 'in the Spirit', we are probably not praying in the Spirit.*
- ◆ *Praying in the Spirit happens when He is control of our lives; not when we meet a required set of criteria.*

High Points Of The Series

- ◆ *I have a role in making sure that His name is hallowed, that His kingdom comes and in having His will be done.*
- ◆ *To pray in Jesus' name is to pray for the things that He would pray for and for the same reason he would pray for them.*
- ◆ *Faith cannot be measured by itself, it must be measured by it's object.*
- ◆ *Jesus prays that we might glorify Him by revealing what He is like to the world.*
- ◆ *The transaction between a two year old and his father.*

The Key Transaction ...

- ◆ What do we know about two year olds and their fathers?
 - The child has faith that his father can do anything. There is nothing too hard for his dad.
 - They have a lot of requests, but seldom ask for what they really need.
 - Two year olds need to learn to listen.
 - Their fathers love to do good things for them.

Questions / Comments

