

## Episode 009

# Purposeful Intercession

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We often cry, complain, and advise God about what He should do and consequently fail to see His plans and overall purposes. How can I learn to focus on God instead of this huge problem? How can I be more purposeful in my prayer life?

O Great and powerful God, whose name is the Lord almighty, great are your purposes and mighty are your deeds. Your eyes are open to all the ways of men; you reward everyone according to his conduct and as his deeds deserve. – Jeremiah 32: 18 – 19

God wants to move us into a much higher realm of His will. We can get this revelation of His desires and plans only through intimacy with Him. As our hearts resonate with the heart of God, we align ourselves with His goals and His burden. We see things as He sees them, and now we begin to understand His ways.

We live in defeat when all we can think about is our own problems.

Psalm 33:11, The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

Whatever your present problem is, God has a solution that is uniquely designed to fit your circumstances. He sees and solves problem perfectly, using His unlimited creativity. We are to seek the glory of His name (See Exodus 3:15; 9:16) and the establishment of His kingdom (see Psalm 145:13; Matthew 6:10; Habakkuk 2:14).

When I set my eyes on God and thank and praise Him right in the middle of difficult circumstances, things begin to change.

Philippians 2:13 says, “For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”



Let's realise that God sees everything – absolutely nothing escapes His eyes. His ears are attentive to our cries.

Psalms 34:15 (NIV) 15 The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry;

## How do we go about purposeful intercession?

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### 1. A Call To Focused Living

God calls us to live a focused life, not a life scattered in many directions because of distractions. A focused life moves toward the center even in the busiest times because it is like a magnet attracted to Jesus, knowing that He alone is the One who makes everything work when priorities are in order.

Guard prayer times with God from distractions so that we can focus fully on the plans and purposes He reveals to us. We must concentrate on God's best; remembering that prayer and abiding in His presence are of utmost importance.

The bible exhorts us in Ephesians 5:15-17, "Be very careful, then, how you live – not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." The foolish person has no strategy for life and misses opportunities to live for God.

Another compelling reason to stay focused on prayer is because it is easy to fall into sin. Most of us will not fall into sin suddenly. The enemy takes us away from God in little ways, a slow erosion of our time with Him. Those who have fallen into sins such as immorality, addictions eg pornography, or alcohol abuse often did not fall quickly; they slowly lost focus.

Make prayer and intercession a top priority in your life. Choose prayer as the first step and as your primary focus in your day.



Not only does Satan try to make a person fall into sin through stealing time with the Lord, but he also will try to keep you so distracted that you fail to do God's will in your life. Learnt to pray and cast all concerns to God. Spent solid quality time in God through prayer, worship and digging into God's Word.

## 2. Pray To Discover God's Agenda

Prioritizing prayer and letting Him set your agenda brings great peace. Through prayer and renewing our mind in God's word, we discover God's pleasing and perfect will (See Romans 12:2).

Let's learn to pray about everything and trust in God's wisdom, which far surpasses ours. At times, we may sense His direction and feel the peace that comes from the Holy Spirit even though nothing may look logical according to our human perspective. The real key for us was prayer and waiting upon God, listening and hearing His voice. God loves to hear us pray with fervency and then listen and step out in faith according to His leading. Praying through every decision, listening to His voice, and leaning upon His wisdom will enable you to determine His agenda.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says, Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.



## How can we hear God when we pray?

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**Here are some guidelines to help you hear His voice as you seek Him in prayer:**

- Bathe your life in prayer. Pray about all the decisions in your life daily. Ask Him for directions so that you may fulfill His will for your life for that day. Continually bring major decisions to Him in prayer. Pray, listen, and wait with expectancy.
- Believe That God does speak to you. Accept the promise in John 10:27, “ My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
- Find time to be alone with God. Take time to pray and listen. Most of life is very busy, but time with God is of utmost importance so we can hear from Him. Often the Lord responds with a thought planted by His Spirit into the mind or heart.
- Keep a journal of what God says. We can better evaluate guidance and see what God is saying when we journal on a regular basis. Journaling helps us ponder our thoughts and impressions so we can clearly discern the path God wants us to take.
- Test what you hear. What we think is God’s voice may come from the Holy Spirit, the enemy, or our own souls. Ask the Lord to confirm what you think He may be saying. 1 John 4:1 exhorts us to test the spirits. It’s good to seek confirmation from at least two other Christians before taking action, especially on big decisions.
- Carefully check all guidance with scripture. God’s word is truth, what we think God is speaking should line up with scripture. This is why we should examine everything carefully with the bible.
- Obey God. We must be willing to act on what God has told us. When we obey God, there is blessing. If we still doubt what we think God is saying, it is good to continue to ask Him for confirmation until we sense His peace.



## Personal Application

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- What are some ways the enemy is distracting me, causing me to waste my time?
- What good things in my schedule are leaving no time for the best? What can I eliminate?
- What is the order of priorities in God's plan for me?
- Am I keeping prayer as a top priority in my life? In what way can I improve?
- Am I keeping God as my main focus? How am I abiding in Him, and what is keeping me too busy?
- How am I purpose-driven in my prayer life instead of problem-centered?





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