



Episode I008

Intercession: Doggedness and Perseverance in Intercession

1st Aspect Doggedness and Persistence

Doggedness and persistence are important qualities necessary when interceding for the needs of the world. It takes faith to pray years and years for something. Don't give up! God continues to hear you. Discipline and persistence in prayer are not always easy. Let's continue to persevere in God even when it looks the darkest.

God turns our circumstances around when we faithfully seek His face through praise and persistent prayer. Persistent prayer carries a wrestling quality and an earnestness of soul. When you experience this, God is bringing you into a deeper level of intercession empowered by the Spirit of God.

Persist in prayer even when the answer seems impossible. Remember

Matthew 7:7-8

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

Paul prayed continually, earnestly, and unceasingly night and day for the churches, as shown in these verses:

1 Thessalonians 3:10 (NIV)

Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith.

Romans 1:9-10 (NIV)

God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.



Maybe you have not yet seen the answer to your prayers for the salvation of your family members, the release of your ministry, or something else you are praying for. But now you are tempted to give up. I urge you to continue in prayer.

2nd Aspect Burden-Bearing Intercession

Do you feel overwhelmed with so many needs around you? How can we possibly pray for everything? How can we possibly handle the increasing pressure that is coming upon the world? And how can we enter into the place where we live in joy and peace balancing with carrying the burdens that God lays upon our hearts and right in the midst of the battle?

The Enemy will surely try to keep us imbalanced, pushing us to try to deal with the many needs around us. He will try to wear us out with anxiety. Partner in God with the burdens within your heart. But God promises us that His burden is light and His yoke is easy.

Matthew 11:30 (NIV)

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

The Biblical Command.

Though in Galatians 6:2, Paul commands us to bear one another's load, this command does not mean receiving someone else's pain or being overly burdened emotionally. We read in

Isaiah 53:5

He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The punishment that brought us peace was upon him, And by his wounds we are healed.

Jesus is the One who carries the pain. He bears the burden. Mature intercessors release God's burden in prayer rather than live under them. They take it to God and leave it with Him. Burden-bearing prayer means working with God. The Holy Spirit takes the initiatives and calls us into partnership with Himself as He acts. God stirs our hearts for the things that touch His heart. God lays His burden upon our hearts, and we have the joy of praying it back to Him. He wants us to grow in His love and pray His burdens with joy, knowing that such prayers will dramatically change the world.



How to co labour with the Lord:

- Have a willing attitude that accepts any burden God may want to give you. God does not force you to bear a burden. Be certain the burden is from the Lord, and you will be assured you are partnering with Him in victorious prayer.
- Know that God will find someone to carry His burden. When Queen Esther hesitated to bear the burden of her people on her young shoulders, her cousin Mordecai reminded her,

Esther 4: 14

If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?

There is always a purpose to which God places His concern into our hearts. Let's be obedient to follow it through.

- Be aware of God's promptings communicate His burden for intercession. You may sense a desire to weep or a heaviness in your spirit; a prompting by the Spirit can come in many ways: a quiet thought in your mind, a sense of emergency, a physical weakness, a dream, a mental picture of someone, or a deep longing to be alone with God and intercede.
- As you begin to intercede, the prayer burden will intensify. Accept this burden from God and give yourself to prayer.
- Be aware of the enemy's attacks. Watch out for the Devil's accusations and attacks. Intercession should bring peace and joy when you finish. If the enemy tries to bring condemnation, then submit to God and resist the devil aloud.

James 4:7-8 (NIV)

Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

- Believe God for victory. He answers prayer in a powerful way.

James 5:16

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.



Results of Burden-Bearing Intercession

- You experience personal repentance. You learn to hate sin, because you see how much it cost Jesus and negatively impacting people. You repent as you learn to cry out to God for other people. You experience death to self in a deeper way daily. God desires us to be cleansed vessels for His Kingdom work. God Himself is pure and His heart is that we be more like Him.
- You love God more and grow in intimacy. You share the heart of God and become more thankful to God as you bear burdens with Him.
- Your Bible comes alive. You identify with the hearts of biblical men and women as you gain greater understanding of how they carried the burdens of their time. Eg apostle Paul
- Your conscience becomes more sensitive to the Holy Spirit. You are more aware of His conviction, whether in words or action.

3rd Aspect The Diligence Of Prayer

We face the reality that prayer is hard work that takes discipline. After each victory in prayer, we must continue on. Prayer warriors are in tune with God's heart. They know the necessity of prayer and the urgency of the hour. I encourage you to passionately pursue God and His purposes in your life, family, church and nation. The value of prayer is like a rich treasure.

Several ways you and I can be diligent in prayer:

- Stand your watch. An intercessor is also a watchman, for a watchman's task is to be aware of the any danger approaching the city. God places you as watchman in prayer, being alert for potential enemy attack. God is looking for intercessors to stand in the gap for entire cities and nations. What is the watch God has given you? Is it your workplace, home, neighborhood, or city? The psalmist exhorts us,

Psalm 119:148-149

My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate of your promises. Hear my voice in accordance with your love.



- Pray fervently. Fervent prayer means that we spend enough time in prayer. We do not quit easily, but we cry out with our whole heart and soul. We may even pray with tears or groans that are too deep for words.

Romans 8:26 (NIV)

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.

As James remind us, “The [effectual fervent] prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

- Pray steadfastly. We must not be tempted by the distractions all around us. The life of Jesus is our example. He set His face resolutely to go to the cross. He was set to accomplish God’s will. Faithfully labor with Him in this new dimension of holy resolve and steadfast prayer. The gospel writer recounts,

Luke 9:51

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

- Hold on to what is good in prayer. We must diligently hold fast to what is good and what has been won in prayer, for the enemy will try to take it away. Satan hates what is good, and he comes to rob, steal, and destroy. He is after our victories. Hold fast to what we have won, even as we pray for further breakthroughs in intercession.

Reference : Intercessors Arise by Debbie Prybylski



Discussion Questions

1. Share of a recent prayer assignment where you learnt to persistently wrestled before God. How did you keep going and not give up?
2. In partnering with God as He highlights to us some prayer burdens, how have you learnt to not get bogged down by the many prayer concerns? Share of how you learnt to identify what is of the Lord, what is not, how you learnt to leave the burden with the Lord.
3. What is one aspect you felt God encouraging you to be diligent in prayer? What small steps are you taking to cultivate this godly habit?





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