

The Duties of the Priest Part 20

Prayer and Intercession

“14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV)

The royal priests serve the Lord in the places where God has placed them. The Lord has placed us in a land or country, among people and in a society not only to survive, but to shoulder the responsibility and the power to pray and to intercede for the people in that particular place. *“27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:” (Acts 17:27 KJV)* The life and soul of every person is precious to the Lord. Yet to receive God’s gift of salvation is a personal decision to make. * We are to be filled with compassion and pain towards the lost and all who do not know Christ, knowing that if they do not meet the LORD and they do not come to a decision to receive Christ as Saviour and Lord while they are on earth, then God has no place for them in Heaven. * From this point we are motivated to pray and to intercede for the lost souls who do not know God and Christ. We are also to intercede and pray for the body of Christ, and especially for those who become disobedient and have fallen away from God.

The Bible is full of examples of people who are full of compassion, who prayed to the LORD and who interceded for the forgiveness of the people’s sins. They sustained a life of prayer and intercession while they continued to live their lives unto God and to reach people with the message of God:

1. **Abraham interceded for the righteous people:** He prayed and interceded in behalf of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. *“20 And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; 21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. 22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. 23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? 26 And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. 27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD, which am but dust and ashes: 28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. 29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty’s sake. 30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. 31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the LORD: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty’s sake. 32 And he said, Oh let not the LORD be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he said, I will not*

destroy it for ten’s sake. 33 And the LORD went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.” (Genesis 18:20-33 KJV) Abraham interceded for the righteous people living in those cities and for his nephew Lot and his family who were also living there. Abraham prayed and therefore the LORD brought Lot out of Sodom and saved him. *“29 And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt.” (Genesis 19:29 KJV)* In the same way we need to pray and intercede for the cities that we are living and those cities that are near to us that God shall save the righteous people from among them and to bring new souls from them into His Kingdom.

2. **Moses interceded for his people:** He prayed and interceded for the people when they sinned against the LORD and made the golden calf. *“30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.” (Exodus 32:30-35 KJV)* As Moses prayed, the LORD relented from destroying the whole assembly, but He punished those who sinned. In the same we need to pray for those who sin to repent and that God shall deal with those who are not willing to repent and amend their ways.

3. **Moses prayed for Aaron:** *“18 And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights: I did neither eat bread, nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned, in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger. 19 For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the LORD was wroth against you to destroy you. But the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also. 20 And the LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time.” (Deuteronomy 9:18-20 KJV)* Moses also prayed and fasted for Aaron who made the golden calf for the people. So we need to pray for those church leaders, teachers and pastors who do not teach correctly. We must pray for those, who compromise and mislead the people causing them to live in sin, to come to full repentance.

4. **Samuel prayed for the people:** He prayed for the people who committed sin against God by requesting Him to appoint a king over them. Samuel did not fail to pray and to admonish the people: *“23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way:” (1 Samuel 12:23 KJV)* In the same we need to pray for those who reject us and reject the ways of God in their lives to repent and come back to God.

5. **Samuel prayed for Saul:** He also prayed and mourned for Saul who disobeyed God’s Word and instruction. *“I And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.” (1 Samuel 16:1 KJV)* God responded to Samuel’s prayer by raising David to replace King

Saul. In the same way as we continue also to pray and to intercede for the backsliders, then God will replace them by raising other people instead of them to serve Him with us.

6. Moses and Samuel as intercessors: The Lord spoke about Moses and Samuel as intercessors, yet because the sins of the people were so grievous, God would no longer listen. *“I Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.”* (Jeremiah 15:1 KJV) But Moses and Samuel continued to pray even the people were rebellious. We should have the same attitude of Moses and Samuel who kept praying to God even the people were so rebellious, and we should not give up praying for the people to repent because we don't know how God will act and respond to our prayers.

7. Jeremiah pleaded earnestly for his people: The LORD was so angry with the people but Jeremiah prayed earnestly for them. Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet who mourned for the sins of the people: *“I Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!”* (Jeremiah 9:1 KJV) Thus we learn from his example that the more the people are rebellious the more we are called to pray and intercede for them before the LORD.

As royal priests we are called to intercede for the lost and for those who have gone away from the LORD and His church. The LORD is looking for someone to pray with pain and compassion, and grieve for those who have gone astray. The Lord said, *“30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.”* (Ezekiel 22:30 KJV)

The Lord Jesus is our mediator. *“5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”* (1 Timothy 2:5 KJV) Thus let us imitate His ways. The prayer life of the LORD is well-described in the Gospels which need to be marked for us to keep an eye on:

1. *“35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed..”* (Mark 1:35 KJV) Let us keep the same pattern of Jesus, that we start our day early with prayer. We need to keep a time each day and a place to be exclusively with the Lord for prayer so that our day will be fruitful.

2. *“12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. 13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;”* (Luke 6:12-13 KJV) Jesus before He chose the twelve apostles and endorsed to them the ministry He prayed the whole night. We need to do the same. Before we take any important decision in life we need to spend good time in prayer.

3. *“22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. 23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.”* (Matthew 14:22-23 KJV) Jesus made a way for Himself to be alone so that He could pray and communicate with God. We need to spend more time to be alone with the LORD, to pray to Him and to receive fresh anointing, fresh Words and clearer instruction for the vision He has given us. Keeping time to sit with God will bring a

difference in our life. God will speak to us and He will give us keys to open new doors of His blessings.

4. *“32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. 33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. 37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. 39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words.”* (Mark 14:32-39 KJV) In the Gethsemane experience Jesus was strengthened to fulfill God's will through prayer. While we kneel down and pray at the Lord's feet, God will confirm to us His will. Therefore when we are struggling about certain decisions then we need to kneel down to be guided by God of what we need to do.

Prayer is a very important tool in our hand that plays a big role in our life. Prayer makes a difference and brings victory to the church. In the New Testament the church faced great trials and troubles but they won with the help of the LORD through prayer.

In the book of Acts, the early Church was constantly gathered in prayer; through prayer they expressed their trust in Jehovah God, the provider of all their needs and acknowledged their dependence on Him. *“14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.”* (Acts 1:14 KJV) Prayer was then part and parcel of the life of the believers and the Church and so in the same prayer should be part and parcel of our lives:

1. *“42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* (Acts 2:42 KJV) Even the new believers were at once committed to continuous prayer. As a church we should gather and devote time to prayer and intercession for the need of all our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

2. *“23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: 25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? 26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. 27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done. 29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, 30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. 31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”* (Acts 4:23-31 KJV) The apostles faced persecution with prayer and were able to continue to boldly preach

the Word of God. In the same way whenever we face persecution then we need to face it with prayers trusting God to refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us boldness to preach His Word and do miracles through our lives and ministries and bring people near to Him.

3. *“1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. 2 And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. 3 And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) 4 And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. 5 Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. 6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. 7 And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. 8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. 9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. 10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. 11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the LORD hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. 12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. 13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. 14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. 15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. 16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. 17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.”* (Acts 12:1-17 KJV) The church prayed when Peter was arrested, and clearly we see how God worked a miracle to save Peter's life. In the same way we need to pray for those who are persecuted and are in troubles that they will be set miraculously free with the power of God.

4. *“1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.”* (Acts 13:1-3 KJV) Prayer, fasting and worship were the ways of the church to receive revelation from God. The Lord revealed to the church the mission field for Barnabas and Saul. In the same manner as a church let us receive the vision of how to preach to the lost, where to preach the gospel and whom to send and to which places. Let us continue the work, making new disciples, praying and fasting with our spiritual leaders, and sending workers to the mission field.

My Dear and Beloved: The LORD is seeking people to serve Him. He is seeking humble people to pray and intercede for the salvation of the lost, backsliders, and weak church leaders. Prayer enables us to interact with God and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are the royal priests. When we as parents give good gifts to our children, how much more God our Father, *“13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* (Luke 11:13 KJV) Prayer itself is the gift for us as a church so that we can freely communicate with God the Father to receive from Him provision and protection, and inspiration to pursue the vision to reach the lost and do His will everyday and every hour. Therefore, let us always spend quality time of prayer and intercession with God, and let us commit ourselves to follow the examples of the prayer of the prophets of God, Abraham, Moses, Samuel and Jeremiah, and the example of our Lord Jesus and the example of the early church.

Let us pray

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the good reminder that I received about prayer and fasting in this message. Lord thank you for all the examples of prayers in the Scriptures that I learned from and that motivated me to apply in my life.

Come now to God and confess and renounce all your sins and commit yourself to serve Him. Ask God forgiveness for your lack of quality time sitting with God, listening to Him, reading His Word and praying to Him. Confess and renounce your lack of concern and compassion to the lost souls and to the backsliders. Confess and renounce your lack of commitment to God to serve Him and to suffer for Him. Confess and renounce your yoke with non believers, with friends and in bondage with the Media, News and games. Confess and renounce your lack of fasting in your life. Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to have consistent life of prayer and fasting, to pray for my family and children, to pray for the lost souls, to pray and intercede for the backsliders, for the city that you placed me in and to the adjacent towns and cities and to set a time to fast and to practice kneeling down at your feet so I can hear your voice in a clear way. Lord I commit myself to reach out the lost and to get involved to serve you in the church ministry and in the mission fields to reach new people and places with the gospel of Jesus.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed themselves to have a regular life of prayer and fasting and to be involved in the church missions and ministries and to reach the lost. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts they need to serve you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs to continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to continue to have a life of prayer and fasting and to get involved in the mission works of God. Lord we pray and intercede for the backsliders to repent and come back to you, and for the church leaders and workers who are in sin and compromises to repent and amend their ways, and for cities that you placed us in and for the cities around us that you will save people from among them. Lord lead us to new groups of people and to new places to preach the gospel and to spread your Word. Lord refills us once again with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts so that we continue to serve you. Lord lead us to evangelize, making new disciples, train new workers and plant

more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God'. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Duties of the Priest Part 20. Prayer and Intercession. 2 Chronicles 7:14. Acts 17:27. Genesis 18:20-33. Genesis 19:29. Exodus 32:30-35. Deuteronomy 9:18-20. 1 Samuel 12:23. 1 Samuel 16:1. Jeremiah 15:1. Jeremiah 9:1. Ezekiel 22:30. 1 Timothy 2:5. Mark 1:35. Luke 6:12-13. Matthew 14:22-23. Mark 14:32-39. Acts 1:14. Acts 2:42. Acts 4:23-31. Acts 12:1-17. Acts 13:1-3. Luke 11:13.

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