



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Marks of an Intercessor

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We have been reared as a people of faith and prayer, and from prayer, we naturally grow to become intercessors.

Intercessions in general sense are:

1. For transgressors (Is. 53:12; Lk. 23:34) who do not obey the commandments of the Lord.
2. For Christ's people alone (Job 17:9) in a special sense.
 - a. It is compassion for self-destroying sinners.
 - b. For His believing people (those who walk in the light as He is the Light).
3. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26).

Intercessors are called gap-stander. They storm heavens with prayer and do not stop until they experience a breakthrough.

The people of Sodom and Gomorrah created a breach, a great gap between God and man for their immorality, social injustice, and disregard for the poor (Gen. 18:16-33).

Abraham saw the unending destruction of Sodom and stood in the gap to intercede for Sodom. It was from this story in the Bible that we can see the 6 marks of an intercessor.

6 Marks of an Intercessor

1. Intercessors are the first to get the news

- And God said: "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing?" (Gen. 18:17)
- God did not want to destroy Sodom without Abraham knowing about it first. We find this to be a Biblical pattern.
- God often informs the people who are seeking Him what He intends to do.
- The secrets of the Lord are with those who hear Him (Ps. 25:14).
- God's great mercy and compassion will let Him reveal plans or judgment to those seeking

Him. This gives intercessors a chance to plead for God's mercy on behalf of the people.

- Surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals the secrets to His servants, the prophets (Amos 3:7).
- Intercessors are always one step ahead of the others for God reveals the plan to them first.

In our secular world: **Example of "we are first"**

- GMA 7 slogan: "Walang kinikilingan, walang pinoprotektahan"
- CNN claims that they are the greatest news agency because they bring the news first.
- An Ad: Some people make things happen, some people see them happen, others ask 'what happened'. Get started with PRO.

2. Intercessors stand in the gap before God

- God is looking for people to stand before Him and intercede for the sins of the nation.
- "But Abraham stood still before God" (Gen. 18:22b).
- We see God specifically looking for intercessors (Ez. 22).
- So I sought for a man among them who could make a wall and stand in the gap before me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it but found no one (Ez. 22:30). And this has a sad ending because there was no one to intercede.

How can God answer if no one pleads to Him?
No prayers, no answer!

3. Intercessors continue to stand in the gap even after judgment is passed.

Then men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord (Gen. 18:22).

- The angels were already heading toward Sodom to destroy it. But Abraham still stood before the Lord. He lived in hope that God's mercy would spare His people. He persevered, even after judgment was passed.

- Sor, for example, mobilized intense prayer for LF members afflicted with cancer seeking for God’s healing. She knows God cannot make a move unless pleadings to Him are offered. We must continue to stand in the gap even in seemingly hopeless situations.

- We see that God went away as soon as He had finished speaking. This meant that Abraham’s request had reached the limit.
- Abraham did not ask for 5 people anymore, he knew that he had reached the limit of God’s mercy.

4. Intercessors understand God’s character

If you were an intercessor and wanted God to spare the city, what angle would you approach God from?

- Abraham was a smart man. He knew God’s character. God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked.
- “Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”(Gen. 18:23)

5. Intercessors understand God’s abounding Grace

Abraham looks in every way like a good businessman. He negotiates with God for His mercy.

- Gen. 18:24. Abraham: Suppose there were 50 righteous people in the city, would you really sweep away and not spare the place for the sake of the 50? The Lord said: I will spare the whole place for the sake of the 50!
- v28. What if there are 5 less than 50 righteous people? The Lord said “I will not destroy it if I find 45 there.”
- v29. What if only 40 are found there? The Lord said: I will refrain from doing it for the sake of the 40.
- v30. Do not let My Lord be angry, what if only 30 are found there? The Lord said: I will refrain from doing it for the sake of the 30.
- v31. “What if no more than 20? The Lord said: I will not destroy it for the sake of 20.”
- v32. Please, Lord, do not be angry. What if only 10 are found there? The Lord said: “For the sake of 10, I will not destroy it.”

Abraham was brave enough to plead for the city of Sodom, he was a great negotiator because he knew and understood God’s character.

6. Intercessors know the limit of God’s patience

The Lord departed as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham. And Abraham returned home (Gen. 18:33).

Let us not be discouraged, pray for one another!

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