



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

A SANDWICH

P.U.S.H. Series – 4B

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Abraham was one of the great intercessors in the Bible. When he learned that God was about to destroy the city of Sodom, he was compelled to immediately intercede for the city. In his boldness, he persisted to plead for the righteous in the city although judgment had already been decided. He had the courage to stand before God and bargained with Him. Abraham knew that God is just and must punish sin. However, he also knew God's character: that God is merciful to sinners. (Genesis 18: 16-33). Abraham exhibited the six marks of an intercessor.

Six Marks of an Intercessor:

1. **Gets the news.** God reveals His plans to those who seek Him earnestly. An Intercessor is always one step ahead. God, in His grace, has chosen to reveal certain things to those who fear Him (Ps. 25:14).
2. **Stands in the gap before God.** Ezekiel 22:30 portrays a wall with a gap in it. The Lord was looking for people who would stand before Him in the gap on behalf of the people. He was saddened that He found no one. To stand in the gap means to intercede and plead for God's mercy. An intercessor has the ability to delay or stop the judgment of God when he stands in the gap.
3. **Continues to stand in the gap even after judgment has been passed.** S/he must be persistent, just as Abraham persisted in his hope that God would spare his people.
4. **Knows the steps to Achieving our Requests:**
 - a. Plans purposefully.
 - b. Prepares prayerfully.
 - c. Proceeds positively.
 - d. Pursues persistently.

4. **Understands God's character.** An intercessor knows that God is our Provider, Healer, Sovereign Ruler, Deliverer, Savior, Promise Keeper, etc. S/he knows that, in His loving mercy, God will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. It is from this mindset that s/he must approach God in prayer.
5. **Understands God's abounding grace.** They know that God, in His amazing abundant grace, calls us to Himself. Although we have wronged Him, He forgives us out of His love for us.
6. **Knows the limit of God's patience.** Our God is very patient with us. He has shown us great mercy despite having sinned many times. However, He is also the Holy God who judges all sins and punishes the wicked. There is a balance in His mercy and justice.

CONCLUSION: Prayers cannot be answered unless they are offered. We, therefore, need intercessors who will stand before God to offer prayers on behalf of the community. Intercession for others is a very important facet of prayer that bridges the gap between God and His people.

REFLECTION: Are you willing to be an intercessor and stand before God?

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