

Intercessors

Jeff Glascock—one way he serves is by sending out a scripture each morning to some people he knows. His choice for today speaks loudly to me:

He takes no pleasure in the strength of a horse or in human might. No, the Lord's delight is in those who fear him, *those who put their hope in his unfailing love.*

(Psalm 147:10-11 New Living Translation)

Lately I have been thinking about intercessors and their prayers. Paul said, **“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”** *(Ephesians 6:18 New International Version)* This verse follows instructions for putting on all the pieces of the armor of God. Something Cathy Foster has used often with the intercessors is—*all kinds of prayers and requests*. Sometimes we decree and declare truth and stand in authority; we deliver warfare prayers. Sometimes we simply ask the One who has unfailing love, knowing we are in His presence. In all of these we put our hope in His unfailing love and faithfulness to His Word.

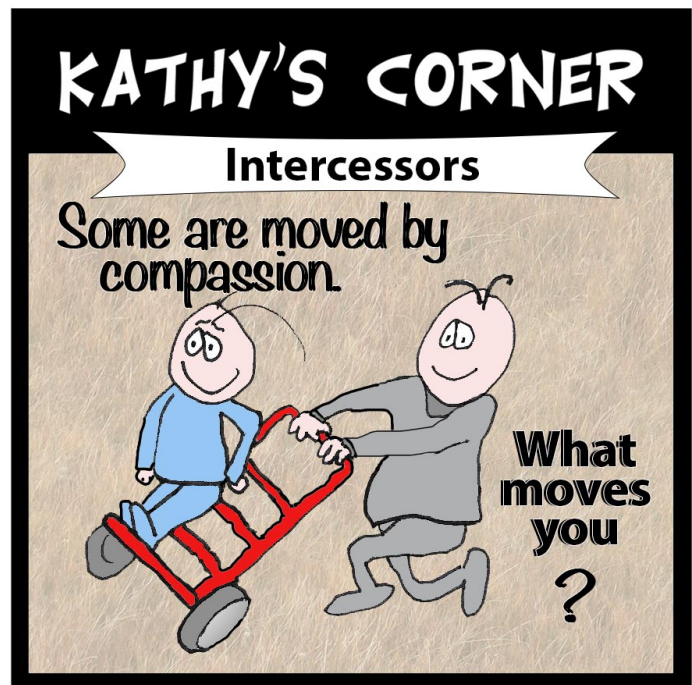
The intercessor has to be both Head-conscious and body-conscious.

Head-conscious The head is higher than all other members of the body. Without the head, the body has no life or functionality. Also, NUMA has emphasized the importance of having only *one* Head. With two heads, there is confusion, and the real Head does not receive its rightful honor or obedience. Also, the body can be led to function out of the order and design of God, which is the state of much of the “church” today.

Body-conscious In the body there are standout members. You see them in church—the strong shoulders we can lean on or cry on, the strong backs that support the other members. Then there are the members that don't stand out—small members that attend to intricate details, that may be doing things we don't see, perhaps in the prayer closet, perhaps on the street offering encouragement and support, not letting the left hand see what is being done by the right hand. *(See Matthew 6:3-4)* Every member is part. Every member is important.

When we come under the Head—Yeshua, and we become body conscious, we can be in unity. Then we can have agreement “as touching anything they ask.” *(See Matthew 18:19)* We must agree with each other and with the Head, so we don't pray against what God may be doing **in a life, for a purpose.**

1 Corinthians chapter 12 is about us having differing spiritual gifts, but being one unified body of Christ. We cannot say we have no need of this or that member as each one has God-given purpose. One verse stood out to me, and I saw it as it relates to intercession. **“So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”** *(Verse 26 CSB)*



The first half of the verse above: **“So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it.”** This is so true of our physical bodies. Most of the time we just function without awareness of our members or our organs until something is injured, displaced, wounded, sick or diseased; but let us be hurt, and the afflicted member gets attention it never had before, being it a pinky with a paper cut or an ingrown toenail. We may have things going on in our physical body—failings of organs or cancers that we are totally unaware of, but they are harming us, damaging us, just the same. We can be sure our spiritual body also suffers with what one member suffers, though we may not see it yet; there is harm. So we are instructed to **“be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”**

As intercessors we appeal to God to restore His order in every situation or area that needs His attention. Our prayers are not to a far-away God, but to the One who is present and ready to act on the agreement of two or more saints. When one member suffers, we should feel it and want to do something about it together in prayer, whether that is decreeing and rebuking in authority or simply asking for our Father’s intervention. The Lord is said to have been *moved by compassion* several times in the New Testament. He still is. Are we? I believe having compassion is being sensitive to what someone is going through enough to want to do something about it. (Being *moved by compassion* is undoing the works of the devil for the right reasons.)

Every situation may not call for prayer for intervention. We may have the means already to meet the need. **“Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give to you.”** The recipient in this case walked and leaped and praised God! What do you have? Thanks to Jennifer and Savannah NUMA Church now has a food bank for members in need. Sometimes it may not seem that we have much, but remember how Jesus multiplied the loaves and the fish when it was given to feed others. Trust Him!

The other half of the verse being considered: **“if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.”** When God honors us with His presence, His loving attention and intervention, **we rejoice and gladly honor and praise Him** for His answers and faithfulness to His promises! **What a God we serve!**

NUMA Church has an online prayer group with many intercessors. Some cannot be present in person, but for those who can, may I just say, “You don’t know what you are missing.” Sometimes we don’t see it right away, but there are hidden gems in the prayer meetings. One of them, brought again by Cathy Foster, was another simple yet profound saying from her mother—a crumb from the Master’s table that came to my mind many times through the week, **“What matters to God matters to me.”** These are words of wisdom for every Christ-follower.

Intercession is just one of the things that matters to God. It will increase your joy and your confidence as you get to know your God and His unfailing love, in His presence (before His face) as He meets with you.

**How happy are the people who know the joyful shout!
They walk in the light of your presence, Adonai.
They rejoice in your name all day
and are lifted up by your righteousness,
for you yourself are the strength in which they glory.**

(From Psalm 89:15-17 The Complete Jewish Bible)