

## Do you feel called to Intercession?

Charismatic Renewal brings a distinctive type of prayer and worship and some in the Church view us with suspicion, but all are called to maturity to witness what we have received. St. Irenaeus tells us that the Glory of God is people fully alive in Christ. Renewal witnesses it's spirituality through raised hands (mentioned 100 times in Scripture), Praise and Worship, love of the Word of God and all this contributes to the power of Intercessory Prayer. We pray in the power of the Holy Spirit, we keep our eyes heart and mind on God, praying that His will be done.

The Christian Life is not about what we do for ourselves but a way of service for others. Christian prayer is a way of service, not self fulfilment; it is about God's glory and the needs of others. Intercessory Prayer is part of the entire Christian Life, not just for Renewal, but some seem called to it as specific ministry and calling.

Intercession is standing in the breach; Ez. 22; 30, "Who will stand in the gap?"

It is about being a watchman for God, getting to know the mind of God and watching for when it relates to what is happening in the world.

Intercessory Prayer is a living relationship, not merely saying words, it involves the whole person not just lips and thoughts, it is standing before God with people on my heart, and it is about praying inseparably from the way we live.

Intercession involves seeking to be where Christ is. It is Christ's ceaseless intercession that sustains us before the Father for our healing and transformation.

This prayer is not persuading God to get involved where he is not; it is participating in God's costly life-giving presence. It is not speaking or pleading or making requests. It is going to meet someone and to abide with Him where he abides, on behalf of others. Intercessory prayer is mainly prayer for others  
It is a holy believing and persevering prayer.

It is not just praying for needs, it is praying expectantly with hope and real intent that God will act. It is trusting that God will act even if the result is not that which we seek.

It is casting our weakness before God's strength and opening ourselves to receiving some of God's passion burning within us.

God honours our zeal.

Christ provides us with the gift of space, where reconciliation and a new way of belonging is possible. One of the meanings associated with the word 'save' is spaciousness. Intercession

accesses this space. As intercessors we are called to enter this space on behalf of others with full expectation that the Holy Spirit is there before us.

1 Peter 2; 5 tells us we are a Holy Priesthood, a royal priesthood 2; 9 and Rev. 1; 5 a kingdom of priests. Holiness is required to stand before the Lord. Heb. 12; 14. Royalty is delegated to us as Sons and Daughters in Jesus Christ, nothing of ourselves.

The example of this is in the Old Testament in the Levitical Priesthood. The priest's job was to stand before and between God, ministering in offerings and sacrifice. Heb. 7; 11-19 explains OT priesthood as passed on from one to another. In the New Testament the new order of priesthood of Melchizedek are spiritual priests of whom the High Priest is Christ. It is passed to us through Baptism.

Jesus is our model intercessor who stands between us and God as the mediator. 1 Tim 2; 5, Rom. 8; 34 and Heb. 7; 25.

No longer are blood sacrifices necessary, the blood of Jesus frees us to approach God our Father boldly without timidity. Heb. 4; 14-16.

To be able to stand between God and others in intercession first of all we must stand before God ourselves to develop the intimate relationship of prayer necessary to fulfil this ministerial role.

Moses was able to intercede for his people because he first of all stood before God and developed an intimate relationship and communication with Him. Num. 12; 8.

Dan. 9 gives us a model for intercessors.

v2 - Response to the Word

v3 - Fervency

v4 - Self denial

v5 - Unselfishly identifying with god's people

v6-15 - Strengthened by confession, dependent on God

v16-19 - Our goal is God's glory, not our own.

Rom. 8 tells us that we do not pray alone the Holy Spirit leads us in what to say. The intercessor is touched by those in need, They persevere in their task to bring life out of death, rain out of drought, restoration of full life to god's creation, allowing the kingdom to come a little more in our time.

Many Groups feel called to intercede for those who are ill, bereaved etc., for world situations etc. At a national meeting the late Fr. Peter Hocken said that we should be interceding for Parish, Church, Area, Clergy and all leadership finding God's mind at this time, praying for and supporting all in prayer that they too will put God's will into practice.

Hopefully this Ministry we are beginning will incorporate all of this.

Intercession is finding the mind of God in the World and for this world, for the Church, we need to be feeding in what we feel we hear the Lord saying to us, discerning it as a group and seeking to take action on it!

- What is the Spirit saying to the Church and today?
- Do you feel called to this Gift?
- Do you feel that you have this gift?
- Would you serve?
- Would you be prepared to meet with a group to pray together mainly about this but also about people's intercessions,
- Could you form a small group?
- Would you be part of a group?
- If you are housebound or know anyone housebound with this gift, would you or they be willing to pray about these things at home if communication was available to get issues to you and for you to feed back?

We are forming a Diocesan Intercessory Group who will correspond by email, highlighting areas of Prayer for Renewal and for Diocesan needs and initiatives, which we need to intercede for. If you would like to join this group please let me know.

Pat Kennedy by email [pat.kennedy@diocesahn.org.uk](mailto:pat.kennedy@diocesahn.org.uk)