

Responding to Christ's Intercession in His Heavenly Ministry

Christ in the heavens as our High Priest intercedes for us before God, the Spirit in our spirit joins us in our weakness to intercede for us according to God, and we need to respond to Christ's intercession by exercising our spirit to enter into His interceding life. On the one hand, the ascended **Christ as the Head** of the Body and the High Priest is in the heavens interceding for us before God; He undertakes our case, bears us on His shoulders of strength and breast of love before God, and always lives to intercede for us to be saved to the uttermost. On the other hand, **Christ as the Spirit** is in our spirit, and He joins in to help us in our weakness of not praying or being willing to pray; He joins in, comes along side in like manner as us, and intercedes for us according to God.

The ascended Christ prays in the heavens in the Holy of Holies before God, bringing us into God's presence and making **intercession** for us continually that we may be transformed, glorified, and made part of His glorious expression on earth. The Spirit within us joins us in our weaknesses and groans with us, giving us a deep burden to pray; we may not know what to pray for or even how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us according to God. The Spirit searches the hearts, and He knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the saints** according to God. The mind of the Spirit is slowly being infused into our mind to mingle with our mind until our mind is not just ours in an independent way but it becomes the mind of the Spirit, and the Spirit can pray in our prayer. There's a wonderful process of mingling taking place in our being; God's life is being mingled with our life, His nature is being mingled with our nature, and His mind is being mingled with our mind, until we fully match Him to become a corporate glorious God-man, the Body of Christ, expressing Him on earth. As we see that the ascended **Christ as our High Priest intercedes** for us before God, and the Spirit with our spirit intercedes for us according to God, we need to respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry. The Lord needs our response, our cooperation to His operation, so that He may have a free way to accomplish in us what is in His heart and mind.

Christ has done everything: He has accomplished redemption, He became a life-giving Spirit, and now He is our High Priest in the heavens and the Spirit in our spirit **interceding** for us that we may be transformed into His image, conformed to Christ, and glorified. On our side, we need to respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry, that is, we need to participate in Christ's interceding life and become on earth a reflection of Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry. What the Lord desires to gain is not super-spiritual Christians who are "giants in faith" and "prayer warriors" to fight the battle for God; He wants to **gain our response** as we see Christ interceding in the heavens and the Spirit interceding in our spirit.

He simply wants us, His Body, to be a reflection of what is happening in the heavens. We need to realize that, whatever the Lord intercedes for us in the heavens cannot happen or at least it is delayed in taking place unless we respond to Christ's intercession by the exercise of our spirit to pray and intercede. **We need to agree with the heavens**, saying Amen to **His prayers**, by the exercising our spirit to respond. We can't get to heaven to be with Christ physically in the Holy of Holies, but we can exercise our spirit to pray and intercede! It all hinges on the matter of the exercise of our spirit.

Every genuine prayer before God involves **four steps**: [Firstly], God has a need, a purpose. All genuine prayer begins with God, His need, and His purpose. [Secondly], He puts this need and purpose within us through the Holy Spirit, so that we would feel His need. [Thirdly], We respond to God's need by uttering this need through prayer back to God. This prayer is an echo of God's need which has been put in our spirit. [Fourthly], God does His work and accomplishes His purpose, since He has a man on earth who cooperates and agrees with Him.

It all **begins with God's will**, His purpose, which is imparted into our heart as we exercise our spirit and groan in the Spirit's groaning; then, we pray back to God the need and purpose He put in us, and God hears it and does it. When we seek the things which are above, we respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry and we reflect it. We will sense a current flowing back and forth between Him and us in our prayer; by means of this kind of prayer, the divine riches are being transfused into us.

The way to set our mind on the things above is by exercising our spirit to pray; when **we pray by setting our mind on the things above**, we will pray not for trivial things but for what Christ is interceding, for we respond to Christ's intercession in the heavens and are one with the Spirit's intercession in our spirit. Our responsibility is to simply seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33) by exercising our spirit to pray and intercede for God's need, and God will take care of all of our needs. When we pray and respond to Christ's intercession, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens, giving Him a way to carry out His administration through His Body...

Christ in His ascension is seeking to have a way in us and through us; in the heaven He has no hindrance, but on earth we limit Him very much. We, the Body of Christ, need to give Him, the Head of the Body, a way to carry out His administration through His Body through prayer. Prayer is not our declaration of we want to do or we can do for Him, but an echoing of **what God wants to do on earth**. He wants to open the scrolls of God's economy and pour judgment on earth, and we need to cooperate with Him in prayer.

Whenever God is about to do something important and strategic, **there has to be the prayers that open the way** and give Him the cooperation. Before Pentecost happened, the disciples prayed in one accord for ten days. Before the first gospel journey into Europe, there were some brothers in Antioch who prayed. We can't bypass prayer; Christ is doing His job of interceding for us, but there's a great need for our response, a kind of intercession that brings in His move on earth. In Acts 12, for example, when Peter was in prison, prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning Him (Acts 12:5). Satan stirred up the Gentile authorities and they put him in prison, but the church prayed for Peter, and the Lord released him. Behind the scene there was a battle of spiritual forces, a battle between God and His enemy, Satan (Acts 12:4-6).

Today in the Lord's ultimate move there's a battle raging; even as the world situation is changing, we need to respond to Christ's intercession and pray to give Him a way to do what He wants to do on earth. If we don't intercede one with Christ, entering into His interceding life by exercising our spirit to pray, we hinder the Lord in doing what He intends to do. **There's a lack of intercession among us in the church life**; we may pray a little here and there, say Amen to the Lord's speaking concerning His move to Europe, but who stands in the gap and intercedes for the Lord's ultimate move today? Where are those who pray and fight the battle with God against Satan, the evil one? Who are those in the Body of Christ who are one with the ascended Head to give Him a way to carry out His administration through His Body? Who realizes the urgent need to exercise our spirit to pray and intercede one with Christ in the heavens and with the Spirit in our spirit, so that God would carry out His economy? Who has a consciousness of God's need, His purpose to be carried out, and His economy, and therefore stands on earth in prayer one with Christ and in the Body for the Lord to do what He intends to do?

Lord Jesus, save us from hindering or delaying You from what You want to do by our not exercising our spirit to pray and intercede one with You. We want to give You a way through prayer to carry out Your administration on earth through Your Body. Gain in us the response You need to bring in and further Your move on earth. Oh Lord, we refuse to stay passive as we realize You're interceding in the heavens and in our spirit; we exercise our spirit, we are joined to our fellow members in the Body, and together we say Amen, do in us and among us what You want to do! Bring in Your kingdom! May Your kingdom come and Your will be done! (Ministry of the Word)