

Preface for Revival Break Through!

Catching Fire!

by James W. Goll

John Wesley was asked the question, "How do you gather a crowd?" He quickly responded, "I set myself on fire and people come to watch me burn!" Mercy! People always come to watch when a building or site has caught fire. Perhaps that is what we need to day - we did to Catch Fire!

This Study Guide - Revival Break Through - is about this very thing. More than better techniques or even better conferences - we need a good old fashion house fire! The desperately need Break Throughs in our personal, family, church, cities and nations! We need to catch the fire and burn with His zeal and presence.

What does fire do? Fire purifies, warms, empowers and enlightens. Fire will burn the impurities out of substances when the fire is hot enough. Fire will warm up the condition of something and even bring it to a boiling point. Fire is used as a power or energy source - remember the saying, "we fight fire with fire!" When a fire is burning brightly it also overcomes darkness and light enters the room!

What does spiritual fire do? The same thing as natural fire! It purifies sin out of us and brings a new level of cleansing to the heart and soul of man. Fire warms up a cold heart and makes it not for God again. The fire of God releases new zeal and power into the believer's life. Fire also releases the spirit of revelation and all of a sudden it is like the "lights just came on!" Let His fire come to each one of our hearts so that Break Throughs can come on both individual and corporate levels.

This Study Guide Revival Break Through! in the series Blueprints for Prayer, is divided into three sections. The first section is called The Call Released. Here we look at such subjects as Identificational Repentance, When God Listens to the Voice of Man and Crisis Intercession. In the second section of this teaching manual, the subject matter revolves around the theme of By The Spirit. Titles include Classic Characteristics of Revival, Possessed by God, Creating a Break Through, Gate Keepers of His Presence and other great lessons. I thoroughly love these lessons! The third and final section called Intervention Through Fasting, includes vintage material such as Practical Aspects of Fasting, Fasting Releases God's Presence and more.

I trust that these twelve lessons in this Guide will be used to instruct, inspire and train you in the ways of sacrificial prayer and fasting so that Break Throughs will result in lives of individuals as well as opened heavens over regions for Jesus Christ sake.

As with the other Study Guides, you can purchase a large tape album with all the accompanying cassette messages to enhance your learning in this area. You may visit our web site at www.ministrytothenations.org to purchase any of our study materials and the corresponding tape albums.

Blessings to you as you study to show your self approved a workman for God! May His great grace shine upon you and may faith rise up within you like it did in Peggy and Christina Smith for the Hebrides Island Revival in 1952 and young Evan Roberts of the Great Welsh Outpouring of 1904! Let's catch the fire and spread it! Okay?

For Jesus Sake,

Jim W. Goll

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Lesson One

The Intercessor: Models From Scripture

By Jim W. Goll

I. THE DEFINITION OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

A. Webster's Dictionary Definitions

1. Intercede - (Latin intercedo: *inter* - between; *ado* - to go; literally, to pass between) to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to plead in favor of another; to interpose, to mediate or make intercession.
2. Mediate - being between two extremes; to interpose between parties at variance with a view to reconciliation; to mediate a peace.
3. Mediation - "entreaty for another - intercession."

B. Hebrew Definition: ¹

The Hebrew word for intercession is *paga*, which is only translated a few times as intercession in the Old Testament. Yet, when you compare the many different pictures, words, and interpretations of the word *paga*, you glean many wonderful understandings of what it means to intercede. *Paga* - to meet, to light upon (by chance), to fall upon, attack, strike down, cut down, to strike the mark, laid upon.

1. To meet - Is. 64:5.
A meeting with God for the purpose of reconciliation.
2. To light upon - Gen. 28:10-17.
By God's working of grace, our divine "Helper" is standing by, ready to aid us in our intercession, moving us from the natural to the supernatural, from finite ability to infinite ability, taking hold of situations with us so as to accomplish the will of God.
3. To fall upon, attack, strike down, cut down - 1 Sam. 22:11-19;
2 Sam. 1:11-16.
Intercession is the readiness of a soldier to fall upon or attack the enemy at the command of his lord, striking and cutting him down!
4. To strike the mark - Job 36:32.
Intercession releases the flashing forth of His glory/lightening, directing it to the desired situation and allowing it to strike the mark.
5. Laid upon - Is. 53:12 (intercession); Is. 53:6 (laid upon). Intercession reached its fullest and most profound expression when our sins were "laid upon" Jesus. Jesus was able to fully identify with us, having the totality of our condition placed upon Himself; then as the scapegoat,

He carried it far away. There is an aspect of this form of intercession into which we, as His Body, can enter. Col. 1:24 calls us to *share on behalf of His Body, which is the Church, in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.*

II. THE CALL TO INTERCESSORY PRAYER

A. Intercession Held in High Regard

All great leaders of Israel and the Church held intercession as a high priority in their lives and ministries.

1. Abraham – Genesis 18:23-32
2. Moses – Exodus 32:7-14
3. Samuel – I Samuel 7:3-14, 12:23
4. David – II Samuel 24:17
5. Jesus – John 17, Luke 22:31-32
6. Early Believers – Acts 12:5, 12
7. Paul – Ephesians 3:14-21

B. The Error or Collapse – When No Intercession is Found

1. Lot –
There is no record of any intercession raised by Lot for Sodom or his family. The only example given is Abraham's intercession for Sodom and for Lot (Gen. 18:6-33).
2. Saul –
He failed to seek God's will or intercede before going to battle and this eventually resulted in failure (I Sam 13:9-14).
3. Jehoshaphat –
He failed to tear down the high places and turn the hearts of the people to God (II Chron. 20:33-37).

C. The Scriptures Frequently Give us a Direct Command to Intercede

1. Psalm 122:6
2. Matthew 9:37-38
3. Luke 18:1-8
4. I Thessalonians 5:17
5. James 5:16

III. CRUCIAL EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

A. **Abraham's Intercession for Lot**

This great example of tenacious intercession is recorded for us in Genesis 18:17-33. Here we find Abraham actually 'bartering' with God for the wicked city of Sodom to be spared. God remembered Abraham's intercession (Genesis 19:29).

B. **Moses' Intercession for Israel**

In Exodus 32:9-14 we find the amazing record of how Moses' prayer changed the mind of God (vs. 14) concerning the judgment due the children of Israel. Intercession released intervention. This is but one of the many such examples from the life of Moses.

C. **Daniel's Intercession for the Captives**

This inspiring account for us to follow is found in Daniel 9 and 10. The pattern of researching the promise and meeting the conditions necessary to unlock its fulfillment are laid out for us in full in Daniel's humble, contrite prayers and confession of corporate, generation sin.

D. **Ezra's Intercession for Reformation in Israel**

Ezra 9 is another piercing look at the horrifying failure of God's people to live up to God's standards and cleansing intervention that occurs as Ezra intercedes with desperation before the throne of God. True "reformation" is always born in the room of prayer.

E. **Jesus' Intercession for His Disciples and the Whole Church**

John 17 goes behind the scenes and unveils for us our Lord's prayer that we would have love for one another and that we would be kept from the current spirit of this world. Jesus prayed that we would be one with Him just as He and the Father are one as a demonstration of God's glory.

F. **The Apostles' Intercession for the Early Church**

The Book of Acts is full of tenacious examples of fervent intercession. Beginning with the upper room waiting on the Lord for the gift the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14), to rafter shaking intercession during times of persecution (Acts 4:23-31; 12:5-17). Both the early church leaders and their followers gave themselves to radical intercession.

G. **Paul's Intercession for the Church**

Accounts are numerous of how Paul, a bondservant of the Lord Jesus Christ, interceded for the maturity of the Church. His cry was for Jesus to receive the rewards of His suffering (Eph. 1:15-19; Phlp. 1:3-11; Col. 1:9-12) and the Father to be magnified through the "called out" ones.

IV. COMMON PATTERNS OF GODLY INTERCESSORS

A. Shared Characteristics

1. Loved and trusted God supremely
2. Have a deep heart response to the urgent need of the moment
3. Ready to give All – self sacrificing
4. Often demonstrate genuine personal and corporate repentance (identifies with the sins and needs of an entire generation, nation, or people group)
5. Exhibit thorough, contrite, humble prayer often including fasting
6. Would call others to the task of miraculous intervention by requesting:
 - a. Protection
 - b. provision
 - c. deliverance
 - d. transformation
7. Would have a determined, strong expectancy that God would answer their earnest plea.

B. Key Steps In Becoming An Effective Intercessor

1. Passionate pursuit of God Himself characterized through prayer with fasting.
2. Through heart felt repentance and total commitment to Jesus Christ, His Church and His purposes.
3. Carry a heart full of compassionate love for His people and His plans to be fulfilled in their generation.
4. Take time regularly for worship, praise and times of solitude in order to hear God's voice.
5. Actively read books and ask questions in order to learn from others.
6. Develop tools to help others cultivate a lifestyle of prayer and intercession
7. Love doing it! Are not just "hearers of the Word" but be "doers of the word".

¹ Dutch Sheets Intercessory Prayer-The lightening of God Dallas 1986