

Intercessory Prayer

Exodus 17:8-13

Introduction: Intercessory prayer is critical because we face many battles in life. On the surface, these battles seem merely physical, but we know from that Scriptures that spiritual battles often rage behind the scenes. If we are going to win the battles of life, we need people who will intercede for us, praying on our behalf. This morning, we look at a story about intercessory prayer from the Old Testament and then follow Paul's pattern in the New.

1. *A STORY* – Shortly after Israel crossed the Red Sea they face a terrible battle. *Exodus 17:8-13*

- A. Story: Crossing through the Red Sea symbolizes redemption; now they learn to walk with God.
 - 1. The Amalekites engage them in battle, but the people of Israel are untested and untrained.
 - 2. Moses and Joshua are going to partner in leadership: one will fight...the other pray.
 - 3. Moses ascends the hill with his staff; Aaron and Hur are with him.
 - 4. This staff has an important symbolism.
 - 5. As long as Moses raised his hands in the prayer position Israel surged forward.
 - 6. When he got tired Israel shrank back to defeat.
 - 7. Aaron and Hur work with Moses (in community) to lift his hands.
- B. Significance for us
 - 1. From the moment we come to Christ, we will face battles.
 - 2. We must have people watching over us willing to fight in prayer.
 - 3. Intercessory prayer is fueled by community. Note: three were "praying".
 - 4. Our community comes from two main sources.
 - 5. The outcome of the battle belonged to the Lord.
- C. Significance in relationship with God: Notice that intercessory prayer is so important that Jesus and the Holy Spirit intercede on your behalf.

2. *A PATTERN* – Paul's four intercessory prayers in the New Testament form a pattern for our prayers. *Luke 18:1-8; 1 John 2:2*

- A. *Exalted position* – Pray that your friends might comprehend their position in Christ. Eph. 1:17-19a
- B. *Incomprehensible love* – Pray that your friends might experience the love of God. Eph. 3:16-19
- C. *Wise decisions* – Pray that your friends might make good choices. Phil. 1:9-11
- D. *Worthy walk* – Pray that your friends might please Jesus with their lifestyles. Col. 1:9b-12
- E. *Putting it together* – How this works in practice.

3. *APPLICATION*

- A. A chance to practice intercessory prayer. Pass out prayer guides.
- B. Stories about intercessory prayer.