

*Intercessory Prayer – Week One*

# ***How God Prepares People to Become Intercessors***

*Genesis 18:1-33*

**Main Idea:** After God reveals to Abraham that he will destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham intercedes for his nephew Lot who is living in the city. In this chapter we discover how God prepares people to engage in the ministry of intercessory prayer. **Definition** – An intercessor is someone who intercedes. To intercede means to pray to the Lord on behalf of someone else in need.

## **1. Intercessors delight in personal fellowship with God. *Genesis 18:1-8***

- A. The setting – Abraham is prepared for fellowship. 18:1a
  - 1. He is sitting in his tent during the heat of the day. 18:1b (*cf. Gen. 18:1 with 19:1 & Psa. 1:1*)
  - 2. Three men suddenly appear before him; one is the Lord. 18:1a, 2
  - 3. The Lord delights in manifesting his unexpected presence. (*See John 3:8.*)
- B. The activity – Abraham worships. 18:2b-5a; 6-8
  - 1. His worship is immediate: Abraham runs. 18:2b
  - 2. His worship is humble: He bows low, acknowledging a servant master relationship. 18:3
  - 3. His worship is practical: He offers to wash their feet. 18:4
  - 4. His worship is lavish: He offers a royal feast. 18:5a-6-8
- C. The response – God stays. 18:5b
  - 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> step in becoming an intercessor is to delight in fellowship with God.
  - 2. After you've enjoyed God, you will feel burdened over the needs of others.

## **2. Intercessors stand firm in God's promises even when others waver. *Genesis 18:9-15***

- A. God makes a promise. 18:9-12
  - 1. He inquires about Sarah's location. 18:9
  - 2. He promises a son within the year. 18:10a
  - 3. Sarah laughs in disbelief because the promise is humanly impossible. 18:10b-12
- B. God challenges Abraham to believe the promise. 18:13-15
  - 1. God primarily addresses Abraham not Sarah.
  - 2. God declares nothing is too difficult for him and proves it by reading her mind. 18:13,15
- C. God calls us to embrace his promises even when family or friends waver.
  - 1. Understand the difference between a partner-regulated and self-regulated spiritual life.
  - 2. Having a self-regulated relationship with God is *not* inconsistent with community.
  - 3. Those with a self-regulated spiritual life can be more powerful prayer warriors.

## **3. Intercessors urgently plead with God on behalf of others. *Genesis 18:16-33***

- A. God speaks. 18:16-20
  - 1. He reasons that he should tell Abraham his plans for Sodom. 18:16-19
  - 2. He informs Abraham about impending judgment. 18:20-21
- B. Abraham intercedes. 18:22-33
  - 1. He drew near. 18:22-23a (*See Heb. 4:16.*)
  - 2. He appeals to God on the basis of his character. 18:23b, 25
  - 3. In six phases, Abraham wrestles with God on behalf of Lot. 18:24-33
- C. Our response.
  - 1. Intercessory prayer recognizes there is a spiritual battle. Exo. 17:8-13; Rom. 8:34
  - 2. Intercessory prayer begins with our families.
  - 3. Intercessory prayer continues with those we hope will come to Christ. 2 Cor. 4:4
  - 4. Intercessory prayer culminates in prayer for nations and leaders. 1 Tim. 2:1ff

