

# CHIEF MINISTRIES

October 2022

As we continue on in the study of prayer, this month the focus will be on lamenting prayer. So, what is “lamenting prayer”? According to Webster dictionary, to lament means to feel or express sorrow for, to bewail, to grieve (for), wail (for), mourn. “To express sorrow, mourning, or regret for, often demonstratively, to mourn, to regret strongly,” and “a crying out in grief, a wailing, dirge, elegy, complaint.” It could also be said that one who laments is passionately expressing grief or sorrow.

In the Strong’s Concordance, there are numerous Hebrew words that have similar meanings for the word lament, which is to bewail, as well as in the Greek language.

Easton's Bible Dictionary defines lamentation as "an elegy or dirge (meaning a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead). The first example of this form of poetry is the lament of David over Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1:17-27). It was a frequent accompaniment of mourning (Amos 8:10). In 2 Samuel 3:33-34 is recorded David's lament over Abner. Prophecy sometimes took the form of a lament when it predicted calamity or catastrophe." Here are a few Bible verses about lamenting:

- *And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground (Isaiah 3:26).*
- *For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the Lord is not turned back from us (Jeremiah 4:8).*
- *And in their wailing they shall take up a lamentation for thee, and lament over thee, saying, What city is like Tyrus, like the destroyed in the midst of the sea? (Ezekiel 27:32).*
- *In that day shall one take up a parable against you, and lament with a doleful lamentation, and say, We be utterly spoiled: he hath changed the portion of my people: how hath he removed it from me! turning away he hath divided our fields (Micah 2:4).*
- *And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning (Revelation 18:9).*

So, what does it mean to lament? Have you ever felt such deep sorrow at some point in your life, that you cry out in anguish? In biblical times that also meant beating yourself on the chest, covering your heads in ashes, and clothing yourselves in sackcloth. Has your lamenting been based upon a deep regret of personal past sins, wrongdoings, or transgressions?

- *Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy (John 16:20).*
- *Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth (Joel 1:8).*

I have felt the Holy Spirit move on me as I have knelt to pray at the altar, and yes some of those times I would cry out in anguish either for myself or for others. Unfortunately, it seems people have become too dignified for that. It is not proper to allow such emotions to overwhelm them in public, what a spectacle one would make of themselves to act in such a way. After all, not all churches allow that type of demonstrative prayer (many churches don't allow God to move). (That is for another study).

So, we see throughout the Bible that the people of God lamented, over the death of a loved one, the loss of their city, the demoralization of their country/culture, or the loss of their possessions. Lamenting implies that the person praying is the one in distress, questioning events, expressing anger or frustration, and seeking understanding, justice, or restoration in a situation. And their prayers are directed to God for His intervention. Lamenting prayers are usually personal or affect the person in some way. This is important to remember because Intercession, the other form of prayer I want to cover is about praying for others.

Definition: Webster defines Prayer as “the act of asking for a favor with earnestness” He defines Intercession as “pleading in favor of another”

Intercession is derived from the latin word *inter*, meaning “between”, and *cedere*, meaning “to go”, so intercession means “to go between”.

Although many use these terms interchangeably prayer and intercession are technically very different. Prayer generally means speaking, to request, to talk, to commune, to fellowship, to offer petition and supplication.

Intercession on the other hand means “coming to God on behalf of another” Intercession involves the whole spirit, soul and body. When the Father gives us intercessory burdens, each of these areas in our lives will be affected.

In the Old Testament the word intercessor means Mediator one who intercedes, one who pleads on behalf of others. Moses did this for the children of Israel. *And I sought for a man among them, that should build up the wall, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none (Ezekiel 22:30 ASV)*. See Daniel 9:1-27 where he interceded for his people, also with fasting and prayer.

In the New Testament the word translated intercession, means to meet with, come between, intercede. Every time the word is used referring to intercession that is done under the new covenant, it is referring to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. In Colossians 1:3,9,29 Paul wrote; *“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,”* <sup>v9</sup> *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,* <sup>v29</sup> *For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (ESV)*.

The person praying may or may not even know the person of the situation they are being prompted, usually by the Holy Spirit to pray for. Intercession is not just a bless my brother or sister type of prayer, intercession is similar in passion and demonstrative manifestation as lamenting prayer. The difference is the focus, intercession is always for others! Their salvation, their relationship with the Lord, their health, their safety, even revival. It is seeking the heart of God and bombarding the heavens to bring it to fruition on earth. Intercession is a type of warfare prayer that can be loud and ugly. It is frequently associated with travailing, birthing, breakthrough, and deliverance. It can be for a person, a group, a city, a leadership/authority, a country, and it is always intense. It is standing in-between the situation and earnestly seeking God’s heart and intervention in that situation. Many times, it is a bad, even deadly situation, or it could be for revival, which if not birthed into existence leads to death, souls! Many times, intercession comes with periods of fasting and can be days long. Again, this is not a bless my brother type of prayer, it is a calling and a commitment. We are all called to pray for others, bless my brother kind of prayer, but being called as an intercessor is not for the faint at heart. If you are an intercessor, you will know it, even the small things you see or hear will grieve you and your spirit will cry out to God for those to change, why?, because it is His heart, an intercessor joins with God and prays His heart. He cares how you live; He cares about your character. TV shows, secular music, soap operas, violence movies, smut talk, God is not pleased with that. We are commanded as believers not to have idle talk and although we are in this world, we are NOT to be part of the world. The Lord should be first in our lives, and He should be Lord over every part of our lives. As an intercessor you will be more concerned about your brother that doesn’t know the Lord than what is on TV. Intercessors pray things into existence, because they pray God’s will, His heart. Fortunately, we are not alone, because Jesus is our great intercessor, He is always making intercession for you and I. Jesus's priestly office consists of these two parts, 1) the offering up of Himself as a sacrifice, and 2) making continual intercession for us.

When on earth He made intercession for His people (Luke 23:34; John 17:20; Heb. 5:7); but now He exercises this function of His priesthood in heaven, where He is said to appear in the presence of God for us (on our behalf) (Heb. 9:12,24). His advocacy with the Father for His people rests on the basis of His own all-perfect sacrifice. Therefore, He pleads for and obtains the fulfilment of all the promises of the everlasting covenant (1 John 2:1; John 17:24; Heb. 7:25). He can be "touched with the feeling of our infirmities," and is both a merciful and a faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:15, 16). This intercession is an essential part of His mediatorial work. Through Him we have "access" to the Father (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18; 3:12). "The communion of His people with the Father will forever be sustained through Him as mediatorial Priest" (Ps. 110:4; Rev. 7:17).

Because intercession is for others, many times we may not even know who we are interceding for, in those cases, if you have a prayer language, then pray in that until a release comes. I’ll leave you with a story from a previous church I belonged to about an intercessor who was woken up to pray:

“At 2am, I was awakened with a start. The indicators were familiar: I felt a sense of danger and agitation. Deep within I began to pray, *God, what is wrong? Is someone in trouble?* Almost instantly I saw a mental picture or vision of good friends, Dave and Cheryl. They were driving their van from the Dallas area where they lived to our meeting with their three children curled up asleep in the back. All of the sudden, in the vision, the van’s right front wheel rolled off, and the van careened wildly into a horrible accident.

I knew immediately that they were in serious danger and that God wanted me to pray that the wheel bearings would hold until we could see them and warn them. Dave was doing a mighty work for God with his book *America: To Pray or Not To Pray?* And he was coming under spiritual attack. The hours dragged on as I cried out to God to keep that wheel in place and protect them. All through the night I sensed a tremendous battle taking place in the heavenlies.

The next day I hounded the registration desk until finally a call came into the room. They had arrived, I ran to their room and pounced on them, “Are you all right? Has anything happened to the van? Between hugs they said that everything was just fine. After I told them about my night of prayer, Cheryl mentioned that she had heard a funny sound in the van the night before but Dave had not noticed it. I urged them strongly to check the right front wheel bearings. Dave and Cheryl knew me well enough to know that I would not say this lightly: so before Dave took the van on the road again, he and Mike drove it to the garage.

When they finally returned to the hotel they were grinning from ear to ear. Mike had a little bag in his hand. “The trophies of intercession” he said. It held the bearings from the right front wheel.

As we heard their story we marveled at God’s mercy and care for that family. The mechanic took off the left wheel bearings first and exclaimed, “I don’t see how you could have driven this without having it seize up on you.” After checking the right wheel, he was really amazed: “This one is worse than the other!” He said that there was no way they should have been able to drive without having the wheels come off. He went on to explain that the spindle, which should have been totally ruined, was not damaged.

Dave grinned and told us, “We couldn’t let this opportunity to share about the Lord pass by, and so I said, Do you know why we came in to have our wheels checked? For the next half hour, the men witnessed to an astonished mechanic, and I thanked God in my heart for waking me up to pray.”

Terry (Harvest Church)

In closing, we are all called to pray, so let’s do what we are called to do, and for the intercessors out there, you have a responsibility to step out and “stand in the gap” for those who can’t or don’t know how. It is a battlefield, so put on your full armor...

## ***Ms. Chief (aka Ms.G)***

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***Christ’s                      Heart                      In                      Every                      Felon***