

1 Timothy 2:1

“I exhort therefore...that supplications, prayers and intercessions be made for all men.”

You & I can also make intercessory prayers; when you pray on behalf of someone else you are making an intercessory prayer. God, in His amazing grace, has given us the authority as His sons & daughters to pray for others. In James 5 it says that the prayer of a righteous man has much power – and who is more righteous than the Lord Jesus? The most powerful intercessor and the one who is interceding for us at this current moment walked this earth and is now in the position of being our High Priest, living to intercede for us before God. While we are left here we should be “combating earnestly in prayer.” This obviously doesn’t mean a quick prayer made out of a feeling of obligation to do so, but praying with a passion for whatever you are speaking to God about. Whether it be for other people who are struggling with their faith, help for yourself in school or work, if you pray in an empty way to tick a box it’s not going to have much power is it?

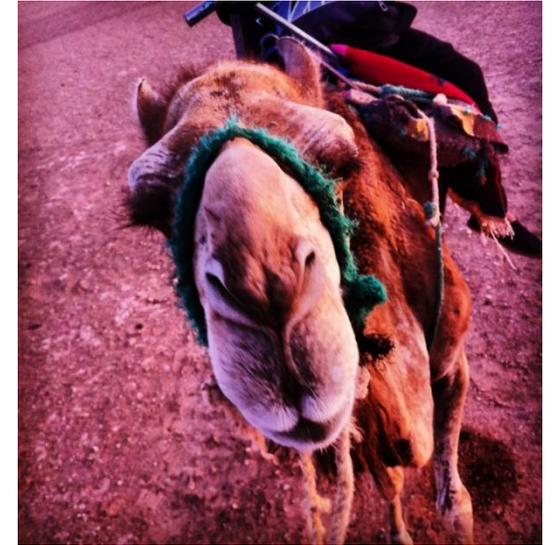
In the scripture quoted above Paul is urging Timothy to intercede in prayer for others. This isn’t a casual thing, if you are making a prayer of intercession it has to be with real conviction and feeling, it’s not a half-hearted matter. I believe that people who make intercessory prayers see the truth and beauty of Romans 8:18 in knowing that – “the sufferings of this present time are not worthy [to be compared] with the coming glory to be revealed to us”

Pray in the Battles
By M.S Lowndes

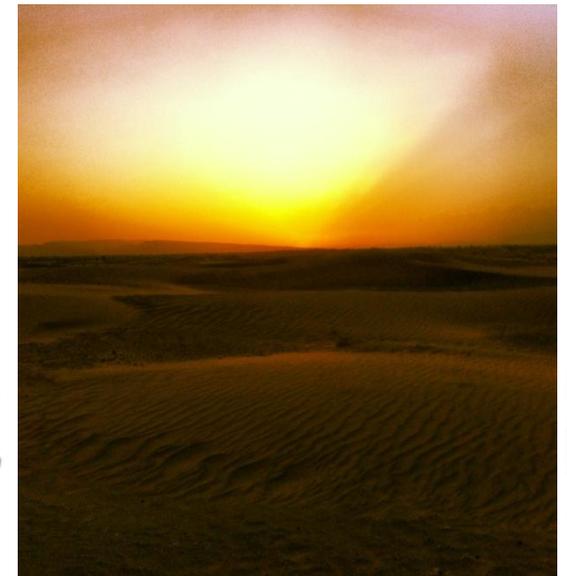
It’s so important to commit each day
Into the care of the Lord,
So we can walk more victoriously
Than how we had walked before

The enemy tries to get a foothold
In every little way he can,
We must be aware of his evil tactics
And refuse to give in to his plans.

For we have Christ Jesus in our lives
And the power to overcome
As we keep praying and standing firm,
All our battles will be won



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Quite often in church services you hear people speaking or praying about “Christ who lives to intercede” or “In Christ’s intercessory service...”

But what does it actually mean? Christ interceding for us?

Hebrews 7:25 says “...**he is able to save completely those who approach by him to God, always living to intercede for them**”

So it’s something Jesus is always doing, and that is standing in the presence of God continually praying for us – “*always living to intercede*”

Another reference to Christ Jesus interceding is in Romans 8:34 – “**Christ...who also intercedes for us**”

The word “intercede” in relation to what Christ is doing for us is more specific than simply being someone’s representative before someone else – it’s Jesus bringing specific requests and petitions before God on our behalf.

Jesus would always pray for us in accordance to the Father’s will, therefore we can know that his requests will be answered.

Reformed systematic theologian Louis Berkhof says, “It is a consoling thought that Christ is

praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that he is presenting to the Father those Spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we were negligent to include in our prayers; and that he prays for protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious...He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victorious in the end.”

So knowing that Christ is always interceding for us should be a massive encouragement and should spur us on to doing our utmost to “**Persevere in prayer**” as Colossians 4:2 says. There is another verse that talks about being continually in prayer, we should follow the example of the Lord Jesus living to intercede for us in being as prayerful as and as thankful as we can be for His intercessory service that He is continually carrying out for us before God.

A friend recently said to me – “who knows what he has stopped in the world & protected us from!”

Another amazing thing about the way the Lord Jesus intercedes for us is that he is doing it sympathetically, knowing our struggles, temptations & weaknesses as he has also been on this earth and gone through them himself. In Hebrews 4:14-15 it talks a little about when Jesus was on this earth and it states that “**in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.**”

He is not praying to God with a judgment of our actions or of how we deal with things, he is praying to God knowing how we feel and how we battle against different things, so that we might learn to rely on the Spirit to keep us living for God.

Barnabi Section

Psalm 91:9-16

NIV

“If you make the most high your dwelling place – even the Lord who is my refuge – then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands so you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. “because he loves me,” says the Lord “I will rescue him; I will protect him because he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.””

Richard Merson, age 18

-This helped me when I was going through a tough part of my life, exam results were awful, I still had no job and felt nowhere near God. I prayed with such intent that God sent me to these verses. God will never leave you or forsake you if you make God your refuge and the Most High your dwelling place. Don’t get overcome by worldly things for they will never satisfy you, if you keep God as number one he will bless you more than you can imagine.