

Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

*“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;
for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.
For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh,
but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.”*
Galatians 6:7-8

Why Pursue Virtue?

Because the pursuit of and commitment to being virtuous...

- ◆ Cultivates humility. *“A curse without cause cannot land.”* Humility is the great inoculation against demonic attack.
- ◆ Removes the plank from our own eye, as Jesus admonishes.
- ◆ Delivers us from hubris, religious and spiritual arrogance, superiority and bigotry.
- ◆ Is what God has called us to be as His sons and daughters.
- ◆ Removes legal access to us that the adversary exploits.
- ◆ Enables us to fulfill our God destiny, possessing the virtues of the Apostle.
- ◆ Strengthens us, grows us and brings us to deeper spiritual maturity. Able to serve others from a deeper capacity.
- ◆ Makes us living examples, Christ-like, ambassadors of God.
- ◆ Serves as inspiration and an invitation to others to experience the Love of Jesus Christ. *“If I have not love, I am but a clanging symbol.”* Corinthians 13:1
- ◆ Perfects love. *“Be ye perfect as Your Father in Heaven is perfect.”* Matthew 5:48
This is speaking to the perfection of love, which can only come from removing our flaws and replacing them with virtues.

READ: Matthew 5: The Sermon on the Mount & The Beatitudes

Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

Coming Before Lord God Adonai

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before You today that You may bear witness to my commitment to be more virtuous, to cultivate godly virtues which You have exhorted through your Prophets, to live a virtuous life and be a man/woman of virtuous character; that I may truly walk as a “child of Light” and be a worthy ambassador of Christ Jesus in this world.

Lord God, I pursue virtue to remove my own leaven, so that I may become a partaker of the divine nature, to escape the corruption that is in this world on account of lust. And so I apply all diligence, in my faith I supply moral excellence, and in my moral excellence, knowledge, and in my knowledge, self-control, and in my self-control, perseverance, and in my perseverance, godliness, and in my godliness, brotherly kindness, and in my brotherly kindness, love; according to 2 Peter 1:4-7.

Charity: Love of God & Love of Neighbor in Action

- ◆ Dear Abba Father God, your living Word, Jesus Christ, taught us in Matthew 22:36-40 that love of God and love of neighbor are the supreme laws: *“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”*
- ◆ Father God, I repent on behalf of myself and the Body of Christ for forgetting this as the supreme purpose and calling of our Faith. Father God, I want to know your heart, I want to live as your heart here on earth. In that way, I can know and experience your love for people here on earth. I can give and share YOUR love. Only by understanding and experiencing your heart, and therefore your love, can I possibly love others as You and as Christ Jesus Yeshua love them. Make of us one heart Father God.

Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

- ◆ Lord God, Isaiah 54:10 expresses another way to understand your version of love, as lovingkindness, *chesed*, which is a mercy compassion in action: *“For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you.”* Father God, I understand that this love is YOUR version and virtues of love: steadfast, unfailing, loyal, devoted.
- ◆ Father God, I take hold of 1 Corinthians 13:13, *“And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (agape).”* The Greek *agapen* is love OF God, loving the way that God loves. This is the kind of love that Jesus exhorted His disciples to possess. I now understand that why the King James bible translated it to “charity” is because this is not an emotion but rather love in action as charity, compassion, mercy, lovingkindness and good deeds. I commit to cultivating this love-in-action charity love and will seek out ways to extend it to others.
- ◆ Lord God, crown me with lovingkindness and tender mercy, according to Psalm 103:4, that I may be these virtues of love to others, and exemplify the highest character as a son/daughter of God Most High.

Giving

- ◆ Heavenly Father, I see that a giving heart is an extension of possessing the virtue of lovingkindness, the love of God for others. For Psalm 112:5-9 affirms: *“It is well with the man who is gracious and lends; he will maintain his cause in judgment. For he will never be shaken; the righteous will be remembered forever. He will not fear evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.”*
- ◆ Lord God, Proverbs 19:17 confirms Lord Jesus’ teaching that *“as you do to the least of my brethren, that you do unto Me”*: *“One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.”* I commit to opening my heart to be more giving, in whatever ways You call me to be — giving of my time, lending an ear to hear someone’s burden, giving of my gifts, money, caring.

Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

- ◆ Dear Father God, now I see how Isaiah 58:7 was a precursor for Jesus' teaching on giving: *"Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into the house; when you see the naked, to cover him; and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?"* For Matthew 25:35 continues: *"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in."*
- ◆ Lord God, I repent for all the times and ways I missed the opportunity to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, give my time to comfort the down-trodden and evangelize to them. God, forgive me. I commit to keeping my eyes and heart open to discern and seize the opportunities to minister to others; thereby also ministering to Lord Jesus Christ.

Making Amends ~ Penance

- ◆ Dear Father God, I now understand that just repenting without making or offering amends is insufficient. Luke 19:8 demonstrates repentance-in-action: *"Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."* Lord God, if there is anyone to whom I owe a debt of any kind, please convict me, reveal to me so that I may make amends. Reveal to me if it is in the form of prayer penance — praying for others, fasting or other ways of giving.
- ◆ Lord God, Your own Word in Numbers 5:6-8 describes the formula for making amends: *"When a man or woman commits any of the sins of mankind, acting unfaithfully against the Lord, and that person is guilty, then he shall confess his sin which he has committed, and he shall make reparations in full for his wrong and add to it a fifth of it, and give it to him whom he has wronged. But if the person has no redeemer to whom reparations may be made for the wrong, the reparations which is made for the wrong must go to the Lord for the priest."* Father God, I commit to this formula for reparations as You guide me to do so, ways to make amends for

Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

wrongs or ways that I fell short. I commit to this on behalf of my country, my family and others that are under my domains of authority and responsibility.

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*“And if anyone loves righteousness her labors are virtues:  
for she teaches temperance (self-control) and prudence,  
justice and fortitude (courage):  
nothing in life is more profitable for mortals than these.”*

Wisdom of Solomon 8:7

### ***Prudence - The wisdom and discretion to discern correctly***

- ◆ Heavenly Father, I strive to possess greater prudence and ask for your help in doing so. I repent for all the times and ways I did not possess and act on correct discernment and discipline; when I did not discern your voice, the Holy Spirit, whispering right actions into my ear or directly through another person. I repent for listening to talking heads rather than seeking your voice in the stillness, so as to cultivate true and accurate discernment and wisdom. For surely Proverbs 8:12 states: *“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence.”*
- ◆ Father God, I commit to cultivating the virtue of prudence by developing greater self-control and moderation in all things; for Proverbs 14:15 states, *“The simple believe anything, but the prudent give thought to their steps.”* I understand that *“giving thought to my steps”* means taking the time to check in with You first before I act, before I make decisions, be they personal or business. I repent for all the times and ways I acted rashly, did not seek your will, and barged ahead to my own detriment and the detriment of others. Please forgive me.
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to prayerfully and carefully seeking your wisdom, your will and your heart in every situation in my life; for Proverbs 13:16 notes that *“all who are prudent act with knowledge, but fools expose their folly.”*

## Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2

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### **Justice**

- ◆ Heavenly Father, God of Justice (Isaiah 30:18), I understand that the virtue of justice is multi-fold: seeking justice for myself or others, being an instrument for bringing justice on behalf of others, being an ambassador for your justice. So many of your prophets admonished us to seek justice for those who are oppressed or down-trodden; that in seeking justice we are displaying compassion and lovingkindness, and being an instrument of your mercy and love.
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to the instructions of Isaiah 1:17 and will *learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.* I repent Lord God, for the times I did not take the time and care to plead and stand up for others, when I took the easy and cowardly way out. I ask You to bring me a means to make up for those mistakes and missed opportunities to help those in need by seeking justice for them.
- ◆ Father God, Micah 6:8 convicts me of the importance of possessing the virtue of justice: *“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”*
- ◆ Dear Father God, I see from Proverbs 21:15 how the virtue of justice strengthens my capacity and effectiveness as an intercessor: *“When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.”* Truly, justice counters evil and nullifies its intentions.
- ◆ Lord God, your Word in Isaiah 61:18 comforts me and fortifies me to contend for justice: *“For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.”* Dear Father God, I humbly ask that your Holy Spirit fill me with greater strength, fearlessness and power of God to contend for justice; for justice is part of the fabric of your Heart and therefore a part of my own heart.
- ◆ For indeed Lord God, Proverbs 21:3 affirms the value and importance of the virtue of justice: *“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.”*

## **Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2**

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- ◆ Father God, I repent on behalf of myself and your Body of Christ for all the times and ways we have not been an adequate and acceptable ambassador of your justice, as You have called us to be. I repent for how we have not lived up to the redemption privileges and salvation blessings You have bestowed upon us in this regard. I repent for the ways we have been a repeat of Zechariah 7:11-12: *“They refused to pay attention, and turned a stubborn shoulder and plugged their ears from hearing. They also made their hearts as hard as a diamond so that they could not hear the Law and the words which the Lord of armies had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets.”* God forgive us. Bring us the conviction and opportunities to make amends and stand for the down-trodden and the persecuted.
- ◆ I pray that your Body of Christ will collectively take hold of your exhortation in Zechariah 7:9 to *“Dispense true justice and practice kindness and compassion each to his brother; and do not oppress the widow or the orphan, the stranger or the poor; and do not devise evil in your hearts against one another.”*

### **Temperance**

- ◆ Heavenly Father, I learn from Proverbs 25:28 that self-control is imperative to being an effective intercessor, as it repels demonic attack: *“Like a city that is broken into and without walls, so is a person who has no self-control over his spirit.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I commit to self-discipline as part of being a warrior in your army; for 1 Corinthians 9:27 verifies: *“I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.”*
- ◆ Lord God, I take hold of 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 to re-commit to temperance, moderation in all things: *“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”* I understand Lord God, that lack of self-discipline and self-control creates openings for demonic attack and control, and therefore weakens my capacity as an intercessor.



**Pursue Virtue  
as the  
Key to True Intercession  
Part 2**

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- ◆ Father God, I ask for your help in the gifts of the spirit which includes temperance, self-control, according to Galatians, which confirms in 5:24 that *“those who belong to Christ Jesus crucify the flesh with its passions and desires.”* Help me Lord God, to crucify the flesh, to only take into my body what is your will and best for me.
- ◆ Lord God, I understand from your word in Galatians 5:19-21 that temperance is not only bodily, but temperance of emotions and responses to life: *“When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.”* Heavenly Father, I sincerely want to inherit Your Kingdom. I repent for these weaknesses and flaws and ask for your help in overcoming them for good, and replacing them with these virtues.
- ◆ Indeed, I take hold of Romans 8:26-27 and ask for the Holy Spirit to help me to anchor in the virtue of temperance: *“Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*

***Fortitude: Enduring Trials with Patience and Dignity***

- ◆ Dear Heavenly Father, I recognize that fortitude is both a cultivated virtue and a gift of the Holy Spirit. I ask for your help and grace in possessing fortitude in both of these ways; as I commit to cultivating fortitude by noble deeds and actions. I repent for all the times and ways that I and the Body of Christ were weak, cowardly, apathetic, prejudiced, insensitive, selfish, lazy and uncaring, and so did not display fortitude in situations where we should have. We let You down Lord God and I am truly sorry for that. Please forgive me, forgive us.



## **Pursue Virtue as the Key to True Intercession Part 2**

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- ◆ Father God, I commit to the expression of fortitude that is endurance, as Apostle Paul describes in Romans 5:4, that *endurance cultivates proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]*.
- ◆ Lord God, I now realize that to be a true apostle worthy to be called your son/daughter, I must cultivate fortitude, because we are in a battle against evil on this earth. Indeed 2 Corinthians 12:12 confirms this: *“The signs that characterize the true Apostle have been done among you, accompanied by unwearied fortitude, and by tokens and marvels and displays of power.”* I commit to *“unwearied fortitude”* and understand that fortitude can be developed more deeply as a virtue, and I commit to do so now.
- ◆ Father God, I take hold of 1 Timothy 6:11 and proclaim: I shall *flee from these (detrimental) things; and strive for uprightness, godliness, good faith, love, fortitude, and a forgiving temper.*

### **Sealing Prayer:**

*“Brothers and sisters, even if a person is caught in any wrongdoing,  
you who are spiritual are to restore such a person in a spirit of gentleness;  
each one looking to yourself, so that you are not tempted as well.  
Bear one another’s burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.  
For if anyone thinks that he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.  
But each one must examine his own work, and then he will have reason for boasting,  
but to himself alone, and not to another.  
Do not be deceived, God is not mocked;  
for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap.  
For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh,  
but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.*

Galatians 6:1-4 & 7-8

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