

# The Art of Intercession

Handbook on How To Intercede

# Acknowledgment

Reverend Wilford H. Reidt of Kennewick, Washington, is an outstanding Bible teacher. Wilford's wife, Gertrude, is the daughter of John G. Lake, well-known apostle of faith in the early days of this century. Both Wilford and Gertrude are long-time intercessors, greatly used by God in this special ministry.

Wilford's teachings on the subject reveal a depth of knowledge only a real intercessor of some years' standing could teach. I was so impressed with his study outline and comments on the subject of intercession that I asked his permission to use it in this book to the glory of God. For we believe that God will use this book to raise up and train a great group of intercessors who will be at the forefront of the work of the Lord in these last days. Brother Reidt gave us permission and his remarks are set out in recognizable type.

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By Kenneth E. Hagin

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in this volume are from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Scripture quotations identified as *Amplified* are from *The Amplified Bible*.

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# *Chapter 1*

## *Why Pray?*

Years ago I read a statement John Wesley made and it stayed with me. Wesley said, *"It seems God is limited by our prayer life—that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him."*

A while later, in 1949, I was reading after another writer who made that same statement. But this fellow added, *"Why this is, I do not know."*

"Why doesn't he know?" I asked. Then I found out I didn't know either.

Yet if Wesley's statement is correct—and it seems to be as you read through the Bible—then we who are to pray should know more about it.

I began to examine the Bible to find out why, if God wants to do something for humanity, He cannot unless somebody asks Him. I found the answer through study of God's Word.

You see, though some people have built up "spiritual air castles" that God is running everything in this world, He is not.

During the Vietnam War a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist began one column by stating that he was not a Christian. He said that he was not an atheist because the atheist says there is no God.

"I suppose you would classify me an agnostic," he wrote. "The agnostic says there may be a God, but if there is, I don't know it. Actually, I am prone to believe there is a Supreme Being. I do not believe that everything here just happened. I believe there is a Creator somewhere.

"But I have never read the Bible. I do not attend church. One reason I don't is that what the Christians say

about God doesn't agree with what I think a Creator should be, nor with what I can see of Him in nature.

"Even ministers say, 'God has everything under control. He's running everything.'

"Well, if He is, He sure has things in a mess. People are killing each other. Little children are dying. Little children are hungry. Women are suffering. There are wars everywhere.

"If God has everything under control, do you mean God is running those wars?"

Even an unregenerate columnist knew that wasn't right.

God is not ruling in this world. He is not ruling on the earth.

Thank God, He will one day!

But right now His will is not being carried out on the earth, except in the lives of those who surrender to Him.

That is easy to see if you will accept what the Bible says. The Bible says that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). It is obvious that His will is not being carried out.

When individuals accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior, it is carried out in their lives. But if God were running things and pushing His will off on people, since He is not willing that any should perish, He would make everybody get saved today and we would go into the Millennium tomorrow.

As I examined God's Word for the "why" behind John Wesley's statement, I saw a truth I had never seen before, though I had been in the ministry many years.

As I asked the Lord about it, He said to me, "Go back to the Book of Beginnings."

I knew He meant the Book of Genesis. I reread it. I had read it many times. I had heard it as a Sunday School boy. But I saw it in a different light this time.

I saw that God made the world and the fullness thereof. He made His man, Adam.

Then He said, "Adam, I give you dominion over all the work of my hands" (Gen. 1:26,27; Ps. 8:6).

God did not say, "I am going to dominate through you."

He said, "I give you dominion over all the work of my hands." Therefore Adam had dominion upon this earth and in this world. He was originally, in a sense, god of this world.

But Satan came and lied to Adam. Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan. Then Satan became the god of this world.

Second Corinthians 4:4 calls Satan "the god of this world." As such, he has dominion. Where? In this world.

He will have that dominion, he will be god of this world, until Adam's lease runs out.

God cannot legally and justly move in and take away that dominion from the devil. The devil has dominion here. He has a right. He has Adam's lease. And God cannot do anything unless somebody down here asks Him.







We see from this passage of Scripture, among others, that *there is a double kingdom system*.

There is a *seen* kingdom upon the earth with human rulers. But behind that earthly kingdom (or nation) is an *unseen* kingdom with a satanic ruler.

This explains something about the temptation of Jesus.

**LUKE 4:5,6**

**5**And the devil, taking him [Jesus] up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time.

**6**And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: **FOR THAT IS DELIVERED UNTO ME;** and to whomsoever I will I give it.

What power is being discussed here? The power of the nations of this world!

Some have suggested the devil didn't have that power or authority. If so, wouldn't Jesus have known that and told him so?

The Bible says this was a temptation. If the devil *didn't* have that power and authority, it couldn't have been a temptation—and the Son of God would have been partner to a lie and a fraud. But it was a *bona fide* temptation.

Where, then, did Satan get that authority? Did God give it to him?

God made the world and the fullness thereof. Then He made His man Adam. And this is what a lot of people—including ministers—haven't seen. God said, "Adam, I give you dominion over all the works of my hands." In one sense, God was saying, "Adam, you're the god of this world. You run it." *God gave the world to Adam!*

But the New Testament calls Satan the god of this world (Second Corinthians 4:4). When did Satan become the god of this world? When Adam sinned. It was when Adam committed high treason and sold out to Satan.

Notice what Satan said to Jesus: *"All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them [the kingdoms of the world]: FOR THAT IS DELIVERED UNTO ME...."* Who delivered it to Satan? God didn't. Adam did.

### *Rulers of Darkness*

The angel told Daniel, "Your prayer got through the very first day." And God hears us the first day we pray, but we do have to stand sometimes before the answer comes.

It is not God who withholds answers to our prayers—He sends the answer the minute we pray—there are forces out in the heavens endeavoring to intercept those answers.

Let's examine Ephesians 6:12. It begins, *"For we wrestle \_\_\_\_"* Who's "we"? The Church. Paul is writing to the New Testament Church—to believers everywhere.

*"We wrestle not against flesh and blood . . . ."* That's our trouble. We try to fight, wrestle, and cope with situations we *see*, when we're really wrestling against an unseen power behind the situation. When we understand that, we'll be successful in our "wrestling."

*"We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD . . . ."*

Rulers of the darkness of this world! Another Scripture declares, *"the whole world lieth in wickedness"* (1 John 5:19). The *Amplified* translation reads, "and the whole world (around us) is under the power of the evil one."

If the whole world lies in wickedness and in darkness,



then the devil is ruling the whole world. The devil is ruling everybody who is unsaved. And he rules! He's not ruling us, however, because the Bible says that although we're *in* the world, we're not *of the* world. We're children of light, not darkness.

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He will not take any more territory than you surrender to Him. He'll not dominate you. He'll not force you.

Demons, on the other hand, use force. We read in the Bible about them driving people; forcing people.

There's something here that we need to be very careful of: *Anybody who wants to drive, force, and dominate people is motivated by the spirit of the devil.* We see it in religious circles.

"Rulers of the darkness of this world." Hold this phrase from Ephesians 6 in your mind while we turn to the Book of Colossians for a clearer picture still.

**COLOSSIANS 1:12**

**12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [able] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.**

Notice that expression "in light"!

Now notice the following verse: *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness . . ."* The *Amplified* version reads, "[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."

You see, the Father has taken us out from under the control of darkness and the rulers of darkness—the devil, demons, and evil spirits in Satan's kingdom. This is what Ephesians 6:12 is talking about.

It says we "wrestle." We're not wrestling with God. Who do we wrestle with, then? Ephesians 6:12 says we wrestle against "*principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, **against spiritual wickedness in high places.***"

A marginal note in my King James Version says, "wicked spirits in the heavenlies." Three heavens are spoken of in the Bible.

Bible scholars agree that the Apostle Paul was talking about himself in Second Corinthians 12:2 when he said, "*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*"

The first of the three heavens, right above us, is what we call the atmospheric heaven. Beyond that, away out in space, are the stars, etc. Then out beyond that is the third heaven—the Heaven of heavens—where the throne of God is.

There are wicked spirits in the atmospheric heaven above us—"in the heavenlies." We get another glimpse of this fact in the 28th chapter of Ezekiel.

The first 10 verses are a "word of the Lord," a prophetic message, given through Ezekiel to the prince of Tyrus, who was lifted up in pride. God said to him through the Prophet Ezekiel, "*yet thou art a man.*" So this prince of Tyrus was a man. Angels are not men. Evil spirits are not men.

In verses 11-19 of the same chapter, another prophetic word is given through Ezekiel, but this one is addressed to the *king* of Tyrus, a being who could not be the *prince* of Tyrus, whom God had identified earlier as a man. The king of Tyrus, therefore, must be a being, a spiritual

power, a dark power, behind this kingdom.

**EZEKIEL 28:11-15**

**11**Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,

**12**Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.

**13**Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering... the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.

**14**Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

**15**Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

God was talking about the devil—Lucifer—when He said, "*Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God . . . .*" The prince of Tyrus, a man, couldn't have been there. He wasn't even born. No, this "king of Tyrus" is not a man; he is a *created* being (w. 13,15).

In these two beings—the prince of Tyrus, a man; and the king of Tyrus, a spirit being, Lucifer himself—the Bible gives the idea of a natural kingdom upon the earth dominated by a spiritual kingdom with the same name.

Everything on this earth—every human, every being—is dominated, ruled, or influenced by spirits in the unseen world. Even we as Christians are influenced and led by the Spirit of God. Romans 8:14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"

If people could ever understand about this other world—this spirit worlds—that exists and understand that it's the world in which God lives—a world that has no

beginning or end—faith would become an easy thing; a natural thing.

*The reason you can count things done before they materialize is because **they're already done in the spirit realm**. If you'll believe they're done in this realm, they will be made manifest.*

That's the reason Jesus said, "*What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them*" (Mark 11:24).

Now I want you to notice something that perhaps you never noticed before. Let's go back to that sixth chapter of Ephesians:

**EPHESIANS 6:10-18**

**10**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

**11**Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**12**For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

**13**Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

**14**Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

**15**And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

**16**Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

**17**And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

**18**PRAYING always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

We usually stop reading with the 17th verse. By so doing, we've taken these verses out of context. There is more truth in them than we have seen.

Because we *do* wrestle in our prayer life against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and wicked spirits in the heavenlies, **the object of taking on the whole armor of God is so that we can enter into the prayer life!**

Putting on the armor of God and *not* entering into the prayer conflict is practically useless!

Christians entering into prayer should never forget this fact: *We have authority in the Name of Jesus against all powers of darkness!*

In the 45 years since I learned to really pray, I've never prayed a single prayer concerning myself or my own needs without almost instantly getting the answer.

Why? Because I know how to pray. I know what belongs to me. I know how to take authority over the devil. I know how to speak to him and tell him, "Stop your maneuvers right now!"

The Bible calls us citizens of Heaven. I know how to demand *my* rights; however, I can't always demand another person's rights for him. As an American citizen I can exercise my right to vote, but I can't exercise your right to vote. You've got to do that for yourself.

Many times people run around trying to get somebody else to pray for them. It doesn't always work. That's because they don't have the authority.

Here's where intercession comes in. We have to intercede for people who don't know their rights. They may be honest, sincere, saved for years, and even filled with the Spirit, but spiritual things remain hidden to them.

When praying for others, we may have to take more time to intercede, because they may be yielding to evil spirits. Sometimes even Christians yield to evil spirits and allow them to dominate them.

In praying for my own relatives, I've had to take time to stand against the devil. I've usually prayed for my relatives privately, secretly; I haven't said anything to them.

(That's our trouble: We try to deal with *the individual* when we ought to be dealing with *the power* behind the problem.)

I've simply said, "*I break the power of the devil over so-and-so!*"

Ephesians 6:18 speaks about making supplication "for all saints." (You see, they don't always know how to pray for themselves.)

An intercessor is one who takes the place of another.

### *Interceding in Tongues*

One form of intercession is intercession in an unknown tongue.

#### **1 CORINTHIANS 14:14**

**14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.**

Praying in tongues provides a way for us to pray for "things we know not"—for things we don't even know about—for people we don't know.

The Spirit of God can help us make intercession for people and situations when we don't know how we should pray "as we ought." We know we should pray, but we don't know *how* to pray in many cases.

I've come to that place many times. I've said, "Lord, I know to pray, but not as I ought."

Praying "God bless so-and-so," "God help them," or, "God do this," seemed inadequate. I've said, "Lord, I'm going to trust the Holy Spirit to help me make intercession for this individual or situation." And I begin to pray in other tongues.

### *Interceding with the Understanding*

We can make intercession with our understanding for things we know about. I'm convinced we have authority and power in this area that we've never yet used. Some of us have gotten into the edge of it.

In 1947, my Sunday School superintendent, an oil field pumper, fell from on top of the pump house into the engine. The report came to me that he was dead.

When I arrived on the scene, he was lying on the ground close to the pump house. An ambulance was backed up nearby. People were all around. I knelt down beside Dr. Garrett. He whispered to me, "I thought he was dead at first. He isn't yet, but he will die soon, and we can't move him. We'll kill him if we do."

Then the doctor said, "Reverend Hagin, take his wife aside and prepare her for this."

I took her by the arm and led her to one side—not to prepare her, however, but to pray with her.

As we moved away from the crowd, she said, "Brother Hagin, Dr. Garrett doesn't think Daddy will live, does he?"

I said, "No, he doesn't, Sister."

She said, "Isn't it wonderful that you and I have inside information?" (She meant information inside the Bible!)

I said, "Yes, thank God, we do. We'll pray and he'll live."

Well, he kept on living, wrapped in blankets, lying on the ground. Dr. Garrett remained beside him. Finally he decided to risk moving him to the hospital. I think he must have sensed we were holding him there, for he said to me, "I'm sure we'll never make it to Tyler with him alive, but we'll put him in the ambulance and try. Reverend Hagin, you get in and ride with him."

To make a long story short, he did survive the trip. Three doctors were awaiting him.

I went to the hospital and sat up with him at night. His wife stayed with him day and night.

The third night about 8 o'clock, one of the doctors said to me, "Reverend, I'll be honest with you. This is the third night and he's still in shock. We don't even know the extent of his injuries. We can't take him to the X-ray room to find out. If we move him, we'll kill him. We've done everything we know to do. He's going fast now, and there just isn't anything we can do."

Back in the room I saw that the man's wife was growing tired. (The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. When you grow tired physically, it's difficult for your spirit, your inward man, to continue to dominate. Especially when you're looking right at the situation.) I saw her faith was waning. And I knew I had to get her out of there. I knew he would die if she stayed.

(The reason a lot of people have died is because their relatives have stayed with them! I've found out why Jesus sometimes put people out of the room when He was about to heal the sick.)

I didn't lie to her, but I didn't tell her what the doctor had told me. I said, "Now, you go rest. I'll call you if there's any change here. But he'll be all right."

I had to do some spiritual wrestling that night. As long



as I was awake and alert, my Sunday School superintendent did fine. But this was the third night I had sat up myself, and when I'd doze off in the chair, he'd begin to sleep.

The special duty nurse awakened me as she walked around the bed to check on him under the oxygen tent. When I first looked at him, I thought, *He's dead! I've gone to sleep and let the man die right on my hands!*

Excitedly, I asked the nurse, "Is he dead?"

"No," she said. "I thought he was. But he'll never live till I go off duty at 7." It was 2 a.m. then.

I went out into the hall, and I prayed. Very quietly, I interceded for him. I argued his case. You see, God said:

**ISAIAH 43:25,26**

**25I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions  
for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.**

**26Put me in remembrance: let us plead together:  
declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.**

*"Put me in remembrance."* God told us to remind Him of what He said. This is talking about prayer. "Declare thou." The marginal note in the King James Version renders this "set forth your cause." In other words, God invites us, "Plead your case."

So I simply said in a whisper at 2 a.m. out in the hospital hallway, "Lord, I'm just not going to let him die!" And I set forth my case in front of Him.

"Number one," I said, "he's my Sunday School superintendent. He may not be the best one in the world, but he's the best one I've ever had. He helps me. He visits the absentees. He works at it all during the week. And he helps in a number of other ways.

"Secondly, he puts 30 percent of his income into the church.

"Thirdly, he's an influence for God and for good. I've talked to businessmen downtown. They believe in him; respect him.

"I need him. I'm the under shepherd, and You're the Great Shepherd of the Church. What I need, You need.

"Fourthly, the Bible plainly tells us death is an enemy. It's not of God. It's really of the devil. When the devil is finally eliminated, death will be eliminated from human contact. So I just rebuke death and command it to leave him. I'm not going to let him die!"

I went back into his room, sat down, and again dozed off. He started dying. I got up and went through it again, pleading his case. Actually, I went through it four times; the fourth time at 4 a.m.

At 8 o'clock, the doctor came in, pulled up the oxygen tent, and began to listen across his chest. After a little he turned to me and exclaimed, "He's come out of it! He's come out of it! You know, he might make it now! Get the stretcher! We'll take him to X-ray."

When they brought him back from X-ray, the same doctor said to me, "He's got a 50-50 chance."

I just stood there, but inside I was jumping up and down, thinking, *Fifty-fifty chance! What are you talking about, doctor? He's got a hundred percent chance to make it!* And he did make it.

Now, I never said a word to my wife or anybody else about the way I had prayed for this man. But the first time he was back in church, he testified.

First he thanked everybody for their prayers. Then he said, "Never feel sorry for anybody who dies. The last thing I remember was falling. I don't even remember hitting down in the machinery. The next conscious thing I knew was when I woke up in the hospital. And after I woke

up, I never had any pain or hurt.

"But while I was unconscious, I must have died. I went up to Heaven. I heard an angelic choir. You never heard such singing in your life.

"I saw Jesus. Jesus came to me. And I was just about to fall down before Him and tell Him how much I loved Him when He said, 'You'll have to go back.'

"I said, 'I don't want to go back.'

"Jesus said, 'You'll have to go back to the earth.'

"I said, 'I don't want to go back to the earth.'

"The third time Jesus said, 'You'll have to. *Brother Hagin won't let you come.*'

Then Jesus turned, and like you would pull a lace curtain back from a window, He pulled back a curtain and I heard Brother Hagin say, 'Lord, I'm not going to let him die.'

"Jesus said, 'See, he won't let you come.'

"The next thing I knew, I woke up in the hospital," my Sunday School superintendent concluded.

I had not told him I'd prayed that way. How did he know? The Lord let him hear me, and told him that was the reason he couldn't stay in Heaven!

That got me started thinking, 'way back there in 1947, that we have authority to make intercession which we've never used.

I believe that at times, without realizing it, we have taken our place in our covenant in the Name of Jesus and have made intercession. Without examining the Bible on the subject, we have thought, *That was a great experience the Lord helped me to have. I might not ever have another one like it.* And that kind of thinking has defeated us.

Three years later when my father-in-law lay dying in the hospital, I got to thinking about that experience with

the Sunday School superintendent.

As I stood by his bedside—he was unconscious—I said, "Lord, I believe I'll just rebuke this death and command it to leave him. I believe I'll command him to live in Jesus' Name."

God said in Isaiah 43:26, "Let us plead *together*." On the inside of me, the Lord plainly said to me by the Spirit, "No, don't do it. Don't you do it."

*That meant I had the authority to do it!*

"Leave him alone and let him die," He said. And the Lord pled his case. "First, he's 70 years old. All I've promised you is 70 or 80 years." (That is a minimum. You can go longer. If you've got more faith, claim more. But don't settle for anything less.)

"Second," He said, "he's ready to go. Spiritually, financially, he's got everything ready. He hasn't always been ready. His finances are in order; all his business is in order. He'll never have a better time to die than now. So you leave him alone and let him die."

I said, "All right, Lord, I will under one condition and one condition only. Bring him out of this death; let him revive and leave a good testimony so everybody will know where he went. Then I'll let him go."

I hadn't gotten those words out of my mouth until he opened his eyes.

"Kenneth," he said, "I'm dying."

I said, "I know it, Mr. Rooker."

He said, "Now, the sooner the better."

I said, "I know that."

He said, "You're going to get those children up here and let me see them before I go, aren't you?"

I said, "Yes, sir. I'll do it."

Our children were his only grandchildren. I phoned our

pastor in Garland, Texas, and asked him to bring the children over to the hospital in Sherman. Meanwhile, I talked to the Mother Superior of this Catholic hospital and asked about bringing small children in.

She said, "Don't pay attention to any rules. That man should have been dead two days ago. We can't understand how he's lived. Bring in anybody you want to—it's just a miracle that he's revived."

So his family, including the little grandchildren, gathered around his bed. And you'd have thought he was going on a vacation the next day. He never shed a tear. The nurses rolled up the head of his bed, and he sat there laughing and talking.

The next day he lapsed into unconsciousness and started dying. I stood at the foot of the bed just as death fastened its final throes upon him.

Suddenly his eyes popped open. He saw me and said, "My God, Kenneth, I'm dying."

I said, "I know, Mr. Rooker, but you're not afraid to go."

"No," he said. "I'm not afraid."

I said, "Lie back on the pillow and let 'er go."

He lay back, smiled, relaxed, and a light flashed across his face as he took off. Praise God! (You've got to have faith to live—but you've got to have faith to die, too.)

It is possible to make intercession and get answers sometimes which are not always the wisest and the best.

We need to use wisdom—because we do have authority. I've learned that from experience. I know it from the Word.

According to the Word, many times what we say, He will do—because we've got the authority down here.

I am satisfied that if we will just walk in the light of God's Word and make intercession, we can change the

lives of our loved ones and the life of our nation.

We can hold back the powers of darkness. We can undo the works of the devil.

