

INTERCESSION IN THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION



O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.
—Psalm 65:2

When God gave the world into the power of man, who was made in His own image and who was to rule over it as a representative under Him, it was His plan that Adam should do nothing without God, and God Himself would do all His work in the world through Adam. Adam was to be the owner, master, and ruler of the earth. When sin entered the world, Adam's power was proved to be a terrible reality, for through him the earth, with the whole race of man, was brought under the curse of sin.

When God established the plan of redemption, His objective was to restore man to the place from which he had fallen. God chose servants who, through the power of intercession, could ask what they desired, and it would be given to them. (See John 15:7.) When Christ became man, it was so that, as man, both on earth and in heaven, He might intercede for man. And before He left the world, He imparted this right of intercession to His disciples, in the sevenfold promise of the Farewell Discourse (see John 15–17), that whatever they would ask, He would do for them. God's intense longing to bless seems in some sense to be graciously limited by His dependence on the intercession that rises from the earth. He seeks to rouse the spirit of intercession so that He may be able to bestow His blessings on mankind. God regards intercession as the highest expression of His people's readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His almighty power.

Christians need to realize this as their true nobility and their only power with God—the right to claim and expect that God will hear prayer. Only as God's children begin to see what intercession means in regard to God's kingdom will they realize how solemn their responsibility is.

Each individual believer will be led to see that God waits for him to take his part. He will feel that the highest, the most blessed, the mightiest of all human positions for the fulfillment of the petition, "as in heaven, so on earth," is the intercession that rises day and night, pleading with God for the power of heaven to be sent down into the hearts of men. Oh, that God might burn into our hearts this one thought: intercession in its omnipotent power is according to His will and is most certainly effective!