

JULY '26

prayer  
*and fasting*  
DEVOTION

20 - 24 JULY '26



## **20 - 24 July - PRAYER & FASTING WEEK – INTERCESSION: “Stand in the Gap.”**

Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV) "I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one."

### **Monday, 20 July—Intercession Begins with Compassion**

Matthew 9:37–38 (NIV) *"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"*

#### **Focus Thought: Every true intercessor begins with a compassionate heart.**

Intercession is not merely a spiritual discipline or a prayer activity. It is the expression of God's love flowing through a believer toward people, communities, cities, and nations. Before Jesus instructed His disciples to pray for workers, He first looked upon the crowds with compassion. Matthew tells us that Jesus saw people who were "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

What moved Him was not irritation. It was compassion. What stirred His heart was not judgment. It was love. This is where intercession begins. Intercession is born when we begin to see people through God's eyes instead of our own. Most people see behaviour. God sees brokenness. Most people see problems. God sees potential. Most people see failure. God sees redemption.

Hosting the presence of God develops this same perspective within us. The closer we walk with God, the more our hearts begin to reflect His heart. We start noticing people differently. The struggling colleague. The discouraged neighbour. The rebellious teenager. The broken family. The hurting nation. Instead of criticising them, we begin carrying them before God. One of the greatest signs of hosting God's presence is that His burdens become our burdens. What breaks His heart begins to break ours. What matters to Him begins to matter to us. Many people complain about darkness. Intercessors pray into it. Many people criticise leaders. Intercessors pray for them. Many people focus on problems. Intercessors focus on God's ability to bring transformation. Compassion changes the way we pray. Prayer stops becoming a religious duty and becomes an expression of love. You no longer pray because you have to. You pray because you care. This is exactly what happened in the life of Jesus. His compassion consistently moved Him to action. Compassion led to healing. Compassion led to miracles. Compassion led to restoration. Compassion led Him to the Cross. Hosting God's presence means allowing the Holy Spirit to soften your heart. The Holy Spirit often places people, communities, and situations on our hearts for a reason. Those burdens are invitations to intercede.

God is looking for people who will not merely observe needs but bring them before His throne. Intercession begins when compassion moves from your heart to your knees. The greatest prayers are often birthed from hearts that genuinely care. As you host God's presence, ask Him to give you His eyes. Because when you begin to see people the way Jesus sees them, intercession becomes a natural response.

**Psalm 145:8–9 (NIV)** "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made."

The heart of intercession is rooted in the compassion of God. When His compassion fills your heart, prayer becomes a powerful expression of His love.

"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance; it is laying hold of His willingness." — **Martin Luther**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast soften your heart toward the people God places in your life. Ask Him to help you see others through His eyes, carrying their burdens with compassion instead of judgment. As you deny yourself, allow His love to deepen your concern for those who need His grace, healing, and hope.

**Action for Today:** Ask God to place one specific person, city, ministry, school, community, or nation on your heart today. Commit to praying intentionally for them.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Who did God place on your heart today, and what burden did you sense Him sharing with you?

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2. Who has God repeatedly brought to your mind recently? What might He be inviting you to pray for regarding that person, community, or situation?

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**Today we pray for:**

- "Father, fill my heart with Your compassion. Help me to see people through Your eyes and to love what You love. Break my heart for the things that break Yours. Teach me to carry people before Your throne in prayer. Let my life reflect Your compassion and Your heart for the lost."
- Healthy + loving marriages and loving + pure families walking with Jesus.
- Christ Gen Church: Growth in all areas - That the harvest will keep coming in + people will hunger to walk with God in.
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy."
- The peace of Israel. "May all who love this city prosper." Ps. 122:6.

## Tuesday, 21 July—Intercession Carries Others Before God

1 Timothy 2:1 (NIV) *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people."*

**Focus Thought: Intercession is one of the greatest expressions of love that a believer can offer another person.**

The word "intercession" means to stand between. It means to approach God on behalf of someone else. An intercessor becomes a bridge between Heaven and earth, bringing people's needs before God and inviting God's purposes into their lives. Paul places intercession at the very beginning of his instruction to the church. He says:

*"First of all..."* This reveals its importance. Intercession is not supposed to be an occasional activity. It is meant to be a priority. Hosting the presence of God naturally produces a heart that prays for others. One of the dangers of modern Christianity is that prayer can become self-focused. We pray for our needs. Our problems. Our concerns. Our goals. While God certainly invites us to bring our personal needs to Him, intercession moves us beyond ourselves. It teaches us to carry others' burdens. When you host God's presence, your heart begins to expand. You start caring about things beyond your own circumstances.

You begin praying for: Family members. Friends. Leaders. Churches. Communities. Schools. Hospitals. Cities and nations. You become aware that prayer is not merely about getting things from God. Prayer becomes partnering with God. Intercession allows us to participate in God's work on the earth. Throughout, God often responded to the prayers of intercessors. Abraham interceded for Sodom. Moses interceded for Israel. Samuel interceded for the nation. Daniel interceded for Jerusalem. Jesus intercedes for His Church. Their prayers mattered. And your prayers matter too.

Hosting God's presence means understanding that prayer is not passive. It is powerful. Every prayer offered in faith releases spiritual influence. Every prayer creates opportunities for God's intervention. Every prayer invites Heaven into earthly situations. Many believers underestimate the significance of their prayers because they cannot immediately see results.

But intercession often works beneath the surface long before visible change appears. Seeds are planted. Hearts are softened. Circumstances shift. Doors open. Strongholds weaken. People encounter God. The intercessor may never fully see everything their prayers accomplish, but Heaven records every prayer offered in faith.

God is looking for believers who are willing to carry others before Him. People who will pray when others complain. People who will stand in faith when others lose hope. People who will believe for breakthrough when situations seem impossible. Intercession is love on its knees.

And when you host God's presence, carrying others before God becomes one of the greatest privileges of your spiritual life.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV) *"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."* One of the greatest ways we carry others is through faithful intercession before God.

"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that—it is a spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." — **Charles Spurgeon**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast remind you that intercession is an act of love. As you pray, intentionally bring the needs of others before the Father, trusting that He knows every detail and cares deeply for them. Stand in the gap with faith, believing that your prayers make an eternal difference.

**Action for Today:** Set aside dedicated time to pray for at least three people by name. Pray specifically and intentionally for their needs.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Who did you carry before God's throne today, and what did you sense as you prayed for them?

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2. Who are the three people God is calling you to consistently intercede for in this season, and what specific breakthroughs are you believing for in their lives?

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**Today we pray for:**

- “Lord, teach me to become an intercessor. Help me to carry the burdens of others faithfully before You. Let my prayers become channels through which Your grace, mercy, healing, and power flow into people's lives. Use me to stand in the gap for those who need Your intervention.”
- Lord show me my Next Step at Christ Gen: Attend Growth Track? Lead a Small Group? Join a Small Group? Join the Dream Team? Reveal my Next Steps in Your dreams + calling for me.
- Small Groups for this term: leaders, sign-ups, real life change, healthy relationships, spiritual growth.
- Our Pastors, Church staff, Team Leaders, Small Group leaders, Dream Team - may the walk under an open heaven and hear your voice clearly. Protection and the blood over them + their families.
- Youth Leader Training 1 August: Heavenly Father, we dedicate this Youth Leader Training morning to You. Thank You for every leader You have called to invest in the next generation. Fill them with fresh wisdom, compassion, and courage as they learn and grow together. Strengthen their faith, deepen their love for You, and equip them to lead with humility, integrity, and the power of the Holy Spirit. May this morning inspire, encourage, and unite them as they step confidently into Your calling. Let every leader leave refreshed, empowered, and ready to make a lasting impact in the lives of young people.

## Wednesday, 22 July—Intercession Changes Outcomes

James 5:16 (NIV) *"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."*

**Focus Thought: One of the greatest truths about intercession is that prayer truly matters.**

Many believers know they should pray, but not everyone fully believes that prayer changes things. Yet throughout we see a consistent pattern: when God's people pray, God moves. Intercession is not a religious exercise designed merely to make us feel spiritual. It is a divine partnership where God invites His people to participate in His purposes on the earth. James tells us that the prayer of a righteous person is "powerful and effective." This means prayer is not powerless. It is not empty. It is not insignificant. Prayer carries spiritual authority because it connects us with the God who rules over all things.

Hosting the presence of God helps us understand that prayer is far more than presenting requests. It is cooperating with Heaven. When we pray according to God's heart and purposes, we become channels through which His will is released on earth. Many biblical examples demonstrate this truth. Elijah prayed, and drought came. Elijah prayed again, and rain fell. Moses prayed, and judgment was delayed. Hannah prayed, and Samuel was born. The early church prayed, and prison doors opened. These examples remind us that God works through the prayers of His people.

Intercession changes outcomes because prayer invites God's intervention into situations that might otherwise continue unchanged. This does not mean we manipulate God or force Him to act according to our desires. Rather, intercession aligns our hearts with God's purposes and allows us to participate in what He desires to accomplish.

Hosting God's presence develops faith in prayer. The more time you spend with God, the more confident you become in His power. You begin to pray differently. Instead of focusing on the size of the problem, you focus on the greatness of God.

Instead of speaking fear, you release faith. Instead of accepting defeat, you contend for breakthrough. Intercessors understand that circumstances do not always tell the whole story. Even when nothing appears to be changing externally, God may be working internally. He may be softening hearts. Opening doors. Changing perspectives. Preparing people. Creating opportunities. Prayer often accomplishes far more than we can immediately see. The enemy wants believers to become discouraged and stop praying. God wants believers to remain faithful and keep believing. Every prayer offered in faith becomes a seed planted in the soil of God's purposes. And in God's perfect timing, those seeds often produce fruit beyond what we imagined.

Hosting God's presence teaches us to pray with confidence because we know that our prayers matter and that God is actively working through them.

**Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)** "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

God invites His people to pray because He desires to respond. Prayer opens the door for divine intervention and supernatural breakthrough.

"Prayer is not preparation for the greater work; prayer is the greater work." — **Oswald Chambers**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast strengthen your expectation that God is at work. Refuse to pray with doubt or resignation—instead, pray with confidence that the Lord hears, moves, and accomplishes His purposes. Believe that as you intercede, God can open doors, soften hearts, bring healing, and change situations according to His perfect will.

**Action for Today:** Choose one situation that seems impossible and pray boldly for God's intervention. Refuse to focus on the problem; focus on God's power.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did your faith grow as you prayed for something that seemed beyond human ability?

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2. What situation have you almost stopped praying about? What would happen if you renewed your faith and began interceding for it again?

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**Today we pray for:**

- “Father, thank You that my prayers are powerful and effective because of Your power at work through me. Help me to pray with faith and confidence. Strengthen my heart to believe that You are able to do far more than I can ask or imagine.”
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy.”
- Small Groups for this term: leaders, sign-ups, real life change, healthy relationships, spiritual growth.
- The Vision of Christ Gen: Praying for all people on their journey of faith to Know God, Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and Make a difference.
- Sunday services - the Lost to be saved, spiritual growth and a move of God.

## Thursday, 23 July—Intercession Aligns You With God's Heart

Romans 8:26–27 (NIV) *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."*

**Focus Thought:** One of the greatest discoveries an intercessor can make is that effective prayer does not begin with human effort; it begins with the Holy Spirit. Many believers feel inadequate when it comes to prayer. They wonder if they are praying correctly. They struggle to find the right words. They feel uncertain about what to pray for.

Romans 8 offers tremendous encouragement. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. Prayer was never intended to be something we do alone. The Holy Spirit is not only our Helper; He is also our Intercessor. He knows the heart of God perfectly. He understands every situation completely. He sees what we cannot see. He knows the future while we only see the present. Because of this, the Holy Spirit can guide us to pray according to God's will.

Hosting the presence of God is essential for effective intercession. The more time you spend in God's presence, the more sensitive you become to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Instead of merely praying your own ideas, you begin praying God's heart. You begin sensing His burdens. You begin hearing His priorities. You begin caring about what He cares about. This is where intercession becomes powerful. True intercession is not trying to convince God to do something. True intercession is partnering with what God already desires to do.

The Holy Spirit often places people, situations, churches, cities, or nations on our hearts. Sometimes we cannot explain why. Yet these burdens are often invitations to pray. The Spirit may lead you to pray for: A struggling family. A church leader. A friend facing temptation. A community experiencing hardship. A nation in crisis. As you yield to His prompting, your prayers become increasingly aligned with Heaven.

Hosting God's presence means learning to listen before speaking. Many people enter prayer immediately with requests. Intercessors learn to pause and ask: *"Holy Spirit, what is on Your heart?"*

This simple question can transform your prayer life. Prayer becomes less about your agenda and more about God's purposes. The Holy Spirit also gives perseverance. When answers seem delayed, He strengthens us to continue praying. When situations appear impossible, He renews our faith. When we feel weak, He supplies strength. The most powerful intercessors are not necessarily the most eloquent. They are the most yielded. They allow the Holy Spirit to guide their prayers.

And when God's people pray in partnership with the Spirit, Heaven's purposes are released on earth.

**John 16:13 (NIV)** "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth..."

The Holy Spirit is the perfect prayer partner. He leads us into God's will and helps us pray with power and accuracy.

"The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and can teach us how to pray the heart of God." — **Andrew Murray**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast draw you closer to the heart of God. As you spend time in His presence, allow Him to shape your desires, priorities, and prayers until they reflect His will. The more you know His heart, the more your intercession becomes a partnership with His purposes on the earth.

**Action for Today:** Before you begin praying, ask the Holy Spirit: *"What is on Your heart today?"* Allow Him to guide your prayers.

**Reflection Question:**

1. What burden, person, or situation did the Holy Spirit emphasize as you prayed today?

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2. What differences do you notice between prayers that begin with your own concerns and prayers that begin by listening to the Holy Spirit?

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**Today we pray for:**

- "Holy Spirit, teach me to pray according to the Father's heart. Help me become sensitive to Your leading and willing to follow Your direction. Let my prayers align with Heaven's purposes and release Your will on earth.
- "Father, align our hearts with Yours as we stand in the gap for others. May our prayers reflect Your love, Your compassion, and Your will, so that what matters to You becomes what matters most to us."
- For people to sign-up to lead a Small Group and that many people will find freedom in Christ.
- Our Church's bigger Vision - A bigger Cape Town Campus; Campus launches, Building projects, Ground and Buildings, Finances, Raising up new leaders, Outreach, Missions; Zambia Project; Elim Night Shelter; Emit: reaching Africa for Jesus; ARC: new church launches.
- Growth Track: Growth in membership and that people will discover their purpose.
- South Africa will be saved. Cancel Satan's agenda over SA. Revival and salvation for SA. Bind the spirit of hate & anger & intolerance. We pray for godly Spirit-filled leaders. We call the LIGHT & FIRE of God over SA.

## Friday, 24 July—Intercession Strengthens the Church

**Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)** *"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."*

**Focus Thought: One of the greatest gifts God has given to the Church is the ministry of intercession.**

Every healthy church, every effective ministry, every spiritual awakening, and every lasting move of God has been supported by people who faithfully prayed behind the scenes. While preaching may be visible and leadership may be recognised, intercession often happens quietly and privately. Yet it is one of the most powerful ministries in the Kingdom of God. Paul closes his teaching on the armour of God by emphasizing prayer.

After describing the helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, and the sword of the Spirit, he reminds believers that they must pray continually. Why? Because prayer empowers everything else. Without prayer, ministry becomes human effort. Without prayer, leaders become vulnerable. Without prayer, churches lose spiritual sensitivity. Without prayer, believers become weak and distracted.

Hosting the presence of God means understanding that prayer is not an optional activity—it is the atmosphere in which spiritual life flourishes. Just as the human body requires oxygen, the Church requires prayer. Intercessors help create an atmosphere where God's presence is welcomed, honoured, and experienced.

When intercessors pray, leaders receive wisdom. Ministries become effective. Unity is protected. People are strengthened. Souls are saved. Spiritual attacks are resisted. God's purposes advance. Many people desire strong churches, but strong churches are usually built on strong prayer foundations. Throughout history, every major revival was preceded by prayer. The Welsh Revival. The Moravian Revival. The Prayer Revival of 1857. The Hebrides Revival. In every case, intercessors prepared the ground before God moved in power.

Hosting God's presence means becoming a guardian of the spiritual atmosphere. Intercessors watch over their churches through prayer. They pray for pastors. They pray for worship teams. They pray for ministries. They pray for unity. They pray for spiritual growth. They pray for salvation. They pray for protection.

Many spiritual victories happen because someone prayed when nobody else knew there was a need. Prayer strengthens the Church because it invites God's power into every area of ministry. The Church was never meant to operate through human wisdom alone. It was designed to function through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Intercessors help make that possible. God is looking for believers who will faithfully stand before Him on behalf of His people. People who will pray not only in times of crisis but consistently and faithfully. People who understand that some of the greatest Kingdom work happens in the place of prayer.

Hosting God's presence means becoming one of those people. And when intercessors pray, churches become stronger, healthier, and more effective in fulfilling God's mission.

Acts 6:4 (NIV) *"And will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."* The early Church understood that prayer was not secondary to ministry; it was foundational to ministry.

"The church advances on its knees." — **E.M. Bounds**

**Fasting Focus:** Today, let your fast remind you that every prayer strengthens the body of Christ. Pray for your church, its leaders, its families, and its mission. Ask God to unite His people in love, fill them with fresh courage, and empower the Church to shine brightly as a witness of His grace and truth.

**Action for Today:** Spend intentional time praying for your church, pastors, elders, leaders, ministries, volunteers, and congregation. Pray specifically for wisdom, protection, unity, revival, and the presence of God

**Reflection Question:**

1. What did the Holy Spirit show you about your church as you prayed today?

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2. What specific area of your church needs greater prayer support right now, and how can you commit to interceding faithfully for it?

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**Today we pray for:**

- "Father, I lift my church before You today. Bless our pastors, leaders, volunteers, and every ministry. Protect us from division, discouragement, and distraction. Let Your presence fill every gathering and every heart. Strengthen Your Church and let us become a powerful witness of Your Kingdom.
- Dream Team: Growth, expansion, leadership development, new labourers (Luke 10:2).
- CG Kids and CG Youth - volunteers, raising up leaders, life change.
- Baptism Sundays; Men's Night; All the events at Christ Gen in 2026.
- Peace and Salvation for our city, Cape Town. Pray over your neighbourhood and street. Healing + miracles from heaven to flow like a river in Cape Town.
- SHE Night 2-3 August: "Heavenly Father, we commit SHE Night into Your hands. Draw every woman You are calling to be there. Let each one encounter Your love, Your presence, and Your peace in a fresh way. Heal every hurting heart, strengthen those who are weary, and remind every woman of her identity and worth in You. May this be a weekend of freedom, encouragement, and transformation. Let every woman leave walking closer with You, filled with renewed faith, hope, and joy."

## Saturday, 25 July— Intercession Leaves a Legacy

Isaiah 59:16 (NIV) *"He saw that there was no one, he was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm achieved salvation for him, and his own righteousness sustained him."*

**Focus Thought: One of the most sobering statements is found in Isaiah 59:16: "He saw that there was no one... no one to intervene."**

God was looking for someone to stand in the gap. Someone to pray. Someone to intercede. Someone to carry His heart. Yet He found no one. This passage reveals something important about God's heart. God actively seeks people who will partner with Him in prayer. Throughout, God consistently worked through intercessors. Abraham stood before God for Sodom. Moses stood before God for Israel. Samuel stood before God for the nation. Daniel stood before God for Jerusalem.

Nehemiah stood before God for his people. Jesus continues to stand before the Father as our great Intercessor. Their prayers left a legacy that extended far beyond their own lives. Intercession is one of the few ministries whose full impact may only be understood in eternity. Many intercessors never see all the results of their prayers while they are alive. Yet their prayers shape generations. Their prayers influence families. Their prayers impact churches. Their prayers affect cities and nations. Their prayers prepare the way for future breakthroughs.\

Hosting the presence of God means living with an awareness that your prayers matter beyond the present moment. Every prayer offered in faith leaves a spiritual imprint. Some prayers become seeds that produce fruit years later. Some prayers protect people from dangers they never even knew existed. Some prayers open doors for future generations. Many believers desire a visible ministry.

Yet some of the most influential people in God's Kingdom are intercessors whose names are largely unknown. Heaven measures influence differently from the world. The world celebrates visibility. God values faithfulness. An intercessor may never stand on a platform. May never write a book. May never lead a large ministry. Yet through faithful prayer, they may shape the destinies of countless lives. Hosting God's presence develops this eternal perspective. You begin to realise that prayer is not merely about today's needs. It is about God's purposes across generations. The prayers you pray today may bless your children tomorrow. The prayers you pray today may strengthen your church for years to come. The prayers you pray today may impact a nation you have never visited. God is still searching for people who will stand in the gap. People who will pray when others are silent. People who will remain faithful when answers seem delayed. People who will carry His burdens and release His purposes through prayer. May God find such people in us. May He find hearts willing to intercede. May He find believers who understand that prayer is not merely an activity; it is a legacy. And may that legacy continue long after we are gone.

**Psalms 126:5–6 (NIV)** "Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them."

Every prayer sown in faith becomes a seed in God's Kingdom. In His perfect timing, a harvest will come.

"History belongs to the intercessors who believe the future into being." — **Walter Wink**

**Action for Today:** Review your week of prayer. Record one burden, one breakthrough, one promise, and one answered prayer in your intercession journal. Thank God for His faithfulness.

**Reflection Question:**

1. Where did you see God's hand moving through your prayers this week?

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2. If your prayer life were to leave a spiritual legacy for future generations, what would you want that legacy to be? What specific people, ministries, cities, or nations do you feel called to carry before God in prayer?

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**Prayer:** Father, thank You for the privilege of intercession. Help me to remain faithful in prayer even when I do not immediately see results. Let my prayers leave a legacy that impacts generations. Use my life to carry Your heart and release Your purposes on earth. May I always be willing to stand in the gap. Amen.

## **Sunday, 26 July—Intercession Stands Between Judgment and Mercy**

Numbers 16:47–48 (NIV) *"So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped."*

**Focus Thought: Intercessors are often called to stand in difficult places.**

Numbers 16 presents one of the most powerful pictures of intercession in all of. A plague was spreading through the camp of Israel because of rebellion and sin. Death was moving through the people. Yet Aaron took incense, ran into the midst of the crisis, and stood between the living and the dead. The result was remarkable. The plague stopped. This is the ministry of intercession. Intercessors stand in the gap between brokenness and restoration, between despair and hope, between judgment and mercy.

Hosting the presence of God develops this kind of heart. The closer we grow to God, the more we care about the spiritual condition of those around us. Instead of watching from a distance, we step into the gap through prayer. The world is filled with people who are hurting.

Families are struggling. Young people are confused. Communities are broken. Nations are divided. Many believers look at these problems and feel overwhelmed. Intercessors respond

differently. They pray. Intercession is not passive. It is spiritual engagement. It is choosing to stand before God on behalf of people who may not even know they need prayer.

Aaron's actions reveal an important truth. He did not wait for someone else to respond. He ran into the middle of the crisis. This is the heart of an intercessor. Intercessors move toward the need rather than away from it. They carry God's compassion into difficult situations. They believe that prayer can change what seems impossible.

Hosting God's presence means carrying God's heart for people. God is merciful. God is compassionate. God desires restoration. When we spend time in His presence, these same qualities begin to shape our lives. We stop praying only for ourselves and begin praying for others. We begin standing in the gap for families. Churches. Schools. Communities. Leaders. Nations.

Intercession allows us to participate in God's work of mercy. While we cannot solve every problem ourselves, we can bring every problem before God. The intercessor becomes a bridge through which God's mercy can flow. And often the greatest spiritual victories happen because someone was willing to stand in the gap when others would not. God is still looking for people who will stand between the living and the dead.

People who will carry His heart. People who will pray until breakthrough comes. People who will not quit. Hosting God's presence means becoming one of those people.

**2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)** "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Prayer remains one of God's primary instruments for bringing mercy, healing, and restoration.

"Intercession is truly universal work for the Christian. No place is closed to intercessory prayer."  
— Richard Halverson

**Action for Today:** Identify someone facing a crisis, struggle, addiction, grief, or spiritual battle. Commit to standing in the gap for them in prayer today.

**Reflection Question:**

1. How did God enlarge your heart as you interceded for someone else's need?
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2. Who in your life needs someone to stand in the gap for them right now? What specific prayers is God calling you to pray on their behalf?
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**Prayer:** Lord, give me a heart that stands in the gap. Help me carry Your compassion and mercy to those who are hurting. Teach me to pray faithfully for those facing challenges and crises. Use my prayers as instruments of Your healing and restoration. Amen