

## *“The Cry Of Intercession”*

*“And there is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee: for Thou hast hid Thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities” (Isaiah 64:7).*

I had parked my car and was taking my coat and my Bible from the back seat. While standing beside the vehicle outside the church building, I heard the dear pastor beseeching God with urgency of soul in behalf of the meeting, the church, the community and our nation. I could not help but give thanks, for I knew I was not just hearing a voice; I was hearing the cry of intercession.

Intercessors often leave visible evidence of their ministries. John Wesley, for instance, having cried in behalf of the cold condition of his beloved England, left some notable impressions in Christendom. Hudson Taylor, carrying in his heart and in his petitions the desperate needs of China, gave believers a spiritual and missionary legacy. George Mueller, who saw so many miraculous interventions through prayer, continues to challenge God’s people to trust Him.

Admittedly, those who genuinely lay hold of God in prayer are greatly needed. Yet, as the text suggests, there is a lack of intercessors. The Lord seeks intercessors, but often it must be said, “He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor” (Isa. 59:16). What is involved in being an intercessor? Could God use you and me in this spiritual capacity? The text gives us a few guidelines in this arena.

*The cry of intercession comes from a stirred soul!* The intercessor stirs himself up “to take hold” of God. The words “to take hold” indicate that the individual “rouses, or incites” himself to urgency. He is resolute and firm in approaching the Lord. Like Jacob, who held on to the Man (none other than Christ) who wrestled with him until He blessed him (see Gen. 32:24-29), the intercessor will not let go of God.

*The cry of intercession moves beyond a sinful scene!* Looking above the haze of a generation bent on sin, the intercessor calls upon the Lord. He sees no value in his own name, but leans on the wealth of the holy name. Before moving toward man to speak the divine truth, He moves toward God to seek the divine presence. The petitioning soul pours out his being and heart before the Being and heart of God.

*The cry of intercession feels a sorrowful spirit!* The intercessor’s heart is broken over the “iniquities” of his generation, which cause God to hide His face and consume them in judgment. In his account of the Welsh intercessor, Rees Howells, who was a channel for a mighty revival in Africa, Norman Grubb wrote that he “bore on his heart the world’s deep suffering and sin till it broke him.” Oh, may God move upon us in this hour and produce the cry of intercession.