

Personal Prayer That  
Changes the World

# INTERCESSORS ARISE

Debbie Przybylski

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## F O R E W O R D

TODAY I RECEIVED an e-mail from a dear intercessor in another city. She said, “Please tell me how your wife, Alice, can mentor me in intercession.” I had to tell her that Alice travels around the world equipping Christian leaders and can’t possibly mentor individual intercessors any longer. When we were local pastors, we loved that part of ministry, but that was more than a dozen years ago!

I understand this woman’s desire to have a guide. I’ve also heard Alice lament that she never had a mentor. She had to learn intercession the old-fashioned way: She had to earn it. She would have dearly loved to have an experienced person show her the way.

Have you ever felt that way? If so, then I have good news for you — meet your mentor!

Our friend Debbie Przybylski knows the way. Not only that, she also has one of the finest gifts of written teaching I’ve seen anywhere. And this book is a perfect example of it. In *Intercessors Arise* she addresses intercession and its relationship to worship, passion, faith, character, stillness, the Word, intimacy with God, and much more.

*Intercessors Arise* will strengthen your personal prayer life. It is also excellent for developing group prayer. Each chapter contains three separate teachings that will assist your spiritual growth and motivation in prayer. The teachings are designed for reading again and again according to your particular need of the moment, and for prayerful consideration and application.

*Eddie Smith*

author of *How to Be Heard in Heaven*;  
president, U.S. Prayer Center



## A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

### WITH SPECIAL THANKS:

To the Holy Spirit, who gave me the privilege to partner with You in writing this book. I was always aware of Your strength and supernatural help in every topic pertaining to prayer and intercession. I learned so much about Your heart for intercession, and I am so blessed in being part of what You are doing all throughout the world in prayer.

To my husband, Norman, who encouraged me and gave me freedom to pursue this ministry of *Intercessors Arise*. Thank you for releasing me to focus on intercession.

To Susan Martins Miller, Jeanne Allen, and Debbie Leseberg, who gave many hours of hard work in editing this book. I am so grateful for your perseverance, insight, and expertise.

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To all the intercessors who have faithfully prayed for us.

Without your encouragement and prayers, this would not have been possible. I value your prayers more than you could ever know.



## I N T R O D U C T I O N

Prayer is not an indifferent or a small thing. It is not a sweet, little privilege. It is a great prerogative, far-reaching in its effects. Failure to pray entails losses far beyond the person who neglects it. Prayer is not a mere episode of the Christian life. Rather, the whole of life is a preparation for and the result of prayer.

E. M. Bounds, *E. M. Bounds on Prayer*<sup>1</sup>

THE MINISTRY OF *Intercessors Arise* was birthed in my heart years ago on the mission field as a young missionary trying to reach the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It was then that I saw the desperate need for prayer for the nations. Over the years, my passion for intercession grew. Praying in the nations over many years with Operation Mobilization on its mission ship *Doulos* and ministering in more than sixty countries was a privilege. I saw prayer as a vital necessity in reaching the world. I learned the blessing of both personal and corporate prayer for the lost. *Intercessors Arise* began the week after 9/11.

Throughout the years, I have had the honor of being involved in prayer with people from all over the world and from all denominations, backgrounds, and ages. Perhaps this is why I believe so

strongly in God's creative diversity in prayer and in His many ways of expressing Himself through His people. It has been a delight and joy to participate in so many prayer meetings in various nations on every continent.

During the past few years, my passion for prayer has grown into an earnest desire to see intercession increase and develop throughout the world. The prayer movement is spreading rapidly and growing with intensity. Countries everywhere are being touched with the power of prayer. My desire is to help train and motivate you for this worldwide prayer movement. I want to offer preparation in personal prayer that will change the world.

To help attain this goal, I wrote *Intercessors Arise*, a mentoring manual for prayer and intercession in the end times. Designed to cross all denominational and cultural barriers, it is written both for individuals who are learning to pray and for those who are well-seasoned intercessors.

Some people have said to me, "I don't have the gift of intercession," and then have grown to be mighty prayer warriors. None of us is born a prayer hero. We become one through practice. Intercessory prayer is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His church on earth. He works through the prayers of His people. Through intercession, we mediate between God and humans as His representatives on earth, standing between Him and a lost world.

God is calling the entire body of Christ to pray and to intercede. Jesus is our example as the greatest intercessor, and He invites us to join Him. This is both our responsibility and a wonderful privilege to partner with God as we pray. We bring people to God in prayer, asking Him to meet with them. With His authority, we

enforce the victory of Calvary here on earth through our prayers. Now we must awaken to this glorious privilege.

*Intercessors Arise* can be used for strengthening the individual prayer life and developing group praying. Each chapter has three separate teachings that are short and practical with the hope of launching you further than you have ever been in the tremendous ministry of world-changing prayer. Each chapter ends with a personal application assignment designed for individuals as well as for training in groups. My desire is that you not only learn and grow in intercession but also begin to train others. Each chapter ends with an application prayer.

If you want to grow in your personal prayer life and make an impact in your world through intercession, then this book is for you. God is calling each one of us to rise higher in prayer than ever before. It's time for us to meet this challenge. It's time to release God on earth through our prayers. I encourage you as you read this book to make a new commitment to steadfast, earnest prayer.

My intense hope is to see intercessors arise in the end times. The days are getting darker, the need is getting greater, and the expectation of a worldwide harvest is growing brighter. I pray that you arise to the call for prayer and intercession in your own life, whether it is for your family, your city, your nation, or the world. It is time for expansion and increase on a global scale. It is time for fervency of intercession to develop beyond anything we have ever seen or imagined. May you arise in intercession for such a time as this. May you arise in personal prayer that changes the world.

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.*

*See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the LORD rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you. (Isaiah 60:1-2)*



## CHAPTER ONE

# THE INTERCESSOR AND INTIMACY

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.

— Mark 12:30

WE ALL SAT on the edge of our seats, nearly breathless. Standing before us was Corrie ten Boom, who had been sent to a concentration camp because her family protected Jewish refugees from Nazi persecution. It was my first year in Bible school, and Corrie had come to speak for our chapel service. She told about her difficult days surviving in that camp and how God sustained her day by day. At the time, I didn't know much about her, but I was immediately aware of the abiding presence of God in her life. Something was different—radiant—about her countenance as she shared how she was able to see God's grace and glory in the deepest darkness because she was so intimately acquainted with Him. She knew the price of intimacy as she spent her days in intercession in that lice-infested prison. Corrie practiced God's presence in even the gloomiest, darkest situation. She pursued His heart at a time when

there was no apparent hope of escape or deliverance. Even in such a horrific place, the grace and majesty of God permeated the heart of Corrie ten Boom.

Her message was clear: Intimacy with God will help us to live victoriously in even the most difficult circumstances. But the challenge was also clear: How do we grow in intimacy with Him?

Let's explore some ways we can practice God's presence and pursue God's heart. We'll see how God can meet the longings of our hearts and awaken us to a fascinating life of intimacy.

## PRACTICING HIS PRESENCE: BECOMING A BEST FRIEND OF GOD

Knowing and loving God is our greatest privilege, and being known and loved is God's greatest pleasure.

— Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*

What a privilege to become a best friend of God! Have you grasped the reality of what this means?

As a humble cook in a seventeenth-century French monastery, Brother Lawrence was able to turn even a boring job, such as washing dishes, into an act of worship and an opportunity to build his relationship with God. He said, "The key to friendship with God is not changing what you do, but changing your attitude toward what you do. What you normally do for yourself you begin doing for God, whether it is eating, bathing, working, relaxing, or taking out the trash."<sup>1</sup> We read in Psalm 16:11,

*You have made known to me the path of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence,  
with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

Following Brother Lawrence's example, let's realize that worship should not be so much an event as a perpetual attitude.

I once read about a man who said that he wanted to learn to pray all the time in every situation day and night. He wanted to live in constant fellowship with God and moment-by-moment companionship with Jesus. This is a holy ambition and motivates me personally to develop this kind of intimate relationship with God. When we pray, we are speaking to God, and when we meditate on God's Word, He speaks to us. We need both as we develop our friendship with God. Practicing the presence of God will give us rest and lead us into a more fruitful lifestyle. But how can we practice God's presence on a daily basis?

**Use Breath Prayers.** Pray a brief phrase to Jesus throughout the day that you can repeat in one breath. You may want to pray phrases such as, "You will help me," "You promise to never leave me," "I can do all things through Christ," "Your joy is my strength," "I love You," and "Help me trust You." Breath prayers, unlike regular prayers, are short with just a few words that you can quickly pray to God at any time. They will keep you more conscious of your relationship with God on a moment-by-moment basis. You become more aware that He is with you through all the joys and sorrows of daily life. You realize in a deeper dimension His companionship. As time goes on, it becomes a natural practice in your everyday life, and you realize afresh that Jesus really is your best friend. The promise of Exodus 33:14 becomes more

real: “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” A deeper joy invades your life as you realize that you are learning to abide in Christ.

**Think About God’s Word.** Meditate on God’s Word throughout the day. Focus your thoughts on the Bible. Think about who God is and what He has done. This takes time to learn, but Scripture offers a promise of God’s prosperity in our lives when we meditate on His Word:

*His delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers. (Psalm 1:2-3)*

Rick Warren reminds us in *The Purpose-Driven Life*,

When you think about a problem over and over in your mind, that’s called worry. When you think about God’s Word over and over in your mind, that’s meditation. If you know how to worry, you already know how to meditate! You just need to switch your attention from your problems to Bible verses.<sup>2</sup>

Do you want to move into a new place as a praying intercessor and practice God’s presence even more than you ever did before? We are entering days when the Word of God in our hearts is going to be absolutely necessary. Don’t worry—we can live above all

that is happening here on earth if we keep in mind that everything we do can be spending time with God. We only need to be aware of His presence during the day, whatever we're doing. He wants to be invited into the center of our activities. As world conditions worsen, we will ride on high places above the storm. This is how we will defeat the Enemy. Practicing God's presence through short prayers and meditation will make all the difference. Together let's stay aware of His presence and step up higher, into a new realm of intimacy. Let's learn to rest in God's presence rather than worry.

Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

— Joshua 1:8-9

## A SUSTAINED PURSUIT AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

The revelation David had about the emotions of God equipped his heart for a sustained, abandoned pursuit of God, through his many weaknesses and failures, as well as his stunning victories. David is the picture of the end time church, which will be a love-sick, worshipping warrior bride, and a people after God's own heart.

— Mike Bickle, "David's Paradigm of Enjoyable Prayer"

David was a man after God's own heart. He was moved by what moved the heart of God. He wanted to know how God felt about life. He wanted to be intimately acquainted with God's ways of doing things and why He did them. He wanted to be passionate

toward God. David was after God's heartbeat for the world. God's desire is that we pursue Him with all of our hearts, just like David did, abandoning ourselves to His purposes and plans.

Are we eager as intercessors to study the heart of God? May God help us to know the secret of such a prayer life that is moved by a passionate, sustained pursuit of the heart, mind, and will of God.

When you and I know the emotions and feelings in God's heart, we can better obey Him. We can walk obediently in His Word and live radically for Him because His love sustains us. We are able to obey God in the long term when we are linked to His power rather than our own weakness. We can live joyfully because we are living in a whole new realm. Psalm 16:11 says, "You will fill me with joy in your presence."

I entered the mission field at a young age. Missionary life is filled with seasons of hardship and endurance. My first big lesson in this came when I lived on a missionary ship with people from all over the world. The name of the ship was *Doulos*, which means "servant" in Greek. Everyone was encouraged to be like Jesus, coming not to be served but to serve. My first job on the ship was to serve food to more than three hundred people from over forty different nations. That was not so difficult—until we set out to sea. Our first major voyage was sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, a two-week journey that I secretly anticipated with considerable fear and dread. After all, I was not a sailor. I couldn't even swim! How could I serve food during a rough voyage? And they predicted a rough voyage since it was hurricane season!

Sure enough, the trip got tempestuous. I remember one of my fellow dining room workers coming out of the kitchen holding a

tray loaded with soft blocks of butter on little plates. Suddenly the ship lurched forward, and she completely lost her balance. Butter flew everywhere! It was on everything, including my coworker, the floor, and the tables. On another day, I was serving soup to all the tables in my row. I thought I was doing pretty well until I served a tall lanky guy, who then leaned over and emptied his stomach right in the middle of his bowl. I turned in the other direction and got out of there fast! Fortunately both incidents later turned into humorous stories, just a few of our many experiences at sea.

What sustained me in those early experiences of missionary life and all throughout my missionary career was seeing God's heartbeat for the world. It was a personal understanding of His heart and His love for me that got me through the day-in, day-out experiences of ship life. I was able to focus on God and His love during those times.

Without understanding the love of God, it is impossible to serve Him successfully for a long time overseas. Sooner or later the weaknesses in our lives and the heaviness of ministry demands catch up with us. When we pursue God's heart, everything becomes easier because we are walking with and focusing on God. We begin to comprehend His overwhelming love for us personally and the deep pleasure He has in our fellowship with Him. This motivates us to change. Our actions and lifestyles become more Christlike because we see ourselves the way God sees us, and this impacts everything we say and do. We see the beauty of God, and then we see ourselves through His eyes. This enables us to say no to sin and grow in holiness.

Eventually the truth about God and how He loves the entire world moves into our hearts. We then respond to God from our

hearts. We experience the love of God in a deeper measure. But we must realize that Satan will always attack our relationship with Christ. He knows that this is the key to all fruitfulness and spiritual victory. When we know the love of God on a deep level, we can conquer any difficulty—even sea voyages. We can face any trial because we can trust our Father to know what is best for us. He will carry us through. He knows us intimately. We are His beloved children.

I believe strongly that one thing the devil seeks to do is to sneak in and subtly distract our attention from the purity and simplicity of loving God. He doesn't mind if we exalt revival, healing, or anything else, as long as we lose our focus on the simplicity of heart-level lavish devotion to the Son of God.

— Mike Bickle, "David's Paradigm of Enjoyable Prayer"

## LONGINGS OF THE HEART

One of the most fundamental realities in the Spirit is that our Bridegroom King so desires, pursues and enjoys us as His Bride. When the human heart is assured through the revelation of the Spirit that we are deeply enjoyed, then something powerful is awakened within us. This is truly the beginning of our experience of the Divine romance.

— Mike Bickle, "The Bridal Paradigm"

We all have inner longings that can be met only in an intimate relationship with God. Men and women everywhere try to meet these longings in different ways but don't find fulfillment until they embrace the Lord and His salvation. We can never fully live

for God, abandoned to His purposes, until we have the longings of our hearts met by His perfect love. When we have had a personal revelation of that love, knowing He deeply enjoys us and treasures our relationship with Him, we will be able to live and pray more effectively. The Holy Spirit will guide us in our praying and our “goings and doings.” Our faith will deepen and prayer will grow from that fellowship with Him, becoming a greater joy and privilege.

We long for the assurance that God enjoys us. How few of us really know deep in our hearts that God enjoys us! How few of us know experientially that God feels our pain and knows our struggles.

He knows that we are sinners, and He has knowledge of our secrets.

He knows the dreams and intentions in our hearts.

He knows when we feel lonely and when no one understands us.

He alone understands the deep desires and longings in our hearts.

Despite our confusion and weaknesses, God loves us, enjoys us, and believes in us. He treats us with honor and walks through every day and hour with us. When we learn this truth, we are changed forever. Love begins to impact everything we do, including how we pray. We rise up with new confidence. Mike Bickle puts it this way in “The Bridal Paradigm”:

The absolute strongest emotion in our being is the craving to be assured that God enjoys us. The power of feeling enjoyed. We imagine God will enjoy us when we are

in heaven; we can even imagine God will enjoy us if we are spiritually mature on the earth. But the idea that He enjoys us while we are spiritually immature is unthinkable for many people.<sup>3</sup>

We long for the assurance that God enjoys us, and then we long to be captivated by God. We have a deep desire in our hearts to be excited and enthralled by the wonder and awe of who He is. We love beauty, and we long to be spiritually alive. We want to experience wonder. We are designed for it in the core of our being.

When I was in France, I saw a creative desire in the culture. You can see it in the architecture, fashions, beautiful gardens, and floral designs throughout the country. You can even see it in the way the French artistically plan and serve a meal. All of this points to a God-given craving deep inside the human heart that longs for beauty, something to treasure that is so precious a person would give everything to possess it. The apostle Paul was such a man. He was so captivated by God that he wrote in *Philippians* 3:8, “I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”

Because God designed us for fellowship with Him, we really do need to experience at the core of our being the awe and wonder of who He is. God wants to bring us to that place of wonder in His beauty and majesty. If we were to ask people about their relationship with the Lord, we would learn that the majority of Christians have not been fully captivated by Him. Many have simply gone through the motions of what it is to be a Christian.

This has to change.

We need supernatural strength in the inner person to be able to stand strong as the pressures increase on the earth. Those who have developed an intimate relationship with God will be able to stand strong and walk in His supernatural peace.

This is the time to practice His presence and develop friendship with our Bridegroom King.

This is the time to pursue His heart, becoming captivated by Him and His awesome majesty.

This is the time to grow in our faith.

The redeemed across the earth will one day see their Messiah as their heavenly Bridegroom. In the overflow of that revelation, we will redefine ourselves as the cherished Bride. This transforms our hearts and changes our lives. He will change the way that we view Him and therefore, the way we view ourselves. The deep spiritual void in our lives can be fulfilled in our heavenly Bridegroom.

— Mike Bickle, "The Bridal Paradigm"

# PERSONAL APPLICATION

**HOW TO GROW IN INTIMATELY KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD.** As you seek to practice God's presence and pursue His heart, take several minutes each day this week to personally apply this truth to your own life. Read and meditate on Psalm 84; listen carefully, and let it speak to your heart. Pray this psalm back to God as a prayer. Try singing it to the Lord. You may want to pick different Scriptures each day, or you can concentrate on this psalm.

- Renew your mind in God's Word. We must know the Lord's Word because it will transform us and lead us into God's perfect will. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:2).
- Meditate on the Word. We must let God's Word permeate our hearts. We often move too quickly through life. We need to discipline ourselves to be still and know God. "I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways" (Psalm 119:15).
- Speak the Word back to the Lord in prayer. We need to learn to pray scriptural prayers back to God. Declaring scriptural promises establishes them in the spirit. "What

you decide on will be done, and light will shine on your ways” (Job 22:28).

- Sing the Word back to the Lord. Let God’s Word move from head knowledge to heart knowledge. Making melody in your heart to God helps touch your feelings and brings satisfaction to your soul. “My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you” (Psalm 63:5).

**HOW TO HELP OTHERS GROW IN INTIMACY WITH GOD.** Get together with another person or group, and practice praying the Word back and forth together. Begin with the first verse of Psalm 84. You may want to first read the entire psalm together. Then begin to pray it verse by verse, letting God lead you as you pray. It will become more real as you speak it out in prayer to one another. As Paul reminded us, “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19).

### MY PRAYER TO GOD

Lord, help me to practice Your presence and abide in Your love. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love” [John 15:9]. Teach me to meditate on Your Word throughout the day instead of my problems. Forgive me for when I worry instead of trust You. I want to be one who pursues Your heart as David did. Help me to pray Your Word and speak it to others. Awaken me, O God, to Your deep enjoyment of who I am. Give me revelation of Your beauty, give me joy in Your presence,

and take me deeper in knowing You that I may be prepared for the coming days. Help me embrace You as my Bridegroom, King, and loving Father. Show me a greater dimension of Your love. Reveal to me Your transcendent beauty. Teach me to pray as one who abides in Your love always, deeply touched by Your deep longing for me. Like Paul, I want to know Your surpassing greatness [see Philippians 3:8]. In Jesus' name, amen.