

New Creation Prayer – Sample

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Don Atkin and Stephen Crosby

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There is a scarcity of references to intercession in the New Testament.ⁱ Those heavily involved in intercessory and “prophetic”ⁱⁱ prayer ministry frequently miss the significance of this rarity. If we want to see greater fruit from our prayer effort, it would behoove us to investigate the reasons for, and the implications of, the relative silence.

I appreciate and respect those who pray and intercede for Rita and myself, our efforts in the Lord, and for the Lord’s greater interests on earth. Their ministry is invaluable. Nothing I say herein should be construed as demeaning the exercise of prayer and intercession. I’m not opposed to bona fide, Spirit directed, intercession. I am troubled by well-meaning but ignorant, misguided, and unfruitful intercession based in the energy and desires of the human soul. We need genuine discernment.

Some of the prayer we engage in is an insult to the Person and work of Christ. I want our prayer to be effective, with understanding, and backed with heaven’s life and power. For this to occur, our prayer must be on heaven’s frequency. Mentalities and methods that act as if nothing significant took place on the Day of Pentecost are “out of tune” with heaven’s melody.

The Christ Actⁱⁱⁱ is the hinge of the cosmos. It redefined the temporal and spiritual realities of the universe. New creation intercession must be based on, and flow out from, this reality. Quite simply, the situation is not the same for us as it was for the Old Testament saints. If we pray from their paradigm of experience and understanding, we will find ourselves engaged in some misdirected efforts that may stimulate us personally or amp up a meeting, but which are of little or no real effect.

Since the very beginning of my faith thirty-seven years ago, I have been exposed to Latter Rain, “deeper life,” and prophetic teaching regarding prayer, intercession, spiritual authority, spiritual warfare, etc. I’m also aware of the accomplishments of individuals such as Praying Hyde, Rees Howells, the Moravians and other more hidden ones. I’ve been very much an insider on this issue as it has emerged over the last 25-30 years in the Charismatic branch of the church (spiritual mapping, prayer walks, all night prayer, fasting, prayer vigils, prophetic intercession, etc.). I say these things as a necessity for what follows, because I will likely aggravate many readers with what I say herein. I could be misinterpreted as someone who “just doesn’t get it.” On the contrary, I have the T-shirt and the coffee mug on this topic. “Been there” . . . as the saying goes.

Since the late eighties up to the present hour, the ministry of intercession and prophetic intercession has morphed into an extra-biblical, celebrity driven, moneymaking cottage industry based on inaccurate belief systems and practices. It’s my premise that intercession as it is commonly practiced today in many Charismatic and allegedly apostolic/prophetic circles, needs a thorough New Covenant update if it’s to recover biblical and spiritual legitimacy.

New Covenant Update 1 – What is an intercessor?

And God gave some apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints for the work of ministry . . . – Eph. 4:13. KJV

There are many different legitimate graces, callings, and arenas of “ministry” in the kingdom that are not explicitly defined in Scripture.^{iv} However, there’s a difference between flowing in graces that may not be explicitly defined, and making one of them equivalent to those that are explicitly listed. Prophetic intercessors are **not** included in the Ephesians 4 list. Where intercession is concerned, too much has been made of too little.

Dear ones, there’s simply not a shred of New Testament justification for a special class of individuals known as intercessors. There are believers who practice interceding. Intercession is a grace available to

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everyone called by the name of Christ. The only difference is, some give themselves to it more than others. Give yourself to it, and you will also be an intercessor.

I find it intriguingly odd that people whose faith is rooted in the universal priesthood of believers and opposition to the clergy/laity and secular/sacred divide, can so readily support a belief system that relegates the ministry of prayer to a class of specialists.

We have entire conferences dedicated to the proposition that there are “intercessors” and then there are . . . “others.” Of course, there’s nothing wrong with the mutual encouragement and edification of those who have given themselves to prayer and intercession, or any ministry for that matter. However, developing an exclusive and elitist subculture for mystical specialists is outside New Testament boundaries.

ⁱ Intercessor is mentioned once in Isaiah referring to Christ. Intercession is mentioned 4 times in the New Testament.

ⁱⁱ There’s a lot of baggage associated with this term. I would rather not use quotes every time it’s mentioned as a way of indicating that just because someone says something is prophetic, doesn’t mean that it is. From here on out . . . no more quotes!

ⁱⁱⁱ Christ’s birth, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, glorification, the Spirit outpouring, and the Spirit indwelling, is the “Christ Act.”

^{iv} Drama, business, art, dance, media, counseling, marriage and the family, youth, etc.