

INTERCESSION - JOB

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Well, praise the Lord. Job is a story on intercession. Most of the time when we look at Job we think of it as a book about suffering. Job did go through some sufferings didn't he? I didn't think of it as something about intercession until one day the Lord began to unfold it to me. In Job 1:1 it says, "And there was a man in the land of Uzz whose name was Job and that man was blameless and upright and one who feared God and shunned evil." Now he was "blameless" it doesn't say he was sinless. You don't have to be sinless either because Jesus is sinless, was sinless, will always be sinless and God the Father has found perfection in His Son. So through His Son He sees that in us. Now we need to be holy, but we'll never be sinless until we have our new bodies. But we can be blameless. Zaccariah and Elizabeth, the Bible says were blameless and the angel came. We need to be blameless. We need to be out from among and we need to be separate, that doesn't mean physically separate, it means we need to act different than the rest of the world. That means when we do sin, we stop sinning. We change, we repent and we get right with God immediately, then we are blameless. That's the kind of people we need to be. That's the kind that Job was. He was blameless and he was upright and he feared God.

I was talking to Rick Joyner about the fear of the Lord and how the Lord spoke to him and said that a generation ago, even those who didn't know the Lord, feared Him. Now even those that know God, don't fear Him. We need to have a new understanding of what it means to have the fear of the Lord, that we are to respect Him, even when no one else is looking we still act like Christians. We still do the same things as if we were in front of all the people of God, we are in front of God and His angels, but do we respect Him? Do we really fear Him? Do we really have that understanding that He is there? and that He is watching? and that it hurts Him when we don't follow His ways?

Verse 2, "He had seven sons and three daughters that were born to him. And also his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand cattle, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household. So that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. And his sons would go to a feast at their houses each on the appointed day and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. So it was when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt sacrifices according to the number of them all, for Job said, 'It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.' Thus Job did regularly." Now I want to tell you something. If you

keep reading the record you will figure out very quickly that they did curse God in their hearts because of the things that happened. But Job stood in the gap for them anyway and held off the judgment for a time. That is exactly what we need to be doing for our nation, for the people we know. Because in heaven there are those bowls that are filled up with either the accusations or the praises of God intercession fills those bowls. It is kind of like the statue of the blind justice. She is holding the balances. That is the way it is in heaven. Whatever gets up to God's ear, it comes and fills up one of those bowls. When it comes and it is all accusations, and that is what He hears, those balances are out of balance , when that pours out, God's wrath pours out. But if we fill the other bowl up with worship and praise and intercession , guess what , if we can keep that bowl filled up we don't get the wrath of God.

You can stand in the gap and Job was able to do that for quite some time but there has to be some repentance eventually and his children did not change. Verse 6 says, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan also came amongst them." You have the picture , God is sitting on His throne , here come the angels , Satan also came. The picture we have always had is that Satan kind of sneaks in and nobody notices. I think that is a wrong perception but there is a prophetic meaning behind this that God is trying to get to us.

What are "sons of God?" In Luke 3:38 talks about the genealogy of Jesus Christ and it is going back to Adam. It says, "the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God." In Luke 20:34 it says, "And Jesus answered and said to them, 'The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.'" So if we are children of the resurrection we are sons of God, aren't we , equal to the angels.

Romans 8:14 says, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God." Are you getting the picture here? Galatians 3:26 says, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Job 1:7 says, "And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.'" That's where he is supposed to be because he didn't come down here by choice , he got cast out of heaven because he was a bad employee. He was in charge of praise and worship and he liked taking that praise and worship for himself so he got thrown down here. God says to him in verse 8: "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?" That is what God said. So Satan answered and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land."

Ezekiel 22:30 says, "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall [hedge], and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one." Now in Ezekiel God was looking for somebody that would pray. He really didn't want to bring judgment. But He needed somebody to ask Him not to bring judgment, somebody to intercede. Somebody that saw what was going on and still stood in the gap. That's what Job was doing for his children. What did Satan say to God? "You have a hedge about him." You have this hedge all around him and all around his household. I can't get through. How did that hedge get there? Intercession.

Job 2:1 says, "...there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord." Remember when Satan came up there and was accusing Job, God said, "Okay, you can go down there and you can do these things to his family, but don't touch Job." But Satan could not get through as long as there was a hedge. Now the word "Satan" means "the accuser of the brethren." If you understand this in the terms of the accuser went before God and accused him, you kind of get a picture of what is going on here. Now you also have to understand how that accuser got in the throne room of God. Two times now we find him there. He came in with the sons of God, didn't he? God loves his kids. His doors are always open. We have the right to enter in anytime. What do we take in when we go? What come out of your mouth when you are in the presence of God? Are you accusing those people who seem to be blessed; those people who seem to be doing things that you don't think they should be doing or maybe are frustrating you? What comes out of your mouth? What comes out of mine? Is it intercession? or is it accusation? Because if you are in there and as one of the sons of God if you open your mouth with accusation the accuser of the brethren comes with you. There is no other way that the accuser can get into the presence of God unless he comes in with the sons of God. Satan can't get there because he's bouncing around on the earth. This is the place where the accusations dwell. This is the place where the evil is. This is the place where unrighteousness is; where sin is. The only way he can get into the presence of God is to go in with us. Jesus made a way for us to go in.

Verse 2, "And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?'" He said the same thing to him after all these things. He lost all of his family but his wife and she didn't have anything good to say. He lost all of his possessions all in one day. Now I know that it is taught by some people that it says because he greatly feared it that it came upon him, but I can fear all I want and it is not going to affect my adult children. They have to obviously do something. But there still had to be an affect with that hedge. That hedge had to be taken down. How many of you know that we as intercessors are supposed to be building hedges and not taking them down, but somebody went in there as the accuser of the brethren and tore that hedge down. Haven't we done that? Haven't we said, "Well of course he could do that, after all look at all the things God has done for him. Look at all the things God has given him." Have you ever said anything like that? I know I'm guilty of it. I have done things like that many times. Not thinking that wow God

loves me and He listens to me and here I am accusing someone , it may be somebody I don't really know , but it may be somebody I know well and they are just frustrating me. After all where do they get off doing that? Here I go and open my mouth and who comes in? The accuser of the brethren. We don't think of it in terms of Satan. When we say Satan we think of this little red guy with horns and little goatee and pointy tail and looks like somebody you could lasso and brand. But, that is not it. It is the accuser of the brethren. It is words. I'm not saying there is not a devil. What I am saying is somebody has to speak his words in the presence of God because he can't do it. He has to use us. He can only get in through the sons of God because we have access into the presence of our Heavenly Father.

Let's continue with the rest of verse 3, "...And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." People who think this happened on Job because of his own fears or whatever , it can't be true , this says without a cause. This guy was upright and blameless , a blessed man and yet these things happened to him because the accuser of the brethren spoke things in God's presence because there was no cause for these things to happen. That is what God said.

Verses 4-7 says, So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" So the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." It just keep getting worse and worse.

Verse 8 says, And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes. Then his wife said to him, "Honey don't worry it will get better someday." No she said, "Do you still hold to your integrity? Now what did God say? "He still is holding fast to his integrity." What did she say? "Do you still hold fast to your integrity?" Do you think there is a close relationship there or do you think that was coincidental? Don't you think God was speaking to him and saying, "Look your husband is still holding fast his integrity." What did she do? Turned it right around to an accusation and said, "What are you doing? Are you still holding fast to your integrity?" What didn't she do? She didn't take that and pray it. She should have said, "Lord he is still holding fast to his integrity!" Build that hedge back up. It's been torn down. He's going through some bad times here. But build that hedge up , he still holds fast to his integrity. That is not what she did. She took those words and she said, "Are you? Are you still holding fast to your integrity? I can't believe you. But she said, "Curse God and die!" That is a real helpful intercessor. "Curse God and die!" That's good advice, right? Not! Look how close she was to the words God spoke. How close was the accuser in the Garden of Eden? God said in the day you eat thereof you shall surely die. Satan said, the day you eat thereof you shall not surely die. It's only one word difference. Very close. A counterfeit is always close to the genuine. What she said was so close to what God said , she was so close to speaking the words of God , but instead she spoke the words of accusation. She spoke the words of the accuser to her husband and look at the results that would have come had he taken her advice. He would have died.

Chapter 2, verse 10 says, But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Where were all these other people sinning from? Their words, right? What are we looking at so far here? We are looking at words aren't we , Job's words of intercession , we're looking at a hedge about him because of intercession , we're looking at God speaking to the accuser saying how good and blameless Job is , the fear of the Lord is there , he holds fast his integrity , we have seen the accuser through his wife saying are you still holding fast your integrity , the words that they are speaking and it says that Job did not sin with his lips.

Verse 11 says, Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him. Their intentions were very good. They heard about his trouble and they got together and pulled together and said, "Hey, our buddy is having a bad time. Let's go comfort him." That was their intentions. How many of you know that many times good intentions are not carried out even though we intend them to be good. You know the saying, "The road to Hell is paved with good intentions." These guys came with every good intention to bless their friend Job.

Verse 12: Now when they raised their eyes from afar, and did not recognize him, they lifted their voices and wept; and each one tore his robe and sprinkled dust on his head toward heaven. So they sat down with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great. What are we talking about again here? Words. They came to comfort him. The biggest point after they take their clothes and get them all dirty, is they sit down. Look at the care these guys had for him. Think about it. Seven days. Could you sit down for seven days silently? I think if you were there after an hour or two you would start getting uncomfortable but these guys went for seven days. Their intentions were to be with him, to help him. I think they really gave up a lot to be there. They really cared for Job. Then look what happens in chapter 3, verse 1, After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. In verse 10 it had said, In all this Job did not sin with his lips, but here in chapter 3 he finally just says, "I've had it. I wish I never was born." He finally sinned with his lips. What happened? Things just got worse. The words we speak are very powerful. Even in spite of the times we are going through tough times, they get worse when we curse. It doesn't have to be a curse word in that sense, but speaking evil or negative as opposed to speaking what is good and what is right. Those bring curses. The words that come out of our mouth are power. They are might. I work with a lot of people that are prophetic, that are intercessory, and I say we have a lot available to us. All that was available to the prophets of old are available to us and more because the spirit of Elijah was upon John and Jesus said that he was the greatest man ever born of woman and yet he said that he who is the least in the Kingdom of God is greater than him. The Spirit that we have is the fullness of all there was in Jesus Christ. Whereas he had an anointing that was a portion; it was doubled and given to Elisha. So, Elisha had twice as much, and yet all you ever see Elisha listed as, "He is the son of the servant of Elijah." Elijah is the one they go back to , where the Spirit began ,

where it was put on him and taken from him , still whatever he had and as great as it was , it was only in a portion that could be doubled and given to Elisha. What do we have? What Jesus had. That is everything. God gave Jesus the Spirit without measure. He didn't just pour out a little bit , like okay here is the Moses anointing , here is the Elijah anointing , let's see what should we give to Jesus? Let's give him twice , no we already gave that to Elisha , we better give Him three times the Elijah anointing , no, just pour it all on him. Jesus' anointing came without measure , He just broke whatever it was He held the Spirit in and poured it on Him. He got it all , and what did we get? The same thing! Then why aren't we doing the same things that He did? Jesus said that we can do greater works than He did. Do you know why we aren't doing greater works than He did? Because we haven't done the regular works that He did. We have to start with walking in love and start with doing the things that He did. Turning the other cheek. We need to get the money changers out of our temples , meaning in our own hearts. When we do the regular works of Jesus, we will most assuredly be raised up. So, when I speak to intercessors, especially young prophets , the first thing they want to do , you see this , Jesus' disciples wanted to do this. James and John always wanting to do this: Shall we call down fire from heaven, Lord? Come on let's call down fire from heaven , they won't let you go through Samaria , we'll show them. Jesus said, "You don't even know what spirit you are of." They were ready to bring down that fire, but convert them, I mean that is work. What I like to tell people is, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ." It says that in Matthew 28:18 and 19. After He got up from the dead He was given all authority in heaven and earth. We know that is available to us. He can delegate it to us , and He does delegate it to us , that is why we can do His works. Because we have the Spirit without measure we can do greater works. But those things don't happen unless we prove we are worthy. If you go into the parking lot and some little old lady bumps your nice new paint job on your car with a shopping cart, and you curse her, then you just proved to God that you cannot be trusted with the authority that Elijah had to call down fire from heaven because you just fried that pour little old lady out in the parking lot. That might be one of His kids. So, He cannot trust you. You need to earn the right to walk in the authority that God has given you , we all do. We grow up in all things unto Him who is the head, even Christ Jesus. So, do you see the importance of walking and watching our words in order to have the authority of God manifested in our lives? We do have great things available to us. We need to become like Job, blameless and upright with the fear of the Lord. If we have the fear of the Lord, are we going to be doing that? If you get stuck in traffic somewhere or some crazy person pulls in front of you and you want to holler at them , if God really did trust you with the authority that he had given to His Son , how would you use it?

Somebody had some authority here and look what they did to Job. It really makes you think, doesn't it. We want the power and the authority, but do we want the responsibility? To whom much is given, much will be required. If we want to walk in the authority and power that is available to us , which we need to desire , there is a price to be paid. We need to be holy and upright. We need to understand the authority and power, because Jesus said, "My words are Spirit and they are Life." They could have been fire from heaven.

Job cursed the day of his birth. You know the story how they got into all these discussions and they were advising Job and a lot of it makes a lot of sense but Job just says, "You're not right." He knew they weren't right. He hadn't done anything. He had not even sinned with his lips until that day. I was reading one time, I have been blessed to spend a little bit of time with Ed Silvolso, he has a ministry out of Argentina, in one of his writings he was talking about how one time he was very, very sick in the hospital for a couple of years and he said the worse thing that could ever happen when you are in the hospital like that is for you to be there and for well-meaning people to come and just convince you that all you need is some more faith and just give you the lecture. He said it got to the point when he saw them coming he just wanted to die. He understood all that, he knew all that, but sometimes when people kept coming with that kind of message it just didn't help at all. So, here was old Job, sitting there and these guys sitting there, even though their intentions were good, I don't know if he was worried about what they were thinking, but sometimes the people who come around us, if we know they are judgmental, it affects us, doesn't it? It doesn't say in the Bible whether that affected Job or not, but we do know this, their intentions were good, but the results were that he cursed himself. Then they all said to each other, "See...we knew it."

Job 16:1 says, Then Job answered and said, "I have heard many such things, miserable comforters are you all! What is he hearing? He is hearing their words! The whole section that I skipped over there is all words that they were speaking to him trying to convince him that he has really blown it somewhere and he needs to repent for something he did or said or whatever, that he caused all this.

Verses 3 & 4, Shall words of wind have an end? Or what provokes you that you answer? I also could speak as you do, if your soul were in my soul's place, I could heap up words against you, and shake my head at you. In other words if you were having a bad time like I am, I could say the same things to you. It's not going to help a bit. That's what he's trying to say. He's preaching to them. He wasn't in a position that they thought was too much authority. Many times people judge you not by your words but by where you seem to be standing. But Job's words were true. He was just saying, "Look you guys, if you were in my position I could be saying these same things to you. It's not going to make it true." But he is still talking to them about the words they had been speaking to him.

Verse 5, But I would strengthen you with my mouth, and the comfort of my lips would relieve your grief. He is saying, "This is what I would do, I would comfort you. I would let the words that I speak build you up, not accuse you and tear you down."

Verse 10, They gape at me with their mouth. They strike me reproachfully on the cheek. They gather together against me. What is he talking about again? He is complaining about the words they are speaking against him. Nobody had hit him physically. The words were striking him.

Verses 20 & 21, My friends scorn me; my eyes pour out tears to God. Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor! He was looking for an intercessor, a mediator. In every book in the Bible you can see Jesus. You can find Him

in there hidden somewhere in that book. In Job you find Him in Job 9:33 where it says, Nor is there any mediator between us, who may lay his hand on us both. In Job the subject is the intercessor, Jesus the intercessor. Job wanted so badly to have somebody to stand between him and God. We have someone, our Lord Jesus Christ. But, He has chosen to speak His words of intercession through the Christ in His people. We need to speak it. He ever makes intercession day and night that's because He has the Body going around the world. Somebody is making intercession, somebody is speaking words in the presence of God at all times. We need that, because there are definitely those who are speaking accusations in the presence of God. Job just longed for an intercessor, someone to stand in the gap, someone who would build that hedge back up that had been torn down. We knew he was building a hedge, because of his words and his prayer and his sanctification that he made for others. He was looking for the same things for himself.

First Timothy 2:5 says, For there is one God and one mediator between God and man; the man Jesus Christ. Isaiah 59:16 says that He saw that there was no man and He wondered that there was no intercessor; therefore, his own arm brought salvation for him and his own righteousness and it sustained him. Why did he bring back his mercy? Why did he bring back his salvation that was available? Because he couldn't find an intercessor. Why were these things continuing for Job? Because he couldn't find an intercessor. He wasn't, even though he hadn't sinned with his lips until that point, he stopped interceding.

Job 19:1 says, And Job answered them and said, "How long will you torment my soul and break me in pieces with words?" The words. He complained more about their words and what they said than he complained about the boils that he had or the pain that he had been through. But, these words were tormenting him. How many of you have experienced that? I know I certainly have. It just drives you up a wall when they tell you things like that or when you find out they are going on behind your back. I always say that you can't stop people from accusing you but your job is to make sure they are false accusations. That is one thing we can do. The Bible says in Isaiah 54:17 that we can as God's righteous that no weapon formed against us shall prosper. Any word that comes against us in accusation we shall condemn it. But, we have to make sure they are false accusations because God is a just judge. The words we condemn. For a long time I read that and thought God would condemn their words but now I realize it says, "we shall condemn" because it is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord. So we have the right and one of the best ways to do that is to live uprightly and blameless in the sight of God so that those accusations are false. As long as they are false we can cast them down.

In Proverbs 26:4 it says, As the swallow flies, so the curse without a cause cannot light. They can send them all they want, but if you don't have an open door, they cannot land. I spoke a word over a couple in our discipleship group in Delhi, India and they had only joined six or eight months before I got there. What I didn't realize that they had only gotten saved nine months before. As I prayed over this couple, I saw them standing in a garland of flowers, arm in arm, really in love with each other. To me that represented the love they had one for another. As long as they stayed in that circle of those flowers and that sweet fragrance and that love one towards another, they were protected from, what I saw, was black swallows flying over them trying to land, but they were flying over. I

understood that to be like the curses in Proverbs 26. I just told them that I didn't really understand all of it but I told them what I could understand that these curses were being sent but they weren't landing. A day or two later they told me that they had "married for love" which in the Hindu culture means they made their own choice , somebody else didn't make it for them. They ran off and got married and their families were not very happy about it and had really been sending curses and witchcraft on them. This really explained what I had seen in that vision and yet they were safe. As long as they stayed in there and didn't step out. One way to step out would be to break their embrace that I saw. Another way to step out would be to send the accusations back and begin to send swallows of your own. I thought, "How beautiful." Especially for them having been Hindu they actually were married just not long before they heard about Jesus Christ and then were saved shortly after that. What a great confirmation for them that they had done the right thing and they were protected.

But, those curses cannot come unless we have a cause. Lets face it, none of us are perfect so we need intercessors. We need brothers and sisters who are going to stand with us. What it talks about in Ephesians about the armor of God , I always like where it talks about the shield of faith because it says, above all taking the shield of faith. One day I remembered an old picture of when I was a kid of the Roman Legion and they were all standing up and were in a block or a wedge. The guys in the front had their shields in front of them but the second row that was right behind them, didn't need their shields in front of them so they held them over their heads. The third row and the fourth row, etc. What you had was a block of men walking like a wedge with the shields in the front, the shields on the side and above all they had shields of faith. To me when that is talking in Ephesians about, above all the shield of faith , you have a shield, I have a shield, the only way I can put it above me to quench all the fiery darts , if I got at least three or more of us standing together. That means we have to be unified and trust in one another. That's what that means. Above all the shield of faith , not stab each other in the back.

You know if you have been a Christian, or even if you're not a Christian you know, your biggest hurts come from friendly fire , those who are closest to you and generally those that are supposed to be backing you up. Because the armor of God doesn't cover your back, the glory of the Lord is supposed to be your rear guard. That is intercession. That's those that call down the glory of the Lord to cover your back as you go forward. We are supposed to go forward together. When we are unified like that, that shield of faith protects us and quenches every fiery dart. I don't understand how we could personally quench every fiery dart. I know it is possible. You take that shield and a dart comes from over here , you know a fiery dart is an arrow with fire on the end , here comes one from over here and here comes one , you know you just keep moving your shield. That's great. You can do that for a while but you know , you've done it , sooner or later one gets through and it hurts.

But look at the difference , like that Roman Legion , like the example that Paul was saying. If we come together in unity , like Psalm 133. Like the oil that was poured out on Aaron that came down on his beard. The beard signifying some maturity , and it came down upon his garment , signifying his priestly role , and down to the hem of his garment

where the bell and the fruit were , represented the gift and the fruit. People who just have gifts and no fruit can't be in the priestly garment. You can't just gift, gift, gift , those little bells represent the gift , you just making a clanging brass and a tingling symbol. It doesn't impress anybody. But, when you intersperse your gift with the fruit, you don't have that noise. What you have is that oil coming down and saturating that garment and it is like the anointing of God and that's where the blessings that come down from Mt. Herman dwell and the blessings of eternal life come in unity. That's where we can have above all the shield of faith that every fiery dart can be quenched. I don't know about you , I know it is possible to quench every fiery dart by myself, but I also can't do it by myself for very long. When we stand together that's when we have the ability to quench them all because I can't always keep watching every direction at once. Praise God for intercessors.

Job 19:17, My breath is offensive to my wife and I am repulsive to the children of my own body. Even the young children despise me. I arise and they speak against me. Again he is pointing out to them that they really aren't saying nice things. Verse 25, For I know that my Redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth. What is he looking for? Someone to redeem him. Someone to stand in the gap. He is looking forward to that hope. How many of you know that many times when you are going through a time like this, the only thing that gets you through is the hope. The hope that you know you are going to get out of it. You know that even if you died in it, the Lord is getting you out of it. But, that is what get's us through it many times. The helmet of salvation , take unto you the helmet of salvation. That is another interesting thing about the armor. There are six of them that are described in terms of armor and the seventh one it says, and praying always with all prayer and supplication. We don't have the fullness of the number seven of the spiritual perfection unless we enter in to the armor of the prayer and intercession that Paul talked about. Interestingly enough there are six of those pieces , three of them it says to have , three of them it says to take. So, there is a difference. Some of those that says to have , you have to have them at all times , never put them down. But, some of those you take as you need them. It says take unto you the helmet of salvation. Now what does that mean? It doesn't mean that you can take off your eternal salvation. But, there are three parts of your salvation , there is your eternal salvation, there is your temple salvation , in other words the angels are sent to those that are heirs of salvation and that is talking about right now when you need help. The sanctification, being set apart, while you are still in this world is all part of that helmet. The salvation that you can claim now , when you need it , you can put on that helmet , that hope of salvation it says because God will get you out of that. The angels like to do that , get us out of these things.

You take that helmet , you put it on. That's what Job was doing. He was looking to that Redeemer and saying, "Oh man, I wish He was here now. But, I know He is coming." Job 21:3-5, Bear with me that I may speak and after I have spoken, keep mocking. He was getting a little sarcastic in his old age. As for me, is my complaint against man? and if it were, why should I not be impatient. Look at me and be astonished. Hey! Put your hand over your mouth, would you. He was trying to get the point across to his buddies.

Psalms 141 beginning with verse one, Lord, I cry out to you. Make haste to me. Give ear to my voice and when I cry out to you let my prayer be set before you as incense; the

lifting up of my hands at the evening sacrifice. Set a guard Oh, Lord, over my mouth and keep watch over the doors of my lips. Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked words with men who work iniquity and do not let me eat of their delicacies. I love that verse in verse three, Set a guard over my mouth and keep watch over the doors of my lips. I pray that a lot, but when I was looking at this information about Job, when I looked at it a little bit closer and realized the context of it is prayer. The time you have to guard your mouth most of all is when you are in the presence of God; when you are praying. Are you accusing? Set a guard over my mouth. Put your hand over your mouth, be quiet.

Look at the importance about what David was saying about prayer. We need to watch what we say so that our prayer will be incense. What is the opposite? If you don't have that incense, then you have accusation and those balances are going the other way, that hedge is coming down. If we don't let Satan in with the sons of God he can't get into the presence of God because he is cast down here. We are supposed to be tormenting him and not letting us sneak in with us. God loves us. When we want to bring in our friends, He lets us. We're not supposed to be friends with that old accuser. We are supposed to be making his life miserable. Do you know how to make his life miserable? Second Corinthians 10:6 says that we can punish all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled. Do you want to punish the devil? Be obedient. Follow the word of God. That is how you torment him. If you want to put some confusion in the camp of the enemy? Good. Put some in there by your obedience. See we don't wage war as the world does, at least we're not supposed to. We're not supposed to return again an accusation, but we are supposed to answer with a blessing. Jesus said, bless and curse not. There was a reason for that, He understood spiritual warfare.

Now I know God can curse. It says so in the Bible. He does at times. But, let Him do it.

In Job 38:1 the Lord speaks out of the whirlwind to Job and says Who is this who darkens council by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man and I will question you and you shall answer Me. And he continues on and you know some of the greatest discourse in the Bible about the beauty of the earth and how wondrous it is and witness of the Creator is when the Lord speaks to Job. The Book of Job is probably some of the earliest writings written. It was written down way before Moses. It was probably sometime shortly after the flood. The word was written in the heavens and they understood it. They would look and understand what was coming about the Redeemer was written in the heavens. It is still there. We just don't know it. We don't understand it. As a matter of fact, in the time when Jesus was born, the Israelites had forgotten it. But, there were so old Maggi over here that were descendants of men who had learned from the men like Daniel and Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo who had been taken into captivity, had taught them and they remembered and understood. When they saw the signs in the heavens, in the stars, that said there was going to be a king born. They looked and saw these prophecies we are talking about. These non-believers came over, maybe I shouldn't call them that. They sure believed more than Herod did. They were men, descendants of Israel. They were wise men, they were Maggi and they came from afar.

In these days of Job the word of God was written in the heavens , in the greatest glory. That is how they understood it. This was the earliest book written. It has some of the most beautiful things. The Father himself spoke those things so they could be written out for us. It is in those sections.

In Job 42:6 Job said, therefore, I have bore myself and repent in dust and ashes. He got around to repenting it then. He got sidetracked by the words of his friends. He did. Even though their intentions were good. He finally repented; finally came to his senses when God spoke to him and said, "Look, I know what's going on here. Spend some time with me, Bud."

Verse 7, And so it was that after the Lord had spoken these words to Job that the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has." Let me tell you something, if you want to speak on God's behalf, you better speak what He tells you to speak. Moses, thirty-nine years and six months in the wilderness , six months from his reward , he smacks the rock, get's angry and says, "God's mad at you guys." And God wasn't mad at those guys. Moses was mad at those guys and because he said God was angry when God wasn't angry, he didn't get to go into the Promised Land. I tell you what , to whom much is given, much is required. Do you want to have the kind of power with your words that Moses had? Watch out. Because you can lose your reward, too, if you lose it like Moses did. That really bothers me , it makes me worry. I say, "Lord, I don't know if I want that kind of stuff." But, anyway, nevertheless, you haven't spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has. Now therefore, take for yourselves seven bulls and seven rams, go to My servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and My servant Job shall pray for you. For I will accept him, lest I deal with you according to your folly; because you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has."

God repeats himself a lot to Job. He wants to make sure that people get the picture. Job had spoken what was right. Those guys hadn't. God was angry at them. He was going to bring judgment on them. Did He really want to? Not really because He told them how to keep His judgment from coming. What did He say? You go ask Job and he will pray for you because I'm going to accept his words. That's pretty interesting, isn't it? I will accept him and If not I will deal with you according to your folly. Wow.

Verse 9, So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went and did as the Lord commanded them; for the Lord had accepted Job. And the Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Now I think if you need prayer, you ought to come get prayer. But, some people come for prayer and they never turn around and pray for somebody else that needs it. Sometimes they have problems that continually come because the Bible says it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. We should never feel like we can't come for prayer, even if we have come a hundred times. But, maybe we've had to come a hundred times because we haven't turned around and prayed for someone else. Job's problems ended when he prayed for them. There is a great lesson there.

In Genesis 20:7 there is a record where Abraham was in the land of Abimelech, remember the king took Sarah, his wife, and Abraham had said, "This is my sister" , in reality she was , she was his half-sister , anyway he still could have said, "She is my wife" but he was scared. He didn't open his mouth so Abimelech took her and God comes to Abimelech in the middle of the night and says, "You are in big trouble. I'm blessing that man. If you do anything to his wife you're going to be dead and so is your whole household." Here is what he says in verse 7, Now therefore, restore the man's wife; for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you shall live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours. Now the poor guy wasn't doing anything that kings didn't normally do back then. But he was messing with the wrong God. Because God's blessing was on Abraham even though Abraham wasn't really too brave. He wasn't being too smart, either. Nevertheless, God stuck up for him. What did He say to Abimelech? He said, you go down there and get him to pray for you because the man is a prophet and he'll pray and I'll listen to him. Let me tell you something. It says right there Abraham was a prophet. There is not one single prophecy in the Bible that was spoken by Abraham. There is no evidence that he ever prophesied once. Do you know what he did full time? He interceded.

When the angels came down and were headed for Sodom and Gomorrah, where did they stop off? At Abraham's house. Why? Because he talked God down from fifty down to ten and he saved Lot and his household , his two daughters and way the ones that would go and be obedient. Why? God didn't really want to bring judgment , but he had an intercessor whose name was Abraham. He was a prophet. He never prophesied anything except in prayer, that we know of. That's power and yet God said, "I'll listen to what he has to say."

We have a training-equipping center in Missoula. Before we began it we started for a number of months coming together week after week after week just to pray. We prayed.

Somebody was telling me one time, "Well you know, you're doing more than praying down there."

I said, "What do you mean?"

"Well, you are prophesying, too."

I said, "Well, I don't know. I don't see where you can separate the two." If you understand the Law of First Mention in the Bible and how the Bible interprets itself, the first verse where something is mentioned generally explains what that word means. Many times it will. Right here in Genesis 20:7 it says, For he is a prophet and he will pray. It is the first verse in the Bible with the word prophet in it and it just happens to be the first verse in the Bible with the word pray in it. So what does that tell you? They kind of go hand-in-hand, don't they? If you're going to be prophetic, then you had better be praying. If you're going to be an intercessor, then you are going to be prophetic. That doesn't mean every

intercessor is a prophet, but it does mean every prophet had better be an intercessor. But they overlap so much.

They are both in the same verse, does it matter that much? As long as we are humble, right? But, all I know is that if we're praying and the Lord begins to speak through the spirit of prophecy. Great. It says in Revelations the spirit of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus. If it is true prophecy, we are hearing what the Lord wants us to hear.

Something else a prophet needs to be is a friend of God. The reason that God could listen to Abraham is because he was His friend. He could trust him to say what He wanted said and not go past it and not to go short of it. We need to stand in His presence. It says in Jeremiah if they had been prophets they should have come and stood in My council. What I have found is if you have the true council of the Lord, it takes the place many times of years of counseling. But the council of the Lord goes right to the root and takes an axe to it. Praise God. We need to be the friends of God. If we will come into His presence we're His friends. Let's leave the accuser outside the door. Slam the door in his face. Let's get pure before we go in there.

Jeremiah 42:2 says, ..and they said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition be acceptable to you...

What did God say about Job? He said, "I will accept him."

What did these men who came to Jeremiah asking him to interceded for them say? They said, Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the Lord your God, for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see), that the Lord your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do." Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to the Lord your God according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever the Lord answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you."

They went to him and said to him, "Look, let this petition be acceptable to you because we know what you say is acceptable to God. He will talk to you and you tell us what He said."

Jeremiah said, "I'll definitely tell you what He said." If I'm going in there to ask, then I'm not coming back and giving you only half the story. But, sometimes we go in there and God gives us something and we just can't wait to give it to them because we say, "Oh, good, I'm going to bundle this up and light it on fire." We go to them and say, "Thus saith the Lord..."

Samuel was a great example. He was a young guy. He already had the Spirit on him. He was hearing the word of the Lord and God speaks to him about Eli. It wasn't really good. Eli says, "Come tell me what He says." Samuel didn't want to. He did everything he could not to tell Eli. Sometimes we just can't wait to give them the news. Why? Because we know something. It says in Amos 3:7 God does nothing but that He shares His secrets

with His servants, the prophets. Now why does He share His secrets with His servants the prophets?

#1 , We're supposed to be His friends. You tell secrets to your friends. One translation says He gives His plans to his servants the prophets. You tell those things to your friends. But you also tell those things to people you can trust not to go blabbing it all over.

#2 , You tell it to people you know can have faith and declare it. So we need to know when to blab it and when to keep it quiet. Sometimes those things are secrets. Sometimes they need to be proclaimed so they can come to pass. We need to be friends with God so we can discern which one it is this time around. Only He knows. He is the one who makes the decision on how that information is to be given out. God gives us tests. Each time we pass the test we get stronger. In God's Kingdom you never flunk a test. He just keeps giving the same one over and over until you get it right. So some of us are tired of the same test. We've been seeing the same old test in different ways with different people under different circumstances for years now. I think it is time that we cut that out and pass the test. He wants us to be promoted in the Kingdom. He wants us to grow up in all things unto Him who is the Head, even Christ Jesus. We need to grow. We need to get those tests and pass those tests.

One of the things that He will do , I'll give you an example: I had a good friend of mine call me not long ago and he had a number of significant visions and they were visions about a number of the leaders in our community. I happened to know some things he didn't know. I happened to know that what he was telling me was right. That's kind of neat, isn't it. Now he knows he got something from God. He knows he has information. God will give information to His servants.

Remember what happened with Elisha? Every time the King of Assyria came down he told his plans. He said, "The old king is coming down to set their army over here." The King of Israel set the army up and every time he did what Elisha said he always out guessed the King of Assyria and beat him. The King of Assyria goes to his own men and says, "All right which one of us is for the King of Israel?" They said, "Hey, not so my Lord, but there is a prophet down there and he knows what you do in your bed chamber." Now that's not nice to find out, that's not a nice way to say it , but that's what he said to him.

So, if God is going to give you that kind of information, don't you think He is going to expect you to use it wisely? What happened with my friend is that he got this information and he was kind of wise. He came to me and said, "I think I need to have a meeting with each of those guys, independently and give them this information."

I said, "Let me give you some advice. This will probably save you about ten years. It took me about that long to catch on , to pass this test. I said, "Do you know what you need to do with that information?"

He said, "What?"

I said, "You need to pray. You need to take that back to the closet. You keep it to yourself, between you and God and you intercede for those men. You intercede because God has shown you these things. Now you pray for them that He can act and they can get these situations handled and no one needs to know about it." It doesn't matter, does it? Do we want to be prophets or do we want to be known as prophets? Do we want to be intercessors or do we want people to know we are intercessors? It is a big question to be answered. Our job is supposed to be what we are supposed to be.

I heard a saying not very long ago that I really like that went: "I am a human being, not a human doing." We need to do things, but we are supposed to be known just by who we are, not so much by what we do in terms of promoting ourselves. Keep it in context. Our job many times is just to do.

There was a situation on this last trip to India. I'll just make it briefly. There was a young girl that was being adopted by a family we met from Switzerland. They had been there for a number of weeks. They were going to be leaving at the end of the week. This little girl was just covered in curses and demons. I was just really wanting to minister to her. We got to be friends with these people and they came one morning when we had a morning of praise and worship. The whole team wanted to minister to her, but I kept holding everybody back, saying, "Wait. Wait. Wait. No. God says, wait." So we waited. That particular morning they were in the back row and after I introduced the band I went to the back and this is when the Lord began to reveal things to me and give me authority. Even though I was behind them, I never touched her, He began to give me authority over those demons. I cast out demons. I broke curses. I just did this and she stood there. The whole week she had never smiled. She didn't even recognize you were talking to her even if you spoke to her in her own language nothing fazed her. She just stood there. This time she just stood, like a statue next to her new mom. As I'm praying and tearing these things off as the Lord reveals them to me for probably about ten minutes, I'm still doing it, but they are coming off. Pretty soon she starts looking around behind her and sees me back there with my hands up praising the Lord. Pretty soon she looks again and kind of cracks a smile, like those crazy white men. Whatever she was thinking. I continued to tear things off, like an onion, one layer at a time as the Lord revealed them. As I continued to pray. Pretty soon her hips started going back and forth. She started moving to the music. The next thing you know her arms go up. Then she's singing along, she's singing hallelujah! In fact hallelujah is the only word that she sang, over and over. The mother was looking at her and looking at her husband and looking back and they're looking at each other and their tears were going down their face. All they need to know is the truth: she got healed in worship!

That's all they need to know. That's all they do know. She got delivered. Now we did some more things afterwards. We had them come up and we prayed for them. The point is: do we do it or do we do it so other people know about it? We need to do it so God knows about it. That's where we need to know. Are we standing in the presence of God? Does He know? Are we doing it right? Go back to Him and ask Him.

I'll tell you what , my friend got back to me about a week later , he says, "You were right. All that burden that I had is gone." You see that burden , he wanted to run right out and take some physical action when we are not supposed to war as the world does. He was supposed to take that intercession and battle in the Spirit. That's what he did. I know it made a difference because God showed him for a reason. It helped him to learn what God wants him to do with revelation. The best teacher is somebody else's experience. The Bible is so full of other people's experience. If we will learn from others and learn from one another and learn from what the Bible teaches us, we don't have to go through all these things. We don't have to reinvent the wheel every other day. So he was able to move forward and pass that test, because he got some godly advice and he took action on it.

First Timothy 2:1, Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. What do we keep seeing here in terms of acceptability? Prayer. Intercession to the Father. That is acceptable. That is an acceptable sacrifice. Why? Because we don't have to give the blood of rams anymore because we have a Savior that gave His life, shed His blood and now when we intercede it is the Spirit of God. We know not to pray for as we ought but the Spirit of God does and when we intercede it is Christ interceding for the Church.

When we don't and we come in with the accusations, who just came in on our tail? The accuser of the brethren. It is time to cast him down. We have the authority to cast him down under our feet and walk all over him.

The Lord told me one day, I wasn't really feeling good. I had preached a couple times at a conference and I was physically attacked , the Lord kind of nudged me with His elbow. I could really feel it. He said, "Hey, Lloyd. Do you want to know how you can always tell the devil in a crowd?"

I said, "Yeah."

He says, "Just look for the guy with the heel print in his forehead." That helped!

So just think about it. He's supposed to be under our feet, not coming in with us. He's supposed to be under our feet , heel print right in his forehead. Crush his head. Bruise our heel. The Body of Christ.

I always pray: "Lord, let me be the heel of the Body of Christ." So I can be right on the devil's head. I want to see that dent in his forehead.

But anyway, those prayers are acceptable to God our Savior. For all those in authority we are supposed to be lifting that up. God gets frustrated with people in authority. When He gets frustrated with us. But, who does He show His frustrations to many times? Those that supposed to be praying. Those that are intercessors. Those that are prophetic. What

do we do with it? Do we take it and go back to Him and say, "Look at this. Look at all this junk." He knows already. He's the One who showed you. Why is it that so many times that the prophetic gets critical?

One time I was sitting at lunch with a man, I would probably call him a young prophet, to talk to him about some thing I saw in his gifts and ministry. He comes in and the Lord says to me, "The spirit of criticism." So we start talking and he goes, "I was having a conference here not too long ago and this woman comes up to me and says that I have a spirit of criticism. I told her to go ahead and cast it out." But she didn't.

I thought, "Well, Lord, what about that? You can't cast out something like that, can you?"

He said, "The spirit of criticism is just an unmentored prophetic spirit." Wow! I learned a lot. He had a prophetic spirit and God was showing him these things, but what He wanted was for him to pray. He was revealing those things that were real, but his flesh was coordinating instead of his spirit. Interesting. So I could help him and say, "Now listen here. You need to take that critical spirit and turn it into intercession."

Revelation 19:10, ...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. When we pray and intercede and that prophetic spirit gets to rolling out of our spirit , it is supposed to be the testimony of Jesus. That is a heavy responsibility. Luke 12:48, To whom much is given, much will be required. If we want to really enter in and we really want to wage war with the enemy, then we need to begin to see these things with spiritual eyes. We need to see what is written between the lines.

I always like to joke and tell people that, "The Bible is in three colors for a reason. Everything in black , God said it. Everything in red , the Lord said it. Everything in white , the Holy Spirit said. The reason we don't understand the black and the red is because we forget to ask the Holy Spirit to interpret it to us. That's why we miss what's written between the lines. We need to be doing that. The Lord will show us these things. He wants us to know.

Revelation 12:11, And they overcame him [the accuser] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives even unto death. We have authority in Jesus' name. We can overcome the accuser by the word of our testimony. Now that is responsibility that we can all live up to. That is something we can grow into. We can earn more authority. We can earn God's trust in us that what we say is acceptable in His sight that He comes to us like He did to Job and Jeremiah and says, "When you pray it; I accept it." Because we earned His respect because we cast down the accuser of the brethren. We have that right by the blood of Jesus , by the power of God we can take him and keep him down here where he belongs , walking to and fro on the earth. Do you know why we want him there? So we can torment them. He deserves to be down here to be punished by us. We have the sword of the spirit which is the spoken word of God. But, when we turn it , what happens? It's like a hook. It burns. It's like a fiery dart. It's wicked when we speak that rhema and it is the sword of the spirit. What is it doing? Cuts asunder , divides asunder of spirit and soul. That's the authority we have in Jesus Christ especially

those that have the spirit of prophesy , especially those that walk in intercession and have prophetic calls on their lives. We are a terror and a danger to the devil. That's why he tries to convince us to speak evil instead of speaking good. He tries to convince us to use those secrets for evil instead of for good. If he can do that he can keep coming in when the sons of God go into worship. He can keep coming in and tearing down those hedges around men and women of God and it is time that he lost his job. It is time he lost his entrance. It is time that we stood in the gap. It's time that we build up a hedge. It's time that we stood there, even to the point we would not move even unto death, like it said there. We're not budging anymore. You just put a guard over your mouth. You let the goodness of God come out. You intercede for those that need it because you got prayed for when you didn't deserve it. Jesus prayed for you and you pray for those others, especially for kings and those who are in authority because that is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. Amen.