

Rees Howells: Intercessor

by
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One of the most effective intercessors known to the 20th century, Howells and his student intercessors in Wales were even called upon to intercede with God for the well-being of Britain during the Second World War. p. 231-257 Norman Grubb's biography reveals that there were important spiritual truths (see back side) that Howells discovered regarding the ministry of an "intercessor" from the Holy Spirit and George Mueller's life in 19th century England.

God's call to intercession

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none..."
Ezekial 22:30

A Model of Intercession

God identified with mankind to the extent that He became man. If we are one with the Godhead or if the Holy Spirit is doing his work through us, then we will also manifest this pattern in our life. Christ also was willing to die to His own desires and interests for the benefit of mankind. His death on the cross represented the ultimate sacrifice.

20th Century Example of Intercession

On March 29, 1936 Rees Howells came to the Bible College he had established in Wales and was called forth in regard to Hitler's threat to Britain: "Prayer has failed. We are on slippery ground. Only intercession will avail. God is calling for intercessors — men and women who will lay their lives on the altar to fight the devil, as really they would have to fight the enemy on the western front." It was made clear that a soldier at the front has no say in where he goes and what he does; he cannot take holidays or attend to the claims of the home and loved ones as other people can; and the Lord was telling them that if, as readily as that, some would become bond slaves to the Holy Spirit for every creature, and would throw their lives

into the gap (Ezekial 22:30), He would give the victory and avert war. A large number of staff and students made the surrender. "We came right through" said Mr. Howells, "and I knew from that time on, Hitler was no more than a rod in the hands of the Holy Ghost."

Surrender and Intercession

"We had thought that there was some virtue in our surrender: that we, with thousands of others, would be the people to evangelize the world in this generation. But now He (Holy Spirit) had come, and we were out of it—except in so far as our bodies would become the temples in which He would dwell and through which He would work. He said, "I have not come to give you joy, or peace, or victory. I have not come to give you any blessing at all. You will find all that you need in Jesus. But I have come to put you to the cross, so that I may live in your body for the sake of a lost world; (Col 3:3; 2Cor 4:10; Gal 2:20)."

Pray for laborers, a remnant of powerful intercessors right now. May they lay down their lives on the altar day after day... willing to die for the sake of the Truth! May they be closed into God Himself... calling for His desires... pleading for His purposes, crying for His attention! Dead to

themselves... alive unto Christ! Separate. Hidden. Cleansed, Holy vessels of warfare, armed for the battle ahead, filled with the Holy Ghost. God, call forth your intercessors for this generation!

Warrior or Intercessor

"A prayer warrior can pray for a thing to be done without necessarily being willing for the answer to come through himself; and he is not bound to continue in the prayer until it is answered. But an intercessor is responsible to gain his objective, and he can never be free till he has gained it. He will go to any lengths for the prayer to be answered through himself. But once a position of intercession has been gained, tested and proved, the intercessor can claim all the blessings on that grade, whenever it is God's will for him to do so."

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Spiritual Truths for Intercessors

Bondslave or Living Martyr

“It even came into his mind momentarily whether it was possible to turn back from ‘this life of surrender, this bondslave life, this daily dying, and just live an ordinary Christian life, and preach the gospel and help the poor,’ as many of his friends did.” p.108 “There was some questioning, as there always was until he actually come up to becoming one with the Holy Ghost in what He was doing...” p. 108. Madame Guyon’s writings had a profound effect at this time, “I ask no more, in good or ill, but union with Thy holy will.” p. 105

Place of Abiding

Rees Howells understood the necessity of daily maintaining his “place of abiding” in Christ taken from his study of John 15. His discernment, power, authority and faith all were the result of meeting the initial conditions of abiding which for him were:

- (1) ...fasting two meals a day,
- (2) living in the attitude of prayer—which meant being hatless,
- (3) giving up all outward work at the mission, and not going to one service and
- (4) three hours each evening to be spent on his knees—two hours in reading the Word and the last one in waiting before God. Rees knew there were to be other places of abiding, but they were not yet given.” p. 114

Guided Prayer

By maintaining his place of abiding, Rees Howells was guided by the Holy Spirit regarding intercessory prayer. This was usually a specific and intense call to intercede.

Gaining a Position: Categories of People

“Gaining a position” was an identification process that would last weeks or months until Rees had gained the faith to believe that God would deliver categories of people from an adverse situation. Once a position was gained, God could use Rees Howells at any future time to intercede in parallel situations without having to go through a position of gain. Once a position was gained, Rees would cease praying to avoid prayer resulting from his doubt.

Hidden Away

A call to intercession is usually the first step away from public ministry. Howells shared that the Holy Spirit

trained him, to care more about what God thought, than what man thought; nevertheless, “... he was going to be turned aside from his work among men to deal only with God.” p. 113 He had to die to self, before God could use him as an intercessor. Romans 12:1-2 was the critical passage.

Stands in the Gap for Strangers

Early on in Howells’ training, he was allowed to intercede on behalf of people whom he was personally ministered to... but later, he was to intercede for specific people whom he never met. “There was a soul whom he had never met, whom he had no possible means of influencing except by way of the Throne...” The Lord said, “This will be the test case of your intercession.” “...for this he was going to be turned aside from his work among men to deal only with God.”

Prays What God Calls Forth

An intercessor is given over to the ministry of the Holy Ghost, through whom spiritual warfare is waged. God has a remnant of intercessors, filled with the Holy Spirit with only one purpose in life... to do that which the Holy Spirit commands! To stand in the gap and bring the victory to reality. Hidden away, living by faith... standing on the promises of God... praying what God calls forth, by His Word.

Company of Intercessors Set Apart

In the latter stages of Rees ministry, God placed him at the Bible College of Wales among a group of faculty, students, and staff. They were to be raised up as a company of intercessors prepared to deal with Rees’s visionary “every creature commission” in the context of World War II. This is an extraordinary description of God’s use of intercessors in history.

Every Creature Commission

The driving force behind Rees Howells at the Bible College of Wales was Rees’s vision that everyone would be reached by the Gospel in his generation. It was the precipitating factor in their intercession during World War II. They were concerned about keeping countries open to missionaries and the Gospel. They accomplished God’s purpose through them during this horrible war. Some people believe their intercession eventually defeated Hitler.

Spiritual Truths

- ◆ Bondslave or Living Martyr
- ◆ Place of Abiding
- ◆ Guided Prayer
- ◆ Gaining a Position of Faith
- ◆ Hidden Away
- ◆ Stands in the Gap for Strangers
- ◆ Prays What God Calls Forth
- ◆ Every Creature Commission
- ◆ Company of Intercessors Set Apart