

Hagin, Kenneth E.The Art of Prayer

7. Chapter Four: Intercession Defined

This chapter defines intercession and separates it from prayer in general. Intercession means standing in the gap between people who have earned judgment and the judgment itself — praying to hold it back, under the Holy Spirit's direction. The author walks through Scripture to show what this looked like in action.

Key takeaways

- Defining kinds of prayer isn't about rules; it's so you can flow with the Holy Spirit, who always works with the Word.
- Not all prayer is intercession. The best prayer is whatever the Spirit inspires for the moment.
- Sin 'provokes' God (stirs up wrath and judgment); faith 'invokes' God (calls forth blessing).
- God doesn't want to judge — He delights in mercy and wants people to turn and live.
- When sinners won't repent, judgment can still be averted if someone stands in the gap and intercedes.

- Abraham (for Sodom) and Moses (twice, for Israel) are the key examples; Jesus is the greatest intercessor, still interceding for us now.

Passages worth keeping

“Intercession is standing in the gap in prayer between a person... who have provoked judgment upon themselves through their wrongdoing, and the actual execution of that judgment.”

The chapter's working definition of intercession.

How it connects

The chapter builds toward Christ: every human intercessor foreshadows Jesus, who stood in the gap for us and now intercedes at the Father's right hand.

Scripture referenced

- **Genesis 18:16-33** -- Abraham bargaining for Sodom — a clear picture of intercession.
- **Ezekiel 22:30-31** -- God looks for someone to stand in the gap; finding none, judgment falls.
- **Micah 7:18** -- God delights in mercy, not judgment.
- **2 Peter 3:9** -- God is not willing that any should perish.
- **Exodus 32:7-14** -- Moses intercedes over the golden calf; God relents.

- **Psalm 106:23** -- Moses stood in the breach; without him Israel would have been destroyed.