



# Malvern Mashal 120



## Incisive Intercession

*One can believe intellectually in the efficacy of prayer and never do any praying. (Catherine Marshall)*

*Wishing will never be a substitute for prayer. (Ed Cole)*

*Always respond to every impulse to pray . . . I would make an absolute law of this – always obey such an impulse. (Martyn Lloyd-Jones)*

*A servant of the Lord stands bodily before men, but mentally, he is knocking at the gates of heaven with prayer (John Climacus)*

*Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge for Satan. (John Bunyan)*

We know God as the God who moves mountains . . . and through intercession we share in this ministry.

Jesus, may we truly pray in Your name, for this is flow in the power of Your Spirit, – to experience Your love and compassion, and also Your concern and outrage.

Above all, may we pray prayers that You Yourself can answer.

You turn our feeble utterances into eloquent petitions.

Even when we send only the swiftest glances Your way, You see and hear,

– and You miss us if we fail to offer up these prayers.

If we pray for something to happen when what we really need to be doing is exercising the *authority* of the Lord, then we are effectively beating around the bush.

It is no accident that so many of the best prayers in the New Testament take the form of brief commands – to the storm *be still*, to the ear *be opened* and to the lame man *to get up and walk*. This is not random but spiritual – and it stems from our relationship with Him.

*Is the Son of God praying in me, or am I dictating to Him? . . .*

*Prayer is not simply getting things from God – that is a most initial form of prayer; prayer is getting into perfect communion with God. If the Son of God is formed in us by regeneration, He will press forward in front of our common sense and change our attitude to the*

*things about which we pray . . .*

*We look on prayer as a means for getting something for ourselves; the Biblical idea of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself.*

*(Oswald Chambers)*

*Have you noticed? We never pray for folks we gossip about, and we never gossip about the folk for whom we pray! (Leonard Ravenhill)*

*There is nothing that makes us love a man so much as praying for him.*



*It is almost impossible to resent someone you are praying for – conversely, we usually find ourselves starting to love those for whom we pray. (RW)*

*How often have we prayed something like, “O Lord, be with [such and such a person] in a special way”? Have we stopped to consider what it is we’re requesting?*

*Imagine that you are a parent who is preparing to leave your children with a babysitter. Would you dream of saying, “O Betsy, I ask you now that you would be with my children in a special way”? No way! You would say, “Betsy, the kids need to be in bed by 9pm. They can have one snack before their baths, and please make sure they finish their homework. You can reach us at this number if there’s any problem. Any questions before we go?”*

*We are very specific with our requests and instructions for our babysitters. We want them to know specifics. It should be no different with prayer. (David Jeremiah)*

I’m a great believer in not praying ‘prescriptive’ prayers, but the following examples are worth taking to heart too:

If praying ‘Lord, convert my neighbour’ doesn’t seem to be bearing much fruit, how about praying first, “Lord let me *meet* my neighbours. And then find ways to talk with them about You!”

*There is a general kind of praying which fails for lack of precision. It is as if a regiment of soldiers should all fire off their guns anywhere. Possibly somebody would be killed, but the majority of the enemy would be missed. (Charles Haddon Spurgeon)*

There are times for covering great swathes of territory in prayer for all sorts of needs, but there is also a time to be more focused, to release a focused Exocet missile rather than a spray of good intentions.

It’s good to be specific – but it is also important to give plenty of room for God to know a great deal better than we do – to remember, as others have put it through the centuries:

*To pray is to listen to the One who calls you ‘My beloved daughter’, ‘My beloved son’, ‘My beloved child’. To pray is to let that voice speak to the centre of your being, to your guts, and let that voice resound in your whole being. (Henri Nouwen)*

Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one’s heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell God your troubles, that God may comfort you; tell God your joys, that God may sober them; tell God your longings, that God may purify them; tell God your dislikes, that God may help you conquer them; talk to God of your temptations, that God may shield you from them; show God the wounds of your heart, that God may heal them.

*If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. Talk out of the abundance of the heart, without consideration say just what you think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with God. (Francois Fenelon)*

### **Keep praying in the face of apparent setbacks!**

By the spring of 1936 the Welsh intercessor Rees Howells was aware that demonic spirits had entered Hitler, and were pushing the world towards war. (See chapter 34 of Norman Grubb’s book *Rees Howells, Intercessor*).

Rees had fought a prolonged prayer campaign during the previous year, when Germany had occupied the Rhineland. On the face of it, his



highly publicised declaration that war had been averted (see chapter 30 of the same book) was as misplaced as his subsequent optimism that Neville Chamberlain's visit to Munich (and the infamous slip of paper declaring 'peace in our time').

But something powerful was happening behind the scenes. The reports from the Bible College that Rees Howells led at this time are full of amazing stories of mighty struggles in intercession, and still more astonishing visitations of the Holy Spirit.

Although those particular words that Rees Howells declared weren't literally fulfilled, the victories he and his team of intercessors had won in the heavenly places were entirely genuine. Hitler's 'voice' had told him plainly to invade England at a time when this would have been relatively simple, given Britain's lack of military preparation, and this was the very first time that Hitler disregarded the inner promptings of his spirit guide.

This was no coincidence. God had told Rees to pray for Hitler's will to be 'bent' away from conflict at that time. Until then whenever Hitler had heeded this voice, (often in the face of the advice of his followers), he had been proved right - often spectacularly so. He remarked bitterly to Neville Chamberlain that this was the first time he had ever made a concession. The Lord averted the calamitous war at this time when Britain was too weak to have been able to withstand the onslaught.

I mention these crucial episodes because there are many issues that require urgent incisive intercession today, whether at a personal or much wider level - and there are sure to be times when our intercession appears to fall into the ground and 'die.'

1 Corinthians 15:36 remains one of my all time favourite verses: *'What you sow does not come to life until it dies.'* Only so do seeds become mighty spreading plants! It is the perfect illustration of Jesus' words in John 12:24 *'I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.'*

*With this in mind, be **alert** and always **keep on** praying for all the saints!*  
(Ephesians 6:18)

In Linda's words,

*But if you're called by His name heed His call.*

*He needs you to pray, to get up on the wall.*

*Leave the safe haven of your inner space;*

*Come out here and seek His face.*

Don't forget to watch the lovely video clip of Linda's song:

<http://www.ruachministries.org/reawakening/cd3illustrated/cd3track07pics.htm>

With our love,

Robert & Rosalind