

East Hill Church Sermon Discussion Guide:

Standing in the Gap: Understanding Intercessory Prayer

Speaker: Pastor Keith Jenkins

Date: February 16, 2025

Introduction:

In this powerful continuation of his teaching on prayer, Pastor Keith Jenkins explored the vital ministry of intercessory prayer, our authority as believers, and our responsibility to stand in the gap for others. He emphasized how Jesus has given us both access to God and authority to intercede for others.

1. Our Access Through Christ:

Pastor Keith explained how Christ's sacrifice transformed our access to God's presence.

Discussion Questions:

1. What difference has Jesus' sacrifice made in your ability to approach God?
2. How does understanding the historical context of the temple's Holy Place affect your appreciation of our current access to God?
3. What barriers still keep you from fully embracing your access to God's presence?

Supporting Verses:

Matthew 27:50-51 - "Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom."

Romans 5:1-2 - "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Only priests could enter the Holy Place, and only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once yearly.
- Theological Significance: Jesus' death granted all believers direct access to God's presence.
- Application: We can approach God confidently because of Christ's work.

2. Our Authority in Christ:

Pastor Keith discussed the believer's delegated authority through Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. How do you understand the authority Jesus has delegated to believers?
2. What keeps you from exercising your God-given authority in prayer?
3. How can we balance humility with confident exercise of spiritual authority?

Supporting Verses:

Luke 10:17-20 - "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, 'Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!' 'Yes,' he told them, 'I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.'"

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: Jesus was demonstrating the authority He delegates to His followers.
- Theological Significance: Believers receive delegated authority through Christ.
- Application: We should exercise our authority in prayer with confidence and wisdom.

3. The Ministry of Intercession:

Pastor Keith outlined three expressions of intercessory prayer: intersection, intervention, and interception.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of these three aspects of intercession do you find most challenging?
2. How have you seen God use intercessory prayer to make a difference?
3. What situations in your life or community need intercession right now?

Supporting Verses:

Ezekiel 22:30 - "I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one."

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - "I urge you, first of all, to pray for ALL people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity."

Context and Reflection:

- Historical/Cultural Context: God has historically sought intercessors to stand between Him and judgment.
- Theological Significance: Intercession is a vital ministry that can change outcomes.
- Application: We are called to stand in the gap through prayer for others.

Conclusion:

Pastor Keith Jenkins' message challenged us to embrace both our access to God and our authority in Christ to stand in the gap for others through intercessory prayer. Through

intersection, intervention, and interception, we can participate in God's work of transformation in lives and situations around us.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can you better steward your access to God's presence?
2. What areas need you to exercise your God-given authority in prayer?
3. For whom is God calling you to stand in the gap?
4. Which expression of intercession do you need to develop more fully?

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for granting us access to your presence through Jesus Christ. Help us to understand and properly exercise the authority you've delegated to us. Give us hearts of compassion that move us to stand in the gap for others. Show us how to intercede effectively through intersection, intervention, and interception. May we be faithful stewards of the privilege of prayer. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

References:

Primary Sources:

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Murray, Andrew. "The Ministry of Intercession." Whitaker House, 1982.

Collaborative Contributions:

LLM Contributions: Based on a mixture of licensed data, data created by AI models, and publicly available data, synthesized for the study of the provided sermon notes and biblical passages.

LLM Training Data:

LLM Training Data. Includes a diverse range of texts (books, websites, and other publications) up to April 2024.