

STAND IN THE GAP

A Morning Intercession Practice for Leaders

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"I have searched among them for someone who could build a wall or stand in the breach before me to keep me from destroying the land; but I found no one." — Ezekiel 22:30

Before you open your inbox, before you correct your employee, before you address the conflict in your family — stand in the gap. Intercessory prayer transforms how you see the people you lead, how you speak into their lives, and how God works through your leadership. This 3-minute morning practice is built on three phrases from the theology of intercession.

THE THREE PHRASES OF INTERCESSION

Each phrase reflects what Christ did on the Cross and what you are called to do as a leader. Pray through each one slowly. Name the people. Mean it.

1. "ON BEHALF OF"

You carry a responsibility for the people entrusted to you. Before you manage them, represent them before God. Name each person on your team, in your family, or in your care. Bring their needs — the ones you know and the ones you sense — before the Lord.

Lord, I bring before you [name each person]. I carry them to you this morning. I ask for your blessing, your protection, and your guidance in their lives today. Grant them what they need, even what they have not thought to ask for.

2. "IN THE PLACE OF"

This is the most challenging move. You do not stand above the people you lead. You stand with them at the point of their struggle. Where they are weak, where they have failed, where they are afraid — you take that place before God. This is what Jesus did on the Cross.

Lord, where [name] is struggling, I stand with them. Where they have fallen short, I do not stand apart in judgment. I stand in solidarity, because I too fall short. Have mercy on us. Strengthen them where they are weak. Strengthen me where I am weak.

3. "FOR THE SAKE OF"

Your prayer is not for your own comfort or control. It is for their flourishing. You are asking God to bless them not because it makes your job easier, but because they are gifts — each one irreplaceable, each one bearing something of God the world needs to see.

Lord, for the sake of [name], I ask you to act. Not for my convenience, but for their good. Let your purposes be fulfilled in their lives. Let them become who you created them to be. And if there are blessings you have held in reserve for them that are meant to come through my prayers — Lord, let them come.

BEFORE YOU CORRECT, INTERCEDE

When you see a gap in your employee, your child, or your spouse — do not begin with the correction. Begin with intercession. Stand in the gap for them before you address the gap in them. Prayer changes how you see. It moves you from frustration to solidarity, from judgment to compassion, from managing the fallout to shepherding the person. As St. John of the Cross wrote: without prayer, we do a great deal of hammering but accomplish little, and sometimes cause harm.

Lord Jesus, I ask you to shepherd my conversations today. Holy Spirit, prompt me into the right things to say that would be a blessing. And Lord, if anything I share is not from you, I pray it would not be heard. But if something I share is from you, I pray it would take root and blossom and have the effect you intend. Amen.

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