

CHAPTER EIGHT

JESUS' ABIDING INTERCESSION AND ADVOCACY

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God intercedes (obtains grace, mercy and peace; deliverance, divine supplies, etc from the Father) daily for the saints (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25); by which is meant He continues to intercede after His earthly intercessory work to secure the eternal answers for His saints (Is. 53:11, 12; Lk. 23:34; Jn. 17:9-26; see Heb. 3:1). But He intercedes as the accredited Head (Eph. 1:22-23), Governor (Is. 9:6; Eph. 4:8-16) and Apostle cum High Priest of His Church (Heb. 3:1); and thus, as the divine Advocate with the Father in heaven (Rom. 8:26 -39 v. 34; Heb. 2:9-18; 4:14-16; 7:22-28 v. 25; 1 Jn. 2:1, 2). This He does, not by praying Himself for the Church as He did while on Earth (see Jn. 17), prayed for Peter (Lk. 22:31, 32) and made intercession in His death on the cross for us (Is. 53:1-12 v. 12; Lk. 23:34). He therefore continues to intercede through the speaking blood and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 14:12-26; 16:7-15, 23-24; Heb. 12:24). But having made provision for us to use the keys of the kingdom, after His resurrection and exaltation, now reminds the Father of the promise about us as His brethren (Eph. 3:4-6; Heb. 2:9-15). He makes sure there is the supply of the Holy Spirit to us so that believers will pray fervently in the Spirit (Phil. 1:19; see Rom. 8:16, 17; Eph. 6:18, 19; Jd. 1:20-25).

The Lord Jesus also continually makes the throne of grace ready for us to pray to receive grace and mercy (Heb. 4:14-16) on account of His Covenant Blood (Heb. 9:14-16; 12:24; 13:20, 21). Thus, Jesus Christ, the Son of God provides access to the Father for us, but always with the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:1, 2; Eph. 2:11-18; 3:10-12). Thereby, He enables us to pray effectively to the Father through Him and with the intercessory help of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 16:23-28; cf. Matt. 16:19; Acts 2:33; Rom. 8:26, 27; 1 Cor. 14:2, 4, 14, 15; Eph. 2:18; 6:18; Jd. 1:20).

Thus, as the exalted and glorified One seated with the Father:

- a. The Lord Jesus continually intercedes for the living saints; whence the Bible reveals that Jesus is presently sitting at the right hand of the Father, interceding for us (Rom. 8:34).
- b. The Scriptures also assures us that because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood and that He lives to intercede for those who come to God through Him (Heb. 7:24-25).

The Divine Advocacy

The Scriptures further indicate and remind us that Jesus, the Righteous One, is our Advocate with the Father; where the Greek word *parakletos* has several shades of meaning: (1) **a legal advocate** (2) **an intercessor**, and (3) **a helper generally** (1 Jn. 2:1, 2). There are several Messianic prophecies being fulfilled presently or pending to be

fulfilled in due course (Acts 1:1-11). Jesus Christ is now exalted to oversee the building of His Church from heaven and to continue for the entire Church Age but with the Holy Spirit as the divine Advocate in the Church since the day of Pentecost (Jn. 14:15-26). Jesus as Advocate in heaven intercedes by:

1. Continually pouring out of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit and fire Baptizer of the Church, with the same intensity as on the day of Pentecost to become His effective witnesses in every locality and generation to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins in His name (Matt. 3:11, 12; Jn. 14:12-26; 15:26, 27; 16:7-15; 17:20-26; 20:19-23; Lk. 24:33-49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-21, 31-36; 5:20, 29-32; 10:34-44; Rom. 15:18, 19, 29; 1 Cor. 2:1-5; 15:1-11; 1 Thess. 1:5).
2. His building of the Church as Head, Groom, Apostle and High Priest by pleading for her (Is. 53:11, 12; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1, 2) and supplying her any needed resources through the Holy Spirit (Matt. 16:16-19; Jn. 14:12-14; 16:13-15; 17:20-26; Eph. 2:11-18; Heb. 2:3, 4; 3:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:5-10; Rev. 5:1-14 vv. 9, 10).
3. The Apostolic and High Priestly intercessory work of Christ going on right now (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 3:1; 7:25) not directly offering prayers as in John 17 while on earth. But now while in the presence of the Father (Heb. 9:24) reminds Him of the promise on oath to Him for gift of souls already worked for (Is. 53:11, 12; Jn. 17:6-26), their access to the Father provided by Him with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:11-18) and through the ministry of prayer and the word by the Church, His body (Acts 6:4). All Ministry of Prayer and the Word (Acts 6:4) and any other needed ministry of the Church (Acts 6:1) by deed and word in the gospel (Rom. 15:18, 19) are to done in His Name (Jn. 14:12-14; Acts 4:7-13; Phil. 2:9-11) and for His glory (Col. 3:17). Believers continually use His Name in praying (Jn. 14:13-14; 16:23, 24) and proclaiming the gospel or the Word (Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29-32) with the Advocacy of the Holy Spirit sent on the day of Pentecost (Jn. 14:12-26; 15:26, 27; 16:12-15; 17:19-26; Acts 2:1-4, 16-21, 33, 38, 39; 5:29-32; 1 Pet. 1:10-12).
4. In His capacity as the Head and Intercessor or Advocate in heaven (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 1:1, 2), Jesus has already provided a throne, *the throne of grace* where there are both grace and mercy (Heb. 2:17-18; 14-16). He, thereby, together with the Father supplies more and more of the Holy Spirit as we pray and preach the gospel, the Word or teach it in His name (Acts 1:8; 2:33; 4:31; 9:31; Eph. 1:13, 14; 3:14-19; Phil. 1:19). The Holy Spirit comes with attendant grace and peace to the Church (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; Phm. 1:3; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; 1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:4); and additionally, with supply of pastoral grace, mercy and peace to His ministers (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; 2 Jn. 1:3). He also provides deliverance through special angelic assistance; who serve us His messengers towards our preservation in the proclamation of the gospel (Acts 8:26-40; Heb. 1:7, 14; 12:22-29).
5. Presently, even though Christ right now intercedes for the saints (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 3:1; 7:25) yet not directly offering prayers as in John 17 while on earth, His blood speaks to plead, provide security, protect from evil and prevent the devil (Heb. 12:24; Rev. 12:11) and His Spirit supplies spiritual understanding, sanctifying

grace, might and power (Eph. 1:15-19; 3:14-19; Phil. 1:9-11, 19; Col. 1:9-11; 1 Thess. 5:23, 24; 1 Pet. 1:2).

6. Christ's intercession is therefore unique; because:
 - a) He already has eternal access to the Father (Heb. 9:24; 10:12, 13);
 - b) He is the only God-man to qualify as worthy to be both the Son of Man and the Son of God or the Lamb of God and the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Matt. 16:13-19; Rev. 5:3-10);
 - c) He is the only way to God (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12);
 - d) He is the only One accredited to mediate between God, the offended and us, the offenders who now believe in Him (1 Tim. 2:5, 6);
 - e) He is the only One willed to by God to be the eternal Saviour and Lord or Prince to grant repentance and forgiveness of sins and also eternal life (Jn. 6:37-40; Acts 2:21-36; 5:30, 31; 1 Jn. 2:23-25; 5:10-13, 20);
 - f) He always intercedes according to the eternal Will of the eternal Father

7. What exactly does Jesus do through intercession if He is not praying as when He was on earth?

We are certainly aware that Jesus has assumed full divinity and now glorified as God (Jn. 17:1-5; Phil. 2:9-11) and sits as God with the Father in His throne (Rev. 1:4-6; 3:21). In the plan of Salvation, the Son of God who perfectly obeyed the Father (5:19, 30; Heb. 5:5-10), now sends the Holy Spirit to the Church (Jn. 14:16; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4, 33, 38, 39) and also directs the services of holy Angels as ministering spirit to supernaturally help the saints (Heb. 1:14).

- a) He echoes the earthly prayers and the atoning sacrifice in the presence of the Father for those the Father has given Him (Is. 53:3-12; Jn. 6:37; 17:19, 20).
 - b) He applies what He did on the cross through His wounds and in His death including the pouring, sprinkling and applying of His blood (Is. 53:3-5; Jn. 3:13-16; Heb. 9:11-15, 22-24; 1 Pet. 2:21-24).
 - c) He applies what He did for humanity by the resurrection to see the conversion of souls (Is. 53:9-12; Jn. 6:37-40).
 - d) He applies what He has received as souls from the Father by His ascension and glorification as the seed of the woman, Abraham and David (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-10; Rom. 1:4, 5; Gal. 4:4-6; Heb. 2:9-18).
 - e) His intercession is in secret but in the inner sanctuary, the holy of holies where He supplies the Manna (represented by Himself as the Bread of life) and the Rod that budded (represented by the Holy Spirit) with His blood to cover the mercy seat from the legal requirements of the tablets containing the Law because He went behind the veil not in the earthly sanctuary court (Heb. 6:19, 20; 9:1-15). Notice the Manna and Rod were mysteriously missing from the Ark by the time of Solomon's Temple dedication; only the tablets were there (1 Kgs 8:9).
8. There are the benefits of Christ's ongoing intercession for the Church and individual believers.

- a) He allows the cross, the gospel or the Word and the Holy Spirit to deal with the flesh, the sin nature, the old man and carnal mentality so that we can have boldness at the throne of grace (Rom. 6:1-21 vv. 6-7, 11-13; 7:4-25 vv. 1 Cor. 15:34; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9; Heb. 3:12-16) and through our faith in Christ to be crucified with but alive in Him and being led or walking in the light and in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-16 vv. 13, 14; Gal. 2:20, 21; 5:16-26 vv. 24, 25; 6:14-17; 1 Jn. 1:5-2:2 vv. 7, 9). Usually, this involves wrestling with God to embrace His Word and Will by clothing ourselves with Christ in prayer and fasting, the study of the Word and in chastening to deal with weights and besetting sins (Rom. 12:1, 2; 13:11-14; Eph. 6:10, 11, 13-20; Heb. 12:1-14 see Gen. 32:24-32; 2 Chron. 12:6, 7; Ps. 35:13; Lam. 3:20-26; Lk. 2:36-38 v. 37; 2 Cor. 11:16-33; 12:1-10). This will make us strong in the faith and in the Lord so that can effectively wrestle with spiritual forces and also intercede for others (Eph. 6:10-20 v. 12). Eventually, we will be overcomers to even stand boldly and victorious in all battles, duties, infirmities and temptations of life (1 Cor. 10:12, 13; 15:32-34, 56-58; 2 Cor. 12:9, 10; 1 Jn. 5:1-21 v. 4);
- b) He is our Advocate with the Father to make propitiation and grant life to repentant sinning brethren (1 Jn. 2:1, 2; 5:16, 17);
- c) He has adequately dealt with our conscience to provide serving the living God (Acts 23:1; 24:16; Rom. 9:1; 1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 3:9; Heb. 9:9, 14; 10:2, 22; 13:18; 1 Pet. 2:19; 3:16, 21)
- d) He supplies us grace, mercy and peace (1 Cor. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:2);
- e) He allows the Holy Spirit to help our infirmities in prayer, so that we will pray according to God's Will and in His Name (Jn. 14:13, 14; 16:23, 24; Rom. 8:26-32; 1 Jn. 4:14, 15);
- f) He is the fount of blessing, wisdom and prudence to us (Eph. 1:3, 8);
- g) There is the supply of the Spirit of Jesus to us through prayer (Phil. 1:19);
- h) We receive sufficient supply for our needs through Him (Phil. 4:19);
- i) We have boldness through His blood and at the through of grace to go before God to find both grace and mercy to help us in time of need (Heb. 4:14-16; 10:19-21);
- j) Perfect and preserve believers through the blood, the word and the Holy Spirit (Acts 20:32; 1 Thess. 5:23, 24; Heb. 7:22-25; 13:20, 21; 1 Pet. 1:1-5 v. 2).
- k) He directs the services of holy Angels as ministering spirits to supernaturally help the saints (Acts 12:5-12; Heb. 1:14) and towards directing the spread of the gospel (Acts 5:19, 20; 8:26-29; 10:1-3; 27:21-25).
- l) He directs, equips with keys and empowers Spirit-filled believers to effectively evangelize and bear fruit of converts as the Advocate to propitiate for the sins of the world and the Builder of the Church (Matt. 16:16-19; 28:18-20; Mk. 16:19, 20; Acts 1:4-8; 2:22-41; 5:29-32, 42; 10:33-44; 17:2-12; 20:20, 21; Rom. 1:1-17; 15:18, 19, 29; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; 1 Jn. 1:1-3; 2:1, 2).