The Laws
of Intercession

#### The Laws Of Intercession

by Dag Heward-Mills

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# How to Intercede against the Law of Degeneration

Man's need for an intercessor is not always apparent. Throughout the Bible there have always been men who stood in the gap for other men.

We often think that intercession just prevents the *devil* from attacking Christians. Intercession deals with much more than that. It deals with certain laws that are in place in the earth today. When you understand these things, you will always want to pray for your church members.

To intercede means to intervene, interfere or to mediate. Intercession means to come between so as to modify the course of events. An interceding person becomes situated between things.

**Intercession Deals with the Law of Decay in the Church** 

Yet I have planted thee a noble vine, holy a right seed: how then ART THOU TURNED INTO THE DEGENERATE PLANT of a strange vine unto me?

Jeremiah 2:21

Whether we like it or not, there is a law of degeneration at work in the earth. Everything we create begins to decay the day after it is completed. Every building decays as the years go by.

Our bodies gradually degenerate as the years go by. Just look at your picture ten years ago and you will understand what I am talking about.

Wealth does not remain in one place forever. You may be rich today but your wealth may decay into nothing after ten years. There are cities that were very wealthy years ago. Today, these places have degenerated into large slums.

To degenerate means to gradually become of a lower type. It is a

gradual falling off to a lower form of development

The church is no different. We are all under this law of degeneration. This is why shepherds are advised to look to the state of their flocks. If you leave a vibrant fellowship of Christians for three years without investing into it, it will decay. And that without remedy! You have to invest into it spiritually.

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds. For RICHES ARE NOT FOREVER; and doth the crown endure to every generation?

**Proverbs 27:23,24** 

The degeneration of a church can be defined as: "to sink below a former or normal condition or character".

Degeneration also means to deteriorate from a former standard.

This law of degeneration is at work in your church, and in your members. It affects all of us. This is why you need to intercede for your people.

The law of degeneration is making the zealous ones less zealous.

The law of degeneration is working on the sweet, prayerful Christians. It is making them lose interest in prayer.

The law of degeneration is working against the holy Christians. It is making them to deteriorate into immoral backsliders.

Dear pastor, you cannot sleep anymore. The law of degeneration is at work in your church. You need to rise up and intercede!

Have you noticed how people start their Christian lives with such a zeal for witnessing and preaching the Word?

Not long after, you hardly find them in church. What has happened? The law of degeneration! This is why it is so important to keep intercession and prayer alive in the church!

# How to Intercede against the Law of the World

#### Intercession Deals with the Law of the World

Love not the WORLD, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the WORLD, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the WORLD passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

1 John 2:15-17 7

The world has a pervasive influence on the Church. Much of the church has become worldly and secular. This happens because the Church is "plum in the middle" of the world.

Intercession needs to go on so that the church does not become worldly. The things that are in the world, the lusts of the flesh and the lust of the eyes, stick themselves on to ministers without our even knowing it.

Man needs an intercessor! Demas needed an intercessor. He fell in love with the world and backslid.

Fewer of our church members will backslide when we intercede for them. Intercession deals with the law of the world.

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...

2 Timothy 4:10

# How to Intercede against the Law of the Flesh

#### **Intercession Deals with the Law of the Flesh**

Man has a need for an intercessor! The law of the flesh works against everything spiritual. Paul was afraid of his own flesh. He said he knew that there was nothing good in his flesh.

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

**Romans 7:18** 

At one point, Paul said that he had lost confidence in his flesh.

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

**Philippians 3:3** 

Dear friend, if Paul had lost confidence in his flesh, what should we do? The flesh is ready to take you to Hell. The flesh is working against church growth. The flesh is working against the very life of the church. Your flesh is working against your spiritual progress.

The flesh makes the church members desire the wrong things and do the wrong things. It is the flesh that makes church members lazy. It is because of the flesh that most church members do not come to church every Sunday.

When a pastor thinks of his children in the Lord, his heart must burn with interventionary prayer. Father, help your children! Don't let them fall by the wayside.

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any

### means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

### 1 Corinthians 9:27

Another need for intercession is in the area of sickness and disease. Intercessory prayer prevents disease from fastening its hold on people. Remember that it is easier to prevent diseases than to treat them.

Intercessory prayer will prevent the pastors from conducting unnecessary funerals.

# How to Intercede against the Law of the Elements

#### **Intercession Deals with the Law of the Elements**

What are the elements? The elements are the earth, the wind, the fire and the water. Whether you know it or not, these elements can turn against your existence.

We need intercession so that these elements are kept at bay. When the elements turn against you, your ministry could be over. This is what happens when there are earthquakes, fires, floods and storms.

During Jesus' ministry on earth, He had to deal with the elements. The elements were trying to end His life and ministry.

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea: and there was a great calm.

But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!

Matthew 8:23-27

The disciples were amazed at how the elements responded to prayer commands. As you intercede for your people, they will be protected from any antagonistic elements in the earth.

Sometimes it is the elements that bring about plane crashes, car pile-

ups and other disasters. I see you rising up with the spirit of intercession for your people! Your ministry will be transformed.

### **How to Intercede against the Law of Humanity**

#### **Intercession Deals with the Law of Humanity**

The law of humanity deals with human nature. Here, we deal with two main areas:

- a. The reality of human nature.
- b. The reality of human error.

The human nature of ingratitude, forgetfulness and wickedness is well known. You do not have to look far to see a real war taking place.

The wickedness in human nature is there for everyone to see. The genocide and brutal killings are evident.

Jesus was aware of how human beings could turn against Him.

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

John 2:24,25

When the tide of human nature turned against Christ, His miracles did not mean much anymore. They murdered Him within forty-eight hours. Do not underestimate the evil that is in man.

Our intercessory prayer works against the tide of human ungratefulness and forgetfulness in ministry. Dear pastor, when you pray for your congregation, it will help them not to forget the love you have bestowed on them.

Human error is often the cause for human disasters like the Titanic sinking or the Paddington train crash in London or the Concorde disaster. Intercessory prayer will intervene to prevent human error from eliminating you.

As a doctor, I have seen other doctors make mistakes. I have watched people die as a result of human error.

I once watched a consultant gynaecologist perform a major operation (laparotomy) on a young eleven-year-old girl. He thought she had a tumour in the lower abdomen. When they opened her up, all she had was compact faeces in the colon. This poor girl had been subjected to a major operation because the doctor did not examine her properly. All that this poor little girl needed was some medicine to make her go to the toilet!

Other patients have died because surgeons forgot to remove some swabs or scissors from the abdomen before closing up. Even when medicine is being practised, intercessory prayer is needed for protection against human error. This is why we pray for people when they are receiving any kind of medical treatment.

I watched a documentary called *Flights from Hell*. In this documentary, a pilot discovered that one of the wheels on the undercarriage was not coming out. This was because somebody (human error) had forgotten to remove the chock from the undercarriage. I watched the plane undergoing amazing manoeuvres to get the wheel out. In the end, the plane was forced to land on one wheel. It was a very lucky escape for everyone on the flight.

On another of these flights from Hell, there was a flight from Bogota, Columbia to New York City. When the pilot got to New York, he was asked to go into a holding position and wait for his turn to land. He was kept in the air for over an hour.

The tragic thing about this story was that the pilot failed to communicate to the air traffic control tower that he was running out of fuel and that he urgently needed to land. Can you believe that the pilot circled with this plane until *every drop* of fuel was finished and then crashed just outside the airport? Who ever heard of a jetliner crashing because it ran out of fuel?

It was later established that the pilot failed to communicate the urgency of his situation (human error) to the control tower. I tell you, the people in that plane needed intercessory prayer very badly. The passengers were in the hands of a very dangerous man.

Intercessory prayer will intervene to protect your people from human *error* and human *nature*.

## How to Intercede against the Law of Nature

#### **Intercession Deals with the Law of Nature**

When nature works against you, you will find yourself sweating! Nature speaks of the cycles and the seasons of the earth. It is about the natural things that God has created.

When natural cycles change their usual character there are all sorts of problems. For instance, there are droughts, famines, floods and tornadoes. What is happening is the distortion of natural things.

When a natural wave of the ocean becomes enlarged then you have a tidal wave. When you fall into the sea and the tide takes you away, you are in the hands of nature.

# Wild animals, insects, viruses, bacteria and parasites are all manifestations of nature turning against man.

I was once on a safari in South Africa. There were all sorts of wild animals in the park.

I asked our guide if it was safe to get out and walk.

He said to me, "I wouldn't do that!"

You see, if I had walked alone in that safari park, I would have been at the mercy of nature. I would have subjected myself to the dangerous elements of nature.

The psalmist teaches about how blessed it is to have nature working in your favour. He predicts that anyone who walks in the Word of the Lord will have the seasons and the cycles working normally for him. When a woman is unable to have a child, a very natural process has been interrupted.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the

seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

**Psalm 1:1-3** 

Bacteria and viral infections are a further distortion of nature. Bacteria, if you like, are like microscopic wild animals that can kill you. When they cross your path, nature has begun to work against you.

Intercession is needed to prevent the forces of nature from consuming you. Intercessory prayer can even stop what people may call "natural deaths".

Intercessory prayer leads people into the Word, so that they can have the blessings of Psalm 1.

When a person is ungodly, he falls into the hands of nature, and nature blows him away. Read it for yourself!

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which THE WIND DRIVETH AWAY.

**Psalm 1:4** 

# How to Intercede against the Law of the Devil

#### Intercession Deals with the Law of the Devil

The law of the devil teaches that there is a devil out there. This devil and his agents are actively working against our lives. I have seen the devil twice! On both occasions he was trying to destroy me. Suddenly, my eyes were open and I was able to see my enemy clearly. This is what happened to Paul in Macedonia.

He was harassed by a demon for several days. Suddenly, the Lord gave him a manifestation of the gift of discerning of spirits. This allowed him to know exactly what he was dealing with. He cast out the devil and that was the end of the harassment.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation. And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

Acts 16:16-18

#### I Saw the Devil

On both occasions when I had a manifestation of discerning of spirits, the devil was at my right hand side. On one occasion, I saw the devil as a little monkey sitting on my bedside table. I was so surprised to see the devil so close! Suddenly, I was able to deal with this thing that was trying to eliminate me. If I had not dealt with that demon I may not be alive today.

#### I Saw the Devil Again

On another occasion, my eyes were open to the spirit realm and I saw an eight-foot tall, blackened sooty figure suspended on the right side of my bed. I was startled and jumped out of bed and began to pray.

The Lord had suddenly shown me the source of a severe and prolonged attack I had been experiencing in my ministry. I rose out of bed and the rest is history.

On both these occasions, the devil came very close to eliminating me.

This is what is happening to pastors. This is why pastors need intercessors to pray for them.

This is what is happening to your church members. The enemy is after their souls. Intercede for them! Intervene in the situation! Get in the way and stand between the devil and the sheep that God has given to you! Transform your ministry by intercessory prayer.

## How to Intercede against the Law of Time

#### **Intercession Deals with the Law of Time**

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

The law of time teaches us that there is a time for everything. In your life, there will be a time to sow and a time to reap. There will be times of rejoicing and there will also be times of sorrow. There will be times when you will be up and other times when you will be down! As the events of time unfold in your life, will you survive each season? When the time for prosperity comes, will you backslide or will you remain in the Lord? The children of Israel were warned of a time of prosperity. Moses warned them not to forget their God at that time. People simply need intercession because they enter into a new time or period of their lives. Many people fall away in the day of their prosperity. Pastors need to pray for their congregations so that the little children (sheep) will not fall away in their time of temptation. The Bible speaks of an evil day. An evil day is a day when things are not good. Intercession for believers will help them to stand in an evil day.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

### **Ephesians 6:13**

If you are not praying for your people, when they enter into an evil day, they will fall! It is the duty of pastors and shepherds to constantly intercede for the sheep. **Every sheep is in a different time of his life.** God is expecting you to pray for your people because every one of them is in a different season of his existence. Some people are in the season of temptation and death. They don't stand a chance unless you intercede for them!

# How to Intercede against the Law of Creeping Things

### **Intercession Deals with the Law of Creeping Things**

What are creeping things? Creeping things are things that sneak up on you without you realising. The book of Genesis speaks of the different creatures created by God. One group of creatures was called creeping things.

And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:25,26

Spiritually speaking, there are things that move upon us stealthily. Great changes take place over a long period of time. Most people hardly notice when these changes are taking place.

Let me give your four things that creep upon all churches:

- a. Deception (e.g. the churches of Europe).
- b. Wrong attitudes (e.g. laziness, complacency and unbelief).
- c. Familiarity (e.g. not appreciating the gift of God in your midst).
- d. Shifting of priorities (e.g. becoming health and educational organisations instead of being missionary societies).

### **Deception Is a Creeping Thing**

How do you think the church in Europe degenerated from being a

vibrant, missionary- minded society to becoming an atheistic and godless organisation? It did not happen over night. The spirit of deception crept on the church slowly. Deception is a creeping thing. Familiarity is one of the most dangerous creeping things that invade the church. Without even realising it, the church does not hold their pastor in esteem. Of course, they claim they do, but in reality they do not!

### Familiarity Is a Creeping Thing

I noticed as familiarity crept into my own ministry. What are the signs of this creeping familiarity? One of the things is a failure to appreciate the pastor. You will notice how the congregation responds to visiting preachers just because they receive something new. I notice the level of response I receive when I am outside my church. I notice that the level of response I receive is higher outside my own church. The miracles are more and the receptivity is higher. This is one of the most natural phenomena in Christian churches today. Intercessory prayer is necessary to keep out these spiritual creepers. Intercessory prayer will fight that creeping familiarity that kills the flow of the Spirit.

### How to Intercede against the Law of Things Determined

### Intercession Deals with the Law of Things Determined

Seventy weeks ARE DETERMINED upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression and to make an end of sins and to make reconciliation for inequity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Daniel 9:24

Daniel had been praying for his people. He wanted God to move on their behalf. Suddenly, he had an angelic visitor who gave him an astonishing message. You see, Daniel was trying to bring about a change in the situation of his people. However, it was not to be so. Daniel was informed that the divine laws of Heaven had determined a seventy-week punishment for the people of God. There was nothing he could do about it. By this Scripture I am drawing your attention to what I call determined things. These are things that cannot be changed. They will happen whether you pray or not!

Intercessory prayer helps you to handle determined things. Do not misunderstand me; there are many things that are changeable. If they were not changeable there would be no point in praying. What I am showing you is that there are some things that are unchangeable (determined things).

War is sometimes decreed on certain nations. There is nothing you can do about it. If it is unchangeable, the Lord will tell you that it is unchangeable and then He will show you what to do. Daniel was informed that seventy weeks of all sorts of punishments were definitely going to happen to Israel. There was nothing he could do about it.

Death is often one of those determined things. Look at this amazing Scripture. It tells us that there is a definite time for you to depart from

this earth. Because of this, there is no need to worry about death anymore.

### Is there not an APPOINTED TIME to man upon earth?...

**Job 7:1** 

Job described the life of a man as the days of a hired servant. When the contract is over it's over.

# ...are not his days also like the day of an HIRELING? [contract worker]

Job 7:1

There's nothing you can do about it. The difference here is that you don't know the last day of your contract. That is why you must be ready all the time.

And that is why you must not be afraid.

# When intercession cannot change a determined thing, intercession shows you how to live with it or prepare for it!

Even Julius Caesar knew that! He said that death "will come when it will come":

"Cowards die many times before their deaths;

The valiant never taste of death but once.

Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,

It seems to me most strange that men should fear,

Seeing that death, a necessary end,

Will come when it will come."

# How to Intercede against the Law of the Stars

#### Intercession Deals with the Stars

Traditionally, born-again Christians stay off the subject of stars. The Bible does not teach us to study stars or to use them for guidance. However, I want to mention what I call the influence of the stars.

I would like to show you a couple of Scriptures that indicate that the stars have some influence on the events on earth. For instance, Jesus' birth was shown to the wise men from the east by a star.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

Saying, Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen HIS STAR in the east, and are come to worship him.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, THE STAR, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw THE STAR they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

Matthew 2:1,2,9,10

The influence or significance of stars was acknowledged in Scripture in the birth of Christ. All I am trying to say is that there is some meaning and some import to these stars. It looks as though there is something arranged and determined over there.

Notice these Scriptures:

Canst thou bind THE SWEET INFLUENCES of Pleiades, or loose the bands of Orion? Canst thou bring forth Mazzaroth in his season? Or canst thou guide Arcturus with his sons? Knowest

# thou the ordinances of heaven? Canst thou set THE DOMINION THEREOF IN THE EARTH?

Job 38:31-33

The *Orion* referred to in this Scripture, is the constellation of stars known as the giant. The *Pleiades* s the name given to seven stars in the constellation Taurus.

The *Arcturus* is a constellation of stars in the northern hemisphere called the great bear. The *Mazzaroth* are twelve signs of the zodiac. The zodiac is a belt of the heavens including all apparent positions of the sun, moon, and planets as known to ancient astronomers, and divided into twelve equal parts (signs of the zodiac).

The Scripture above speaks of the *sweet influence* of Pleiades. This is the influence of the stars on the events on the planet earth.

It asks the question, "Can thou set *the dominion thereof* in the earth?" The dominion in the earth refers to the influence and control that this constellation of stars has on the affairs of men. I believe that through the power of intercessory prayer, every negative influence of the Mazzaroth or the Pleiades will not prevail!

Perhaps you did not know that there are so many factors in play that threaten our existence. God is giving you many more reasons to become a practising intercessor.

Every heavenly decree that is written in the stars against you will be changed in your favour as you intercede.

### How to Intercede about the Laws of God

#### Intercession Deals with the Laws of God

The law of God speaks of God's ability to implement *judgement or mercy*. In any given situation, Almighty God has two options: judgement or mercy. However, the Bible makes it clear that God prefers the *mercy*option. God prefers showing mercy to passing judgement!

Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because HE DELIGHTETH [PREFERS] IN MERCY.

**Micah 7:18** 

The Word teaches that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked.

...as I live, saith the Lord God, I have NO PLEASURE in the death of the wicked.

**Ezekiel 33:11** 

When God passes out a judgement, it is often very severe and irreversible. Because our God is a God of justice, He has no option but to pass out judgements when they are due.

Abraham and Moses are two examples of people who stood in the way of God's judgement. When Sodom and Gomorrah deserved the judgement of fire, it was Abraham who prevented the wrath of God. His intercessory prayer is the greatest example of how God listens to a man. Why would God listen to a mere man? God wants to have a reason to choose mercy and to avoid judgement. Any good leader with a heart for God is always looking for an opportunity to avoid judgement and to show mercy.

# And Abraham drew near, and said, Will thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?

**Genesis 18:23** 

Unfortunately, Abraham was not able to secure the release of Sodom and Gomorrah from God's judgement. God could not find even five righteous people in the city. The Lord tried to avoid judgement but it didn't work! Moses, however, was able to secure deliverance for Israel.

Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen STOOD BEFORE HIM in the breach, to turn away his wrath lest he should destroy them.

**Psalm 106:23** 

Dear minister, God has called you to stand in the breach. As you stand in between God's judgement and the people, you will save many lives. Become an intercessor! You will save nations!

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