



## PART 7: Here I Am, Send Me

**PREMISE:** There are different LEVELS of prayer and as we GROW in RELATIONSHIP with the Lord, we GRADUATE up those LEVELS.

### 4 LEVELS are

1. AT 2. TO 3. WITH 4. FOR

Picture the four levels of prayer as a JOURNEY through the Old Testament TABERNACLE.

### LEVEL #1 = AT

- \* Standing on the OUTSIDE, lobbing ROCKS over the WALLS into the TENT.
- \* Prayers are IMPERSONAL, DEMANDING, UNEXPECTANT.

### LEVEL #2 = TO

- \* You've drawn CLOSER; there's a degree of RELATIONSHI.
- \* Now your prayers are not lobbed AT God, but SPOKEN TO God.

### LEVEL #3 = WITH

- \* Back under the OLD Covenant, only the HIGH PRIEST could enter the Holy of Holies and the very PRESENCE of God.
- \* But, because the VEIL has been torn in two, we all have unfettered ACCESS & INVITATION to the very throne of God (Hebrews 10:19-22 4:16, Ephesians 3:12).
- \* Now, we get to pray WITH God: In HIS PRESENCE, hearing His VOICE, in a position of INTERACTIVE COMMUNION.

### LEVEL #4 = FOR

- \* SENT OUT from the throne to act ON HIS BEHALF.
- \* We have a prayer COMMISSION (Ezekiel 22:30, Job 9:33, 1 Timothy 2:1-2, Matthew 9:36-38, Romans 8:26,27).

### WHAT HAPPENS IN GOD'S PRESENCE (Isaiah 6:1-9)

- \* We get CHANGED, INSPIRED, CHALLENGED.
- \* When you stand in the FIRE, you start to BURN.
- \* You become His PARTNER and He will COMMISSION you so you can now pray FOR Him.
- \* God's Presence is a place of RE-COMMISSIONING.

- \* He calls, "*Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?*" And we reply, HERE I AM, SEND ME!
- \* Praying FOR God takes us into the realm of INTERCESSION: CRYING OUT for the lost, REPENTING on behalf of the city, PLEADING FOR MERCY for the downtrodden, LIFTING UP YOUR VOICE for those who have none.
- "*Most Christian prayer is at level 2, 'TO' God.*" Do you agree? What do you have to do to graduate to prayer 'WITH' God? What keeps people at 'TO' and keeps them from 'WITH'?
- At which level would you say most of your prayer stands? Can you remember when (if) your prayer progressed from 'AT' to 'TO?' What about from 'TO' to 'WITH'?
- What are the differences between prayer 'AT' God and prayer 'TO' God? What are the differences between prayer 'TO' God and prayer 'WITH' God?
- Can you pray 'FOR' God without having first prayed 'WITH' God? How does prayer 'WITH' God prepare you for prayer 'FOR' God?
- Do you feel that you personally have a specific prayer 'commission?' If so, what do you find yourself being repeatedly drawn to praying for?
- "*His Presence is a place of recommissioning. When you stand in the fire, you start to burn. When you experience His love, you begin to soften. The deeper you go, the further you begin to see.*" Discuss!
- How would you define 'intercession?' Is intercession an inevitable consequence of worship?

### HOW DO WE OPERATE IN THIS 'PRAYING FOR GOD?'

1. Let COMPASSION lead you

- \* COMPASSION is the Holy Spirit inside you BURSTING to COME OUT.
- \* Always leads to BOLD ACTION.
- \* That TUG is God's CALL: Time to PRAY on my behalf.

→ Do you know and recognise the voice of compassion? What does it sound like? What does it say? What does it demand?

→ Is there a danger of becoming closed to the voice of compassion? What causes that? If you do, what might you miss?

→ "*Someone has to pray, 'Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done.'*" Does God need human prayers or does He operate whether we pray or not? Is His eye active, ever on the lookout for willing people to 'stand in the gap?'

2. The WORD is your SWORD

- \* If compassion is the WHO or WHEN, the WORD is the WHAT & HOW.
- \* What PROMISES can I PRAY over them? What SCRIPTURE can I PROPHECY over them? What TRUTH can I DECLARE over them?

→ How is the Word like a sword? How often do you use your sword when you pray? Is your prayer less powerful if you do not use your sword?

→ Challenge: As you meet this week, why not pray Paul's prayers over each other (Colossians 1:9-14, Ephesians 1:15-23, Ephesians 3:14-21, Philippians 1:9-11).

3. Pray until the BURDEN LIFTS

→ What do we mean by the burden? What does it feel like and how can we tell when it's lifted?