

## ***RESTORING THE PRIESTLY ROLE OF INTERCESSION (Part 2)***

What is the "identification in intercession"? It is the ability and function of personally identifying with the needs of others to such an extent that in heart you become one with them by the Holy Spirit. It is expressed as we identify with them by the Holy Spirit. It is expressed as we identify with Jesus and follow in His footsteps, because His footsteps will lead us beyond the four walls of our churches into the streets of a fractured world of prostitutes, crooks, losers, and broken and wounded people - in other words, to real people with real problems. He leads us into a genuine priesthood where we, like our Master and High Priest, can be touched by the infirmities, temptations, and struggles of others (see Hebrews 4:15). The only way we can genuinely and effectively intercede is out of a heart of compassion, contrition, and desperation, from a heart that pounds with the sufferings of others as though they are our own.

Through the inward work of the Spirit of revelation, we can identify with God's righteous judgments, which are due, and yet experience His searing passion to express His grace and mercy. Our eyes will be opened to the horrifying condition of the people and the specific sins that block their way to the cross. Then, by choosing to be one with them, by laying aside our position for the sake of others, our hearts will be burdened by the Spirit of God to utter cries of confession and unspeakable intercession on their behalf. As we, from our hearts, confess sin, disgrace, failure, and humiliation on their behalf to the Lord, we clear away every obstacle of the enemy so that those for whom we labor can, themselves, come to the cross in repentance and restoration.

This form of intercession is a lost art in our modern-day materialistic and success-oriented society.

- Identification in intercession means spiritually embodying others' struggles through the Holy Spirit—praying as though their pain were your own, with compassion, contrition, and desperation.

- This priestly intercession clears spiritual obstacles, enabling others to encounter the cross in repentance and restoration—echoing Christ's own heart for the broken and overlooked.