

**Overview:** In outline I indicates that Christ as the kingly and divine High Priest is interceding for us. III refers that we need to respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry which is the same as the subject. II describes about the Spirit interceding for us in our spirit. In order to go back to our spirit and to experience the Spirit's intercession, it is the important key to join between Christ's intercession and our response.

**I . Christ as the kingly and divine High Priest is interceding for us:**

- A. Christ has been constituted our High Priest according to the power of an indestructible life, which nothing can dissolve; this is an endless life, being the eternal, divine, uncreated life and the resurrection life that has passed through the test of death and of Hades.
- B. Because Christ lives forever without any change, He is able to save us to the uttermost in extent, time, and space.
- C. In Hebrews 7:25 the expression to the **uttermost** means "completely, entirely, perfectly, to the end, and for eternity"; this indicates that Christ as our High Priest is able to save us to the fullest extent, that is, to save in every kind of situation and condition.
- D. Christ is able to save us completely because He is interceding for us; He is our perpetual, constant, and eternal Intercessor:
2. He appears before God on our behalf, praying that we may be wholly saved and brought fully into God's eternal purpose.
  3. Christ intercedes for us constantly, and eventually His intercession will overcome, subdue, and save us; we all will be completely saved by His intercession; His salvation reaches to the uttermost.
  4. We should believe that Christ is always interceding for us and come forward to God through Him.
  5. Christ can save us to the uttermost because He is living not only in the heavens but also in us:
    - b. He is living in the heavens to intercede for us and take care of our case, but the reality of this is transmitted into our spirit by His Spirit.
    - c. We must learn to see this heavenly vision and enjoy our High Priest; then we will receive mercy and find grace at the throne of grace for timely help.

**II . In Romans 8 Christ is interceding for us at the right hand of God, and the Spirit is interceding for us in our spirit:**

- A. Christ died for us, He was resurrected, and now He is in the heavens at the right hand of God interceding for us:
1. Our Christ today is in the highest heaven, holding the highest position at God's right hand.
  2. Christ is interceding for our glorification; this corresponds to His interceding for us to be saved to the uttermost.
  3. As the consummated and ascended God-man and as the Head of the Body, Christ is interceding for us that we, the many God-men, could overcome opposition and all kinds of circumstances and be kept in union with Him in His unconditional love so that we may be conformed to His image as the firstborn Son of God and thus become His reproduction for the constitution of the corporate and organic Body of Christ.
- B. "The Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (v.26) :
1. The weakness here is our ignorance of how we should pray; we do not know the kind of prayer God desires, and we are not clear how to pray.
  2. In our groaning the Spirit groans also, interceding for us; His interceding is mainly that we may experience the transformation in life for growth in life unto the maturity of sonship so that we may be fully conformed to the image of God's firstborn Son.
- C. "He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God" (v.27) :
1. The mind of the Spirit here is not the mind of the Spirit that is independent of us; it is the mind of the Spirit that has been mingled with our mind and has become part of our heart.

**III. We need to respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry:**

- A. Christ's intercession requires our response; we need to participate in Christ's interceding life and become on earth the reflection of Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry, praying the prayers of the interceding Christ.
- B. Through our prayer Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body.
- C. In Acts 12 we have the intercessory prayer of the church, and in Colossians 1:9-11 and 4:12, the intercessory prayers of Paul and Epaphras:
1. When Peter was in prison, "prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him" (Acts 12:5) :
    - b. By prayer the church fought the battle with God against Satan, the evil one.
  2. Paul prayed that the saints would "be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Col 1:9) :
    - b. The will of God is profound in relation to our knowing, experiencing, and living the all-inclusive Christ; God's will for us is that we know Christ, experience Christ, enjoy Christ, live Christ, and have Christ become our life and our person.
- D. The position of prayer is ascension, that is, a heavenly position:
1. If we leave the heavenly position, we lose the position of prayer.
  2. With the position of prayer there is the authority of prayer; as the position of prayer is ascension, the authority of prayer is also ascension.
  3. When we have the heavenly position and authority, our prayers become God's administration, the execution of God's will.

### Experience①: Christ as a High Priest is able to save you to the uttermost

When this standard model (God-man Jesus) was resurrected, being born in His humanity to be the firstborn Son of God, He included us (1 Pet. 1:3). When He was sonized in His humanity, in His resurrection, we were born as sons of God. We need to forget time. There is no clock in heaven, and there will be no watches in eternity. Although we may not be able to understand this, we should simply accept it. According to the pure word of the Holy Bible, when Christ was resurrected, He imparted Himself into us as life, and we were reborn. After imparting Himself into us as life, Christ entered into perfection, into glory, where He is now interceding for our glorification.

Christ is interceding for us to be saved to the uttermost. Although I have heard many messages saying that Christ is interceding for us, I have not heard one message which said that Christ is interceding for us to be brought into perfection. Many pastors use Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25 concerning Christ's interceding to comfort those who are in difficulty. But Christ is not interceding merely for us to have comfort. Such a concept of His intercession is too low. Christ is interceding for us to be glorified and to be saved into His perfection.

#### For Middle/High School Students

As a middle or high school student, you should study diligently and challenge to enter the best college possible. Your goal should be set according to your own measure. In another word, although not everyone can go to Tokyo University, it is still very important for you to go forward aiming to the higher and challenging goal.

But if you think about your salvation according to the Lord's word, then you will be surprised. [Heb 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.](#)

Being saved to the uttermost means the glorious life of God saturate completely from spirit to soul and body. Regarding this salvation to the uttermost, God will neither lower His level of standard nor give up halfway without completion. According to our concept, "being saved to the uttermost" is considered much more difficult than graduating Harvard University. When you look at your failures or shortcomings, you may feel it is very hard to believe that you are able to be saved to the uttermost. However, no one can nullify or change the word of Hebrew 7:25. No matter how you feel, the word of God cannot be changed. So just believe and accept the words in faith that you can be "saved to the uttermost" and you can be "glorified". What you can do is, either you cooperate with the Lord willingly to accelerate your salvation, or you delay your salvation to the uttermost with your unbelief.

Experience the Lord, through your relationship with your friends and teachers in your school. There may be a classmate who accuses you falsely or who is incompatible with you and speaks irritating words to you. There also may be a teacher who doesn't like you. In reality, the Lord uses this kind of environment to touch your peculiarity, and is trying to transform you. You can open to the Lord and pray, "Lord, please save me to the uttermost", for your relationship with others.

### Experience②: Seek first God's kindom and God's righteousness, and become an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom

Prayer is the only way to have our mind set on the things in heaven. When we set our mind on things above by praying, we will not pray for trivial matters. Instead our prayer will be occupied with Christ's heavenly intercession, ministry, and administration. Because Christ is interceding for the churches around the world, we also pray for the churches. We should let the Lord take care of all the small matters in our living. Our responsibility is to seek first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Since the Father knows our need, He will take care of us and meet our need.

[Matt 6:29](#) But I tell you that not even Solomon in all his glory was clothed like one of these. [30](#) And if God so arrays the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is cast into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you, you of little faith? [31](#) Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? [32](#) For all these things the Gentiles are anxiously seeking. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. [33](#) But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34](#) Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself; sufficient for the day is its own evil.

When we set our mind on the things which are above during our times of prayer, we become a reflection of Christ's ministry in the heavens. Through our prayer, Christ, the Head, is given a way to carry out His administration through His Body. When we pray, we are a heavenly ambassador on earth as the extension of God's kingdom. However, when we are gossiping, we are not a heavenly ambassador at all. Only when we pray do we become an ambassador of the heavenly kingdom on earth in a practical way.

#### For Young Working Saints

Young working saints first must become financially independent from their parents. Then, you need to bear the responsibility to support the church and your family in both spiritual and financially side. But to bear this responsibility, you should never do it according to the concept like gentiles. If you keep the same financial concept as gentile people do (in which the first priority for anything is you), eventually you will lose the burden for the church and lose the God's blessing. God knows your needs in your daily living, so you should first set your priority on Christ and the church, and pray for them. Then your needs in your living will be added to you.

Brother's testimony: During the construction of Motoyama meeting hall, the first meeting hall built in Kobe, I needed to go to supervise construction every evening in which there was no church meeting. So I left my office at 5:05 pm (while regular work time ends at 5pm), to go to see the construction. Satan had threatened me frequently saying "If you keep doing this, don't you think you may be fired?" But I continued this for about 6 months for the need of the church. At the beginning of April, the construction finished, and then our church started the meetings at this meeting hall. Surprisingly, in the end of March, since my company appreciated my performance and also feared I might leave the company, I was promoted to the higher position. (In that year, actually the company did not have a good performance, no one besides me was promoted.) The Lord's promise, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all your needs for living will be added to you" is faithful. Hallelujah!

## #6 Responding to Christ's Intercession in His Heavenly Ministry

### Scriptures

#### **I . Christ as the kingly and divine High Priest is interceding for us:**

Heb 7:24 But He, because He abides forever, has His priesthood unalterable. 25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them. 26 For such a High Priest was also fitting to us, holy, guileless, undefiled, separated from sinners and having become higher than the heavens,

9:24 For Christ did not enter into a holy place made by hands, a figure of the true, but into heaven itself, to appear now before the face of God for us;

2Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the times of the ages

Eph 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Col 3:1 If therefore you were raised together with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

Heb 4:14 Having therefore a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast the confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like us, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

#### **II . In Romans 8 Christ is interceding for us at the right hand of God, and the Spirit is interceding for us in our spirit:**

Rom 8:6 For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace. . . . 16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

Rom 8:26 Moreover, in like manner the Spirit also joins in to help us in our weakness, for we do not know for what we should pray as is fitting, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 But He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to God.

Rom 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ Jesus who died and, rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. . . . 37 But in all these things we more than conquer through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life nor angels nor principalities nor things present nor things to come nor powers 39 Nor height nor depth nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and

well pleasing and perfect.

Heb 8:1 Now in the things which are being said the chief point is this: We have such a High Priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,

#### **III . We need to respond to Christ's intercession in His heavenly ministry:**

Act 12:5 So then Peter was kept in the prison; but prayer was being made fervently by the church to God concerning him.

Col 1:9 Therefore we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease praying and asking on your behalf that you may be filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 To walk worthily of the Lord to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and growing by the full knowledge of God, 11 Being empowered with all power, according to the might of His glory, unto all endurance and long-suffering with joy,

Col 4:3 Praying at the same time for us also, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ (because of which also I am bound),

4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God.

Matt 17:20 . . . for truly I say to you, If you have faith like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, Move from here to there, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matt 18:18 Truly I say to you, Whatever you bind on the earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on the earth shall have been loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I say to you that if two of you are in harmony on earth concerning any matter for which they ask, it will be done for them from My Father who is in the heavens.

1Tim 2:1 I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all men;

2Thes 3:1 Finally, brothers, pray concerning us, that the word of the Lord may run and be glorified, even as it is also with you;

Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, 18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,

Matt 6:10 Your kingdom come; Your will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth.

Eph 6:18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints,

## Milestone of John 12: Result of life and propagation

### 1. Result of life - House of feast (a miniature version of church life)

1 Then Jesus, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Therefore they made Him a supper there; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of the ones reclining at table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of ointment, of very valuable pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was about to betray Him, said, 5 Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? 6 But he said this not because it mattered to him concerning the poor, but because he was a thief, and holding the purse, carried off what was put into it.

7 Then Jesus said, Leave her alone; she has reserved it for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have Me. 9 Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came, not because of Jesus only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. 10 And the chief priests took counsel to kill Lazarus also, 11 Because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed into Jesus.

### 2. Propagation for the church through death and resurrection

23 And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit... 35 Jesus then said to them, The light is still among you a little while. Walk while you have the light so that darkness may not overcome you; and he who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. 36 While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light. Jesus said these things, and He went away and was hidden from them.

### 3. Religious disbelief and blindness

40 "He has blinded their eyes and He hardened their heart, that they might not see with their eyes and understand with their heart and turn, and I will heal them."... 43 For they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God.

"Bethany" in verse 1 means "house of affliction". At this point, the Lord was outside of Judaism. Through His resurrected life He had gained a house in Bethany where He could feast and have rest and satisfaction. This house of feasting was a miniature of the church life and depicts the situation of the church. (1) produced by the resurrection life – Lazarus; (2) Composed of cleansed sinners - Simon the leper; (3) outwardly afflicted – Bethany; (4) inwardly feasting in and with the presence of the Lord (v. 2); (5) having more sisters than brothers (vv. 2-3); (6) having members with different functions; serving - Martha, testifying - Lazarus, and loving - Mary (vv. 2-3); (7) spotted by the false one – Judas (v. 4); (8) persecuted by religion (v. 10); (9) being a test and exposing people (vv. 6 and 10); and (10) bringing in many believers (v. 11).

Church life is the life of the house of God. At the first glance there is affliction just the same as the lives of the people in the world, but on the other hand it is a feasting life of rest and satisfaction.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has taken you except that which is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow that you be tempted beyond what you are able, but will, with the temptation, also make the way out, that you may be able to endure it.

Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry, 24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.

The Lord will make us grow through various difficult environments. The important thing is to experience the way to escape into the Lord, gain the strength to overcome sufferings, enjoy the Lord, even in your afflictions. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord! The house of Bethany (church life) is a house of affliction, but the Lord will provide the feast there, giving us rest and satisfaction. We should enter into the church life and sustain the life of the feast, the life to eat, drink and enjoy Christ.

In verse 7, Lord Jesus exposed Judah who was trying to betray him. Lord Jesus was a test to all those around Him. The chief priests and the Pharisees conspired to kill Him, Simon the Leper prepared his house for Him (Matt.26:6), Martha served Him, Lazarus testified concerning Him, Mary loved Him (vv. 2-3), Judas was about to betray him (v. 4), and many believed into him (v. 11). The Lord is the center of God's economy and is a sign set up by God. Anyone who contacts Him will inevitably be tested and exposed.

We have rest and satisfaction when we eat, drink and enjoy the Lord in the church life. At the same time, the Lord tests us and exposes us. For example, the individualism, sinful thoughts, fornication, arrogance, self-pity, explosion of anger, factions, division, envy, bouts of drunkenness and etc. in our minds. The Lord is the light, and will expose us of these negative things in us one by one. We should not hide our exposed sins but we need to confess them.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

8 If we say that we do not have sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

In verse 23, for the Son of Man Jesus to be glorified was for Him to be resurrected, that is, to have His divine element, His divine life, released from within the shell of His humanity, to produce many believers in the resurrection, just as a grain of wheat (v. 24) has its life element released when it falls into the ground and grows up out of the ground to bear much fruit, that is, to bring forth many grains.

In verse 40, these two, blindness and the hardening of the heart, are related; they are a punishment to the unbelieving ones. To prevent the eyes of your heart from becoming blind, you should not have the hardening of your heart.

Ephesians 4:17 ...that you no longer walk as the Gentiles also walk in the vanity of their mind,

18 Being darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance which is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;