

# Intercessory Prayer



“As I have deepened my capacity to be with God with what is true about me and have learned more about how to wait for God’s deliverance in my own life, it has not only changed my approach to praying for others but even changed my understanding of what intercessory prayers is. I realize now that intercessory prayer is not primarily about thinking that I know what someone else needs and trying to wrestle it from God. Rather, it is being present to God on another’s behalf, listening for the prayer of the Holy Spirit that is already being prayed

for that person before the throne of grace, and being willing to join God in that prayer.

Intercessory prayer is more about not knowing that it is about knowing. It is about growing more and more comfortable with the truth of Romans 8—that I do not know how to pray as I ought, for myself or anyone else, and accepting the fact that the Holy Spirit is the one who really knows how to pray and is already interceding for that person or situation before the throne of grace.

As people come to my awareness, I invite them into that place where God’s Spirit and my spirit are communing and we sit together with that person.”

(Written by Ruth Haley Barton, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*, p. 146.)