

**Great Men of Prayer (1)**  
***Moses, Intercession that Saved a Nation***  
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**Introduction:** God in many ways tells us that He controls the affairs of men.

- A. Christ is one who rules the nations with a rod of iron. (**Ps 2:7-11; Rev 2:27; 19:15-16**)
  - 1. In fact the power of God is so great that the nations are compared to dust. (**Isa 40:17-18, 21-24**)
  - 2. You as a faithful Christian in fact has more power over this world than our president and all other rulers combined. (**1 Tim 2:1-2**)
- B. We will examine a man whom God regarded as a great man of prayer, Moses.
  - 1. God later uses Moses by name as an example of one who knew how to intercede! (**Jer 15:1**)
  - 2. We need to learn that prayer is far more than just asking God for things we need! If you made a pie chart of these three, praise, confession, petition and intercession, what would it look like?
  - 3. Let us see from example what God can do through one man who intercedes.

***I. The Power of the Intercessor***

- A. It only takes one to make a difference.
  - 1. The destruction of Israel came because there was not one to stand in the gap. (**Ezek 22:30-31**)
  - 2. These people needed a Moses to teach them and to pray for them.
  - 3. Who are those today who are “standing in the gap?” (**Jas 5:16**)
- B. Moses’ prayers saved Israel on several occasions.
  - 1. They were saved from fire after complaining about His leadership. (**Num 11:1-3**)
  - 2. Moses pleaded for Israel twice during Korah’s rebellion. (**Num 16:19-22, 42-49**)
  - 3. They were saved from poisonous snakes after they spoke against God and against Moses. (**Num 21:4-9**)
  - 4. Moses had to mightily plead with God after the people worshipped idols while the 10 commandments were given. (**Ex 32:7-14**)
  - 5. Can you imagine how a nation’s existence hung in the balance over the issue of whether Moses would intercede for them? Brethren, let us get on our knees!
- C. Moses also prayed for individuals.
  - 1. Aaron and Miriam, Moses own brother and sister, tried to undermine his authority. (**Num 12:1-2, 10-13**)
  - 2. How many more did this great man save because of his prayers?

***II. The Heart of the Intercessor***

- A. **Moses was unselfish.**
  - 1. God bore witness of his character during one of these events. (**Num 12:3**)
  - 2. It takes this kind of heart to pray for another. When was the last time you prayed at length for others?
  - 3. He not only prayed for his friends, but also for those who meant him harm and who had falsely charged him. (**Num 16:3**)

4. God means for us to pray for our enemies. Be honest, do you? (**Mt 5:44-45**)  
"Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."

**B. Moses was forgiving.**

1. Look at the occasions where men a few minutes earlier had attacked Moses, now begged for and received his prayers!
  - a. The nation of Israel. (**11:2; 21:7**)
  - b. Aaron. (**Num 12:11**)

2. Moses did not lecture them nor wait to forgive them. (**Mt 18:21-22**)

"Nothing can so quickly cancel the frictions of life as prayer. If you find yourself growing angry at someone, pray for him -- anger cannot live in an atmosphere of prayer."

3. If we do not forgive, our prayers are a waste of time.

**C. Moses was dedicated.**

1. Moses was a busy man who could have made the excuse that he did not have time to pray.
2. Moses knew where his power came from! To neglect prayer is to neglect life. (**Deut 31:4-9**)

**D. Moses loved the things of God.**

1. How else could he pray for such an unlovable people? He knew that God had chosen them, so he loved them too.
2. Is this how we view our brethren? (**Rom 14:15-16**)

**III. Our Opportunities to be Intercessors**

**A. We first must have the right kind of heart. (Jas 4:1-3)**

1. We need to have cleansed hearts so we can approach God. (**Jas 4:8**)
2. When the things of God are more important than our personal advancement, then our prayers can be mighty.

**B. We must then have the vision to see the needs of others.**

1. Jesus knew that we can not pray for that which we cannot see. (**Mt 9:36-38**)
2. How many in this church dearly need our prayers? Why not go through the directory and pray for ever member?
3. In time we should greatly expand our list!
4. We should request that others pray for us as well as seeking to know others better so we can pray for them. (**1 Thess 5:25; 2 Thess 3:1; Heb 13:18**)
5. We cannot isolate ourselves from the people of God and still see their needs.

**C. We need the dedication to keep praying.**

1. Jesus knew this would be a problem for us. (**Lk 18:6-8; Mt 26:40-41**)
2. Will God answer prayer if we do not ask? (**Jas 4:2**)
3. Does God want us to ask over and over? Yes, but it must be in faith. (**Jas 1:6-8**)

"The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray."

**Conclusion:** Will you begin to be an intercessor?