

Into the flow:

This is just a very brief look at how I see intercession from the language point of view. This will be the beginning of the teaching and study at the May 19th meeting. More to follow.

Let's begin by looking at this passage:- 1 Timothy 2: 1-4:

I urge then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.³ This is good, and pleases God our Saviour,⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time.⁷ And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle —I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

There are some key words here:-

* “Petitions”

This is the Greek word “**deesis**”, and it means “deep heartfelt prayers.” Here are some examples:-

“But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; *your prayer* has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.” (Luke 1:13)

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there *and pray*.” (Matt 26:36)

They all joined together *constantly in prayer*, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. (Acts 1:14)

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. (Eph. 6:18)

*** “Intercession”**

Let’s look first at the Hebrew for intercession, which is **“paga:”** This means “to encounter, meet, reach, entreat, make intercession.” Here is one use of this word:-

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isa 53:12)

The Greek equivalent is the word **“enteuxis”**, which means a petition or a supplication. Here is a N.T. use of this word:- **“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.” (Hebs 7:25)**

“Enteuxis” began to appear in Greek centuries before Christ, meaning simply “to meet a person,” as if a person would meet another along the way. However, through the centuries, the word took on a different meaning. Eventually, it meant, not just “to meet,” but “to meet and converse.” Then, as time went by, it began to take on yet a different meaning: “to have intimate fellowship with the person.” This illustrates a truth - we are not conversing with God from a distance. We are so intimately associated with Him: - **“The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart”!** (Deuteronomy 30:14)

From “paga” and “enteuxis” we can get an idea of what intercession really is - the entering into the flow of the intercession between Jesus and the Father. We step into that flow, and from within it, we can make powerful prayer, “enteuxis” prayer. We intercede from a very powerful place, and a very different place from that which we occupy when we make “deesis” or everyday prayer.

To see the use of intercession, look at these passages:-

* 1 Sam 7:5-9)

* 1 Kings 17: 17-23

* Amos 7: 1-6

“atar”

Just for the sake of completeness, we need to notice the Hebrew word “atar.” It comes in this verse: **-The babies jostled each other within her, and she (Rachel) said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.**” (Gen 25:22.)

“Atar” means to plead with God for the removal of an unpleasant situation. It reflects the position of the O.T. prophet, who would, on request, seek God and produce an oracle, indicating a change of situation. Hazael is a good example of “atar.” See 2 Kings 8:7-15

The key thought here is expressed in the Hebrews passage: - :- **“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”** (Hebs 7:25)

True intercession enters this flow between the Father and the Son. How do we work inside this stream? This is the question we will be asking in May.