

THE ROLE OF INTERCESSION IN DISCIPLESHIP

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What I would like for you to do is to begin to identify what motivates you, what thrills you, what brings life to you, what energizes you. Many of you may think of activities such as facilitating growth or releasing people into missions. What I want us to think about is what it is that generates that motivation, what generates that life, what brings that sense of fulfillment?

Many of us ask the question, who generates that life, who generates that sense of fulfillment and of course, the answer is Jesus. And just for a few minutes I want us to just think about that reality. Think about it as an amazing truth, it is beyond our comprehension! That Jesus the sovereign Lord, Jesus the Word of Life, Jesus Himself has come to dwell in you and in me; has joined His spirit with our spirit and it is Jesus who generates those motivations. It is Jesus who generates those desires. Don't be mistaken, don't have the picture that I had for years: that Jesus is distant up on a throne. Because of His grace I have been able to kind of approach Him and He gives me from His bag of gifts, one gift. He is still distant and I receive this gift and then I say well I hope I can use this. This is a gift from God and it is great, but I still am me. How do I use this? This is not a biblical picture

The biblical picture is Jesus Himself, the one who reigns and rules on that throne, the one whose presence we have access too, has come to dwell in you, in me and has joined Himself to me and to you and He Himself stirs within us and gives us motivation, gives us instructions, gives us words and enables, equips and gives us whatever resources we need to do what He is stirring in us to do. When we cooperate with Him there is a sense of life, a rushing of water to use the biblical imagery, there is the feeding that strengthens, there is the thrill and that thrill is the heart of God rejoicing. That is what is going on inside of us. Let's just look at two scriptures that I think are familiar to us, so I want to push us beyond their familiarity, push us beyond the words and let the meaning of it just begin to penetrate at a deeper level.

The first one will be Ephesians chapter 2:10. This is what Paul says, "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ok, so you and I, we are His workmanship, we are the results of His work. That word 'workmanship' is a word that describes the product of a poet or the product of a painter; it is a work of art. A song sung by someone who created the song. It communicates what? That the source it came from is intimately connected; it is an expression of their very being.

We are a workmanship, we are His workmanship, we are the results of His activity. You are! I want you to think of that - "I am His workmanship!" You are! Maybe doing that needs assessment? Think of your strengths and weaknesses, this might help you face some aspect of yourself and if you are like me, the emotions stirred within you have more to do with what you saw as your limitations, than what you see as your strengths. We do have strengths and weaknesses, but that doesn't change the truth that we are a product of Christ. Christ Himself dwells in us, the very created elements, the Word of God and the Spirit of God that created all that exist, dwells in you.

If you walk away from this assessment with a sense that Jesus is enough; that you and Jesus can go forth and He will speak and you will obey, then we would have done our job. You need to understand that others see you as a vessel that God has set apart, that God has said, "You qualify". You qualify, you are acceptable, you are a vessel in which God Himself has come in and joined His Spirit to you. And those two created elements, the Word of God and the Spirit of God resides in you and are dynamic, they're explosive, they are at work in your spirit and they are coming forth creating, you.

You are a workmanship created in Christ Jesus for what? To do what He has destined you do. That is who you are, and all that you have to do (all that I have to do) is walk in it. Let's look at Philippians, chapter 2:13 "For it is God", now listen, "it is God who is at work in you". It is God who is at work in me and what is God doing? The New American Standard version says: "It is God who is at work in us, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." What is Paul saying? God is at work in you or in me and He is causing me to will, to want what He wants. He is putting His desires in me; He is putting His motivations in me. What else is He doing? Wouldn't it be terrible if God put in me the desire to do something and then stood back and said "Now let's see if you are qualified to do it? Let's see if you can really do that. "

Wouldn't it be terrible if in Budapest we were believing God to have us take a certain neighborhood - with 200,000 people living in it. A high rise area and in the center of this high-rise area was a huge theater which seats about 500 people. Perhaps this high-rise area is a little community in and of itself, it has its own library, its own school, its own stores, with every age group (mostly middleclass, thinking in terms of the Hungarian social class). What if this theater sitting right in the middle of the community was used as a propaganda theater for the communist? It use to be where people gathered to listen to whatever the communist wanted them to listen to. With it now being abandoned, what if we feel God is stirring us to take this building and make it a ministry center that penetrates all aspect of life in this neighborhood?

Perhaps we have prayed this through for a year, we have guidance from God and now we are stepping out in faith. Wouldn't it be terrible if God would have said, "this is the building I want, now it is up to you to figure out how to get the money." No, that is not what God says, because if it is truly God putting in us the desire, if it is truly God strategy to have the building then God has the resources. We might not know quite where the resources are, but we have them. What I want you to understand is the peace, the trust and the confidence that resides in our hearts because we know that if these desires are truly God, if this strategy is truly of God, then He will enable and He will equip it. Part of that enablement is finances, however another part of that enablement is the faith for me and my co-leader to step out. We are not to fall into doubt or fear, not to give up, because the dream looks too big, but to stand and trust God to show us the way.

So God is at work in you, both to put His desires, His motivations, and to then enable, to empower, to equip you to fulfill them. That said, what does He call us to do in Discipleship Training Schools. You and I have been given the privilege of calling forth Christ Jesus in the students that are brought to us. That's what it means to be a discipler. Those motivations you identified, that desire to see people grow, that desire to see people released into missions and some of the other desires,

those are given of God. And we are here to tell you that Jesus in you will continue to enable you, He will continue to equip you, so that what comes forth out of you, calls forth Christ out of the students that He brings to us.

Look at Colossians, chapter 4. Paul is in prison, he has been in prison for a while and he is of course writing to different churches and different friends from his imprisonment. A man named Epaphras is with Paul. He is a man who is like a pastor of a church, he is pastor of this church in Colosse, but let say for our sakes think of him in terms as a DTS leader. So here is Epaphras who brought birth to a church, he's the one who brought the gospel to the people. He has disciplined them in some of the basics and now he has left that church to come to join Paul in Rome. We don't know why he has come, maybe he has come to just cheer Paul. Maybe he is in prison with Paul, it is possible he is and we don't even know why he would be. These are unknowns that we just don't know, but nevertheless he is physically with Paul. Now something is happening in that church back home. We don't know quite how old they are in the Lord, but not too old perhaps 2 or 3 years, so they are relatively young converts.

Most of our students in Amsterdam are more than 2 or 3 years old in the Lord. Now I realize that some of you lead schools where your students are on the average 18 years old. Our average is about 25, 26 years old. Many of you are probably getting new Christians in, so 2 or 3 years sounds like wonderful. I recognize some of these differences, but this is a DTS leader, a pastor that has a congregation that has come of maturity, if you can call 2 or 3 years in the Lord maturity. They are back in Colosse, thousands of miles away, and something is happening. What is happening? There are people who are envious of one another. There are people who are jealous, there is some backbiting going on. There is some gossip, there is temptation for immorality.

Did you ever have a classroom that ever struggle with those kinds of temptations and issues? They are vulnerable, these are people who they want to follow Jesus, they want their life to reflect the fruit of Jesus. And they are truly not wanting to be lead by their greed or their jealousy or their envy or their sexual drive. They truly are not. And so they are looking to be fed, they are looking for help, they are looking for spiritual leadership. They are wanting victory, if I can use those terms, and so what happens? Some people come into their midst, some people who say they have got the secret. The secret they gave them was some legalist ways to deal with the problems: pray more; don't eat this; every Saturday do this. I could give you the specifics of what happened in Colosse, but I want us to understand the common elements that we would apply differently today. That being we would come up with certain kinds of quiet times or looking at behaviors or legalist kinds of ways to deal with things.

We need to remember this truth - Jesus is in those church goers, Jesus is in Epaphras' students. He is in them. Jesus has joined His Spirit, Jesus is stirring His motivation, His desires, and Jesus is enabling these students to obey Him and Epaphras knows that, and Paul knows that. He can see the envy, he can see the greed, he can see the temptation to sexual sin, but he sees more than that - he sees the Spirit of God, Jesus in them.

Listen to what Paul says about Epaphras in chapter 4:12, “Epaphras, which is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ sends you his greetings”, and what is Epaphras doing? “He always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers that you may stand perfect and fully assured in the word of God.” Now laboring in his prayers, he’s entering in a birthing process, this is what that laboring is. He is interceding, he’s giving himself to enter into this process of prayer that is describe by terms like birth pangs, the laboring process and what is the end result of that prayer? It is the forming, the calling forth, the assurance that those he prays for stand in the will of God. Another way of saying it is to call forth Jesus in his disciples, so that truly it is the motivation and the desires of Jesus that stirs them. That they might receive the enabling and equipping grace of Jesus to obey. That’s what Epaphras is doing.

I have been in discipleship ministry for probably 15 years. I worked at a college campus and worked with students for 3 years. I have been with Amsterdam and worked for about 3 years in our discipling community called The Ark which is the second boats Floyd led initially in Amsterdam. From there I got involved in Discipleship Training Schools which I have been doing since 1985. But about 2 years ago I struck these verses or they struck me even though I have known them by heart. As I looked at this man Epaphras and I listened to the description of this prayer, I said God “I don’t know how to pray like this. Teach me how to pray like this.” I mean I’ve got some skills in asking questions of people, you know I have got some ability to take the Word and feed it in the classroom. I know how to speak out words of encouragement that can maybe make an individual feel good, in a good way. But I don’t know how to pray like this...because it seems to me this is the fundamental thing a discipler does! Jesus is interceding for our students.

In Romans 8 it says the Spirit is interceding for our students, that even, what does it says there are groans that can’t be uttered, that are going on in their spirit and it says according to the will of God. That is what the spirit of God is doing. Interceding for our students, Jesus is interceding for our students and He calls us to step into that stream of intercession. To call forth the will of God and the enabling of God in our students. To enter into the birthing process. Don’t think you are not qualified. Jesus is in you and He is saying you can do it. That is what happened to me. He said, “Maureen step out in faith. Just simply say God I don’t know how to pray like this, Jesus help me.” When I just acknowledge that I didn’t have the human capacity to pray, but I yielded it to the Spirit of God in me and I said, “move in me Spirit of God, move in me to enter into the stream of intercession and bring the revelation, bring the enablement, bring whatever discomfort (birthing is not comfortable). Let me enter into whatever burden, let me fight whatever battles.” From that He stir in me that hunger and that ability, and I found the empowering, I found the grace to step in and move into a deeper level of intercession that strengthens my ability to call forth Christ in my students, His disciples. You can do it. Jesus in you is speaking to your spirit and motivating you to join Him in the discipleship process, and enabling you to do it.

You can be like Epaphras, you can know what it means to labor earnestly that your students can stand complete in Christ - fully assured in the will of God. It is not my job to tell my students what the will of God is. Right? What is my job? To pray that God’s Kingdom would come into their lives and be express through their lives.

Look at Colossians chapter 1. I want us to look at a prayer that Paul prayed for these people. We have already heard that Epaphras prayed earnestly that these people could be established in the will of God. Now here you are going to see a prayer that Paul prayed for these people. And I submit to you that this is an example of the kind of prayer prayed when Paul and Timothy and Epaphras got together for a staff meeting and they just held these students before the Lord.

Let's go through it - Chapter 1 verse 3 - First he says this, *"we give thanks to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you. Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints because of the hope laid for you in heaven of which you previously heard in the word of truth."* Now look at how he looks at these students. He sees faith in them, he sees love in them, he sees hope in them, because truly those qualities, those motivations are in them, because that is what the Spirit of God is generating in them. I have already told you some of them are greedy, some of them are jealous, some are they are backbiting, but he is going deeper than that level. He is reminding them of faith and the love and the hope that is in them, that is even reflected in some areas of their life. He says *"we are filled with thankfulness, we are filled with gratitude"*. Do you see how when you focus on the positive, it strengthens the individual to live with consistence with the God that is within them. It absolutely strengthens them to say no to the envy and no to the greed and no to the sexual temptation or immorality. He doesn't focus on these things. In Chapter 3 he focuses on that, he hits it hard. He says die to that, don't do it. But where do they get the strength to die to it? They are reminded of the faith, and the hope and the love that is in them. And then he says when I look at you I am filled with gratitude, I am filled with thankfulness.

Now let's go on, he says this began when you heard the truth, the gospel. Verse 6, *"which has come to you just as in all the world it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing even as it has been doing in you since the day you heard it and understood"*. Let me paraphrase it for you, what is he saying there is this: these fruits, faith, love, hope are fruit and it was born in you students when they heard the truth, the gospel. Now he starts thinking about the gospel. There is nothing that can stop this gospel. It is the combination of that created power of God Himself, the Word and the Spirit. And wherever it goes, it increases and bears fruit. And so Paul starts to think about the gospel and sees the nation that was once under the strongholds of Satan, that caused people to bow down to statues and to sacrifice children. He sees those people who have been freed, fruit born from the gospel. He sees the nation, and the increase of the gospel and then he sees the students and the increase of this very gospel that frees them from strongholds, frees them from powers that strangles them (brought death to their life). That gospel, the Word and Spirit of God, is increasing in them and that is what he reminds the students of - the gospel that rescued you, the gospel that pulled you from the domain of darkness is still at work in you bearing fruit.

He even prays. *"May the gospel increase, may the cross of Christ and the resurrection power of Christ bring forth life"*. It is bringing forth life and of course this is still in the context of him giving thanks for his students, who are right now acting kind of greedy, acting kind of selfish, acting kind of petty, a real pain. However, he's got his eyes on the gospel in them that bears fruit and nothing can stop it - nothing.

Verse 9...*"for this reason, since the day we heard of it and the it is you became Christians, we have not ceased to pray for you to ask that you would be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding"*. So he prays that they might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God that they might be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience, joyously giving thanks to the Father who has qualified them. What is he praying for? What is he asking God for his students?

Colossians 1: 9-12. We will take it verse by verse. Verse 9 - what is he asking for there? He is asking that the students will be filled with the knowledge of God's will, that they be filled with wisdom so whatever situation they face they will know how to act or how to respond. That they will have spiritual insights, that they will see beyond the natural realities, and they could make decisions based on the spiritual reality, the eternal reality. That they will know what to do, where they are headed, that even a sense of destiny would begin to form. What else are they praying? There is an image created there that something could be competing with God's will, and what he is looking for is a fullness, a surge of God's motivations and desires coming forth. Another way to pray is to silence any other voices that would compete God's will.

If you have a student that is under the bondage to the fear of man, through fear or insecurity, ask that God would give you specific keys that would silence that influence in order that you can call forth the will of God which will enable that student to rise above and step out in what he never had before. This done, you might never have to say a word to him.

Let's go to the next verse 10, one of the reasons that we pray this is so that, *"they may walk in a manner worthy of the lord to please to him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God"*. What does he want to see happen? What is this prayer producing? A holy lifestyle, so that they would be a good model. A model of what, what would they be modeling? So that they would reflect Christ. The only thing worthy of Christ is Christ. You see that? To walk worthy think of Christ, the only thing worthy of Christ is Christ and the only one that can produce Christ in us is Christ. Our prayers can call forth this kind of aroma from our students.

This is just one of the key places to pray for one of the key areas to claim from the enemy and to give it to the Spirit of God in our students' minds. Study both Ephesians and Colossians to see this in more detail. There is so much deception, so many lies that distort their understanding and His ways. This deception distorts their picture of themselves and this is the area of the mind that we need to pray for the knowledge of God, the truth of God to take root and to uproot those lies that compete with it. The key here that he is praying for is that they will be filled with the knowledge of the true character and nature of God. The way that God has led me to pray for some of the students that I am mentoring or discipling, is to actually to have scripture verses that describe God. I have done teaching on the character of God, I have had people do Word studies on the Character of God and I think all that is excellent in our schools, but I have done warfare privately, where I have taken a

student and put him before God and prayed into the mind of the student. "I pray that you will know His faithfulness, His trustworthiness, His unchangingness." Again I have ministered to students at the time when we were teaching on the Father heart of God and we have prayed and ministered, but I am talking more than that, I am talking about holding every one of our students up and praying specifically that the knowledge of God would take root. God will give you specific aspects of His Character that he wants you to pray into the mind of that student. He will give you the keys of what are the lies that are distorting that students' image, and He will give you the enabling to uproot that. This is in addition to everything else we do, like the teaching the on the Father heart of God and ministering to students. I am not minimizing any of that, all I am saying I have done that for years and I am discovering, I think that there is more, there is this intercession birthing prayer that we enter into that happens kind of in the closet, but you see the fruit of it in the classroom, around the street.

There is a lot in that verse to pray for, "*So they are bearing fruit in every good work increasing in the knowledge of God*". Bearing fruit in every good work, immediately you might think of the fruit of the Spirit, another way of saying it is expressing Jesus, modeling Jesus. Another way that God can lead us to pray is to call forth the fruit of the spirit, call forth gentleness, call forth self-control. One of the ways he prays a little bit further, is he calls forth steadfastness. Again you may have student facing difficulty circumstances, disappointments, they are discouraged in fact they can even be depressed. You can talk to them, you can counsel them, you can have Sally McClung come in and teach how to handle disappointment, which is an excellent teaching that Sally gave when they lived in Amsterdam, we had Sally teach that all the time and it is excellent.

In addition to that though you can pray, enter into the prayer of Jesus, that they would be steadfast. That there would be hope, that hope would dispel discouragement, that they would not come under their circumstance. And that kind of prayer plough the ground for the words of Sally that are really the words of God to come in and take root. I grieve now over the miss opportunities when I just had Sally come in and teach that message and I passively sat by and let the Word go forth and finished the session with laying hands for 5 minutes on a few students. When by now I know the kind of word Sally is going to bring and if we had just entered into a prayer process, before she ever got there that would pave the way for steadfastness to come forth, how much fruit would that Word have born?

Now you will see in his words here that Paul is going to move into challenging them to be grateful, challenging them to be thankful, and giving them the reasons why they should be. But listen, now before he even brings that word, he says I have been praying unceasing for you, that steadfastness will take root. That came before the Word, that before the teaching and he prayed it in. So he is looking for this to born in the students, steadfastness, look in verse 12, at the end of 11...steadfastness, patience, joy. In Galatians there are 2 verses that I want to give our attention to. The Galatian church is very similar to the Colosse Church - new, relatively young Christians, began in the Spirit, evidence that they moved in power gifts, the light of the Spirit was among them, and yet they saw that they were tempted, there was similar kinds of expression that I described about the Colosse Church; jealousy, envy, sexual immorality. Basically the Galatian church is 'another DTS classroom'.

Again that left them vulnerable for some teacher to come in and say hey the solution to your problems are these steps: pray more; eat this; and the legalist system came in. Telling them, 'If you want to know how to have self control, this is how you get it', and they gave them some system from the outside. Now listen to what Paul says in Chapter 5 verse 2 (I am going to paraphrase this): Listen to me, listen! If you trust in external things, Christ is no benefit to you. What does he mean there? He means that the living Christ is within them, who is working, who is giving them instruction, who is motivating them and who is empowering them to obey. That if a student does not receive that, if the student isn't tuned into that and receive that, there is nothing more Christ can do.

They were looking for other solutions. This is the thing I think is so important, these are not people in the middle of sinning, that Christ grieved about, who said well, what can I do, you don't love me, you don't want me. These are people that are saying, "Help, I want to reflect Jesus, how can I do this", and are using methods. Paul says, 'no, no, no. That even if you use those methods, as neutral as they are, if that is where your hope is, Christ is of no benefit, He is of no value to you. What do we want to draw from that? Our discipling energy has to go to making sure our students understand Christ is in them, and to tap into Christ and to cooperate with 'Christ in them'.

Somewhere in the first 10 verses, he says this to them, "you have fallen from grace, you have fallen from grace". What does that mean? I would need more time to thoroughly convince you, but I am just going to give you bottom lines here. He does not mean they have backslidden; these are people who are looking for their express 'more' of Jesus. So he does mean they have backslidden. What he means is they are no longer tapping into the grace of God that is in them and they are relying on their own their strength.

Paul says in Titus that the grace of God has been given and that this grace in us disciplines us, teaches us, and instructs us to say no to ungodliness and yes to God. You see what Paul is saying about these people is that they have somehow closed the door for that grace to operate, and that they have fallen from grace. So what does Paul do? What does he say? He looks at these people and he is grieve over the state they have come to. The state is they forgot who Christ is in them. So what does he do? He prays, he enters into a prayer process and this is what he says, Chapter 4 verse 19: "*My children with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you*", what is he talking about there? He doesn't mean they use to be Christians and now they are not and he wants them to be again. I'm not trying to address the issues can you lose your salvation or not, that is irrelevant to this passage. Whatever you think about that, this particular group, I can assure you, have not lost their salvation at this point in their lives anyway. He is talking about this idea that he wants the Christ who is in them, to begin to come through their emotions, come through their will, come through their mind. That Christ is formed in them, that 'Christ in them' would begin to penetrate through. And what does he do, he enters into that laboring process, it is that prayer process that forms Christ in them. Then of course with his words in Galatians he reminds them of what the cross of Christ has done, what the gospel has done, who they are in Christ; which strengthens them in Christ and causes the empowering that they need.

Lets finish with some verses from Colossians 1:27. In verse 27 there is a key phrase, where he says "*Christ in you is the hope of glory*". Now this truth Paul says was a mystery that was hidden for ages, that has now been made known - the truth that Christ is in our students. We just assume that, they just assume that - this is a strategy of the enemy. The fact is if that is all they understood and they really let that truth penetrate every aspect of their life, we have done our job. Because it means simply this, that Christ is in them, in their spirit and it is He who teaches, it is He who enables, it is He who instructs about the Father. It is He who says this is how you raise the dead; this is how you save a life; this is how you reach a people group; this is how you free Istanbul; this is how you take down Islam; this is how you heal the sick; how you feed the hungry - this is how, here is the equipment - Christ in you, even more personally you are My daughter, you are My son, I died for you. That is what the Spirit of God says that Christ says. We need to just remember that Christ is in our students, and then remember that Satan is doing everything that he can to keep that truth from us, to divert our attention. If we would just keep that in mind so that we could continually intercede that this would dawn the eyes of our heart, then the eyes of their heart would open like it says in Ephesians, so that they would come to know this hope, to come to know the treasure of Christ in them, that they would come to know the power of Christ in them.

This is so key - Christ in them - Christ is their hope. Listen to what he says now, in verse 28, "*we proclaim Christ, we admonish every man and teach every man with all wisdom*". Listen, the key in there is not we proclaim Christ like that is foundational and then we build all this other wisdom on it. Christ is central – the idea is that we are continually reminded and going back to that central truth, that 'Christ in them'. That we admonish, which is what he was doing with the Colossians and Galatians. Read the book of Colossians - every verse has 'Christ in you', just about, that is not an exaggeration. That is what he says here, he just keeps reminding them of this truth that Christ is in them, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

What Paul has in mind, is these students (if I can think of it that way) who through the prayers for Christ to come forth, through reminding them of who they are in Christ and who Christ is, he wants to present the students, present the church, complete, filled with Christ. Look at this last verse and we will end with this. He says this, for this purpose, this is the motivation of Paul's heart: to this purpose, I labor, I enter into this laboring process, I strive, but not according to my power according to His power which mightily works in me. Paul knows Christ is in him. Paul knows that it is Christ that is motivating him. Paul knows the energizing that comes from Christ and I enter into this process of giving birth, of forming Christ, so that they may stand complete. That the will of God may be express, that Jesus Himself shall come forth.

So what is God saying to us? One thing is He has got a deeper level of intercession for our students that He is calling us to. An intercession that simply calls us to enter into His heart, power, energy, His understanding of what He wants to do in our students, in our classes, which we are going to enter in a way we never dreamt possible. I know we come from different backgrounds and we have different experiences. I will just share mine. Mine is not the standard for yours, but I do come from a background where I was encouraged to have a prayer language. And I do have a prayer language, but this prayer language has been stale for years, for years.

Just recently I was listening to some tapes from the first intercession school that was held in Lausanne. Four years ago I had a hunger for intercession because I knew that I did not even begin to touch it in my experience. When I heard this school was going on I didn't have time to go to it, but I bought all the tapes. Now for 4 years those tapes have sat in a box. But in God's sovereign design in the last season of my life, I have been in the desert, almost literally and I had nothing else to do but listen to tapes. So I took these tapes out and in one particular tape, the teacher just simply challenge her students to not put aside their prayer language, but to really enter into it. So I just simply said "Jesus (and I come from a background that misuses that a bit, so it turns me off because it just doesn't seem like the Spirit, and that turns me off and that is part of the reason I put it on the shelf) but I just said "Jesus, I must confess, I don't know how to pray the way I should, I know that this prayer language is from you, but I need you to touch it, I need you to revive it. I need you to come in and move my tongue in prayers that are beyond me."

Within weeks I found myself moving into a level of intercession that I never dreamed possible. Now, I am not an intercessor by nature, I am the kind of person that can't sit still for 5 minutes. If I sit at my desk to start a task, I will have 10 other things started before I finish that task. So we are talking major miracle here. So please don't hear me as this great intercessor who is coming out as a school leader that says you should pray more. Hear me as a school leader who didn't know, and still doesn't know how to pray, but I discovered by saying "God teach me", that He has begun to do that. I have a sense that He is going to move us DTS Leaders into a new level of intercession. And one of the areas is for our students to call forth Christ. There is more that God may be saying in this passage, but let's just end on that note.

Prayer:

Now Jesus I ask that you would stir our spirit that you would see this man Epaphras, this man Paul, disciplers, like us, simply men called by you just like us, they have you living in them, just like us, and you motivated them to care for the forming of Christ in students, just like us. And Lord they are talking about entering into a process of prayer that calls forth your will, that forms you in students. And Lord Jesus we invite you to move us into that deeper level of intercession. Move us into that level of birthing, that level that calls forth you in our students and staff, that calls forth in one another. Lord we are hungry, we are thirsty, we are like the disciples who watched you pray and they said oh gosh teach us how to pray to like that. That is who we are Lord, teach us how to pray. Teach us how to intercede.