



# STANDING IN THE GAP

*Tate Kandi*

*But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJV)*

In this life we will face trials and we will grow weary but God desires to give us new strength to overcome and to live according to His will. In order for us to take hold of that new strength we have to go to Him in faith and trust that He will do what He says He will do. Renewed Strength requires us to have faith that when we ask God for strength, He will strengthen us. We need to pray in such a manner that God knows that we depend on Him and Him alone.

**Renewed Strength is reserved for those that are weak enough to go on their knees in prayer.**

*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us... (Ephesians 3:20 NKJV)*

*Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:4 AMP)*

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another... (James 5:16 ESV)*

*Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT)*

God's heart is to restore what is broken. God's desire is to forgive sin and save the lost. God's plan is for His people to be the catalyst that moves His hand. Our prayers could be the last piece of the puzzle that brings about breakthrough for others. God is looking for people who would stand in the gap.

*'So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.' (Ezekiel 22:30 NKJV)*

Ezekiel was a priest who foretold the destruction of Jerusalem and this destruction would be God's judgment for the people's wickedness. Ezekiel challenged them to turn from their wicked ways.

The wall spoken of here is not made of stones, but of faithful people united in their righteous resistance of evil. This wall was in disrepair because there was no one who could lead the people back to God's ways.

*The Lord saw that there was no justice, and he was offended. He saw that there was no man—he was amazed that there was no one interceding; so his own arm brought salvation, and his own righteousness supported him. (Isaiah 59:16 CSB)*

Because of Israel's wilful, persistent rebellion, the nation became unable to take action against its sins. It needed someone to intervene but there was no one. God then brought their salvation because they could not save themselves from their wickedness. God is constantly searching for those who will stand in the gap and intervene to fend off evil or reach out to God to stop Him from proclaiming judgment on sinners or move Him to act favourably on His people. God expects His people to stand in the gap.

*I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Saviour... (1 Timothy 2:1-3a NLT)*

Believers should not complain about something they have not prayed about. We should take our genuine questions and concerns to God and seek wisdom in navigating them. (Philippians 2:14-16, 4:6-7; Numbers 14:27; John 6:43; Romans 12:2)

## TO INTERCEDE

Greek: *hyperentynchánō* – To meet on behalf or for the sake of someone. i.e. an interview, a conference or conversation, to intreat, interpose, a petition, supplication (specifically): prayer.

*If they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, then let them intercede with the Lord of hosts, that the vessels that are left in the house of the Lord, in the house of the king of Judah, and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon. (Jeremiah 27:18 ESV)*

## PEOPLE WHO STOOD IN THE GAP

- **Abraham** interceded for Sodom in order to save his nephew Lot (Genesis 18:25)
- **Moses** interceded for God's mercy after the people built the golden calf (Exodus 32:11-14)
- **Samuel** interceded for the Israelites' rescue from the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:5-9)
- **David** interceded for his baby to live (2 Samuel 12:14-18)
- **Solomon** asked God to hear the prayers of the sinful people (1 Kings 8:22-53)
- **Elijah** prayed for the widow's son to live again (1 Kings 17:17-24)
- **Hezekiah** interceded for the Israelites to be pardoned (2 Chronicles 30:18-20)
- **Paul** constantly prayed for the readers and the Church (Ephesians 3:14-21; Colossians 1:9)
- **The Holy Spirit** intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27)
- **Jesus** intercedes for us (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25)

## WHEN SHOULD WE INTERCEDE?

- When others are incapable of doing it for themselves (Esther 8:7-8; Luke 5:18-20)
- When there is a pressing need (1 Kings 17:17-24; Psalm 106:23; Hebrews 13:18-19)
- When faced with a long-term situation (Luke 8:43-48)
- When faith is weak (1 Thessalonians 5:14; Isaiah 35:3; Hebrews 12:12; Romans 14:1, 15:1; 1 John 5:16)
- When God asks you to (Job 42:10; Matthew 5:44; Ephesians 6:18)

*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 Lord's people. (Ephesians 6:18 NIV)*

## HOW DO WE STAND IN THE GAP?

*When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer came and pleaded with him, "Lord, my young servant lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain."*

*Jesus said, "I will come and heal him."*

*But the officer said, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, 'Go,' and they go, or 'Come,' and they come. And if I say to my slaves, 'Do this,' they do it."*

*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who were following him, he said, "I tell you the truth, I haven't seen faith like this in all Israel! And I tell you this, that many Gentiles will come from all over the world—from east and west—and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

*Then Jesus said to the Roman officer, "Go back home. Because you believed, it has happened." And the young servant was healed that same hour. (Matthew 8:5-13 NLT)*

1. **Seek God** (8:5; Matthew 5:37)
2. **Plead with Him** (8:5b; Esther 8:3)
3. **Be specific** (8:6; Matthew 20:30-34; James 1:5)
4. **Honour God** in your petitions (8:8-9; Exodus 32:11-14)
5. **Have faith** (8:10; James 1:6, 5:15; Matthew 21:21)

## WHY DO WE INTERCEDE?

We intercede on behalf of others for God to move according to His will for our good and His glory. When believers stand in the gap for others, God hears us and He acts according to our faith, obedience to Him, His will and righteousness.

*And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for. (1 John 5:14-15 NLT)*