

Good News By Vic Dove Intercession

"I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

The term intercession literally means to come between. When used in the context of prayer, as it is here, it takes on a special meaning. To intercede is to stand between God and someone else. It is to represent another person's concern to God, to pray on behalf of someone other than yourself.

All of us have had the frustrating experience of praying for others and seeing no results. Often, the problem is that we are not aware of what the Bible

teaches about praying for others. According to Scripture, we need to follow some guidelines when we intercede for others.

First, true intercessory prayer is driven by genuine love and concern for the one about whom we are interceding. Prayer motivated by anything else generally does not last long. Sometimes, we will be the only ones standing in the gap in a situation. When this happens, we must stay involved in the process. Therefore, it is equally critical that we are driven with the right motivation, one that will keep us on our knees until the answer comes.

We must be able to identify in some way with the needs of the one for whom we are interceding. We know how the person feels. It is not unusual for the emotions we felt in the past to resurface. In those situations, we are able to pray with genuine compassion- a necessity for real intercessory prayer.

Second, when we intercede for others, we must persevere. Once we begin interceding for someone, we must not give up. We are to stick with it until either our

prayer is answered or the burden is lifted. This can be costly, and often the biggest cost is time. Time is the most valuable thing we have. There is no way to gain more. To intercede is to invest our most valuable commodity-our time.

Third, we must be willing to be part of the answer. When interceding, we must remain open to the possibility of being used by God in a role other than intercessor. If we are not willing to be used to answer our own prayers, we are not fully cooperating with God.

Ask God to show you three people He wants you to pray for; three people who have burdens, heartaches, or specific needs. Tell God you are willing to be part of the answer. Then ask Him to share their burden with you. Ask God for a genuine spirit of compassion and love for these three. Tell Him you want Him to teach you how to pray and intercede on their behalf.

Shoulder to Shoulder,
Bro. Vic

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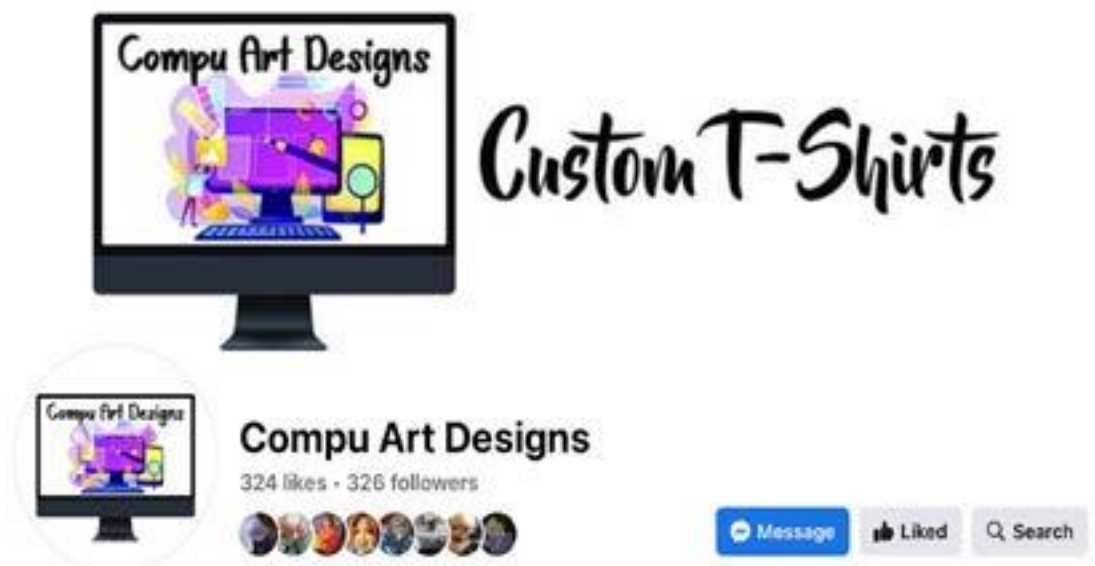
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