

A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT: INTERCESSORY STRINGS

By Kathryn Lindsey Kiser

I was in the secret place spending time with the Lord when He impressed upon me two glorious pictures of intercession, both involving strings. First, He showed me a large, beautiful wall tapestry. Father God was the visionary and commissioned the artwork. Jesus, the Great Intercessor, was the creative designer in charge of constructing and releasing the order of operations for this creative work. The Holy Spirit then took those orders and became the hands and fingers of God weaving the strings together with such mastery and precision until the entire picture and story was complete and thus revealed.

The strings represent our prayers. Can you see the strands of high-quality strings woven together by God from our prayers? As we set our hearts to pray, God reveals to us His choice strings, which are the revelations of His heart that inform us how to pray. As we see them, touch them, and pray them back to God with our heart's agreement, He makes something not only beautiful but powerfully alive. As we partner with Jesus and press into intercession, the hand of God weaves, weaves, weaves—encircling and connecting every prayer with His. Fervent repetition likened to the persistence of steadfast love, is key for each string being set into place.

Beyond whatever we could think or imagine is the artwork of God's redemption. How extraordinary that we are invited into His story and work. Our prayers are purposeful in the hands of God. As we consecrate ourselves to hear God and intercede, our prayers become God's choice strings used by Him to make His masterpiece complete. In prayer, our voices fuel the movement and response of God.

As this glorious picture unfolded before my eyes, He turned the picture into sound. My spiritual senses opened to hear what it is like for Him to hear our prayers. Our interceding voices became stringed instruments in a dynamic symphony moving the heart and emotions of God. I saw Jesus conducting our sound into an elaborate instrumental composition with many movements in the piece.

What makes a symphony marvelous is that it requires a host of instruments—unique vessels of sound—joined together in unity over the same sheet music to create a living story of sound. Each instrument has its part to play in the composition's journey. There are waves of crescendos and decrescendos, ebbs and flows of the Holy Spirit, tensions and resolutions all along the way. Likened to an orchestra, each of our hearts carry a signature sound before the Lord and is a needed part contributing to the whole.

As we unite in prayer, the sound of our voice releases a cadence increasing in tempo and gaining momentum. The piece in its entirety is building and climbing to its final peak demanding resolution. Here in the final moments, after all is said and done, our intercession meets God's answer in a climactic moment like two halves of a percussion symbol crashing together bringing a powerful verdict with a symphonic burst. *"Its crashing declares His Presence"* (Job 36:33).

Oh, let our intercession rise! Let it build! Let us see our prayers bear much fruit—the fruit of transformed lives. My spirit is shouting Isaiah 54:1-3, *"Sing O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her who is married," says the LORD. 'Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your offspring will possess the nations and will people*

the desolate cities.” So beloved, run into the place of intercession. Do not lose heart. Where there have been no signs of life, God who *is* Life is going to burst forth!

I dare to believe that some of our waiting in the place of prayer is giving God the time and space to take into Himself the magnificent beauty of our symphonic sound filling His chambers. It is a lie to believe that our waiting is a sign of His disinterest. No, quite contrary; I believe He is basking in the light of our prayer’s sound and marinating the offering we bring. Our love and sacrifice move His emotions and heart. And because we intercede with His heart, our strings become something transcendently beautiful, captivating, and full of faith that takes His breath away.

May we not shrink back in feeling the depths of tragedy along with the heights of elation that intercession brings. Hold fast; hold steady. The stakes are high, but God will not leave us hanging in the balance. He will rise in the final moments to release His finale. The passion of our prayers will cause His heart to boil over with the pouring out of His Spirit bringing a miraculous deliverance of love no eye has seen nor ear has heard. God is going to respond beyond our wildest dreams. And on that day, when the final note is still lingering, we will be like the elders in heaven—rising in ovation with honor and praise to God and dropping to our knees in awe-filled adoration and thanksgiving.

As we receive the righteousness of Christ, as we hear Christ’s intercession, and as we agree and pray and tarry *with* Him, we behold Him and become like Him. As His praying Bride, the power of His image and His love is then reflected back to Him and received by Him. Therefore, may we ascend into the heavenly courts of intercession and joyfully lay down our lives in love with prayer and fasting. May our faith in God and our great expectation of His answer, please Him to fulfill all that He wills.

Arise, therefore, it is time to begin. The curtain is rising. Together we will awaken the dawn of His appearing, and the glory of the LORD will be seen and known.