Destiny Helpers:

Intercessory Helpers: The Watchmen on the Wall

> *I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night.* (Isaiah 62:6, NKJV)

Of all the streams of Destiny Helpers, none is more powerful, more strategic, and more often unrecognized than the intercessory. The intercessor labors in a realm that does not show up in photographs. Their work cannot be measured by donor reports. They produce no visible product to display at the next ministry banquet. And yet every meaningful Kingdom advance in your ministry has been preceded, accompanied, and followed by the prayer of someone you may never have met. Stop and let that settle in. Right now, somewhere on the earth, someone you do not know is wrestling in prayer for what God has called you to. The least you can do is recognize them when Heaven discloses their names to you.

Anna in the Temple

In Luke 2, when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple, they encountered an aged prophetess named Anna. She had *"served God with fastings and prayers night and day"* for decades (Luke 2:37, NKJV). When the Christ child appeared, Anna recognized Him immediately. Her years of intercession had so refined her spiritual sight that the moment the Redeemer entered the temple, she knew.

This is the gift of the intercessor. Prayer sharpens their discernment until they perceive what others cannot see. The intercessor will often know things they have no natural way of knowing—needs they have not been told about, threats they have not been warned about, breakthroughs that have not yet broken through. They live in a realm where information flows from the throne of God to those who linger long enough to receive it. Adina has been this for me more times than I can count. So has Stephanie, my Executive

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Assistant. They will say something to me that they should have no way of knowing, and the only explanation is that Heaven told them. If you have intercessors like that around you, treasure them. They are irreplaceable.

The Strategic Nature of Intercession

> *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.* (Ephesians 6:12, NKJV)

> *Your hand-to-hand combat is not with human beings, but with the highest principalities and authorities operating in rebellion under the heavenly realms. For they are a powerful class of demon-gods and evil spirits that hold this dark world in bondage.* (Ephesians 6:12, TPT)

If our wrestling is in heavenly realms, then the helpers Heaven assigns to wrestle on your behalf are weapons of war. Intercessors are not optional support staff for an assignment; they are frontline warriors in a battle that the visible ministry cannot see and could not survive alone. I want you to begin to view your intercessors as Heaven views them—as warriors, not as background staff.

Many do not understand why their public ministry flows with greater anointing in some seasons than in others. The flow is not random. It is directly tied to the prayer covering operating in the unseen realm. When your intercessors are at their post, your platform flows with unusual liberty. When the intercessors are scattered, distracted, or wounded, you can find yourself preaching the same message in the same room and suddenly feeling the weight of a fight you cannot identify. I have stood there. I have come off platforms exhausted in a way that had nothing to do with what I had just preached or taught. When you sense that, it is time to check on your intercessory team.

How Intercessors Function Differently

Intercessors process the world differently from other believers. **They feel things in their spirit before they understand them in their mind.** They wake up burdened without knowing why. They cry over situations they have never been told about. They

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sense danger that has not yet manifested. They receive prophetic insight in prayer that later proves precisely accurate. If you have someone like this in your life, you have been given a gift that money cannot buy and recruitment cannot replace. Honor them accordingly.

Because they operate in a different realm, they often communicate differently. They may bring impressions, dreams, pictures, or scriptures rather than tidy reports. Leaders who have not learned to receive intercessory input often dismiss it as overly mystical or insufficiently practical. Hear me: this is a costly mistake. The intercessor is bringing intelligence from the war room of Heaven, and a wise leader receives it humbly, weighs it carefully, and acts on it appropriately. The next time one of your intercessors brings you something that seems strange, slow down. Ask Holy Spirit before you respond.

The Wounding of the Intercessor

Intercessors are wounded **when their labor is invisible to the ministry they serve.** They do not pray to be applauded, but **they need to be acknowledged as legitimate co-laborers.** When you never ask how your intercessors are doing, never thank them publicly, never gather them for impartation or refreshment, the burden they carry begins to feel like a one-way drain. And once an intercessor has felt that drain long enough, they will quietly step away. Do not let that happen on your watch.

They are also wounded **when their warnings are ignored.** An intercessor who senses a problem and brings it to leadership only to be brushed off will eventually stop bringing warnings. The next time Heaven shows them something, your ministry will not hear it—because you did not honor the gift the last time. The Lord brought me to that lesson hard, and I have determined never to learn it again.

They are wounded **when they are asked to pray but not invited to relate.** The intercessor is a person, not a prayer machine. They have needs for spiritual nourishment, fellowship, and impartation. The ministry that requests prayer but offers no shepherding to its intercessors is mining a well it never invests in.

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Recognizing the Intercessory Helper

Heaven-sent intercessors typically display certain identifying marks. They speak of your ministry as a burden, not as an admiration. They know things they should not naturally know. Their prayer life is not announced; it is simply a fact of their existence. They often weep over situations they have only briefly heard about. They report dreams, visions, and prophetic impressions tied to your assignment. And—this is significant, write it down—they are usually faithful long after others have moved on. The intercessor remains.

Cultivating an Intercessory Team

Building and stewarding an intercessory team is one of the most important investments you will ever make. The principles are not complicated, but they will demand intentionality. Let me walk you through them.

First, you must believe that intercession is essential. If you treat intercession as optional decoration, the team will sense it. They will not operate at the depth Heaven intends because they cannot rise above the leader's own conviction. Your faith in their ministry sets the ceiling for theirs.

Second, you must give the intercessors something specific to wrestle for. Vague requests produce vague prayer. Strategic intelligence—the meetings coming up, the doors being knocked on, the spiritual opposition being faced—equips your intercessors to fight effectively. If your intercessors are praying generic prayers, examine the kind of information you are sending them.

Third, you must shepherd the intercessors. Feed them. Teach them. Listen to them. Honor them. Pray for them in return. The intercessor is not a hireling; they are a partner in the assignment. When was the last time you taught your intercessors? When was the last time you fed their souls?

Fourth, you must protect them. Intercessors are often the most attacked members of any ministry team because they are the most strategically dangerous to the kingdom of darkness. Cover them in prayer. Watch for signs of fatigue, isolation, or warfare in their

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lives. When Heaven gives you watchmen, you become a watchman over the watchmen themselves. This is one of the holiest stewardships you will ever carry.

> *Confess and acknowledge how you have offended one another and then pray for one another to be instantly healed, for tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!* (James 5:16, TPT)

A Leader's Commitment to Intercessory Helpers

I will believe that intercession is essential, not decorative.

I will give my intercessors meaningful intelligence to pray over.

I will receive their warnings without arrogance.

I will shepherd them as partners, not deploy them as resources.

I will pray over those who pray over me.

I will defend them against the warfare aimed at their post.

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