

Introduction:

- Review:
 - Power of the gap: separation, threat of enemy, fear, accessible to enemy. These are eternal in nature.
 - Power to the Advocate: Closes the gap, enemy under foot, dwell in peace.
 - Power of the church: We are called to advocate for others, in Christ.
- Travail is often a word associated with child birth. It is what lady must go through before holding what she has been carrying for 9 months. Nine months of carrying the baby internally, a few hours of travail and then the delivery!

I. Intercession Creates A Meeting

- A. The Hebrew word for intercession is 'paga' and it means 'to meet.' As we saw last Wednesday, intercession is not necessarily what a person a person prays but what a person does through prayer. The other meaning that 'paga' has is: to lay upon, to burden. IE. Is. 53:6. *The Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.* Even there it has the implications that sin and Christ 'meet.' Another understanding of this word is that it means to physically touch in meeting. Whether of greeting or of war.
1. Intercession creates a meeting. It creates a meeting with God and it creates a meeting with the powers of darkness. That is why 'prayer meeting' is such an appropriately named meeting.
 2. These intercessory prayers also bring about a meeting with someone else and God and we function as the 'go-between.'
- B. *"But when people keep on sinning, it shows that they belong to the devil, who has been sinning since the beginning. But the Son of God came to destroy the works of the devil."* (1 John 3:8, NLT) Destroy comes from the Greek word, *luo* and it means two things.
1. Destroy as in legally voiding a contract or binding agreement. IE. Jesus destroyed the binding contract that Satan had over us, thereby breaking his dominion over us. This was accomplished by His intercession...standing in the gap.
 2. Destroy as in physically as in dissolving, melting, untie-ing, that which was bound. Ie. Jesus brought healing, deliverance, breaks oppression and liberates those who are held captive.
- C. We create meeting when we become an advocate for another in the place of prayer. "PAGA!" Though prayers of intercession we meet powers of darkness, and enforce the victory of the One who stands in the gap.
1. There is not time limit to a war.
 2. You can expect sweet move a of godly restoration. Ie. Deliverance that leads to life.

3. You can expect violent reaction of hell. Don't quit because we win. Deliverance that can be rather 'interesting'.

II. Scriptural Pictures of Travail

A. Scriptures:

1. *“Before the birth pains even begin, Jerusalem gives birth to a son. Who has ever seen anything as strange as this? Who ever heard of such a thing? Has a nation ever been born in a single day? Has a country ever come forth in a mere moment? But by the time Jerusalem's birth pains begin, her children will be born.”* (Isaiah 66:7-8, NLT) Travail for sons and daughters of the faith.
2. *“Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'”* (John 7:38, NLT) The word heart is the greek word *koilia* which means insides, self, and is often translated womb. Travail for miracles.
3. *“Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I'm going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives.”* (Galatians 4:19, NLT) Travail for maturity.
4. Other references:
 - a) Danial in travail for his nation and to understand dreams. Dan 8:27; 10:8;
 - b) Hannah in travail for a child. 1 Sam 1:5-18;
 - c) Jesus in travail at Lazarus tomb Jn 11:32-34
 - d) Jesus in travail in the Garden. Lk 22:24

B. Understanding of travail.

1. Travail is important because it has to do with breakthrough especially in the area of souls being saved. For the lost.
2. Often it can be described as something that looks painful like child labor with groaning, weeping, deep sobbing, etc. DO NOT be deceived by outward appearances. We have a tendency to judge by outward appearances based on what we see. IE. Out in the Spirit. We think those who fall are getting something but often those who stand are the ones who walk away having received.
3. Travail is spiritual happening not a physical happening. The physical is often a prophetic picture of what is happening in the Spirit. Sometimes you will have no outward manifestation but inwardly be contending, wrestling, grieving, etc.
 - a) Jacob wrestled all night in Genesis 32:24-26. He would not let go until God blessed him.
 - b) Ephesians 6:11-12 says that we wrestle in prayer against the world rulers of darkness and the spiritual forces of wickedness in heavenly places. In one sense, we are in a wrestling match with the enemy, but we are the winners

- when we persevere. Epaphras wrestled in prayer for the Church at Colossae (Colossians 4:12-13).
- c) IE. Nazarene church in Hoopeton III. Powerful prayer meetings and we saw salvation and young people called into ministry.
 - 4. Travail calls for perseverance. Praying through. Patiently waiting.
 - 5. Travailing prayer brings forth births. Fruit. Miracles.
- C. What we know about travail
- 1. The Holy Spirit is majorly involved in it.
 - 2. Travail has to do with spiritual reproduction.
 - 3. Travail has to do with the maturing of the Saints.
 - 4. Travail can be very intense.
 - 5. Travail often produces miracles. Lazarus tomb, Elijah on Mt Carmel praying for rain.

III. Our Job: Arrange the Meeting

- A. Ie. General Swartzkopf was asked: *"What do we do about Osama bin Laden?" And they asked me, "Can we forgive him?" And I said, "Forgiveness is up to God. I just hope we hurry up the meeting."* 8 February 2003 show of Meet The Press Tim Russert.
- 1. 1Tim 2:1 *"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know."* (1 Timothy 2:1, The Message) Pray for needs-supplcations, pray invoking the presence of God-prayers, pray by running up against-intercession.
 - 2. Paul is telling Timothy to pray all kinds of prayer for all kinds of people and arrange some meetings!
- B. Why? vs. 3 and 4 He want everyone to be saved. 2 Peter 3:9
- 1. These 'meetings' are to get God and people together.
 - 2. For the purpose of salvation.
 - 3. Praying Nash, was Charles Finney's personal intercessor. He would go into cities and town in advance and fast and pray. When he died, Finney's ministry came to a close.
- C. Vs 5 There is One Mediator. One man who stands in the gap. Therefore, pray!