

Introduction:

- The Holy Spirit sets the trajectory of our prayer lives. He is the Wind that fills our sails and empowers us to set the course, especially in prayer. We saw the power of the gap; the power of the Advocate who fills that gap and forever lives to make intercession. *"Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."* (Hebrews 7:25, NKJV)
- Last week we looked at travailing in prayer. As we travail in prayer we set up divine appointments...we meet with God and we meet with the enemy in battle. We rout him. We take down the gates of hell designed to keep God out.
- We have also seen that in Travail
 - The Holy Spirit is greatly involved.
 - Travail is associated with spiritual reproduction.
 - Travail aids in the maturing process of believers.
 - Travail can be intense with groaning, tears, and fervency
 - Travail seems to be closely associated with miracles.
 - It is also important to note that we do not birth a thing in intercessory prayer. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. He is the one that causes creation to take place: Genesis 1-2; Luke 1:34-35; Acts 1:8 (He is the power source). He brings God life into God's people! So what ever it is that we do in intercessory prayer simply releases the Holy Spirit to do it! Tonight I want us to look at how that works.

I. Holy Spirit As Creator

A. Genesis 1:1-2

1. Formless - comes from Hebrew word *tohuw* - meaning desolation, a formless waste, empty, wilderness, lifeless, barren. It was void of life.
2. Verse 2 says that the Spirit was hovering over the surface of the deep waters. The Holy Spirit was moving. What does it mean, "the Holy Spirit was moving?" We say the Holy Spirit really moved today! It simple means that the Holy Spirit was active.
 - a) The Hebrew word *rahap* means to brood over or hover over.
 - b) Websters dictionary: a brood is a family, offspring, the young. It comes from the root word, 'breed' which we know means to give birth.
3. In Gen 1 the Holy Spirit is bringing forth life where there is none! Ie. the word *rachaph* in one lexicon literally defined it as brooding or fertilizing. It is also seen as a husband hovering over his bride. All things were created by His Word, but the Holy Spirit did the work! The Father spoke, the Word went forth accomplishing what it was sent to do, and the Holy Spirit made it happen!

- B. Psalm 90:2 *"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from beginning to end, you are God."* (Psalm 90:2, NLT)

1. Before the mountains were born - Hebrew, *yalad* - the act of a woman giving birth.
 2. before you gave birth to the earth - Hebrew, *chuwI* - to give birth.
 3. Both words are translate travail throughout the OT...to give birth, bring forth, be born. It is not always used of giving but at times the act of creating. Something new coming into being...new creation, new birth!
- C. Is 66:8 *"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 66:8, NLT)
1. By the time Jerusalem 'travails' (*chuwI*) her children will be born (*yalad*)
 2. What the Spirit was doing in Genesis is exactly what He is doing in Is 66, and it is exactly what He is doing right now as we enter into travail!
 3. The Holy Spirit is hovering over people releasing conviction, breaking bondages, bringing revelation of Jesus and ushering the new birth. Out of barrenness come life!
 - a) Read Dt 32:10-18 All four words are used there:
 - (1) vs 10 *tohuw*, lifeless, barren
 - (2) vs 11 like and eagle hovers, *rachaphs*, the Lord hovered over them. The Holy Spirit hovered over Abraham and Sarah releasing His life and power for them to conceive! Heb 11:11 Sarah received *dunamis*, (strength) to conceive. God was actually birthing a nation!
 - (3) 32:18 *yalad* and *chuwI*, for travail and giving birth. You forget who fathered you (*yalad*) and the God who gave you birth (*chuwI*).
 4. THE HOVERING THAT BROUGHT FORTH NATURAL ISRAEL WILL BRING FORTH SPIRITUAL ISRAEL (Souls!)
- D. Same is used of the conception of Christ. Luke 1:35 *"The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God."* (Luke 1:35, NLT)
1. *Episkiazo* to hover over. Used three times in NT. Here, Mt 17:5 transfiguration-cloud overshadowed them. Acts 5:15 Peter's shadow overshadowed the sick. It was not Peter it was Holy Spirit in Him.
- E. What have we established: "Travailing Intercession is a form of intercession that releases the creative power or energy of the Holy Spirit into a situation to produce, create or give birth to something." Dutch Sheets p. 128 Intercessory Prayer.

II. Jesus As Travailer

- A. Lazarus Tomb - Who was Jesus travailing for?

1. Jn 11:33-44. vs 33 Jesus was deeply moved and troubled. Literally it reads, "He was moved with indignation and deeply troubled himself." He was angry. And he *tarasso*, stirred himself up.
2. Vs. 38 "*Jesus was still angry as he arrived at the tomb, a cave with a stone rolled across its entrance.*" (John 11:38, NLT) angry in NKJV translated as groaning.
 - a) Mary in vs 32 said, "*Lord if you would have been here my brother would not have died.*"
 - b) vs. 33 and 38 Jesus is angry, groaning, stirred up.
 - c) vs 42, I say this so that they will believe.
 - d) vs 45 "*Many of the people who were with Mary believed in Jesus when they saw this happen.*" (John 11:45, NLT)
- B. Garden of Gethsemane
 1. Jesus' eternal work of intercession, "He forever lives to make intercession." began with travail in the Garden of Gethsemane.
 2. "*When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.*" (Isaiah 53:11, NLT)
 3. Jesus sweat drops of blood. Luke 22:44. This was the depth of travail that was bring forth Life! Sons and daughters! The birth of the church!

III. We Are Travailers!

- A. He wants us to find the *tohuw*—lifeless, fruitless, barren, desolate places and release His life there!
- B. He wants to bring forth new creations! Sons and daughters.
- C. He wants to bring forth Christ in His people - maturity.
- D. He wants His life to reign where death has held people captive.
- E. He wants to hover over us, brood over us, releasing His life.