

Intercessors and Pastors as Partners

Adapted from Intercessors and Pastors: The Emerging Partnership of Watchmen and Gatekeepers, by Eddie and Alice Smith. Houston, Texas: SpiriTruth Publishing, Revised 2001.

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➔ What Intercessors Need from Pastors: (Adapted from Chapter Seven)

- 1. They need to be loved.**
Love, encourage and express your appreciation, providing a safe place for them to learn and risk in your church. When they mess up, encourage them to try again.
- 2. They need a true ministry partnership.**
Understand the interdependence of the team: Although their assignments and perspectives are different, both extend the kingdom, working from opposite ends of the same spectrum
- 3. They need a clear understanding of your ministry vision.**
Write it down. Don't be threatened by intercessors. Some pastors even ask intercessors to help capture, confirm and crystallize the Lords vision for the church.
- 4. They need a good communication system.**
Good information fuels their prayers. Good communication is two-way, with each asking the incite of the other. Pastors show appreciation for intercessors by providing appropriate access, and by public honor and support. Tell them when they are right.
- 5. They need spiritual accountability.**
Intercessors find spiritual security as they choose to seek accountability to their pastors. They need the freedom to risk what they sense God is saying, knowing that the pastor can judge the words without judging them.
- 6. They need training.**
Love them enough to give them godly direction and gentle correction privately. Deal with problems but be sensitive to feelings of insecurity. Affirm your love.
- 7. They need to see integrity in their leaders.**
They must know without doubt that their pastor is pursuing God with all his heart.
 - Be transparent and humble.
 - Don't play favorites.
 - Don't belittle intercessors.
 - Don't overlook adequate logistical support.

➔ What Pastors Need from Intercessors: (Adapted from Chapter Eight)

- 1. Your pastor needs his privacy.**
In addition to prayer, pastors are responsible for a broad ministry load (missions, teaching, counseling, evangelism, administration, etc.), Be sensitive to his personality, spiritual gifts, ministry focus, and to the type of ministry partnership he offers you as an intercessor.
- 2. Your pastor needs your understanding as well as your prayers.**
Your pastor and his family live under incredible pressures unknown to many in his church. Understand how great is the responsibility he carries and the battle he must fight for the flock.
- 3. Your pastor needs your love.**
Many pastors are sheep-bitten, lonely, wounded or depressed from a constant barrage of criticism. Few people can love a pastor like an intercessor. They hold much in common.

Maturity versus Immaturity

(Adapted from Chapter Six)

Characteristics of Maturing Intercessors	Characteristics of Immature Intercessors
Patience	Impatience
Are led by revelations, cautiously test	Are driven by revelations, are impatient
Diagnosis doesn't mean assignment	Diagnosis means assignment
Learn the skill of timing	Treat revelation as an emergency
Seasoned intercessors are full of faith, wait for specific instructions	Unseasoned intercessors are presumptuous, act too quickly
Well-adjusted intercessors discern between natural and supernatural	Maladjusted intercessors tend to spiritualize and focus on the demonic
Handle revelation as a sacred trust	Become frustrated when others don't see
Work with the pastor	May attempt to work around the pastor
Balanced intercessors don't push or promote their revelations	Unbalanced intercessors speak much, looking for "a word" for the pastor
Have God-established credibility by virtue of their character	Manipulate people and situations by exaggeration to promote credibility
Wait or act in humility	Act to protect pride
Experienced intercessors strategically let God choose the platform and the timing for them to speak	Inexperienced intercessors seek to be heard, to be out front, to influence leadership
Sincere intercessors recognize God's authority and work with it	Insincere intercessors find it difficult to submit to any human authority
Desire growth and accountability	Refuse accountability
Disciplined intercessors know and love the Scriptures	Undisciplined intercessors often are not grounded in the Word
Never elevate personal revelation above the Word of God	Elevate their revelation above the Word of God
Well-trained intercessors focus on the Lord Jesus far more than on demons	Poorly trained intercessors focus on the enemy, and are prone to deception
Godly intercessors love people, and show grace and mercy	Unwise intercessors promote their insights above people, and are critical

When offering a "prophetic word," it is wise to "*offer and release*" rather than "*impose and control*."

That means:

1. Ask permission to share.

2. Offer the insight simply, without going too far in trying to interpret it or apply it.

3. Release them to the Holy Spirit's confirmation. 1 Thessalonians 5:20-21