

# **STANDING IN THE GAP**

*By Dave Roberson*

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture notations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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By Dave Roberson

ISBN 1-929339-08-9

ISBN 978-1-929339-08-2

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## ***Chapter 1***

### ***A Son Delivered Through Intercession***

I had a very unusual experience with God in a service some time ago. I don't know who all was present that morning in the worship service. I only know that I slipped into the Spirit as I was preaching. Then a prophecy came forth designed to be heard by a certain group of people.

It was a sobering word from the Lord describing what it is like to die and to be taken away into a godless eternity. The prophecy also explained the role angels play in delivering our children or others close to us who are spiritually lost when we refuse to let go of them in prayer.

#### **A Demonic Assignment Thwarted**

At the time of this service, my second oldest son was not living for the Lord. He was the last of my children to come into the fold. Of all my children, he was the roughest and had run away from the Lord the longest.

My son was living on the West Coast, and a few weeks earlier I had learned that he had been involved in a drug overdose situation in which he survived, but another boy died. After learning of this tragedy, I asked God to show me what took place in the Spirit when my son's life was spared. As I prayed about it, I slipped over into the Spirit, and in a vision saw an angel. At first, I thought I was daydreaming!

In this vision, the Lord showed me an apartment that I assumed was my son's. A drug party was in full swing, and my son was right in the middle of it. Standing in the room was a huge angel, probably seven to eight feet tall. The angel stood with his arms folded across his chest and his back turned away from my son, indicating his strong disagreement and disgust with the sinfulness taking place in the room.

Then I saw a demon come into the room, focusing on my son. Somehow I knew the demon had come to carry out a specific assignment of death against him. It seemed as if this demon had the legal right to come; my son had given him that right through his rebellion against God. As this demon advanced toward his young target, intent on his demonic mission, my son was completely oblivious to the unseen danger.

Then the angel, his arms still folded across his chest, turned slightly. With a stern look, he glared at the demon and vigorously shook his head no. The angel never even said a word, but the demon knew what he meant. The demon turned, moved away from my son, and then left the room without another moment's hesitation. His mission had been thwarted by this angelic presence and authority!

Later my son told me that he and the other boy had taken an overdose of morphine that night at the party. The other boy went to sleep and never woke up again. But soon after swallowing the overdose of pills, my son had vomited them all up.

## **The Crucial Role Of Intercession**

A few weeks after I had that vision, I was working in my garage, and my “prodigal son” was with me. Suddenly, I saw this same vision for the second time. I knew I was to relate the vision to my boy so he would know what had saved his life.

That same vision appeared for a third time when I slipped over into the Spirit again while preaching in a Sunday morning service. This time I understood that God wanted me to tell others the vision I had seen three different times in the realm of the Spirit. The vision taught a vital spiritual principle that He wanted His people to learn.

You see, the Lord showed me through this vision that it was the intercession of family members on behalf of our son that had made the difference. Our earnest intercession had released the angel to be actively on assignment against the devil’s plans for our son’s destruction. Without our prayers, the demon would have had legal right to carry out his evil intentions.

That’s what happened in the case of the other boy. He didn’t have anyone praying for him. The demon of drugs that had taken him for a ride during his life was able to ride him on down to hell.

After that close brush with death, our son was born again and started making restitution by his own volition for the hurt he had caused his mother

and me. He did this for his own conscience’s sake, because on our part, we had never stopped loving him and had already forgiven him.

## ***Chapter 2***

### ***Satan's Attack Against Children***

The ordeal my wife and I went through with our second oldest son is not a unique story by any means. The young people of today are a part of one of the most unusual generations in the history of America. Because of television, radio, and other forms of modern communication, most people in this nation have heard the Gospel. Very few Americans lack the knowledge of salvation, yet many have chosen not to respond and become born again.

Because of this, we have a generation of young people in which many are backslidden children of believers. Millions of others are children of a generation of adults who have heard the Gospel and hardened their own hearts to it.

#### **Drugs: Satan's Deadly Snare**

This epidemic of hardened hearts is a primary reason Satan is able to use drugs so effectively to tempt this present-day group of teenagers.

You see, Satan wants to use something that enslaves the emotions—something that will use a person up and burn him out by the age of thirty. He wants something that starts out as fun and ends up as a person's worst nightmare—something so strong and addictive that a person would sell his own soul to get more of it. Addictive drugs accomplish all of these demonic objectives—and more besides.

The devil has also found that drugs are effective in separating young Christian people from the Gospel and opening them up to demonic powers so he can control and eventually end their lives while they are in a backslidden condition.

Another of Satan's objectives in utilizing drugs in his master plan is to separate Christian parents from their children. He knows that if he can eventually control the young people through drugs, he can force them to sacrifice their relationship with their parents on the altar of their addiction.

Enslaved to the addiction, these kids become vulnerable to demon-possession and become totally out of control. Their conscience becomes calloused and hardened. Even though they were raised in Christian homes, they begin to steal, curse, cheat, lie, and even rob their own parents. They will do anything to appease the demons of drugs that demand to be fed and thereby worshiped.

#### **The Folly Of Dishonoring Parents**

Satan has instructed these demons to force young people—especially Christian kids—to dishonor their parents. He knows that if he can cause the young people to dishonor and disobey their Christian parents, they will stand guilty of breaking one of God's central commandments.

Then, if no one is praying, interceding, or standing in the gap for these young people, Satan will attempt to initiate his destructive

prerogative. Claiming scriptural precedent, the devil will use the fifth commandment as his legal authority: **Honour thy father and thy mother: THAT THY DAYS MAY BE LONG UPON THE LAND which the LORD thy God giveth thee** (Exodus 20:12).

Satan will also use Ephesians 6:1-3, where Paul refers to the fifth commandment when he wrote to the Ephesian children:

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, AND THOU MAYEST LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.**

It is very significant that God connects long life to young men and women who honor their father and mother. God didn't make that kind of connection when He talked about lying, adultery, or worshiping other gods before Him. He only related a short life to dishonoring one's parents because nothing else gives the devil more authority to come in and cut a person's life short.

Therefore, using these verses as the basis of his argument, the devil tries to claim that it is his legal right to remove these backslidden, demon-possessed children of Christian parents off the face of the earth—and, if possible, he will see to it that they end up in hell.

That's why it is so important to stand in the gap for your children. No matter how badly they have hurt you or

how far they have strayed, make bold intercession for them. Hold your ground and refuse to let them go in prayer!

### ***Chapter 3***

## ***Satan's Attack Against Parents***

At the same time the devil is trying to destroy the children of Christian families, he is attempting to convince Christian parents that their children are no good.

### **Parents, Beware Of the Devil's Strategies**

Satan tells these parents that it's their fault their kids are on drugs. He whispers to their minds that if they had raised their children better, this would not be happening.

Then he tells Christian parents the most evil lie of all—as part of their punishment, their children are going to be lost forever. He tries to convince the parents that there is no use praying for their children because they already had their opportunity to raise their kids right while the children were young.

For all of us who are parents—Christian parents included—we have had to learn how to raise our children through “on-the-job training.” And the truth is, hardly any of us get parenting exactly right the first time around. The devil likes to use that fact to his advantage. He's good at digging around in our faults and shortcomings until he has convinced us that we are the wicked ones who have caused our children's struggles, not him.

Satan will do all he can to throw up a smoke screen in an effort to keep

Christian parents from interceding for their children. He wants parents to think the situation is hopeless.

When parents lose hope, they relinquish their rights in prayer to ask for the mercy God affords to cover their children when they are in trouble. Then while the parents sit around defeated and the children live in violation of God's Word to honor their mother and father, Satan can move in and cut short the children's lives.

### **There Is Hope!**

Perhaps you are going through this kind of trial with your children or you know someone else who is. Well, I have good news for you straight from Heaven: God has ministering angels specifically assigned to your children for their protection and deliverance!

Notice the exact wording of Hebrews 1:14, which describes the ministry of angels: **Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**

Have you ever noticed that the angels Paul is talking about in this verse are also called to minister for them who **SHALL BE** heirs of salvation?

Those two words “shall be” put the ministry of God's angels into the future. In other words, these angels are on assignment, ministering to people who are not yet saved. The angels evidently are released to operate in a person's life through prayer. They watch over that person until he or she becomes born again.



As I attempted to navigate my boys through their teenage years, I cannot tell you how heartbroken I was when they decided to taste of the world and of drugs for a while. During that time, it seemed as if I fought every kind of demon imaginable to keep from going crazy. I struggled with a whole gamut of emotions, all the way from feeling unworthy and unfit for the ministry to feeling like a hypocrite who had no right to preach the Gospel.

But although the enemy had launched an all-out war against me to stop me from praying, I wouldn't yield. I stuck my finger in the devil's face and told him, **"I AM GOING TO SEE TO IT THAT MY BOYS GO TO HEAVEN!"** And in the end, the power of intercession and the ministry of their angels prevailed every time!

## **Chapter 4**

### ***The Power of Intercession***

Sometimes our prayers are all that stand between hell and our loved ones who are trying to get there. Therefore, it is important that we understand what the Bible says about the power of intercession.

#### **Why Does One Perish And Another Does Not?**

Luke 13:1-9 gives us some clues regarding the power that is released through intercession:

**There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.**

**And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?**

**I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

**Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?**

**I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

**He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.**

**Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking**

**fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?**

**And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:**

**And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.**

This passage says that some men came to Jesus to ask Him two questions. First, they wanted to know why, of all the men in Galilee, Pilate chose these certain men to die. The second question was similar: When the tower of Siloam fell on eighteen men of Jerusalem, why were they killed rather than someone else living in Jerusalem?

What these men really wanted to know was this: Why does one man perish and another does not? They thought the reason might be that one man was a greater sinner than the other. But Jesus quickly settled that issue.

To the assumption that one dies and not another because the first is the greater sinner, Jesus said most emphatically, "No!" Then He went on to say that ultimately everyone would perish if they did not repent.

Another way to put the question Jesus was addressing is: "Why do some men die early and others do not?" Are those who die early greater sinners than those who live a long life? Again, Jesus' answer was emphatically, "No!"

## Mr. Pillar vs. Mr. Hellion

I will cite an example of comparison. First, there is Mr. Pillar of the Community. He attends every charitable function. He helps little old ladies across streets. He would never intentionally hurt anyone.

One day Mr. Pillar walks out the back door of the bank where he works. Suddenly he slips on a banana peel and takes a nasty fall. He dies, leaving behind a widow and three children.

Why did that happen? Because Mr. Pillar was a greater sinner than someone else who lived longer? Jesus said, “No.”

Now let’s look at Mr. Hellion. This guy cruises Main Street, sells drugs to people’s children to get them hooked, and picks up people’s daughters to introduce them to sin. Mr. Hellion survives two drug overdoses and someone shooting him with a gun. He also survives three car wrecks, crawling out with hardly a scratch on his body from underneath wrecked cars crumpled up to the size of a glove compartment. Each time, Mr. Hellion stands up, looks at the wrecked car, smiles and says, “Well, looks like I lived through another one!”

The question Jesus addressed applies to this example. Why does Mr. Pillar perish and Mr. Hellion continue to survive? Was it that Mr. Pillar was a greater sinner than Mr. Hellion? Again, Jesus most emphatically said, “No.”

Then why does one person perish and another does not?

I can tell you the exact reason why. The one who perished had **NO INTERCESSOR** to stand between him and Satan’s plan to destroy him.

The hellion undoubtedly had a gray-haired mama somewhere who “took the altar by the horns” and would not turn loose of her boy in prayer. On the other hand, the banker had no one interceding for him.

## Cultivating Fruitless Fig Trees Through Prayer

I didn’t come up with the answer to that question on my own. I found it right there in the passage of Scripture quoted earlier.

You see, Jesus would not have addressed a problem like this without giving the answer before concluding His teaching. Notice Luke 13:6, where He says, **He spake also this parable . . .**

We know that a parable is an illustration we can understand with our natural mind that teaches a spiritual principle. Jesus often used natural illustrations to describe the Kingdom of God, such as a pearl of great price, a treasure hidden in a field, a mustard seed, and so on. In other words, Jesus gave us earthly things to which we could compare spiritual truths in order to better understand the ways of His Kingdom.

In this particular parable, Jesus went on to say that a certain man had a fruitless fig tree planted in his vineyard. This fig tree refused to bear fruit. Not only did it resist the efforts

of the keeper of the vineyard but of the owner as well.

Does this sound familiar? How many people do you know who have “a fruitless fig tree” in their vineyard—a husband or wife, a son or daughter who refuses to bear fruit?

The fruitless fig tree would have been destroyed had not the keeper of the vineyard, who represents the intercessor, stepped in and executed his God-given authority. The keeper said, “Leave this fig tree alone this year until I have the opportunity to fertilize and cultivate it.” In other words, the keeper was saying, “Guard that person from destruction while I make intercession for him to be saved and to bear fruit.”

So the reason one man perishes is that he has no “keeper of the vineyard”—no intercessor—to stand between him and his destruction while he lives in a fruitless state. That’s how powerful true intercession is!

## ***Chapter 5***

### ***How to Intercede For Lost Loved Ones***

All of us have close relatives and friends who are unsaved. But when members of our immediate family are lost, it is only natural that we be particularly concerned.

#### **Key Elements of Intercession**

It is our responsibility to lay hold of our loved ones in prayer until they come into the Kingdom. Great intercession begins when we call out the name of that loved one in prayer and praise God for his or her salvation. And we keep thanking God for our loved one's salvation until we see the fruit of our prayers.

For instance, you can pray:  
“Father God, I thank You that my son or daughter is saved. Father, I praise You for this authority that Jesus has given to me—to be an avenue of compassion You can use to work on my loved one's heart, and by Your grace, to call those things that are not as though they are.

“Satan, you will **NOT** steal the life or calling of my loved one. Your assignment against my son or daughter is canceled.

“I praise You, Jesus, and thank You for the ministry of angels who are standing guard against death right now, keeping my loved ones safe until they are born again. Thank You, Lord, in Jesus' Name.”

You can know as you worship God and stand in the gap for your loved ones, exercising your authority in Christ, that you release angels to perform God's Word in their lives, to stand guard over them, and to minister to and for them so that the loved ones you are interceding for are not taken from the earth prematurely, receive salvation, and fulfill their divine assignments.

It is this atmosphere of worship that opens up the way for the Holy Spirit to bring us into Spirit-empowered intercession. At this level of intercession, the groanings of intercessory prayer assist us in the moving of our individual mountain—in this case, the souls of our loved ones.

No wonder the devil has fought praying in tongues so hard! He knows the vital role that tongues plays in intercessory prayer for our children and other loved ones.

So learn to honor God with praise and worship every time you come into His Presence to pray for your lost loved ones. To God, this is genuine fellowship. For you, it is the open door to empowered intercession and the deliverance of those for whom you are praying!

## ***Chapter 6***

### ***Present-Day Speaking***

The forces are drawing lines, says the Spirit, for the finest and the darkest hour is yet ahead. As the forces of hell do line up to combat that which is light, even so do the forces of angels and My ministers of flames ready themselves to combat the darkness. They go to and fro strengthening, adding a whole dimension in these last days to My ministers of power.

For as surely as the forces of darkness do excel, I am calling forth those who will hear My Spirit, to equip them for the battle that is at hand.

Surely this is also an hour when I am calling those who still have a soft spot in their heart for Me to come home. Come home before you get so far out into the flesh that your own will won't let you come back. For there is a call: "Backslider, come home!"

Strengthen yourself against the day that is to come, for surely the evil is mounting and surely My glory is mounting and there will be less and less middle ground. But the battle shall rage, and as many, many, many will come to Me, so will many, many, many be lost.

Therefore, adhere to the things that you have heard and give your life to Me. Serve Me, for I am drawing you into the decade of the Spirit. Your ground shall become a fruitful ground, says the Spirit of Grace, for prayer and giving and standing in faith will

cause this bountiful harvest to take place. Just continue on the journey I have set you on. As you do, no deception, nor the enemy, nor those who desire to deceive you will be able to lead you wrong, for I will teach you continually by My Spirit. You will satisfy your soul in the drought. You shall be the tree planted by the rivers of living water who brings forth fruit in every due season.

So extend yourself into My Spirit. Know that when I, the Holy Spirit, join Myself with your life in intercession, you shall be that object which stands between hell and those who desire to go there because they are deceived. You shall bind the god of this world off their minds so that the glorious Gospel and the face of Jesus Christ may shine through.

Then they will understand that the very thing they have resisted is that which they need, and the Answer they were looking for was just a single knock away behind the door. For I said in My Word, "Truly knock and it shall be opened unto you."

## **The Vital Role of Intercession**

In *Standing in the Gap*, Dave Roberson stresses, “Sometimes our prayers are all that stand between hell and our loved ones who are trying to get there.” Drawing both from his deep knowledge of the Scriptures and his own personal experience, Dave explains why intercession is so powerful to protect and to deliver those whom you love.

God is looking for those who will stand in the gap through empowered intercession. Make sure you are one of those He finds!

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