



STUDY GUIDE

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GOLL

*Prayer*  
STORM

The  
HOUR  
That  
CHANGES  
The  
WORLD

FOREWORD BY  
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## Lesson 1

### “Prayer Storm”—What Is It?

*As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud with a fire enveloping it and flashing continually; a brightness was about it and out of the midst of it there seemed to glow amber metal, out of the midst of the fire*  
(Ezekiel 1:4 AMP).

#### I. Definition of Prayer Storm

##### A. Definition of *prayer*

1. Spoken or unspoken communication with God
2. An earnest, heartfelt request made before God, a request conveyed by means of petition
3. A religious service at which prayers are said<sup>1</sup>

##### B. Definition of *storm* (noun/verb)

1. (n.) A disturbance in the air above the earth with strong winds and usually also with rain, snow, sleet, hail, and sometimes lightning and thunder
2. (n.) A heavy bombardment of solid objects
3. (n.) A sudden, strong outpouring of feeling in reaction to something, for example, of protest or laughter, a torrent of communication
4. (v.) To attack or capture a place, especially a well-defended one, suddenly and with great force
5. (v.) To be or to go somewhere violently, noisily, and/or angrily

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6. (v.) To blow strongly, to drop large amounts of precipitation<sup>2</sup>

#### C. Scriptures about storms:

*He covers His hands with the lightning, and commands it to strike the mark (Job 36:32).*

*See, the storm of the Lord will burst out in wrath, a whirlwind swirling down on the heads of the wicked. The anger of the Lord will not turn back until He fully accomplishes the purposes of His heart. In days to come you will understand it clearly (Jeremiah 23:19-20 NIV).*

*Like fire that burns the forest and like a flame that sets the mountains on fire, so pursue them with Your tempest and terrify them with Your storm (Psalm 83:14-15).*

*The Lord is slow to anger and great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished. His way is in the whirlwind and the storm, and clouds are the dust of His feet (Nahum 1:3 NIV).*

#### D. Definition of *intercession*, *intercede* (Latin/Greek/Hebrew)

1. Latin roots: *inter* (between, among, involved) and *cedere* (to yield, to go, to move, to pay the price of)<sup>3</sup>

- a. In other words, *intercede* means "to go between, as when stepping between someone and his enemy in battle, to stand in the gap, to give an opportunity for a solution to be reached."
  - b. *Intercede* means to yield oneself to help those who are weak and who need assistance, to create a pause or an atmospheric shift that holds tumult at bay temporarily.
  - c. *Intercede* means to move in the direction of involvement regarding the hurts and needs of others, to become a conduit for Kingdom activity. (See the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37.)
  - d. To intercede means to be a go-between, to mediate between two parties, to act between two parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend with each other, to mediate, to make entreaties.<sup>4</sup>
2. *Intercession/Intercede* in the Greek lexicon
- a. First definition from the Greek: "to light upon a person or a thing, to fall in with, to hit upon a person or a thing, to chance upon something, to encounter unexpectedly."
  - b. Second definition from the Greek: "to go to or to meet a person, especially for conversation or consultation."<sup>5</sup>
  - c. New Testament usages of the words *intercede* and *intercession*:

*In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the*

*Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God*  
(Romans 8:26-27).

*Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them* (Hebrews 7:25).

*Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence* (1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV).

- d. Since Jesus ever lives to make intercession and His Spirit lives in us, we need to come into agreement with Him, for "If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them" (Matt. 18:19-20 NIV).
3. Hebrew word for *intercession* (*paga*) appears only a few times in the Old Testament. Each time provides a new slant on the meaning of the word:
  - a. "To meet:"

*You meet and spare him who joyfully works righteousness (uprightness and justice), [earnestly] remembering You in Your ways. Behold, You were angry, for we sinned; we have long continued in our sins [prolonging Your anger]. And shall we be saved* (Isaiah 64:5 AMP).

- b. "To light upon," as in Genesis 28:10-17, which shows how God's grace works, with our Divine Helper standing by, ready to aid us in our intercession, moving us from our natural ability to his supernatural ability, from our finite ability to His infinite ability, taking hold of situations with us so as to accomplish the will of God.
- c. "To fall upon, attack, strike down, cut down," as in First Samuel 22:11-19 and Second Samuel 1:11-16, which show us how the word *paga* can carry a warfare element, indicating the readiness of a soldier to fall upon or attack the enemy at the word of his commander, striking the mark (remember the lightning strikes of Job 36:32) and cutting down the enemy.
- d. "Laid upon," as in Isaiah 53:12 (intercession), "He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors" and in Isaiah 53:6 (laid upon), "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (NKJV).

## **II. Historic Sustained Prayer Movements**

- A. Jerusalem (1000 B.C.): the tabernacle of David. Under the leadership of King David, night-and-day worship and prayer continued for 33 years and continued into the next generation under King David's son, Solomon. Both kings financed full-time singers and musicians (see...). The Scriptures prophesy a restoration of David's tabernacle (see Acts 15:16).

- B. Northern Ireland (A.D. 555), the monastery at Bangor: The founder and senior abbot of a great sixth-century Irish monastery at Bangor was named Comgall. He and his disciple, Columbanus, initiated night-and-day worship with prayers, which continued for over 300 years and from which much missionary zeal arose.
- C. Herrnhut, Saxony (1727), the Moravians and the "Moravian lampstand": In 1722, Count Nicolas Ludwig von Zinzendorf was asked by a group of Christians if they could cross the border from Moravia in order to live on his lands in a small community in what today is eastern Germany. He assented, and they settled in a town they called Herrnhut, which means "the Lord's Watch." Zinzendorf himself had always been interested in a life of prayer and devotion to God, and in 1727, he began to lead daily Bible studies for them. A sudden time of revival occurred, which many have called "the Moravian Pentecost."
1. One of the first results of the revival was that 24 young men and 24 young women (all were young; even Zinzendorf was only 27 years old) covenanted to devote one hour every day to concerted, night-and-day prayer. This was the beginning of what became a 100-year-long prayer watch. Every hour of every day, someone was praying.
  2. The men and women of Herrnhut committed themselves to hourly intercession in order to, in their own words, "win for the Lamb the rewards of His suffering." They prayed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The "altar fire" never went out. Their fundamental Scripture was, "The fire shall ever be burning upon the altar; it shall never go out" (Lev. 6:13 KJV).

3. This prayer vigil fueled a missionary movement that touched the world. As the years passed, they passed the baton to others; Zinzendorf died in 1760. But the prayer continued unabated.<sup>6</sup>

### **III. Sustained Prayer Movements Today**

- A. Seoul, South Korea, the Prayer Mountain: The Osanri Choi Ja-Shil Memorial Fasting Prayer Mountain, Osanri, Kyonggi Province, Korea, was founded by David Yonggi Cho’s Yoidi Full Gospel Church of Seoul, South Korea. The Prayer Mountain can accommodate up to 10,000 people at one time for private and corporate prayer.
- B. Kansas City, Missouri, International House of Prayer: Mike Bickle and his team coordinate 24/7 worship and intercession, and they sponsor or co-sponsor conferences, webcasts and podcasts, Nightwatch, the Israel Mandate, and the Global Bridegroom Fast.
- C. Colorado Springs, Colorado, U.S. Global Apostolic Prayer Network/Strategic Prayer Network: Coordinated by C. Peter Wagner, Chuck Pierce, and Global Harvest Ministries (<http://www.globalharvest.org/>), the network links committed intercessors who are organized on a national, state, and local level in a concerted effort of global prayer.
- D. Charlotte, North Carolina, Watch of the Lord: This is a global prayer movement begun by Mahesh and Bonnie Chavda in 1995. Up to a thousand believers (“watchmen”) gather at the watch headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, every Friday night to spend the entire night in worship and prayer. Other locations host similar gatherings. Individuals can participate in the Watch of the Lord via webcast.
- E. Many others (see Appendix B, Resources for Intercession), including 24-7 Prayer, Every Home for Christ/Jericho Center of Prayer, Intercessors for America, Jerusalem House of

Prayer for All Nations, National Governmental Prayer Alliance, Reformation Prayer Network, and Succat Hallel

#### **IV. Kingdom of Priests**

##### A. New Testament revelation

##### 1. Royal priesthood

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9 NIV).*

*To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.... You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth (Revelation 1:6; 5:10 NIV).*

##### 2. Offering up spiritual sacrifices

- a. “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name” (Heb. 13:15).
- b. “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name” (Ps. 100:4).

- c. Here we find the golden harp and bowl upon the altar in Heaven. The incense of prayer fills the bowl, and the harp represents the ministry of praise and worship.

The angel takes his censor, fills it with fire on the altar, and casts it to the earth.

*And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth" ...Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer and filled it with the fire of the altar, and threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake (Revelation 5:7-10; 8:3-5).*

## B. Old Testament typology

### 1. Altar of incense

*Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; ...Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. When Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. There shall be perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering (Exodus 30:1,7-9).*

*Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. With it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, and holy" (Exodus 30:34-35).*

*Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering....He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the Lord and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil (Leviticus 16:3,12).*

## 2. Fire on the altar

*Command Aaron and his sons, saying, "This is the law for the burnt offering: the burnt offering itself shall remain on the hearth on the altar all night until the morning, and the fire on the altar is to be kept burning on it. The priest is to put on his linen robe, and he shall put on undergarments next to his flesh; and he*

*shall take up the ashes to which the fire reduces the burnt offering on the altar and place them beside the altar. Then he shall take off his garments and put on other garments, and carry the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it. It shall not go out, but the priest shall burn wood on it every morning; and he shall lay out the burnt offering on it, and offer up in smoke the fat portions of the peace offerings on it. Fire shall be kept burning continually on the altar; it is not to go out (Leviticus 6:9-13).*

*Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense on it; then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the Lord, the plague has begun!" Then Aaron took it as Moses had spoken, and ran into the midst of the assembly, for behold, the plague had begun among the people. So he put on the incense and made atonement for the people. He took his stand between the dead and the living, so that the plague was checked (Numbers 16:46-48).*

### 3. Four qualities of incense

- a. Stacte is a resinous sap that oozes through the bark of a type of tree that was a day's journey into Syria. In other words, it could only be obtained by walking into enemy territory. It *cost* the perfumer something to get the stacte. In the same way, it costs us something, and we have to go into enemy territory to gather the "drops," or Word of God, which bubble forth into prophecy. You have to store up the Word within your heart, and then it oozes forth in words of prophetic prayer.

It's not an automatic-pilot sort of thing; you have to study to show yourself approved as a workman for God (see 2 Tim. 2:15).

- b. Onycha came from the shell of a mollusk that lived in the Mediterranean Sea. Again, it took some effort to obtain it, because the perfumer had to walk so far. Then it had to be ground into a fine powder and further treated in order to give the incense its sweet odor when it was burned. In a similar way, our lives are to be broken before Him (see Ps. 51:17) and the "fragrance" of our lives offered on the altar is well-pleasing to God. Prayer is made up of an equal portion of the Word and of brokenness in our lives.
  - c. *Galbanum* means "richness" or "fatness." Galbanum is a rich gum resin that holds the other ingredients together. Even though it is a bitter substance, it gives important tang to the fragrance, and it reminds us of the bitterness of sin. With the Spirit of Jesus dwelling in us, we possess His rich grace, which we exhibit through lives of faith and praise.
  - d. We all know about Frankincense because it was one of the gifts brought by the Magi to the infant Jesus (see Matt. 2:11). In Old Testament times, it was known as *lavonah*, which means "white." In our prayers, we need the purity and "whiteness" of the righteousness that comes as God's gift to us, not because of our actions, but because of the sacrifice that Jesus accomplished.
4. The requirements for the incense of prayer
    - a. The ingredients must be gathered from long distances. Developing a true prayer life costs us something and takes time.

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- b. All four ingredients must be equally balanced. Some people “camp” around the Word, others emphasize brokenness, still others declare the “fatness” message, while others stress holiness and purity. However, we should have a balance of all four.
- c. The incense had to be made fresh every day. It could not be made ahead of time. We must pray every day.
- d. Fire had to be added to it. We add fervency and zeal to our prayer.

### **Summary**

Worship, pray, and intercede as much as you can, because it is a sweet-smelling fragrance to the Lord, like burning incense in His nostrils.

## Reflection Questions

### Lesson 1: "Prayer Storm"—What Is It?

*(Answers to these questions can be found in the back of the study guide.)*

1. A prayer storm is when people \_\_\_ out, not quietly but in a passionate, verbal way, asking God, in the name of Jesus, to change things, calling forth the strong winds of the Spirit and the lightnings of His power.
2. The Moravian lampstand refers to the \_\_\_\_ of the incense of prayer on the \_\_\_\_ of God (see Lev. 6:13), which the Moravians in Germany kept burning for over 100 years by night-and-day prayer.
3. The word *intercede* comes from Latin root words \_\_\_\_\_, which means between, among, involved and \_\_\_\_\_, which means to yield, to go, to move, to pay the price of. In other words, *intercede* means "to go between, as when stepping between someone and his enemy in battle, to \_\_\_\_\_ in the gap, to give an opportunity for a solution to be reached.
4. A key Scripture for night-and-day (24/7) worship and prayer is Revelation 5:8: "The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a \_\_\_ and golden \_\_\_\_\_ full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints."
5. The four requirements for the incense of prayer are:
  - a. The ingredients must be gathered from a long \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. All four ingredients must be equally \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. The incense had to be made \_\_\_\_\_ every day.
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_ had to be added to the incense.

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**Personal application question**

6. Who is smelling the incense of your prayers? Who are you lifting up in prayer on a regular basis?