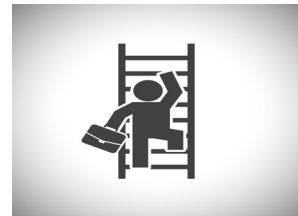


The Tools of an Intercessor



A Reply to the Call of God
S. Neil Von Fange

THE TOOLS OF AN INTERCESSOR.
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PREVIEW EDITION

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THE TOOLS OF AN INTERCESSOR comes from a career long journey by the author.

The message of Christians is about God's love for all humanity; however, there is a time limit. The gravity of the final judgment is far more of a threat than has been supposed by much of the church, never mind the unbelieving world.

The call of God with a specific mandate is an undertaking which must receive the strength of one's livelihood in a very short number of years on earth. This book is to provide a point of reference for a response to the call of God, and to offer hope and courage if you have experienced this.

S. NEIL VON FANGE is a retired system engineer, project leader, and developer from several fields in high technology. He graduated from Northwestern University with BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering.

He originally comes from Montclair, New Jersey and then Indianapolis, Indiana. He makes his home in southern Indiana, where he remediates long standing erosion on his property with gravel, rock, and the transplanting of much ground cover.

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(Abbreviations in this book: JX = Jesus Christ; HS = Holy Spirit.)

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Dedication

This book is in memory of Maria Woodworth-Etter, a mighty evangelist who was called by the Lord Jesus Christ to ministry in the United States at a time when it was not considered acceptable for a woman to do so.

She traveled thru the U.S. from the early 1880s until around 1920, with an emphasis in the Midwest states, and in particular my home state of Indiana.

In her memoirs, she tells how the Lord directed her to get moving without delay due to the great need, and that he would be with her. He would not listen to her concerns and pleas to understand the Bible better in advance.

Her memoirs are found in her book, *A Diary of Signs and Wonders*. This book is dedicated in her memory, as well as many other true servants of Jesus Christ who have entered into various types of ministry by the clear direction of the Holy Spirit, yet having to learn on the job as it were.

These all set aside their lives and endured much hardship to fulfil their respective heavenly callings. Without their pioneering labors, this book would not have been possible.

I would also remember my mother, who prayed for me when I was sick at an early age with a very high fever. She made a vow before the Lord at that time, that she would do everything she could to assist me in the service of the kingdom of God.

THE TOOLS OF AN INTERCESSOR

Preface

This book comes from a career long journey as an intercessor in the service of Jesus Christ. I have felt this book to be needed given the interest in intercessory prayer which is widely expressed in Christian circles.

The message of the kingdom of God is about God's love for all humanity; and it is a formidable and urgent message indeed.

Christians should hopefully be able to function in multiple ways in the service of Jesus Christ. This might involve bringing the word of God to a person in need who is out of reach of a pastor; to contend in prayer for a desperate situation; to go out of one's way to assist a forlorn traveler; to associate with a person who doesn't belong easily; to grasp a person's concerns and help find a way forward; and so forth. I have met people with gifts along such lines; however, these do not necessarily imply a specific life calling.

I grew up in the Lutheran church, Missouri synod, during the 1960s. I first remember the distinct presence of Jesus Christ during a Billy Graham message, shortly after I graduated from high school. During my first year at university, I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the associated prayer language. Within several weeks, walking home from a night meeting, I was quite moved about the role of Moses, how he stood before the God of Israel on behalf of his people during its wilderness years. In subsequent months I noticed the Holy Spirit directing me to pray for needs around me.

Two months after I graduated from university, at 6:00am on a Monday morning, I woke up in my small apartment with the tremendous presence of the Holy Spirit upon me. After I stumbled around looking for the light switch, Jesus Christ gave me by anointed prophecy a direct call and mandate as an intercessor. I found this to be a deeply rattling experience for many months afterwards; however, confirmation proceeded to come in multiple ways.

I have never been called to word ministry (i.e. church leadership, pastor, missionary, evangelist, etc. as listed in Ephes. 4:11-15). These individuals are tasked with presenting God's word to his people on a regular basis; training the church by word and example; and solving a host of local church problems which arise.

Whatever tasks are assigned to me in the service of Jesus Christ, the word of God and personalized training have been essential to their fulfilment. This book is to summarize my accomplishments toward this end.

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Introduction

During my early years as a Christian, I found the word ministry as well as entire assembly ministry of the 1970s and 1980s to be a unique opportunity to become grounded in the word of God, and to learn to translate the Bible into personal experience. It was a period during which the Holy Spirit was in the business of teaching God's will in an accelerated manner. I latched on to this at the time and have always been glad I did despite any and all shortcomings which were present in the church, his people, and myself.

Since some of my family have an interest in mining, I would compare the above-mentioned years to a general store outfitting a prospector with a grubstake for his exploration efforts. In subsequent years, which became decades, I encountered many problems to be solved in a period of very low anointing, which became something like learning to process low grade ore.

Particularly in my early years, the Holy Spirit from time to time made it easy to see what he wanted, as if he had put up a billboard alongside a highway. However, it eventually became far more difficult for me to understand his will and recognize his voice. Using another analogy from old west culture, it became reminiscent of learning to be methodical in tracking a beast or person through various types of terrain, and to read much by the signs or indications that were left behind. I believe this issue to be at the heart of Mt. 7:13-14, i.e. that it will take a concerted effort for disciples of Jesus Christ to establish God's will for themselves over their lifetimes.

Although the institutions of men may have a role for training for disciples of Jesus Christ, I suggest these are not the primary means by which God gets his people ready. My goal in this book is to express at a summary level the tools I have developed to help me fulfil my assigned role. It becomes significant for us as Christians to assimilate commentaries, studies, sermons, etc. in a convergent and businesslike manner. That said, listening to anointed word ministry when available will always be a top priority for me.

We read in Ezekiel 22 that in the years before the fall of ancient Israel, God was looking for an intercessor (e.g. like Moses) but was unable to find one. This is the role that Jesus Christ assumed when he took on the lowly mantle of humanity (Isa. 53, Heb. 7). I believe God is still looking for individuals today who can fill this role, and that he has inspired me to write this book.

A specific call of God implies an undertaking which must receive the strength of one's livelihood in a very short number of years on earth (Ps. 90). This book is to provide a point of reference for a response to a specific call of God, and to offer encouragement if you have experienced this.

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Interlude – 1 Corinth. 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

Chap.	Verse	Terse Summary	Epist. Cat.	Narr've	Inh'ce	Agenda	R'ships	Assem. Pract's	Base Subject	Base Ref.
1	10	Plea - uniform viewpt thru assem's	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	11	P. has rec'd reports of contention	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	12	Contention about side-taking for 5FM	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	13	Km of God is not divided among m'y	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	14	P. glad only baptized a few people	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	15	Story might have been bapt. into P.	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	16	One more person P. can remember	D2.1					x	One goal vs. disruptive indiv'ls	Ref. 2 Pet. 2:1f
	17	Message not by eloqu'ce or charisma	B1.3			x			Addressing sin, jmt to come	Ref. 2 Pet. 1:2-4
	18	Reject'n by world cf. gravity of msg	A1.1		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	19	Isa. 29:14 - a Div. point will be made	A1.2		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	20	Sophistic'd world made out as fools	A1.2		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	21	Div. pt. by rescue from perish msg	A1.2		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	22	World and religion look for s.th. else	B1.3			x			Addressing sin, jmt to come	Ref. 2 Pet. 1:2-4
	23	Marvelous msg is seen as absurd	B1.3			x			Addressing sin, jmt to come	Ref. 2 Pet. 1:2-4
	24	Msg about JX as God for all peoples	A1.3		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	25	Marvelous msg is capable of its job	A1.4		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	26	Call of God primarily rec'd by lowly	A1.3		x				Transfer of Divine mandate	Ref. Rom. 1:14-16
	27	Secular hum'n exposed by the lowly	B2.2			x			Business of the Km of God	Ref. 1 Cor. 15:58
	28	Secular hum'n exposed by the lowly	B2.2			x			Business of the Km of God	Ref. 1 Cor. 15:58
	29	It is to quell the boasting of humanity	B1.3			x			Addressing sin, jmt to come	Ref. 2 Pet. 1:2-4
	30	Is about present'n of JX by his people	A2.1		x				Israel legacy fulfilled in JX	Ref. Rom. 8:18-19
	31	Jerem. 9:24 - It is the only elevation	A2.1		x				Israel legacy fulfilled in JX	Ref. Rom. 8:18-19

(Appendix C2 contains a list of categories relating to the epistles.)

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SETTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Need for Training

The joy of receiving Jesus Christ, and of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, were vivid experiences for me. I wanted to relate these to others and to rejoice with other disciples. There was a desire to tell the world right now!

It turns out, however, that the selfishness of this world has a deep rooted hold on us in ways that are far worse than might have been expected, when exposed to the right circumstances. God's people are directed in many passages (e.g. Gal. 5; Eph. 4-5; 2 Pet. 1) to leave behind outright criminal and worldly behavior, and to be working on further improvements as well.

Such behavior when not addressed is not only a poor presentation to the world, but is a real concern before a holy God. God is very concerned that his small people not be misled or otherwise hurt due to unholy activities by those who minister in any public role (Mt. 18). Moreover, in the realm of ministry, God has committed himself to allowing a fair fight by the enemy, and unholy behavior can expose those in ministry of any capacity to attack.

God introduces his people to the kingdom of God with instances of the gifts of the spirit, answered prayer, etc. Disciples are not to become encamped upon such experiences, but are to recognize that extensive preparations are needed before such a marvelous culture can be fully entrusted to his people.

In order to find the safe exercise of gifts and ministry, God's people are to go through a period of training, similar to how businesses require employees to undergo training. To say the least, this is not straightforward, in that God doesn't put out bulletins that can be widely followed. His people must learn his voice and the witness within, and must learn how the Bible is applied. Anointed word ministry forms a crucial part of this training when available.

Another significant aspect of this training is what Jesus Christ calls "the cross" in Mt. 16, Lk. 9, and Lk. 14. The Holy Spirit puts you into a situation and tells you to stay; then he leaves you there until he has seen enough. The experience doesn't have to be sought out, i.e. God will bring it to a person who has readied himself. The ugliness and trauma is not to be underestimated, and this is a sufficient reason why being a disciple of Jesus Christ is not for the masses.

For those who can make it through their training, which will involve an emphasis on testing and earned rewards, the New Testament has some really soaring things to say (e.g. Rom. 8, Hebr. 11-12; Jn. 14:12-14). The charismatic movement of the 1900s repeatedly presented witness that such activities by the body of Christ would precede the second coming of Jesus.