



# THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

## PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

### **“A SANDWICH”**

#### **P.U.S.H. Series – Part 4A**

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A sandwich consists of two pieces of bread with meat, cheese, or other filling between them, taken as a light meal. However, the sandwich that will be discussed here is different from what we are used to. The filling represents the person being prayed for while the intercessors and Jesus represent the bread on both sides. Jesus is our great example of being an intercessor: our mediator between God and men. Indeed, Christians need to “stand in the gap” for all the people involved in any situation.

#### **1. Prayer is for Everyone**

We can be guided by our fingers on how and whom to pray for.

- 1.1 Thumb is for strangers.
- 1.2 Point Finger is for our enemies.
- 1.3 Middle Finger is for the authorities in church, school, and government.
- 1.4 Ring Finger is for the people close to our hearts.
- 1.5 Pinkie Finger is for ourselves. When we intercede, we forget what our needs are.

#### **2. “Standing in the Gap”**

- 2.1 Standing in the gap is exposing oneself for the protection of something or someone. The Scriptures share examples of “standing in the gap” for others.
- 2.2 The Lord was looking for someone to build the wall and stand in the gap on behalf of the land so He would not have to destroy it, but He found no one (Ezekiel 22:30).
- 2.3 God was hoping to find someone like Abraham who stood in the gap for Sodom and someone like Moses who pleaded on behalf of the Israelites.

#### **3. How can we stand in the gap?**

We can stand in the gap in three ways:

- 3.1 Interceding for others. Praying for others is the best way to stand in the gap. It is called the “powerhouse of God.” When we answer the call to prayer, we follow the command to pray (2 Timothy 1:3; Romans 15:30).
- 3.2 Serving Others. We are here to serve because the Lord served us first in the Washing of the Feet (John 13). We should pray and discover the right ministry for us. When someone is struggling in the Community, we should pray about how we can help and act on it. This is how we can share the love of God with them.
- 3.3 Being Vulnerable. Standing in the gap for others can only happen when we are vulnerable to the Holy Spirit. To be vulnerable is to allow ourselves to be seen, in heart, soul, and mind. Our relationship with God must be good before we can hear the call to help others. We will know when the Lord is prompting and leading us.

#### **Conclusion:**

Prayers are access to a great God yet we do not rate them highly. St. Paul is urging us to pray for others and all those in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 2:1-5). Thus, standing in the gap is important in our walk of faith.

#### **Reflection:**

1. How do you stand in the gap in any situation?
2. Will you be an intercessor and stand before God?
3. When others are asking for prayers, do we pray for them?

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