

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Bible Study

Who Is Running Interference For You?

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Football fans probably understand the term; “Run Interference”. It’s a football term which means offensive players block defensive players so the ball carrier can advance. When this idea is applied in other areas of life, it means to intervene on someone's behalf. It is to protect someone from distraction, annoyance, obstruction, etc., which might impede their progress.

To run interference is to handle problems or help clear the way for another, as in ‘The press secretary runs interference for the governor.’ It is to help someone accomplish their goal.



I spent the first half of my career consulting to management and sales organizations in large technology companies. My job was to help my clients improve the efficiency (faster, cheaper) and effectiveness (better) of their organizations. Without exception, when we asked managers and sales professionals to identify the greatest obstacle to their productivity, the answer was; “CORPORATE.” The very executive team that demanded of them greater efficiency and effectiveness was the number one obstruction to those ends.

It was always interesting bring those executives into the meeting room and have their teams detail the ways executives could eliminate blockages and free their teams up to do their jobs better, faster and cheaper.

“A camel is a horse designed by a committee.” Mark Twain

In these cases, the management and sales teams would appoint a person to ‘run interference for them – and basically, alert upper-level leadership to productivity robbing minutia.

How about in your family? Who most often runs interference? Is it Mom? Does Mom clear the way for the kids to get to school on time, get their homework done, take care of administrative details, get to doctor appointments, take the right medications? Is it Mom who keeps Dad on track with important dates, the names of the people they recently met, the places each kid must be transported each day, etc.? Thank goodness for MOM!



How about your spiritual life? Who is running interference for you? Let’s start with Jesus. Before you met Jesus, your life was ruled by sin and the ways of this world. When you turned to Christ, his payment for your sins released you of your sin debt. It freed you from the bonds of this world.

Luke 2: 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This passage does NOT mean that Jesus came to bring peace between men, rather to bring peace between man and God. Without Jesus’ blood sacrifice, we are enemies of God because of our sin. Jesus not only cleansed us of sin, He is the conduit between man and God.

Romans 8:34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is **interceding** for us.

Colossians 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

1 John 2: 1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

To intercede, or to advocate, is to ‘run interference’ for the Christian. We still live in a fallen world, and we are imperfect, but through Jesus, we are pure in God’s eyes.

Philippians 4: 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

The Holy Spirit also runs interference for you.

Romans 8:14 For all who are being **led** by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:26-27 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.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

Galatians 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is that one-to-one connection between you and Jesus. The Gaithers wrote a song called The Unseen Hand. This verse seems to capture this connection:

**There is an unseen hand to me, that leads through ways I cannot see
While going through this world of woe this hand still leads me as I go.**

Finally, there are your fellow Christians. They may consist of your pastor, a teacher, your friend, your family member. They may run interference for you by praying for you, by teaching you, or by encouraging you in your Christian walk.

1 Corinthians 12:12 - For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

Hebrews 10: 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Matthew 18:20 - For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

OK, we've answered our topic question. By God's design, the Christian has multiple forces running interference FOR them. So, let's now ask: "...WHY?"

Why has God surrounded the Christian on three sides with those who intercede, advocate, encourage, teach and run interference for them? WHY?

The answer is simple, yet profound: God did not intend for the Christian to be idle. The number one conveyance of the truths of God is His Word. The number one conveyance of the Gospel of Christ is the testimony of Christians.

Romans 10: 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? 15 And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Glorifying God is so much more than what we do in a worship service. By sharing God's word with the unsaved, we are glorifying God. It is the real-life application of what we are taught, encouraged and supported to do. We are to eagerly carry the ball toward the goal and Jesus, the Holy Spirit and our fellow Christians will run interference. In doing so, we are fulfilling Jesus' command:

Mark 16: 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned....

This is why we were saved. This is why Jesus came. This is why He intercedes for us. This is why He gave us the Holy Spirit. This is why our fellow Christians pray for us, teach us, and encourage us, so we can proclaim the truth of God OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.

This is why.

This is why.