



### A Prayer Manual for the Body of Christ

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#### **Luke 11:1**

### 1. Why must the Lord teach us to pray?

- **a.** Disciples of Jesus have only one rabbi and teacher: the Christ. (Matthew 23:8-10)
- **b.** Our Lord Jesus is Revelation the Truth who sets us free and the Word made flesh. (John 1:14, 8:32; 14:6)
- **c.** We are the Lord's covenant people. He intends to write His revealed truth and will on our hearts through Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth who can lead us into all truth. (*Jeremiah 31:33-34; John 16:12-15*)
- **d.** The Lord speaks by Holy Spirit through His written Word, the scriptures of the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) He also speaks through the gift of teachers who equip the saints for ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-16) Remember: the Spirit of Truth works in and through both teachers and learners, and all the Lord's teachers must be life-long learners.

#### 2. How do we learn?

- **a.** We must be hearers and doers. (*Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-25*) You cannot learn to pray without praying.
- **b.** We cannot learn to pray well simply by praying. The Lord will teach us how to pray as He wants us to pray if we are willing to become new wineskins. (*Luke 5:36-39*). We must be willing to examine ourselves and where needed, repent. (*Psalm 139:23-24; Revelation 3:14-22*)
- **c.** Pray to learn to pray "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Your	No	tes		

# Pray Without Ceasing

#### 1st Thessalonians 5:17

#### 1. What is prayer?

- **a.** Talking to God (Genesis 4:26)
- **b.** Communicating with God
- **c.** Communion with God being with God walking with God (*Genesis 5:18-24; Micah 6:8; Psalm 16:8*)
- **d.** Prayer is paying attention to the God who is always paying attention to you. (*Psalm 139:1-16; Matthew 10:29-31*) [Try that right now...there, you did it! You prayed.]

#### 2. Who is involved in prayer?

- **a.** God and you, or God, you and others both individual and corporate prayer
- **b.** Who is God in prayer to a Christian?
  - 1. Your Loving Eternal Father in heaven (*Matthew 6:9, John 20:17*). He is all-powerful, all-wise, all-knowing holy, righteous and good. He is Love (1 John 4:8, 16).
  - 2. Your Savior King, Jesus Christ, who has "walked in your shoes" and dealt with your sin. (*Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 2:18, 4:15; John 1:29*) He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords, and has all authority in heaven and earth. (*Matthew 28:18; Revelation 17:14*)
  - 3. Holy Spirit dwelling within you. There is One God in three persons. Through Holy Spirit, the Father and Son can abide in you. (*John 14:23*) Remember, Holy Spirit is a person of God, the One to whom you pray. At the same time, Holy Spirit is one with our spirit, and stands ready to help us pray. (*1 Corinthians 6:17; Romans 8:26-27*)
- **c.** Who are you in prayer as a Christian?
  - 1. Believer (John 3:16; Romans 10:9)
  - 2. Servant (John 13:3-17; Mark 9:33-35)
  - 3. Disciple (John 12:26; Matthew 28:19-20). A disciple seeks to follow the Teacher wherever He goes, learn everything He has to teach, and become just like Him. (Luke 6:40; 1 John 2:4-6)
  - 4. Child of God and little brother or sister of Jesus (John 1:12-13; Romans 8:29). It is important to remember we are called to mature from infancy ("Nepios") to son-ship, becoming sons and daughters ("Huios") who walk in their inheritance. See the article, "Are You a Son of God?", at Appendix #1.
  - 5. Friend (John 15:15; Exodus 33:11) Other aspects of our identity in prayer, such as being a part of the roya priesthood, will be discussed later]
- **d.** Who are non-Christians in prayer (whether they are praying, or we are praying for them)?
  - 1. They are created and eternally loved by God.
  - 2. They are created in the image and likeness of God.
  - 3. They are the offspring of God. (Acts 17:28-29) (His kind, sort or species)
  - 4. They are sinners who fall short of the glory of God.
  - 5. They are people Christ died for when He paid the price for all sins of all people for all time. (1 John 2:2; Hebrews 9:26, 8:12)
  - 6. They are people the Lord desires to see repent and come into the Kingdom and everlasting life. (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9)
  - 7. They are blinded in one way or another by the enemy to keep them from grasping the truth and love of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4)

### **Your Notes**


		8. Remember: God hears every prayer of every person in the sense of being aware of the prayer, but chooses which prayers He will "hear" in the sense of giving audience to that prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:14; Jeremiah 7:16; 1 John 5:14-15)	Your Notes
3.	WI	nere do we pray?	
		Prayer is not "long distance". God is closer than the air you breathe. (Matthew 28:20; John 14:16-20)	
		"Prayer flares" — conversations with the Lord wherever you are	
	c.	Places and times you give God your undivided attention ( <i>Matthew 14:23; Luke 22:39</i> )  1. The prayer closet/secret place (Matthew 6:6) — really about avoiding "prayer for show"  2. The Tent of Meeting ( <i>Exodus 33:7-11</i> )	
		Now Moses used to take the tent and pitch it outside the camp, far off from the camp, and he called it the tent of meeting. And everyone who sought the LORD would go out to the tent of meeting, which was outside the camp. Whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people would rise up, and each would stand at his tent door, and watch Moses until he had gone into the tent. When Moses entered the tent, the pillar of cloud would descend and stand at the entrance of the tent, and the LORD would speak with Moses. And when all the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance of the tent, all the people would rise up and worship, each at his tent door. Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. (Exodus 33:7-11)	
		We can maintain a place of prayer that develops a sacred atmosphere	
		• We can become, both individually and together, a mobile tent of meeting wherever we are, if we honor the principle of "getting apart" from the distractions. (1 Corinthians 3:16)	
		• The "Tent of Meeting" also applies to corporate gatherings. (1 Peter 2:5)	
	d.	Atmospheres for prayer	
		1. The Nazareth atmosphere of unbelief (Matthew 13:53-58)	
		2. The Kingdom atmosphere of love, trust and faith (Matthew 6:9-10; Luke 11:2)	
		3. We can change the atmosphere (Matthew 5:13-16; John 12:3)	
4.	WI	nat are the purposes of prayer?	
		Thanksgiving, praise and worship	
		1. The four-step power of thanksgiving (Psalms 100, 136; Philippians 4:4-7)	
		A Psalm for giving thanks. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.	
		Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations. Psalm 100	
		• Remember good things that have happened in the past. This takes our focus off our present problems.	
		• Thank God for those good things. This clothes us in humility and dependence upon Him so that, childlike, we can enter His gates. (Matthew 18:3)	
		• Remember the good and loving God who provided in the past is also the good and loving God of our present and future. This empowers us to declare our trust and praise, so we can enter His courts.	
		• Strengthened in our hope, we can boldly and reverently come before God's Throne and present our burdens to Him with thanksgiving, knowing we are the sheep of His pasture and He is the same Good Shepherd yesterday, today and forever.	

	2. Worship as a love song duet	Your Notes
	• God has already revealed His love for you (John 3:16; John 15:13)	
	• Express your love and reverence back to God (Mark 12:30; 1 John 4:19)	
	• Receive back His expression of love for you (Proverbs 8:17; James 4:8)	
	• The Lord is enthroned on the praises of His people. (Psalm 22:3)	
b.	Confession & cleansing: (Matthew 5:8)	
	1. Confession of sin (Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9; James 5:15-16)	
	2. Confession of faith (Romans 10:8-10; Matthew 10:27-33)	
c.	Asking what God wants, and what He wants us to know (Exodus 33:7-11)	
d.	Asking for God's help for others or ourselves (Matthew 7:7-11)	
	1. "Intercede" or "intercession" refers generally to the act of intervening on behalf of another, or to intervening between parties with a view toward reconciling their differences. The Hebrew word, "pagah", can mean a meeting, striking, touching, speaking or other interposing of one on behalf of another. Jesus intercedes on our behalf. (Isaiah 53:12; Romans 8:34)	
	2. Intercessory prayer is the assignment we are given to intercede by prayer for others (1 Timothy 2:1). Our intervention by prayer opens the door for the Lord's intervention in the situation.	
e.	Soaking in God's presence. ( <i>Psalm 46:10; John 17:3</i> ) This can include meditative prayer ( <i>Psalm 1</i> ), listening, or just "hanging" with the Lord. We are all invited into the Holy of Holies. ( <i>Hebrews 10:19-22; Ephesians 2:4-7</i> )	
5. Is there a	Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. (Hebrews 10:19-22)	
"best	But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)	
proce	ss" for a daily life of prayer?	
a.	Seek to pay attention to God throughout your day, seeing Him in His creation, your circumstances, and particularly in the people around you made in His image. (Practicing the Presence of God, by Brother Lawrence)	
b.	Give God at least one significant time of undivided attention each day.	
c.	Remember prayer is sacred and holy, and at the same time, the most normal and natural activity we are designed to engage in. Intimacy and reverence combined. (Isaiah 11:2)	
d.	Enter His gates and courts with thanksgiving and praise. Cleanse your heart, embrace your identity, and meet in loving trust with your Father and King.	
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**Your Notes** 

"For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7)

#### 1. God's House is a people, not a building

- a. Isaiah 56:7 "bayith" is Hebrew for house, residence, household, family or lineage. The Greek word "oikos" in Mark 11:17 is the Greek equivalent of "bayith". [Side note: in the temple, Jesus contrasted a household of prayer vs. a den of thieves. Which gets more emphasis and reliance in the congregations and ministries you know, money or prayer?]
- **b.** God's people are the family and household of God! (*Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:4-5*)
  - 1. We are descendants by faith of Abraham (Romans 4:16-17)
  - 2. The Abrahamic or Hebrew expansion of family is marriage, family, clan, tribe and nation. We are "a chosen race" ("genos"), "a holy nation" ("ethnos"), "a people for His own possession" ("laos"). (1 Peter 2:9-10)
  - 3. Prayer meetings are family gatherings with our Father and our King
    - These meetings should take place at every level of God's family: marriage, parents and children, extended family, congregational groups, and multiple congregations.
    - The married couple can be the most powerful prayer team on the planet! (Genesis 2 and Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 18:19)
- **c.** We are, as the royal family, the royal priesthood. (1 Peter 2:9; Hebrews 4:13-15)
  - 1. Priests minister to God on behalf of the people and to the people on behalf of God. This definitely includes prayer! (2 Chronicles 30:27)
  - 2. Every disciple is part of the royal priesthood. Think of it as the "family business". And by "every disciple" is meant both male and female. (Genesis 1:27-28; Galatians 3:25-29). [There is much confusion in the Body of Christ about the roles of women in ministry, but no controversy over their ability to pray. For a fresh scriptural examination of the issue of women in ministry, see the article, "Women Are Key to the Next Great Awakening", at Appendix #2.]
  - 3. The royal priesthood is the only New Testament priesthood.
- **d.** We are the "Ekklesia" [Church] of Jesus Christ His assembly of called-out people (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23)
  - We are the expression and representation of the Kingdom of God on earth. (*Revelation 1:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*)
  - From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard Him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

We have Kingdom responsibilities we are to meet, and we have Kingdom authority under the authority of the King of Kings. (Matthew 13:31-33; 16:19) [See the article, "Kingdom Problems Require Kingdom Solutions", at Appendix #3]

2.	Do	es a "house of prayer for all peoples" mean "all peoples pray" or we "pray for all peoples"?	Your Notes
	a.	Yes!	
		The context of Isaiah 56 is God desires and invites all people, including eunuchs and foreigners, to become part of His household. (1Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9) This is the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 14:21-23)	
	c.	The commands to pray in 2 Chronicles 7:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Matthew 7:7-11, James 4:1-3, and Ephesians 6:18 are clearly for all God's people to obey.	
3.	3. \	Why do so few people pray together?	
	a.	If you don't pray "out loud", you cannot pray in agreement.	
	b.	People think of "praying out loud" with others like they think of public speaking.	
	c.	People are not taught.	
	d.	People forget who they are and most important, who God is.	
4.	The	e "House Rules": Ten Principles of Intercessory Prayer	
	1.	Relationship is the most important thing about prayer, not what God can do for you or through you. (1 John 1:3-4; John 17:20-23; Psalms 84:10 and 100)	
		"I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me." (John 17:20-23)	
	2.	Prayer is the fundamental work of the people of God.	
		a. Our destiny to do the works Jesus did, and even greater works, is interlocked with our need to pray. (John 14:12-14; John 15:16)	
		<b>b.</b> Prayer is how we learn from the Lord what we are to do and say (John 5:19, 12:49; Isaiah 11:2)	
		c. A Church without prayer is a Church without wisdom, strategy or power. (James 1:5; Joshua 5:13-6:5) We don't receive because we don't ask. (James 4:2-3; Matthew 7:7-11) Just as examples, the Lord tells us to pray for His Kingdom to come, for our daily nourishment, for protection against the evil one, and for more laborers in the work of the Kingdom. (Matthew 6:10-13; 9:38)	
		<b>d.</b> We take the field, but the battle belongs to the Lord. (1 Samuel 17:47; Zechariah 4:6) The Lord has assigned responsibility for earth to mankind, and awaits our prayers for His involvement. (Genesis 1:26-31; Psalm 8:3-8; Psalm 115:16)	
	3.	God is aware of every prayer, but only gives audience to them according to His terms. (2 Chronicles 7:14; 1 John 5:14-15)	
		a. You can pray rightly or wrongly, weakly or strongly.	
		b. When God does give audience to our prayers, there are four possible answers:	
		• Yes	
		• No	
		• Wait	
		• "I have a better idea"	

Ve must pray "in Jesus' name": the agenda of Jesus, not the agenda of self. John 14:13-14, 15:16, 16:23-27)	Your Notes
Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.(John 14:13-14)	
You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. (John 15:16)	
In that day you will ask nothing of Me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.	
I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf, for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. (John 16:23-27)	
a. Jesus is the only Way to the Father. (John 14:6)	
<b>b.</b> We live on this earth as ambassadors and representatives of our King. (2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 1:22-23) As the Father sent Jesus, so He sends us. (John 20:21)	
c. We are called to die to self so we can live for and in Him. (Luke 9:23-24; John 15:4-5; Galatians 2:20-21)	
<b>d.</b> If we pray the will of the Lord, we know He has given audience to our prayer, and we have what we have asked! (1 John 5:14-15) It is best to always pray to ask the Lord what to pray.	
<b>e.</b> Fasting is a spiritual discipline of self-denial that helps us draw closer to the Lord and focus on His will. (Matthew 6:16-18, 17:19-21; Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Corinthians 9:25-27; Joel 2:11-18; Isaiah 58:1-12)	
Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:25-27)	
here are at least three power levels for prayer: Hope, Trust and Faith.	
<b>a.</b> Hope is a gift of God, who is the God of hope. (1 Corinthians 13:13; Romans 15:13) Hope can range from "lottery ticket hope" to eager expectancy, but it is not certainty. (1 Samuel 1:9-16)	
<b>b.</b> Trust is faith in the Person even though you may have hope, rather than certainty, about what you are requesting. ( <i>Genesis 22:1-18; Luke 22:39-46</i> ) The key is, "Nevertheless, not my will but Thy will be done." ( <i>Luke 11:9-13; Philippians 4:6-7</i> )	
c. Faith "without doubt" in prayer is faith in the Person and godly certainty in what you are requesting. (Mark 11:22-24; James 1:5-8; 1 John 5:14-15) You have what you asked.	
1. This level of faith in prayer may be what Paul was describing as the spiritual gift of faith. (1 Corinthians 12:9)	
2. This level of faith in prayer should apply to all promises in God's Word. (2 Corinthians 1:20)	
A pure heart prays best. (Matthew 5:8; 1 Peter 3:12)	
<ul> <li>The Greek word, "katharos", can mean pure, purified, cleansed, pruned, or unadulterated (not mixed with other things)</li> </ul>	

	purify our heart in two ways: Seek to make the Lord and His will our single priority and focus. <i>(Luke 14:26-35)</i>	Your Notes
	"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be My disciple.	
	For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'	
	Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace.	
	So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple. "Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored?	
	It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away.	
	He who has ears to hear, let him hear."(Luke 14:26-35)	
2.	Confess and purify our heart from sin. (Proverbs 28:13; James 5:15-16)	
	• Forgive all others. (Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:26-32)	
	Forgive yourself! (2 Corinthians 5:17; Mark 12:31)	
1 TI	also cooperate as God purifies our heart in ways only He can. (John 15:1-2; Malachi 3:2-3; hessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Corinthians 3:18) Maturity and purity go hand in hand, and we need h other to get there. (Ephesians 4:1-16)	
h e y	I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, rager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one Body and one Spirit- just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all	
s t c c s	And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the aints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, peaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each cart is working properly, makes the Body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16)	
ssion	and Perseverance bring Power to Prayer!	
	hout right motive, prayer is ineffective. (James 4:3) Without love, prayer is empty. (1 Corinthians The fervent prayers of the righteous have great power. (James 5:16-18; Romans 12:11)	
	severance in prayer is an expression of faith, not a denial of it. (Luke 18:2-8; Daniel 10:1-14) Lord's command is to "keep asking", "keep seeking" and "keep knocking". (Luke 11:5-13)	
to k (Jol	th passion (intensity) and perseverance (consistency) allow the accumulation of prayer power break through opposition. One combination of passion and perseverance is travailing prayer. In 7:38; John 11:32-34, 38; Luke 22:41-44; Galatians 4:19) Note: travail may, if not led by the rit, just give birth to "wind". (Isaiah 26:17-18)	

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8.	Nur	nbers are important, but teamwork is even more important. (Ephesians 4:1-16)	<b>Your Notes</b>
	a.	The divine law of multiplication: five can chase one hundred, but one hundred can chase ten thousand. ( <i>Leviticus 26:7-8</i> )	
	b.	Anything is available for those in one mind and accord with each other and the Lord. (Matthew 18:18-20) Note: this teaching sits between teachings on reconciliation and forgiveness. A household divided will fall, but a household in unity will be anointed with God's Presence and power. (Matthew 12:25; Psalm 133)	
		A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore. (Psalm 133)	
	c.	There are no "lone rangers". Even the strongest spiritual leaders need people to come alongside them in prayer. (Exodus 17:10-13)	
		will always pray God's will if you pray in His Word or pray in the Spirit. in 4:23-24; Romans 8:26-27)	
	a.	The Bible is both written and understood through Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 16:13) To pray God's Word is to pray His will. (Psalm 119; Matthew 6:9-13; Psalm 22; Ephesians 3:14-21)	
		For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith- that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.	
		Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:14-21)	
	b.	To pray in the languages (tongues) of Holy Spirit is to permit God to pray through you. (1 Corinthians 14:1-20; Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20)	
		1. Remember praying in spiritual language builds you up spiritually. (1 Corinthians 14:4)	
		2. Remember a person who has not yet received the gift of spiritual language can have Holy Spirit pray through them with "groanings" too deep for words". (Romans 8:26)	
		3. The Greek word used in Romans 8:26 for the "help" Holy Spirit gives in prayer is "synamtilambanomai", a combination of three Greek root words that together mean, "to strive in partnership with another to obtain something".	
10.		The Lord stands ready to do more through prayer than we can ask or imagine! (Ephesians 3:20-21; Isaiah 55:8-9)	
	a.	All things are possible for God, and for those who believe! (Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23)	
	b.	We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us! (Philippians 4:13)	
	c.	If God is for us, who can be against us!? (Romans 8:31)	
	d.	The powers of hell cannot prevail against a loving, believing, praying people of God!  (Matthew 16:18)	

### Watchmen on the Walls

**Your Notes** 

"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have set watchmen; all the day and all the night they shall never be silent. You who put the LORD in remembrance, take no rest, and give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes it a praise in the earth.

(Isaiah 62:6-7)

1. Our true battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of evil in this world. (Ephesians 6:10-18)

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.... (Ephesians 6:10-18

- **a.** God's people cannot continue to focus on worldly solutions. The Lord told us to pray for protection against the evil one. (*Matthew 6:13*) Our weapons have divine power to address the real roots of the problems around us the supernatural deceptions of the father of lies. (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5; John 8:44*)
- **b.** God's people cannot continue to operate like the churches of Sardis (empty works) and Laodicea (a people content to stay who they are). (Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22) We must become a Kingdom people utilizing Kingdom weapons for a Kingdom mission. (*Matthew 6:10, 13:1-52*)
- **c.** We are to walk as Jesus walked and do the works He did. (1 John 2:6; John 14:12) Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8) He went about filled with Holy Spirit and power, healing all who were oppressed by the devil. (Acts 10:38)
- **d.** We must humble ourselves, turn from our wicked, selfish and religious ways, and seek the Lord in prayer. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- 2. "Watchmen" are not just observers, or even sentries. The Hebrew word, "shamar", means watchman, guard, gatekeeper, preserver and protector. Watchmen care for and guard. They "watch and ward".
  - **a.** Ezekiel was appointed a watchman for Israel a prophetic voice to both warn and encourage. (Ezekiel 3:17, 33:1–16) Note: he was told failure to perform his calling would render the watchman responsible for the failures of the people. (Ezekiel 33:6; Acts 20:26–27)
  - **b.** Watchmen watch for and joyfully proclaim the return of the Lord to His people. (Isaiah 52:7-8)
  - c. Watchmen take their posts and look to see what God will say to them for the people. (Habakkuk 2:1)
  - **d.** Watchmen open the gate for the Lord! (John 10:1-3)
  - e. Watchman walk the streets. (Song of Solomon 3:2-3) Prayer walks can be a powerful strategy of the Lord.

assignment of watchman is, in fact, a fundamental assignment to mankind on the earth. (Genesis 2:15)	
And the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and "guard and keep" ["shamar"] it. (Genesis 2:15 AMP)	
Ve must have watchmen on all the walls.	
. Watchmen for your home and family. (Job 1:1-5)	
. Watchmen for your neighborhoods and schools, etc. (Matthew 5:43-48)	
Watchmen for your civic and spiritual leaders. (1 Timothy 2:2; Ephesians 6:19)	
. Watchmen for your city and region (Acts 1:8)	
. Watchmen for your nation and the world, including your enemies (Acts 1:8; Matthew 5:44-48)	
Vatchmen must develop prayer networks because it takes organization and teamwork to guard and, where necessary, build all the walls. (Nehemiah 3 and 4) This can be easily accomplished if eople will see the need. [See the article, "We Must Learn to Pray Together", at Appendix #3]	
he motto of the watchman is "Persevering Prayer!" We give God no rest (this requires prayer).	
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And we take no rest (perseverance). The enemy does not take holidays.  1 Peter 5:8-9; Philippians 3:12-14)  Watchmen can open spiritual gates for the King of Glory, who comes in power with blessings.  Psalm 24; John 10:1-3; Luke 4:18-21)	
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3.

4.

5.

6.

c.	We must pray for revelation, wisdom and understanding for ourselves and others. (Isaiah 11:2; Ephesians 1:16-21)	Your Notes
	I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His great might that He worked in Christ when He raised him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (Ephesians 1:16-21)	
	1. Truth is the key to spiritual awakening because the primary weapon of the enemy is the lie, and the truth sets us free! (John 8:32, 44) Pray particularly for a revelation of God's love. (Ephesians 3:17-19)	
	<ol> <li>Remember — Holy Spirit came to this world to convince people of sin, righteousness an judgment. (John 16:8-11) And Holy Spirit works through you and me.</li> </ol>	
d.	We must pray for the spiritual blindness of people to be removed so they can "see" and receive. (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Luke 4:18) Nothing is more in the will of God than to pray for people to repent and come into the Kingdom of God. (2 Peter 3:9) The Greek word for "repent" is "metanoia", which means "change your mind", that is, "come into the knowledge of the truth". (1 Timothy 2:4) Pray in love and then witness in love by deed an truth. (1 John 3:18) Persevere.	
e.	We must pray for healings and deliverance. (Mark 16:17-18) These are works Jesus did as expressions of His Kingdom coming to the earth. (Matthew 4:23-24; Luke 4:18-21)	
f.	We must bless people and places. (Revelation 1:6; Deuteronomy 10:8-9; Numbers 6:22-27)	
	The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them," The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance1 upon you and give you peace. So shall they put My name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them." (Numbers 6:22-27)	
g.	We can repent on behalf of people we represent. (Daniel 9:4-19) We can ask God to forgive others and declare forgiveness for others. (John 20:23; 1 John 5:16-17) This empowers the destruction of territorial and cross-generational strongholds. (1 John 1:8-9)	
h.	We can dislodge the forces of darkness that obstruct spiritual awakening. ( <i>Ephesians 6:12; Luke 10:19, 11:21-22</i> ) This may include strongholds of religion, witchcraft, mammon (greed), lust & perversion, and antichrist (such as Islam and humanism).	
i.	We can change the atmosphere around us by releasing rivers of living water. (John 7:38; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Revelation 22:1-2)	
	<ol> <li>We need to understand how natural rivers are created: by a combination of rills bubbling forth from the earth and rain/snow falling from the sky. The rills group to form streams, then brooks, then small rivers, then mighty rivers.</li> </ol>	
	4. We are the rills the Lord can use to create the spiritual river of revival. Remember — we are "earth ("adam"), and at the same time, we are each a spiritual gate connecting heaven and earth. (Genesis 28:12; John 1:51)	
j.	We can pray up divine walls of protection. (Zechariah 2:5; Job 1:10)	

Land", at Appendix #4]	
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.	
Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you.  (Titus 2:11-15)	
Watchmen need both sight and vision: natural and spiritual sight to discern the challenges and ns around them and vision to see how God wants it to be. (1 Chronicles 12:32; 2 Kings 6:17; Proverbs 29:18; n 10:10; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Isaiah 60-62; Revelation 21)	
Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)	
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Watchmen must understand their authority under the Lord's authority. (Luke 10:19) What has already been bound and loosed in heaven, we are to bind and loose on earth. (Matthew 16:19, 18:18) We must remember — authority is always tied to submission. (James 4:7) And the Lord promotes those who are faithful. (Matthew 25:14-29)  His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.1 You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master! (Matthew 25:21and 23)	
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### About the Author

Doug Tweed and his wife, Christie, are the founders and lead ministers of Friends of the King Ministries in Kingsport, Tennessee.

A former trial lawyer with the U.S. Marine Corps (JAG) and thereafter, a large Kingsport law firm, Doug had a "Damascus Road" experience in 1991 that turned his life right-side-up. In 1994, he left legal practice to attend Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, and enter a lifestyle of ministry. He pastored in several Kingsport area United Methodist churches, including twelve years at St. Mark House of Prayer. Doug was also a co-founder of Mustard Seed Ministries, providing Christian counseling, prayer and mediation services, and the Kingsport Chamber of Prayer, which provided daily intercessory prayer for the Kingsport region.

Doug's extensive involvement in prayer ministries includes service as lead organizer for a Kingsport Area Citywide 9/11 Remembrance Service in 2002 and a Ten Day Kingsport Area Citywide Prayer Summit in 2005. He writes a monthly column for the religion section of the Kingsport Times-News.

Doug and Christie have two beautiful daughters (Jen and Jes), two wonderful sons-in-law (Micah Morlock and Shannon Williams), and three terrific grandchildren (Joshua, Mia and Elijah). Their passionate desire is to see a great spiritual awakening come to the Kingsport/Gate City/Tri-Cities region. Please visit their website at friendsofthekingministries.org.

### Doug's "Short List" of Books about Prayer

- 1. Dutch Sheets; *Intercessory Prayer*
- 2. Richard Foster; **Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home**
- 3. Gary Thomas; Seeking the Face of God
- 4. Derek Prince; **Secrets of a Prayer Warrior**
- 5. Andrew Murray; **Prayer and the Coming Revival**
- 6. Jack Hayford; The Beauty of Spiritual Language
- Robert O. Bakke; *The Power of Extraordinary Prayer* (a history of how prayer brings revival)

Appendix

# Are You A Son Of God?

### "For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:19)

Two of the most misunderstood Greek words in the New Testament are "huios", which our English bibles translate "son", and "huiothesia", which we translate "adoption".

The proper understanding of "huios" is not simply "male child". It is a child who has matured in his father's opinion to the point he can be identified publically as his heir and begin to be entrusted with his inheritance.

"Huiothesia" is the public declaration by the father that his matured child is now officially his heir, and that he will begin to entrust him with inheritance.

The most important example of "huios" is Jesus, the only begotten Son of God. (Mark 1:1; John 3:16) The most important example of "huiothesia" is Jesus' baptism, where the Father publically declared Jesus His beloved "huios". (Matthew 3:16-17) At that time, Jesus received from His Father the anointing of Holy Spirit, who would empower His ministry on earth as the Christ (the Anointed One).

The next most important examples of "huios" are supposed to be you and me. We become God's child (Greek word, "teknon") when we embrace Jesus by faith as our Savior and King. (John 1:12-13) But we are not supposed to remain infants (Greek word, "nepios") in Christ. (1 Corinthians 3:1). It is our Father's predetermined plan for us to mature and become sons of God who are entrusted with divine inheritance on this earth like Jesus was. (Romans 8:14-29)

These are the Christians who walk as Jesus walked, do the works He did, and embrace His purpose to reconcile all things to God. (1 John 2:3-6; John 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21) Creation is eagerly awaiting them to show up so this broken world can be set free.

Are you maturing as a child of God? Are you developing the faith and character God can trust with Kingdom inheritance? Are you a son of God?

I only have room here to list a few of the characteristics of a son of God. Join me in prayerful self-examination. How many of these are developing in your life?

Sons of God are male or female. It is a matter of your heart, not your gender. (Genesis 1:26-28; Galatians 3:25-29; Acts 2:17-18)

Sons of God know themselves to be new creations, born of God and no longer just of man — in this world but no longer of this world.

Sons of God trust God, Jesus Christ and the Bible completely.

Sons of God know God's love, and love God deeply in return. They are reverent, intimate worshippers.

Sons of God hunger for God's revealed Presence. They watch constantly for God's activity around them.

Sons of God know God's love for others and, through Holy Spirit, have agape love for everyone God loves.

Sons of God are devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. They want to follow Him everywhere He leads them and learn everything He has to teach them. They aspire to be just like Him.

Sons of God are led by the Spirit of Christ. They have eagerly received the baptism of Holy Spirit, including the spiritual gifts the Lord has for them.

Sons of God are friends of Jesus who understand and share His vision.

Sons of God live humble lives as servants and living sacrifices, laying down their personal agendas daily to embrace God's agenda. They never seek glory for themselves, only for their Lord.

Sons of God seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness for themselves and the world around them. They do not focus on treasures of earth.

Sons of God are peace-makers who help others find healing and wholeness. They embrace their purpose as the royal priesthood, ambassadors for Christ, salt and light.

Sons of God are knitted properly together in the Body of Christ and accountable to each other. They are not lone rangers.

Sons of God pray all the time, both for intimacy with God and to intercede for others.

Sons of God earnestly and prayerfully study scripture. They never stop learning truth.

Sons of God are resolved to shed every encumbrance and sin, as the Lord reveals them, so they can be sanctified completely in spirit, soul and body.

Sons of God love good. They hate evil and stand against it.

Sons of God know their authority under the Lord's authority. They utilize the keys of the Kingdom.

Sons of God live in the peace and joy of their salvation.

Jesus once said, "Many are called but few are chosen." (Matthew 22:14) You and I have been called to be sons of God. Will we be chosen? Do we want to be chosen?

All creation awaits our answer.

God bless you, and God bless our community.

Appendix #2

# Women Are Key to the Next Great Awakening

#### "The Lord gives the word [of power]; the women who bear and publish [the news] are a great host. (Psalm 68:11 AMP)

God created mankind in His image, both male and female, to have lordship under His lordship on the earth. The woman He called man's "helper", a term of honor God often used for Himself. (Exodus 18:4; Psalms 54:4) The two were clothed in glory.

Then sin came. The serpent tempted woman, the "rookie" in Paradise, who then tempted the man who loved her. Now they would be clothed in animal skins rather than glory.

Now, exiled into a harsh world, woman would have to carry children in her womb longer so they could survive after birth. And woman would find herself married not to godly man but to fallen man: men who seek not just dominion over the earth but over her. Since they carried weapons while the women carried babies, men would succeed in lording over women even while they fought to lord over each other. (Genesis 3:16, 4:8)

And so it has been ever since. The Taliban attitude toward women is as old as sin itself.

Once God entered covenant with the Hebrew people, He began to reveal how wrong it was to treat woman like man now treated her. Honor your mother, He commanded! Honor marriage! Treasure and praise a godly wife! (Proverbs 31:10-31)

God chose women like Miriam and Huldah to prophesy His word. He chose Esther, made a queen "for such a time as this", to be a savior of His people. And He chose Deborah to judge all of Israel. If it was not within God's will for a woman to preach, teach or lead, these things could never have occurred.

Then Jesus came. God chose both a special man and woman to rear His Son, and both a male and female prophet to declare this baby the Christ. (Luke 4:25-38) From the outset of His ministry, Jesus was followed by both men and women, with the women proving more faithful in the end.

Jesus personally revealed His divine identity to both a prestigious man and a marginalized woman. (John 3, 4) He invited women to do what no other rabbi had ever permitted: sit at His feet and learn. (Luke 10:39) And when He rose from the dead, Jesus told those faithful women first, and had them tell the men! (Matthew 28:9-10; John 20:1-18)

Perhaps nothing demonstrates man's sinful tendency to lord it over women more than this. The men did not believe the women Jesus sent. (Mark 16:11) Jesus rebuked them for that. (v. 14)

As to the Church, Jesus told all His disciples they would be His witnesses in the world, and to wait for power from on high. As prophesied by Joel, the Holy Spirit was poured down at Pentecost on 120 men and women, and they were all filled with God! Sons and daughters! Male servants and maidservants of the Lord!

In the years that follow Pentecost, despite continued male domination in the general culture, Chloe and Lydia would head households that hosted home churches. The four daughters of Philip would prophesy. Phoebe would be recognized as a deacon. Priscilla and her husband, Aquila, would be Paul's beloved co-workers in the Gospel and together teach a powerful preacher, Apollos, the fullness of that Gospel. (Acts 18:26) Another married couple, Andronicus and Junia, would be called "outstanding among the apostles". (Romans 16:7)

If women cannot preach, teach or lead in the Church, these things could not occur. So what happened? How did so much of the Church come to later believe women were still second-class citizens? Where did we lose the great truth: "There is no longer male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus ... heirs according to promise"? (Galatians 3:28-29)

As could be expected, the new-found freedoms of women in Christ led to some "rookie" mistakes, particularly as to marriage. Christian marriage is the core of Christian family which is the core of Christian community, and the Lord does not want divisive marriage any more than He wants a divided Church. So God clarified through Paul that in areas where they could not reach agreement, the wife should respect and submit to the husband. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Note: the wife was called to submit, not to obey as a child obeys a parent or a servant his master. And a husband is to cherish his wife like Aquila and Andronicus, drawing out her splendor rather than quenching it. A husband's lordship of his wife is not that of sinful man, who lords over people, but of godly man like Christ, who sacrifices and serves. (Matthew 20:25-28)

Paul also addressed situations in church meetings where some wives were speaking out in ways that seemed disrespectful to their husbands. He told them to address those matters at home. (1 Corinthians 14:33-36; 1 Timothy 2:11-15)

Note: the Greek word for "wife" can also mean "woman", but Paul consistently used different Greek words for "man" and "husband" and also used different words for "male" and "female". It is clear from this Paul was asking "wives", not "women", to be silent rather than teach or assert authority over their husband. Paul had already specifically honored the right of women to pray and prophesy in church meetings. (1 Corinthians 11:5)

Unfortunately, the Church did not prove over time to be immune from Greek culture or the Roman Empire, both of which were still ruled by sinful men. The

Church regressed back to an Old Testament model of priests and people, rather than a royal priesthood of believers. Only men were appointed. Then when the New Testament was translated into Latin, Paul's words were changed. Women, not wives, were told to be silent. And so it has been ever since.

I could share some very woman-demeaning quotations from respected theologians like Augustine and Thomas Aquinas, and even unsupportable efforts made to change Junia's name to male and purge the female reference in Psalm 68:11.

I could discuss the grave error of thinking the only way to give women equality is to declare these misunderstood scriptures are no longer authoritative, thus "throwing out the baby with the bathwater".

Instead I will simply point out how John Wesley empowered women to preach and pray in the First Great Awakening, and how Charles Finney did the same in the Second Great Awakening, and how both women and men led the Azusa Street Revival, and how glorious are the gifts and callings of Anne Graham Lotz, Mother Teresa, Beth Moore, Joyce Meyer, Kay Arthur, Heidi Baker and countless other sisters in Christ.

Satan broke up the male-female team in the Garden. Jesus fixed it. If we want another Great Awakening, we must embrace what Jesus did. God bless you, and God bless our community.

Appendix #3

## Kingdom Problems Require Kingdom Solutions

### "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

The ability to identify and solve problems is vitally important in every field of human endeavor. We sometimes call it "critical thinking", and no step is more critical than the first step: fully identifying the problem.

Failure to accurately and fully identify a problem will inevitably lead to a wrong or inadequate solution.

As an example, you have pain in your abdomen. The proper definition of the problem is, "Something is wrong within my body and causing pain". You seek out the source of the "dis-ease", find the cancer and initiate plans to cure it.

However, if you simply define the problem as "I have pain", your solution can be pain medication. The problem you defined — the pain — will go away, but the cancer will kill you.

My friends, even the life or death issue of cancer is less important than the "everlasting life" issue of our relationship with God. Yet tragically, the Church has failed in this most critical area to fully identify the real problems. As a result, we live inadequate lives, witness to an inadequate solution, and have too little influence on the world.

To correctly understand our problems, we must think from a Kingdom of God perspective. This is, after all, the gospel Jesus proclaimed. (Mark 1:14-15; Acts 1:3)

Simply put, the Kingdom of God is the wise, benevolent rule of a loving God over those who trust, obey and depend upon Him. Both heaven and earth were created as expressions of this Kingdom. God chose to dwell in heaven amidst angels under His authority, and chose mankind to dwell on earth under His authority. It was all "very good". (Genesis 1:31)

But then the problem arose — a decision by some to come out from under the Lord's authority and rule on their own. This problem is best understood in Kingdom terms as "rebellion"

Rebellion first arose in heaven as Satan led many angels to defy God. (Revelation 12) Rebellion then arose on earth as mankind was tempted by that same prince of rebels to "be like God" and decide on their own what would be good and evil. (Genesis 3)

This root problem of rebellion immediately led to other problems. Mankind's rebellion would not really mean "self-rule" but, instead, coming under the rule of the prince of rebels. (1 John 5:19) Our "flesh", having tasted independence from God, would seek to remain independent — hence, the biblical concept of the "old self". (Romans 6:6) And independence from God's rule also separated us from the benefits of His rule: wisdom, protection, authority and provision, including the provision of life itself. The consequences of sin include death. (Romans 6:23)

Rebellion in heaven was a problem soon resolved. The rebellious angels were thrown out and are destined for everlasting punishment at the time all rebellion will be judged. (Luke 10:18; Matthew 25:41)

God's love for mankind, however, prevents Him from treating the rebellion on earth in the same way. For us, His solution must restore the Kingdom on earth while allowing the preservation of our lives, which means reconciling us back to Him in the trusting, obedient and dependent relationship we were created to have. To do this, God's solution had to address both the rebellion and the offshoot problems created from it. And so His solution came — Jesus Christ!

Jesus revealed in His life and teaching the incredible love of God, but those who preach "all we need is love" fail to recognize both the importance of God's other scriptural commandments and how the evil of our sins separates us from God. Rebellion continues.

Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross and rose in victory over death. But those who simply preach our need to accept God's forgiveness of sinners fail to honor His command that we live lives of trusting obedience — lives that, to overcome our "flesh", must depend on the power of Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:3-8) Otherwise, the "old self" and Satan continue to assert control.

The Lord sent Holy Spirit to baptize, empower and lead those who trust in Him. But if that power is preoccupied with our own prosperity rather than loving, sacrificial service to God and others, we are catering to our "flesh" and not His Spirit. (Galatians 5:13-17) We fail to empower the life God wants. (1 John 2:3-6) We will not see evil dislodged and the Kingdom restored around us.

Kingdom problems require Kingdom solutions. Know God's love. Receive God's forgiveness. Receive God's Holy Spirit. But most of all, receive God's Lordship over all your life. Then go help others do the same.

Jesus put it this way: "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

God bless you, and God bless our community.

### We Must Learn To Pray Together

### "...If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face ..., then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Since I began writing this newspaper column in 2006, I have addressed the topic of prayer several times. A terse summary of those columns might be: Prayer is essential for each of us if we really want God in our life. Prayer between husband and wife is essential if we really want God in our marriage. Community prayer is essential if we really want God in our community.

After years of laboring to develop support for the National Day of Prayer and our annual Kingsport Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, I was delighted two years ago to see Mayor Phillips merge the two events into a single, well-attended prayer event. Please support the Kingsport Mayor's Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning, May 3, our 2012 National Day of Prayer. Likewise, support the Funfest Prayer Breakfast this summer.

Having said that, we need to recognize that one or two days of community prayer per year has the same effect for a community that attending church once or twice per year (Easter and Christmas) has for Christians. If that is all you do, it is better than nothing, but not at all what it could be. You reap what you sow. (Galatians 6:7-9)

This explains my excitement over the wonderful community prayer movement emerging in Hawkins County. Visit www.Expecting-Gods-Help.com. One thousand Christians gathered at Volunteer High School on March 31. Even more gathered at Cherokee High School in February. Smaller weekly prayer gatherings are increasing in number all over the county, very reminiscent of the grass roots prayer movements that triggered the First and Second Great Awakenings — times of revival that rocked our nation in the 18th and 19th centuries. Go, Hawkins County! Go, God!

And there's more. I have just learned about the community prayer movement being birthed in Johnson City. Check out their website at www.citywideprayerjc. org.

A few years ago, I was asked by the president of a ministerial alliance to present a plan for an ongoing multi-church prayer network. Here are the key elements of that plan:

Each congregation has a prayer team with a prayer coordinator chosen to be the team's servant leader. The team meets weekly for prayer. They stay in touch throughout the week by e-mail, Facebook or other technology. They pray daily for their pastors and spiritual leadership, and for the ministries and other individual needs of that congregation. They also work with their pastors to get the entire congregation more engaged in prayer. Ultimately, every home could become a prayer center.

The prayer coordinators of the different congregations in the city meet monthly for prayer. They generally focus on community, national and world concerns rather than individual prayer needs. They stay in touch throughout the month via technology, and are led by either a citywide prayer coordinator or small leadership team. Each prayer coordinator reports back to their prayer teams and their pastors after citywide meetings. This allows each congregational team to pray for community-wide issues as well as the needs of their congregation.

This prayer coordinator network can also organize periodic citywide prayer events. A webpage could be maintained that allowed anyone to learn at any time about important prayer needs of the city.

I believe a prayer network could be initiated in our Kingsport region quickly and with minimal expense. But people have to be willing. The sad end to my presentation before the ministerial alliance is that all the pastors loved it and said they would support it. But when they left the meeting, they did nothing about it, even after they were prompted. They were sincere, but just too busy doing what they were already doing.

On the other hand, while I have not been directly involved in the Hawkins County and Johnson City prayer movements, I am confident these three things are going on.

First, some churches are looking beyond their four walls and coming together across denominational lines.

Second, this is happening because some pastors have "caught fire", broken free from their busy-ness and are leading their people across those lines.

Third, a small group of humble men and women have made this Kingdom prayer crusade their passion. These are the encouragers and facilitators who do the legwork, pray for the "pray-ors" and never give up.

Again, go, Hawkins County! Go, Johnson City! Go, God! Increase the flame!

And for my city of Kingsport and other area communities, I pose this question: "Who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8) Who in our community is ready to take on this Kingdom prayer crusade for God's glory?

God bless you, and God bless our community.

## A Declaration For Our Land

As residents and citizens of the "land" that encompasses the greater Kingsport area in Tennessee and the greater Gate City area in Virginia, and as ambassador citizens of the eternal Kingdom of God, we hereby declare the following in the name of Jesus Christ, our King:

- 1. We love, revere, trust and obey the one true God: Creator and Sustainer of all things, who is described in the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Bible, His God-breathed scriptures. We bless and glorify God who is and always was, perfect in His majesty, holiness, power, wisdom, goodness, faithfulness and unconditional love.
- 2. We love, revere, trust and follow Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, whose shed blood and death on the Cross fully paid the price for all sins of all mankind for all time. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is resurrected from the dead and now sits at the right hand of His heavenly Father as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, with all authority in heaven and earth.
- 3. We rejoice that by the grace of God through our faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven of all our sins, reconciled to God and recipients of His Holy Spirit. As God has forgiven our sins, so we forgive our enemies and all those who have sinned against us. We are saints born of God His beloved children now and forever. Christ lives in us, the hope of glory, and we are clothed in His righteousness!
- 4. We humbly and gladly submit our lives and our land to you and you alone, Lord, laying aside our selfish desires and agendas so we may fully embrace your plans and purposes for us. Teach us. Heal us. Deliver us. Refine us. Mature us. Unite us. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and your love, wisdom, understanding and power. Lead us in all things by your Spirit, and grant us, male and female, the revelation of the sons of God.
- 5. We lift up our ancestors and all those who have preceded us in our land. We repent for ourselves and on their behalf for sins of pride, greed, violence, bigotry, lust, untruth, witchcraft, idolatry, unbelief, and all other shortcomings. Forgive them, Heavenly Father, as you forgive us, because all of our sins were borne on the cross by Jesus.
- 6. We thank God for the saints who have preceded us in our land and earnestly join our prayers, Holy Father, to their prayer that your Kingdom come and your will be done in our land as it is in heaven.
- 7. Because Jesus became a curse for us on the Cross, we declare every curse on our land and its people to be broken and without further power. We ask for the release of all heavenly blessings that have been obstructed by those curses.
- 8. We lift up the lost in our land to you, Lord. You love them and died for their sins. As we were once blind and now see, so now we proclaim an end to the blindness the enemy has imposed upon them. We pray their eyes, ears and hearts will open to receive the wondrous Gospel. Anoint our witness to them, Heavenly Father, and draw them to your Son.
- 9. We stand against the powers, principalities and forces of darkness in our land, declaring them disarmed and condemned by the power of the Cross and the resurrection victory of Jesus. We revoke any permission ever given for their presence in our land and declare them unwanted trespassers to be removed by our Lord from our midst.
- 10. Come, King of Glory, Lord of Hosts with your heavenly host! Let our land become a resting place for your abiding presence and glory on this earth. Let your righteousness and truth completely displace the forces of darkness and deceit that oppress us.
- 11. We declare our land to be part of the Kingdom of God! We declare Gate City to be a spiritual gate between Heaven and earth. We declare Kingsport to be a port of the King from which our Lord will send forth His people and His heavenly host.
- 12. O Lord our God, let us be loving cities of sanctuary in the days ahead as you begin to shake the earth and the heavens. Let us be a people of prayer joined in unceasing Spirit-led intercession for our nation, for Israel and for the world. Above all, let us be a land of constant worship where you are honored, blessed and enthroned in the praises of your people.

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