

## Prayer Guide

Christians today long for the power and presence of God enjoyed by the early Church, but few have taken the time to see what the early Church did to experience this POWER! The answer is: They Followed the Directions! God Promised in His Word that if we would offer up a continual sacrifice of Prayer and Praise, His Presence would come and dwell with us, to release His Power in our midst.

### **Pray for ... Personal Transformation**

Community Transformation is a condition of dramatic , socio-political renewal that results from God's people entering into corporate vision, corporate repentance and corporate prayer. During these extraordinary seasons the Kingdom of God pervades virtually every institution of human endeavor.

Community Transformation in its naked essence is about the restoration of a breached relationship – we must get desperate for and with God. If we truly desire to see God's Kingdom manifest in our communities, our first order of business – indeed our sole “plan and program” – must be to attract His presence. To accomplish this, we must order a renewed commitment to humility, faith, holiness, unity and prayer.

The journey to transformation does not begin as a mass movement. It begins as a series of solitary decisions.

We ask Him to come into our community simply because we want to be in His presence. The fact that He will do something else when He gets here is a bonus. But it is not the primary thrust of our petition. It's all about relationship.

If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7;14)

For thus says the High and lofty One, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. (Isaiah 57:15)

Now therefore, says the Lord, turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning, so rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. (Joel 2:12-13)

He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you. But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. (Psalm 24:3-4)

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10)

Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

As obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight. (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3: 12-14)

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

### **Pray for ... Humility**

Humility is one of heaven's most distinctive trademarks. Those who exhibit this characteristic invariably eschew any accolade or action that might obscure God's glory. They understand that when human attention is focused on human agency, the messenger ceases to minister and starts to entertain.

If we are wise, we will not seek the limelight. We will rejoice not in the fact that there has been an introduction, but in the One who has been introduced. If attention has been focused on Jesus, it will not matter to us who has opened the door.

Any truly God-honoring messenger will seek to deflect attention rather than to absorb it:

1. The prophets pointed to the One who was yet to come. (Luke 3:16)
2. The angels and apostles refused to be worshiped. (Judges 13:16; Acts 14:11-15)
3. The Holy Spirit brought glory to Jesus. (John 16:13=14)
4. Jesus said, "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me..." (John 14:24)
5. John the Baptist cried out, "He must increase and I must decrease..." (John 3:30)

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to Your name give glory, because of Your mercy, because of Your truth. (Psalm 115:1)

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. (1 Corinthians 1:26-29)

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the humble is wisdom. (Proverbs 11:2)

I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me. I do not receive honor from men. (John 5:30, 41)

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

Therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Colossians 3:12-17)

Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. (Titus 3:1-2)

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. (1 Peter 5:5b-6)

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. (James 4:10)

He must increase and I must decrease. (John 3:30)

### **Pray for ... United, Fervent Prayer**

It has been said that history, although sometimes made up of the few acts of the great, is more often shaped by the many acts of the small. Nowhere is this truer than in the realm of spiritual intercession. Although William Carey, C.S. Lewis, Billy Graham and Mother Teresa will always be remembered for their unique contributions, even these luminaries cannot match the collective glow of countless faithful intercessors down through the ages. Unfazed by their lack of reputation, these anonymous heroes have lately approached God's throne of grace in record numbers. Some have virtually camped out at the site.

Their bold persistence, according to scripture, makes them valuable partners in the Great Deliverance. This is because God is not only stimulated by the rising fragrance of their accumulated prayers; He is

changed by it. Each selfless petition He inhales becomes part of Him; and as the human and divine wills merge, power is released to dislodge enchantments from the darkest labyrinths of mind and spirit.

...Breakthroughs occur when intercessors address specific concerns in common cause. United prayer is a declaration to the heavenlies that a community of believers is prepared for the divine partnership. When this welcoming intercession is joined by knowledge, it becomes focused – leading to and sustaining the kind of fervent prayer that produces results.

Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. (Jeremiah 29:7, 12-13)

Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for the saints. (Ephesians 6:18)

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:16)

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

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication. (Acts 1:14)

Continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with thanksgiving. (Colossians 4:2)

The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, "Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, and seek the Lord of hosts. I myself will go also." Yes many peoples and strong nations shall come seek the Lord of hosts and to pray before the Lord. (Zechariah 8:21-22)

I desire that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. (1 Timothy 2:8)

Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things which you do not know (Jeremiah 33:3)

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:19)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. (1 John 5:14)

Jesus is our example, who offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to You who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His godly fear. (Hebrews 5:7)

### **Pray for ... Unity**

God Himself declared the power of unity (even apart from Him) at the Tower of Babel, saying "the people are one, and they have one language ... now nothing they propose to do will be withheld from them."

How much more will this be true if the Body of Christ has one prayer: Thy Kingdom Come; and one language: the Word of God. With God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, and all the heavenly angels, what shall be impossible to us? Knowing this, may we not be so easily stumbled by the enemy who employs every device he has to sow disunity among the brethren.

No one church, no one denomination or ministry has the ability to reflect the fullness of God. God has something much greater in mind than we've ever imagined or has yet seen on the earth. He waits for a Church to arise that will show His fullness, His fullness, His glory to the lost and dying people of the earth.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! For there the Lord commands the blessing – life forevermore. (Psalm 133:1,3)

Your watchmen shall lift up their voices; with their voices they shall sing together; for they shall see eye to eye when the Lord brings back Zion. (Isaiah 52:8)

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. (1 Corinthians 12:4-6,12,27)

I beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift .. till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ – from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Ephesians 4:1-7,13,15-16)

Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. (Philippians 2:1-4)

For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one accord. (Zephaniah 3:9)

That they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be in one in Us that the world might believe that You sent Me. (John 17:21)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation. (Ephesians 2:14)

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave or free, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:12)

Now I plead with you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous. (1 Peter 3:8)

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. (John 10:16)

Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel. (Philippians 1:27)

### Praying for ... Persevering Leadership

“Success is not where you begin, but where you continue. It is easy to raise your hands. It is hard to keep them up.” – Thomas Muthee, Kiambu, Kenya

Leaders associated with recent community transformations have battled through strong opposition... These spiritual change agents have refused to accept anything less than God's maximum – even when the pressure has come from family members and ministry colleagues. Whether (they are) instruments of divine sovereignty or magnets for divine intervention, their role is obviously critical to the process of community transformation.

In every case their single-minded faith, demonstrated by importunate prayer and steadfast commitment to the community led to dramatic results. And while this may strike us as extraordinary, it has long been the promise and pattern of scripture.

**Nehemiah** – Overcame mockery, Conspiracy, intimidation, and threats of physical attack. He persevered to see the rebuilding of the wall completed. (Nehemiah 6)

**Moses, Aaron and Hur** – Victory over the Amalekites – “But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.” (Exodus 17:11-12)

**Caleb** – Had a good report and would not give in despite the opposition and fear; “he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, so I will bring him into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.” (Numbers 14:24)

**Esther** – Risked her life for the people and believed God that she had come to the Kingdom for such a time as this. “Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace any more than all the other Jews. For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.” (Esther 4:13-14)

**David** - Was greatly distressed for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God. (1 Samuel 30:6)

**Joseph** – “ But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. He sent a man before them – Joseph – who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.” (Genesis 50:20; Psalm 105:17-19)

**Daniel** – “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days. Then men assembled and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. And they went before the king, and spoke concerning the king's decree: Have you not signed a decree that every man who petitions any god or man within thirty days, except you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?” (Daniel 6:10-12)

**Paul** – “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:7-9)

But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulation, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fasting; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. (2 Corinthians 6:4-10)

I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:14)

Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord – that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful. (James 5:11)

### **What does Community Transformation look like?**

Look among the nations and watch – be utterly astounded! For I will work a work in your days, which you would not believe, though it were told you. (Habakkuk 1:5)

The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And upon those who sat in the region and the shadow of death Light has dawned. (Matthew 4:16)

He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings. There He makes the hungry dwell, that they may establish a city for a dwelling place, and sow fields and plant vineyards, that they may yield a fruitful harvest. He also blesses them, and they multiply greatly. (Psalm 107:35-38)

And they shall call them the Holy People, the redeemed of the Lord; and you shall be called Sought Out, a city Not Forsaken. (Isaiah 62:12)

Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. (Isaiah 1:26b)

Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the breach, the Restorer of the streets to dwell in. (Isaiah 58:12)

The name of the city from that day forward shall be: THE LORD IS THERE. (Ezekiel 48:35)

For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever. (Jeremiah 7:5-7)

Until the spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is counted as a forest. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the

fruitful field. The work of righteousness will be peace and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. My people shall dwell in peaceful habitations, in secure dwellings and in quiet resting places. (Isaiah 32:15-18)

If you walk in my statutes and keep My commandments and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies and they shall fall by the sword before you. (Leviticus 26:3-8)

The days are coming when the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. The Lord will bring back the captives of His people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. (Amos 9:13-14)

And I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. In that day, says the Lord of Hosts; everyone will invite his neighbor under his vine and under his fig tree. (Zechariah 3:9-10)

The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. Wait on the Lord, and keep His way and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it. (Psalm 37:29, 34)

Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the Lord and great shall be the peace of your children. In righteousness you will be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. (Isaiah 54:11b-14)

For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9b)

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given you ... (Joshua 1:3)

*All text on Personal Transformation taken from God's Trademark, by George Otis Jr./Chosen Books and The Nation & Process of Community Transformation video.*

*All scriptures are paraphrased and amplified from the New King James Version Bible. While the above scriptures are removed from their original context, all scriptures serve as inspiration for prayer. Because God's heart and intent for mankind remains unchanged, His word is alive and speaks to us today*