



THE PRAYER CLOSET

ENCOURAGING & EQUIPPING BELIEVERS IN PRAYER A
MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET MINISTRIES, INC.

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VOLUME XXIV

MARCH/APRIL, 2021

ISSUE 2

SATURATING YOUR COMMUNITY

The Bible reveals that God deals with people corporately. This means that God speaks to and deals with large groups of people. This does not lessen personal responsibility and accountability. Yet, it establishes the fact that groups of people are responsible and accountable to God.

A city, county, state, or nation has a standing before God. Groups of people have a level of righteousness or wickedness before God. Groups of people can experience the blessing or the judgment of God. God does deal with groups of people. This should motivate believers to pray for the people where they live. This truth should fuel the praying of believers for their cities or surrounding areas.

The following is a prayer guide to help you pray for your city, community, or county:

- ◆ *Pray for a massive spiritual awakening among all groups of people (Jonah 3:4-10; Acts 2:37-38; John 16:7-8).* Plead with the Holy Spirit to awaken people to their need for Jesus Christ. Ask Him to convince people of their need to repent, turn to Christ, and follow Him. Pray that the Holy Spirit would invade your city or county with His transforming power. Call on Him to break through the hardness of heart in your area.
- ◆ *Pray that the churches in your area will experience revival (2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 80).* Pray that the Holy Spirit would breathe new life and power into the churches in your area. Plead with Him to do a fresh and powerful work

among the believers. Call on Him to break through the deadness and coldness of the churches. Ask Him to give the churches a fresh love for Christ and the Word of God. Plead with Him to deal with each church (**Revelation 2 and 3**). Pray that He will work to remove any obstacles that would hinder the churches from experience genuine revival.

- ◆ *Pray that the churches in your city or area will be unified (Psalm 133:1; John 17:20-21; 1 Corinthians 12:12-20).* Pray that God would draw believers from all denominations together for the purpose of seeking God for spiritual awakening. In saying this, I am not advocating that we should not be concerned about truth. We must always strive to stand for and proclaim the truth against error. And I am not saying that we should ignore our doctrinal distinctives. Yet, what I am saying is that believers should join together for the purpose of spiritual awakening, ministry, and righteousness. As believers, we do have our differences and doctrinal distinctives. However, those things that bind us together are greater than those things that divide us into denominations. We must be willing to humble ourselves before God and join together as one force for righteousness. Pray that God would grant a spirit of humility among believers from the various denominations. Ask the Holy Spirit to remove any feeling of superiority from the lives of believers. Plead with the Holy Spirit to deepen the love that believers have for one another despite denominational affiliation. Pray that believers

would share a unity of purpose in seeking God for spiritual awakening and for reaching lost people with the good news of Jesus Christ.

- ◆ *Pray for the conversion of large groups of people in your city or area (Acts 6:7).* Plead with the Holy Spirit to convict and save sinners from your city, county, or area. Pray that the gospel would transform people of every age and category. Pray especially that He would transform those who are hardened. In **Acts 6:7**, the Bible tells us that the Jewish priests were getting saved. This reveals the amazing power of the gospel to transform even the most hardened of people. Pray that this transforming power will be revealed in even the most hardened of people. You might even consider interceding specifically for “high profile” people in your area that are hardened and even antagonistic to the gospel. These people have great influence but are not Christians. You might consider making a list of those that it appears highly unlikely that they will turn to Christ. Then you can pray intently and specifically for those people. When these individuals are saved, it will have a tremendous impact on your area and others who need to come to Jesus Christ.
- ◆ *Plead that the demonic strongholds that bind your city or area will be broken (Ephesians 4:27; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Revelation 2:13).* Satan desires to build strongholds in areas among groups of people. He labors to do this in individuals. Yet, he also wants to do this among groups of people. These strongholds may be particular sins, sinful attitudes, or unbelieving thought patterns. Through these strongholds, he will labor to keep people from turning to Jesus Christ in faith and repentance. He will use these things to blind the minds of people from the gospel of Jesus Christ. He will also use these things to attack and persecute the church. He longs to render the church powerless and ineffective. You must pray that the strongholds of Satan in your area will be torn down. Whether the strongholds are among unbelievers or believers, they must be torn down through prayer and repentance. Ask the Holy Spirit to grant you insight concerning the strongholds in your area. Join with other believers in praying for wisdom and insight concerning the strongholds that are around you. Plead with Him to give you understanding in what strongholds Satan has built around you. As the Holy Spirit

begins to show you these things, pray for their destruction. Pray that people will be loosed from the lies of Satan. These strongholds must be torn down through the fervent, believing prayer of God’s people.

- ◆ *Pray that believers would exercise a powerful influence and witness for Jesus Christ (Matthew 5:13-16, 28:19-20; Acts 1:8).* Believers need to share the gospel with both their lives and their lips. Pray that the believers in your city or area will strive to live godly and holy lives. Plead with God to give them the wisdom and power to live righteous lives before the lost. Pray that believers would experience the truth of **Colossians 4:5-6**, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” At the same time, pray that the Holy Spirit would give believers boldness in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ (**Acts 4:31**). Pray that believers will combine wise and righteous living with bold witnessing. Plead with God to cause the influence of believers to far exceed that of unbelievers.
- ◆ *Pray that the churches in your city or area will be delivered from self-centeredness (Matthew 20:28).* Many times a church’s concern is turned inward. Their basic concern is themselves. They forget about the needs of others. God has called us to be river and not reservoirs. He wants us to be a channel of blessing to others. We are not to hoard God’s blessings for ourselves. God blesses us in order for us to be a blessing to others. Jesus gives us the prime example. He came not to be ministered to but to minister and to give His life for others. We are to follow His example in this matter. We are to seek to minister to others and give our lives in service for others. It is not God’s will that we be selfish and unconcerned about others. Pray that the believers will have a heart to minister to others and to give themselves to service toward others. Plead that any spirit of self-centeredness will be removed from the lives of God’s people.
- ◆ *Plead that the churches would have a concern for the poor and needy and that they will reach out to them (Philippians 2:5-11; Deuteronomy 15:7-8).* Pray that the believers in your city or area will have a servant’s heart. Believers need to combine Christlike compassion with servant ministry.

Believers must be willing to get their hands dirty. There has to be a willingness to meet the needs of people. These needs may vary from city to city or area to area. Yet, whatever needs there are, the church is responsible to find creative and effective ways to meet those needs. This does reveal our compassion and concern for those who are lost. However, it will add power and effectiveness to our witnessing. An old adage states, "People want to know how much you care before they care how much you know." Many times, we will gain an ear for the gospel when we put food in a stomach or clothes on a back. Meeting the needs of people often creates an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus. Pray that believers will be willing to get their hands dirty. Ask that they will have servant hearts that move them to meet peoples' needs. You might want to join with other believers in interceding about the needs of your area. Pray for wisdom and insight concerning this and creative and effective ways to meet these needs.

- ◆ *Pray for the destruction of poverty and for economic growth in your area (Ecclesiastes 2:24).* It is not a sin to be poor. However, poverty brings with it powerful temptations. Just as being rich puts one in the midst of powerful temptations so does being poor. The love of money is a danger to the rich and the poor alike (I Timothy 6:10). Poverty can be a breeding ground for crime and immorality. Pray that poverty would be destroyed in your area. Ask God to give people a longing to work and to enjoy that work. Pray that God would bless with economic growth. From this, ask Him to move people to be generous in giving and sacrificing for the kingdom and for the needs of others.
- ◆ *Pray that justice would prevail and that crime would be annihilated in your city or area (Psalm 82:3; Romans 13:4).* In most areas, crime is rampant; it is out of hand. Even those areas that have never had to deal with serious crime, it is now a growing problem. The church cannot sit back, shake its head, and shrug its shoulders concerning this problem. The church is to be a force for righteousness in this world. How can we have an impact on the crime rate? We have already mentioned some ways: living righteous lives, sharing the gospel, and meeting the needs of people. Yet, prayer is a crucial weapon in the war

against crime. We must pray that justice would prevail. God is a just God; He loves justice. Pray that God will move on the hearts and minds of judges in your city or area. Plead with Him to grant them wisdom and insight into the cases that are coming before them. Ask Him to lead them to make decisions that are going to bring about true justice. Even if the judge is not a believer, you can still pray and ask for this (**Proverbs 21:1**). The Bible tells us that the government has a sword to punish evildoers. Pray that the law enforcement agencies would be effective in carrying out justice. Plead with God for their protection and for deliverance from corruption in any form. Ask God to enable them to solve cases, arrest the guilty, and bring these people to justice.

- ◆ *Pray that racism would be confronted and repented of (Genesis 1:27-28).* Racism is an evil that penetrates every level of our society. It is also a sin that God hates. It is a sin that gets deeply rooted in the hearts of people. Pray that God would convict people about the sin of racism. Plead that people would have willingness to love, minister to, and work with men and women of all races.
- ◆ *Pray for a powerful work of the Holy Spirit in the families of your city or area (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).* Plead that there might be genuine change in the families in your area. Pray that God would draw husbands and wives into a deeper, more intimate relationship. Pray that parents will have wisdom and strength to raise their children. Plead that the children will have love and respect for their parents. Ask that these families would acknowledge and follow Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Call on God to remove any obstacles that are preventing families from having godly Christian homes.
- ◆ *Ask God to give the believers in your city or area a spirit of prayer and fasting (I Timothy 2:1-2; Colossians 4:2).* Pray that God would grant believers a hunger for and consistency in prayer. Prayer is the key to revival and seeing genuine change take places in the lives of people and the areas where we live. Prayer is the priority of the church. It is not one of many priorities; it is the foundation on which all else in the church must be built. Ask God to create a spirit of believing, persevering prayer in believers of all denominations. Pray for and seek opportunities to

pray with believers of other denominations. We do have differing views on certain positions. Yet, there is one position that we should all agree on. That position is on our knees. We should agree on our knees concerning spiritual awakening and revival. We must join our hands and hearts together in order to seek our Father. Plead with the Holy Spirit to draw believers together for the purpose of prayer.

- ◆ *Plead for spiritual awakening in the schools among the students (Psalm 44:3-4).* Ask God to grant genuine awakening to students in schools from the high schools to colleges and universities. Plead with the Holy Spirit to awaken young people to their need of God and their need to surrender to Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ask that believing students will be given fresh courage, boldness, and power to live for Christ and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that these young people will be used in churches across the nation to stir and revitalize the churches.
- ◆ *Plead with God to have mercy on your city or area (Lamentations 3:21-24).* There is hope for any city or area because of God's mercy and compassion. Call on God to continue His mercy toward your area. Plead with Him to withhold the rightful judgment that should be received. Ask Him to be merciful and pour out on your area the blessings of awakening and revival. God's mercy is a powerful point for intercession. He is a merciful God and He loves to have mercy. Pray that He will reveal His greatness by being merciful and granting true spiritual awakening and revival.

If you want to reach God's ear for the massive conversion of sinners, use these three pleading points:

- That the Father might be glorified;
- That the Son's death and resurrection might be honored;
- That the Holy Spirit's mercy and power would be manifested.

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