

GREATER THINGS ARE STILL TO BE DONE IN YOUR CITY

PRAYER FOCUS ON THE LOCAL MISSION

“I can guarantee this truth: Those who believe in me will do the things that I am doing. They will do even greater things because I am going to the Father.” John 14:12 (GW)

The life and teachings of Jesus Christ revolutionized the world. Anyone who has an authentic encounter with Him will be infused with the power of the Holy Spirit and, in His strength alone, do greater in our sphere of influence.

How is that possible?

The first and most important step must be prayer. Below are guided questions to help you pray in a systematic fashion to turn your community into a local mission for Christ.

ADORATION

“O my soul, come, praise the Eternal with all that is in me—body, emotions, mind, and will—every part of who I am—praise His holy name.” Psalm 103:1 (VOICE)

Begin your time of prayer acknowledging God for who He is. As you pray, use descriptive words that explain and celebrate God. Be cautious not to thank Him for His blessings....that will come later. Simply love Him for His amazing attributes. Where do you begin? Maybe this will help...., “Lord, I praise you for you are _____.

Words like

- Holy
- Just
- Pure
- Good,
- Righteous

.... may come to mind. Announce an attribute of the Lord and sit in momentary silence as you consider how God has modelled this attribute in your life and the lives of others.

End this time of adoration by specifically telling God what you love most about Him. Let your praises flow liberally in abandon to God for **WHO HE IS!**

CONFESSION

“Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with.” James 5:16 (MSG)

- How in touch do you feel with your own sin?
- If you feel out of touch with your sin, honestly consider where some of the following sins show up in your life: envy, lust, greed, gluttony, deceit, lying, exaggerating, anger, pretense, avoidance of responsibility.
- How do you want to talk to God about these things?
- Confess where you have fallen short of God’s expectation and receive His forgiveness.

THANKSGIVING

“Let them give thanks to the Lord for his love and for the miracles he does for people.”

Psalm 107:8 (NCV)

Thanksgiving is possible not because everything goes perfectly, but because God is present. The spirit of God is within us – nearer to us than our own breath. It is a discipline to choose to stitch our days together with the thread of gratitude.

- Begin this time of thanksgiving by voicing a record of the “abundances” God has given you.
- Thank God for the times He has intervened in your life to turn a difficulty into an opportunity to grow closer to Him.
- Notice what you have been given that you did not deserve.

SUPPLICATION

“Don’t be anxious about things; instead, pray. Pray about everything. He longs to hear your requests, so talk to God about your needs and be thankful for what has come.”

Philippians 4:6 (VOICE)

Why does God want us to pray for others? Because intercessory prayer (supplication) reflects God’s own character of outgoing love and mercy. God wants us to think like He does, and praying for others helps us to think beyond ourselves and grow in compassion for others.

How to pray for others:

- From the heart – as a situation or face comes to mind believe God has laid this on your heart to bring to His throne in love.
- Regularly – commit that, every time the Lord brings a person/situation to mind, you will utter a prayer.
- In detail - God knows everything; but He wants us to come to Him with all our specific requests because He likes to hear from us and to know what is important to us.
- With faith - knowing that God has all power and loves the people we are praying for.
- With a desire to help where we can. This might include physical help and encouragement. Cards, calls and visits might be helpful. It is not wrong to tell a person you are praying for him or her if it will help encourage the person.

BENEDICTION

“O Eternal God, sanctify my body and soul, my thoughts and my intentions, my words and my actions, that whatsoever I shall think, or speak, or do, may it be by me designed for the glory of your name and by your blessing may it be effective in your work. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Jeremy Taylor)