

What is Our Authority in Prayer? Praying according to the will of God

Thesis: I believe that the agreeing prayers of the remnant church could change the spiritual atmosphere over our cities and nation.

Text: Matthew 6:10, 16:13-20, 18:18-20

Sermon:

What would it look like if a representation of believers, in connection with Jesus and with others, engaged in persistent, believing prayer, praying according to the authority which the Lord has given to them?

I wonder if this kind of prayer could change our culture of fear and hatred, replacing it with faith, hope, and love, so that the will of God would be done here as in heaven.

Remember: Jesus could do no mighty works in Nazareth because of the atmosphere of unbelief (Mark 6:1-6).

I believe that the agreeing prayers of the people of God could change the spiritual atmosphere over our cities and nation.

Some people might ask, how many believers does it take to make a difference in prayer?

The answer is that we don't know the exact number of the remnant or representation which is needed to make a difference in prayer for a city or nation. We don't know what critical mass is.

Here is what we do know.

1. We do know that **God says he looked for a person** to stand in the gap in Ezekiel 22:30, to swing the pendulum from judgment to mercy.
2. In Isaiah 63:5, **the Lord looked for someone**, and was appalled that there was no one to help, that there was no one to intervene.
3. In Matthew 18:18-20, Jesus said:
 - a. *"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 "Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three*

come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:18-20 NIV).

How many people does it take to make a difference in prayer and on mission with God?

Here is what we know.

1. Several times **Moses** stood in the gap through intercession between God and the people of Israel and the Lord spared his people because of his prayers.
2. God raised up one shepherd boy, **David**, to deliver his people from the Philistines and the giant, Goliath.
3. **Daniel** stood in the gap according to the promises of God for the restoration of Israel, and the Lord sent an angel to tell him his prayers were heard.
4. **Jesus** prayed and sacrificed for the sake of the whole universe, and history was changed forever by his redemptive work.
5. **One hundred and twenty followers of Jesus** waited in worship and prayer in an upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit came, and the church was born in power on the day of Pentecost.
6. All of the followers of Jesus, except for the apostles, **were scattered by persecution from Jerusalem**, and they took revival and awakening to other people throughout Judea and Samaria. (See Phillip in Acts 8 as an example.)
7. God called **Paul and Barnabas** to partner with him in the nations. The missions movement started out of a time of prayer and fasting among 5 people, according to Acts 13:1-3. They prayed and laid down their lives for others, and Christianity spread across the Roman Empire.
8. **Paul went to Ephesus** praying, ministering, and sharing according to Acts 19. Twelve people came to Christ at first. Because of their partnership with Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and each other, spiritual awakening shook the entire area of Asia Minor.
9. **A small group of ministers met at Fetter Lane** on January 1, 1739, prayed all night, and got up from an encounter with God that shook 2 continents with the First Great Awakening.
 - a. A short time before the Methodist revival of the 18th century in England, Moravians were ministering in London. Peter Bohler, the London Moravian leader, and his followers established the Fetter Lane Society in May 1738 for the purpose of discipleship and accountability. They began with the purpose of meeting once a week for prayer and fellowship. Most of their members were Anglicans, most prominently John Wesley, Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield (Wikipedia).
 - b. John Wesley records in his journal for January 1, 1739:

- i. "Mr. Hall, Hinchings, Ingham, Whitefield, Hutchings, and my brother Charles were present at our love feast in Fetter Lane with about 60 of our brethren. About three in the morning, as we were continuing instant in prayer, the power of God came mightily upon us insomuch that many cried out for exceeding joy and many fell to the ground. As soon as we were recovered a little from that awe and amazement at the presence of His majesty, we broke out with one voice, 'We praise Thee, O God, we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.'"

1. Telford, John (1947). *The Life of John Wesley*. London: The Epworth Press. p. 394. ISBN 0-88019-320-4.

10. **One businessman** got a burden for NYC and began to call people to pray in October 1857. Six people showed up at the first prayer meeting. God began to move. More joined in prayer. And in less than one year, 1 million people (out of a population of 30 million) came to Christ (1857 – 1858).
11. **A couple of elderly women** cried out to God for Wales and God sent the lightning of revival in 1905-1906 that shook Wales, Scotland, and England. Missionaries from that revival carried the torch of revival around the world, including California.
12. **A small group of believers met to pray and seek God at Azusa Street** in Los Angeles, and God released the Pentecostal outpouring (1907). This outpouring resulted in a movement of Spirit-filled transformation that empowers kingdom growth to this day.
13. The **Transformation Videos** by the Sentinel Group from the 1990's documented the testimonies of a few people who sought God and his presence, and how God responded by bringing transforming revival to their community, region, or nation.

How many praying people will it take to change the atmosphere of our cities and nation?

I don't know. But, I want to step up. And, I want to invite us to step up.

Let's step up and give it our shot.

How will we mobilize this prayer movement?

Glad you asked. I will talk about that next week.

How long will it take?

I don't know how long it will take. But, I want to be an answer to the prayers and purposes of Jesus in this earth. Listen to the heart of the Lord Jesus in Luke 18.

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1 NIV)... 6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. **However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"** (Luke 18:6-8 NIV).*

Our God is an amazing God. He has adopted us into his family. He has brought us into the family business. He has invited us to partner with Jesus and others on Christ's mission in this earth.

Our God is the God who hears and answers prayer. Scripture says, "O you who hear prayer, to you all people will come (Psalm 65:2, 7 NIV).

Sometimes, God's answer is "yes." Sometimes, his answer is no. And, sometimes the answer is "wait."

More importantly, our Triune God is praying for us and through us right now, according to Romans 8. Right now, Jesus is at the right hand of God, interceding for the will of God for this universe and for our lives (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34). Right now, the Holy Spirit is praying through us, giving utterance to our groans and praying according to the Father's will (Romans 8:26-27). Right now, God is working in us and for us and through us, for those who love God and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28-39).

So, let's consider what our authority is in prayer. Next week, will consider how we join our God in what he is praying and doing right now.

1. **We have the right to pray and invite the kingdom of God to come and the will of God to be done in our city and nation as it is in heaven** (Matthew 6:10).
 - a. In Matthew 6, Jesus is teaching his followers how to engage in spiritual practices relationally with God, not for show, not for self-promotion, and not for self-aggrandizement.
 - b. Consider how Jesus starts this prayer: "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name."
 - i. We pray in the context of worship and connection with God our Father (Matthew 6:9).
 - c. Then, Jesus teaches us to pray first: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).
 - d. We have the right to pray and invite the kingdom of God to come and the will of God to be done in our city and nation as it is in heaven.

2. **We have the right to bind what is bound in heaven and to release what is released in heaven** (Matthew 16:13-20).
 - a. *When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14 They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20 Then he warned his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ (Matthew 16:13-20 NIV).*
 - b. Keys are symbols of authority and ruling power, according to Isaiah 22:22.
 - c. Because of our confession of and relationship to Jesus, we have the right and authority to pray for the advancement of his will and his church against the gates of death and hell.
 - d. Because of our confession of and relationship to Jesus, we have the right to bind on earth what is bound in heaven and to release on earth what is released in heaven.
3. **We need to take the time to welcome and honor Jesus who has come to be with us.**
 - a. *"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them" (Matthew 18:18-20 NIV).*
 - b. Friends, look at this theme. Jesus says our prayers count because prayer is about relationship with God (Matthew 6:9, 18:20). Do you see those bookends in Matthew 6:9 and Matthew 18:20?
 - i. The context of prayer is worship, adoration, and acknowledgement of God our Father (Matthew 6:9).
 - ii. The power of prayer involves taking time to recognize that Jesus is in our midst.
 1. Because Jesus is in our midst, we humble ourselves before the Lord.
 2. We worship, bless, and acknowledge the Lord, the One who is with us, the One who has all authority, and the

One who gives us his authority (Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20; Luke 9:1-2).

- c. Is this not the testimony of 2 Chronicles 7:13-14?
 - i. *"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:13-14 NIV).*
 - ii. Our prayer:
 1. We acknowledge that we belong to God and that we are his people.
 2. We humble ourselves before God in adoration, worship, and acknowledgment.
 3. We pray to our God, which itself is one of the most humble activities we can do.
 - a. Prayer is calling out to the God who has called us.
 - b. Prayer is also about listening.
 4. We seek the face of God pursuing intimacy and relationship, not just a vending machine.
 5. We turn from our wicked ways.
 - a. In the presence of God, it is easy to turn away from our sin, because we don't want anything to keep us from him.
 - b. In his presence we see where we have fallen short.
 - c. In his presence there is mercy and grace in our time of need; there is mercy and grace to repent and to ask for forgiveness.

Summary:

Imagine with me what it would look like if a representation of believers connected with Jesus and with others in persistent prayer, praying according to the authority which the Lord has given to us. I wonder if this kind of prayer could change our culture of fear and hatred so that the will of God would be done here as in heaven. Remember: Jesus could do no mighty works in Nazareth because of the atmosphere of unbelief (Mark 6:1-6). I believe that the agreeing prayers of the remnant church could change the spiritual atmosphere over our cities and nation. Let's step up and give it our shot.

Ministry Time:

1. Pray for a spirit of grace and supplication to come upon us and on the people of Greater Houston.
2. Pray for us to step up and step out in our authority in prayer in relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. Pray that we would intercede and pray “until.”
 - a. *Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you (Hosea 10:12).*

Prayer Resource

Here is how we are praying on Thursday mornings in corporate prayer.

1. **Pray for our students, teachers, staff, and parents for back to school.**
 - a. See handout from [Loving Houston](#).
 - b. Lord, give our students boldness to share your love and light, and to pray for people; and please back up their prayers and sharing with signs, wonders, and miracles to the glory of Jesus (Acts 4:29-30).
 - i. *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. ³⁰Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30 NIV).*
 - ii. *"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. ¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16 NIV).*
2. **Pray for our children and youth to experience and encounter God's presence.**
 - a. Pray that they will create **space and place for encountering God**, and that they will get in action on what the Lord is showing them to do.
 - b. Pray for the fire to increase, and not to go out.
 - c. Pray for the fire to spread to other youth and children.
 - d. *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11 NIV).*
 - e. *Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning's womb (Psalm 110:3).*
 - f. *For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. ⁴ They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. ⁵ One will say, 'I belong to the LORD'; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and will take the name Israel (Isaiah 44:3-5 NIV).*
 - i. Lord, mark them, seal them, and set them apart (like Daniel, Joseph, David, etc.) (chorus from Monday, 7'20'20).
 - ii. Like Daniel and his friends in their day through different pagan, wicked administrations.

- g. Margaret:
 - i. The common thread as the youth shared in testimony Sunday was that someone shared with me or I shared with someone. Father, as our children, youth, and young adults go back to school, and as adults go back to the workplace, we pray that they would arise and shine. That your glory would rise upon them according to Isaiah 60:1-3.
 - ii. We declare over our children and youth, we commission them, go forth with the testimony of Jesus. As they ask the question, How Can I Pray for You?, may you back up their words with the power of God, the presence of the HS, and deep conviction of Jesus. Back up their prayers with signs, wonders, and miracles to the glory of Jesus.

3. Pray for our elections and leaders.

- a. Pray for Matthew 6:10 in our elections: Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- b. Ask the Lord to raise up godly leaders, men and women, who pursue righteousness and justice.
 - i. *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD (Psalm 89:14-15 NIV).*
 - ii. *The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.2 Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. 3 Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. 4 His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles. 5 The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth. 6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness, and all the peoples see his glory (Psalms 97:1-6 NIV).*
- c. Pray for the integrity of our elections, that the Lord will block attacks from within and without to hijack the elections and defraud our democratic process.
- d. We need men and women who will be Sons of Issachar, who will understand the times and have wisdom to know what to do.
 - i. *...men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should... (1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV).*
 - ii. *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that*

*comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.
(Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV).*

- e. Pray for the Lord to raise up leaders in communion and loving relationship with God, who are filled with the Love of God, and who mobilize with the courage and wisdom of the Captain of Salvation.
 - f. Pray for our leaders to have wisdom to make decisions.
 - g. Shannon: pray for leaders to have wisdom and understanding “to navigate these times.” Not to get shipwrecked and on the rocks.
 - h. Margaret: Ephesians 6:10fl. Praying against rulers and principalities from 2 Chronicles 20:15-30.
 - i. Juan:
 - i. *“I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. 13 To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech. 14 Counsel and sound judgment are mine; I have insight, I have power. 15 By me kings reign and rulers issue decrees that are just; 16 by me princes govern, and nobles—all who rule on earth (Proverbs 8:12-16).*
 - ii. Yes, Lord, bless our nation.
 - iii. And, put it in our hearts to start blessing you, O Lord. May we give thanks to you and recognize you. It is because of you, Father, that we live in a nation that gives freedom, opportunity, and blessings.
4. **Pray for those impacted by Hurricane Laura.**
- a. Rescue. Relief. Rebuilding. Recovery.
 - b. O God, have mercy.
5. **Pray for the Propel Conference, Sept. 19.**
- a. **Lord, help us to get ready, to grow in maturity, and to be prepared for what is coming, that we might shine and might be a worthy helpmeet.**
 - i. *Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness [lawlessness], the love of most will grow cold [many*

will fall away], 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:4-14 NIV).

- ii. Nations, ethnic groups, races, and tribes are raising up against one another.
 - iii. Christians are being persecuted in our land and silenced; we don't have a right to be heard or to speak. Our values are rejected by culture.
 - iv. We have seen the increase of lawlessness, anarchy, defunding the police, rioting and destruction of property, loss of life.
 - v. People have dropped out of church during the pandemic and are not participating either online or in-person.
 - vi. Yet, this gospel of the kingdom of God will be proclaimed and demonstrated to every nation.
- b. **Empowered by the Blessed Hope.**
- c. *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. 7 Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's people.) (Revelation 19:6-8).*
- i. Chorus 8'24'20: Make us ready, make us ready, to partner with your heart on the earth. We want to be a people prepared for you. We love your appearing. Make us ready for you.
- d. Help us to anchor our lives in the person of Jesus Christ.
- i. The age in which we live is moving toward a climactic finish. Our Propel Conference on Eschatology is an opportunity to anchor your life and family in God's prophecies and promises for the Last Days. More than ever before we must anchor our lives in the person of Jesus Christ. Our Propel conference will leave you on solid ground for the days in which we live.
- e. Give us revelation of the better and better part, because the worse part is easy to see. (See Isaiah 60:1-3; Rev. 7:9-14)
- i. God's prophecies teach us that our world is getting worse and worse, better and better, faster and faster. While the worse and worse part is easy to see....just tune in to the daily news....the better and better part often escapes us. The Propel Conference on Eschatology will clearly reveal that YOU are the better and better part. As our world gets darker, God's church is to shine brighter and brighter. The result will be a world-wide revival

unprecedented in human history. God is calling us to prepare the way for the greatest move of God this world has ever seen. Join us at the Propel Conference as we prepare to shine! (See Isaiah 60:1-3; Rev. 7:9-14)

- ii. *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. 2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. 3 Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. 4 Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm" [harvest, generations] (Isaiah 60:1-4 NIV).*
- iii. *After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them."¹⁶Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. ¹⁷For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:9-17 NIV).*
- f. *For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. ²The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.³You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be*

called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. ⁵As a young man marries a maiden, so will your sons marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you (Isaiah 62:1-5 NIV).

- i. Margaret: In the end, there will be a wedding. Jesus will be calling the bride, "My delight."
 1. Hope is the message of the end times.
 2. There is a wedding.
 3. The preparation for a wedding stirs hope, vision, anticipation, and longing for the wedding day.

g. Jay Kelley, from Monday, 8'24'20

- i. *"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. ⁴¹Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward" (Matthew 10:40-41 NIV).*
- ii. We declare that Pastor Steve is a prophet.
- iii. We receive him as a gift from the Lord and ask you to help us to hear your voice, to share your heart, and to respond to your revelation of yourself and your plans.
- iv. Chorus: Let your word go forth in power. Give us ears to hear.

h. Juan:

- i. *"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹²You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands" (Isaiah 55:9-12).*
- ii. Your word goes forth and accomplishes what you desire. It bears much fruit; it does not return to you void.
- iii. People will be changed and transformed.
- iv. We want to thank you for what you will do.
- v. We rejoice in your wonders and miracles as we prepare for this conference.

6. Pray for the restoration of jobs, wages, and economic blessing.

- a. *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper (Jeremiah 29:7 NIV).*
 - b. *Genesis 12:2-3. Blessed to be a blessing.*
 - c. Look at what has been happening this year. Much has been stolen from our nation and church: jobs, wages, peace, funds.
 - d. We lift up a cry for the needy and for the poor.
 - e. We pray for bonuses, raises, and increase in wages for workers.
 - f. We ask you to restore what has been lost or stolen.
 - g. Whatever the enemy has stolen, we ask that you require that the enemy pays back 7 times.
 - h. We ask for justice. We ask you, Father God, to rule in our favor.
 - i. We ask that for individuals, families, this church, churches, ministries, our city, our state, and our nation to flourish and abound in resources.
 - j. We pray for provision for the vision.
7. **Principalities of fear and hatred are trying to destroy our nation.**
- a. *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 6:10-12).*
 - b. As these principalities collide, it shakes the foundation and structures of the society.
 - c. God is calling his church, his bride, his remnant, to stand in the gap and to pray for faith, hope, and joy.
 - d. In the midst of these challenging times, I want to call us to faith, hope, and love.
 - i. May we have faith in our God as he is at work advancing his kingdom even in the midst of a pandemic and racial unrest (Psalm 2).
 - 1. In the midst of the nations raging, you have set you king on your holy hill.
 - ii. May we continue to hope in the Lord, for our God has a plan and future for us and for this world (Jeremiah 29:11).
 - iii. And, may we continue to love God and love others well. In the face of the demonic enemies of fear and hate, may we seek to be a people who embody and intercede for faith and love.
 - 1. *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35 (NIV)).*

- e. We put on the full armor of God, the very nature and character of Jesus. Forgive us for how we are showing up with anger and fear in social media and the way we treat one another. Help us to show up with the nature of Christ in our hearts and name of Christ on our lips (Ephesians 6:13f). Help us to fight not against people but against the powers, authorities, and principalities in heavenly palaces.
 - f. Help us to fight with the divinely powerful weapons of God (2 Corinthians 10:3-6).
 - g. Media and political parties mobilize us through fear and anger/ hatred. Both conservatives and liberals mobilize their bases by appealing to and trigger fear and anger/ hatred. But not so with us as followers of Jesus. The greatest weapon ever released on the earth is the love of God. We will not let politicians, media, social media, or experts tell whom we should fear or get angry at or hate. We will choose faith, hope, and love.
 - h. Margret:
 - i. *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God (Philippians 1:9-11).*
 - ii. I pray this passage over our lives.
 - iii. I pray for courage to come on your church like David's mighty men, to fight with you in heavenly places effectively and powerfully.
 - iv. I pray that we would stand against the spirit of judgment, the spirit of hatred, and the spirit of anger.
 - v. I pray that we would run in as agents of your kingdom, of your nature, name, and presence.
 - vi. May we increase in your love and walk into every situation with the life and light of Jesus. May the atmosphere of places change as we show up as agents of light. May we not focus on the problems but on the one who came to save us in the midst of our darkness. Help us to remember who we are and whose we are as the church. That we would reminder who we labor with.
 - vii. I pray we would go in clothed with love... that our love would abound more and more in the name of Jesus.
- 8. Praying for a wave of healing and for miracles, signs, and wonders.**
- a. **Pray for the Lord to back up our prayers with signs, wonders, and miracles.**
 - i. We have many among us who are suffering from health issues and attacks like cancers, autoimmune disease, UTI, etc.

- ii. We are also dealing with COVID-19 and the pandemic.
- iii. We stand in the gap and ask the Lord to back up our prayers with healing.

1. *Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress ²⁰He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.²¹Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men (Psalms 107:19-21 NIV).*

- b. We pray also for the care givers. Please give them grace, strength, and mental and emotional energy for what they face each day, in the name of Jesus.

9. Pray for stamina and grace.

- a. Some people are tired and weary from dealing with the ongoing nature of this pandemic; no one knows when it will relent. People want things to go back to normal. And, they are tired of having to live in the both / and rather than the either / or (Matthew 11:28).
- b. *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV).*
- c. This is especially true of the elderly, who are isolated at home or in nursing homes or other care facilities. Their mental health is being affected negatively because they are socially cut off. They are afraid and tormented.
- d. Pray for stamina, grace, and emotional and mental energy.

10. Pray for revival and spiritual awakening.

- a. Let your glory fall in this place.
- b. The spirit and the pride cry out to you, we cry out to you, come quickly.
- c. We cry out for revival and say, “Lord, let revival start with me.”
- d. We also remind the Lord in that in 1913, three different prophetic voices proclaimed that a revival and outpouring of the Lord, greater than the Azusa Street Pentecostal Outpouring, would take place in 100 years. We are 7 years past 2013. We ask, O Lord, for the long awaited outpouring of your spirit for the sake of spiritual awakening and revival in the earth.

11. Pray for us to make disciples of our neighbors: to reach, win, and disciple people through our ministries and as individuals.

- a. *Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹[As you are going,] make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV).

12. Pray for our students, teachers, staff, parents, and school districts for back to school.

- a. *When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze (Isaiah 43:2).*
 - i. Give teachers and staff the grace as they expend emotional and mental energy to innovate.
 - ii. Give teachers and staff wisdom.
 - iii. Give students, parents, teachers, and staff the grace to adjust and flow in a tumultuous time.
- b. Give the students a testimony of Jesus through this year.
 - i. Let this be the year of the testimony of Jesus. May talk of Jesus "be the buzz" around the school, when they go home. [JTM: This chorus Wendy sang on 8'6'20 was a great word picture.]
 1. "The buzz" today is all about COVID-19, about what has been lost, about fear and hatred, about politics, about policies.
 2. We bless this revelatory word: may "the buzz" of the school year be about the testimony of Jesus.
 3. Chorus: We want to talk about you, think about you, and live for you all our days. Let our community see Jesus, this we pray.
- c. Jeff:
 - i. This is a Psalm 2 moment, just as it was for the Acts 3-4. There was a buzz about what Jesus did in healing the lame man. The rage of opposition and the rulers reminded the Early Church of a Psalm 2 moment. May this school year be a "buzz" with testimonies of Jesus.
 - ii. This is what you have done.
 - iii. This is what you can do.
 - iv. This is what we are believing you to do.
- d. Margaret:
 - i. *Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. 11 The Lord has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'* " 12 *They will be called the Holy*

People, the Redeemed of the Lord; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted (Isaiah 62:10-12).

- ii. Send them back to school with your anointing. They go back as agents of hope, as salt and light that you have called them to be.
- iii. May salvation be strong, may hearts be strong, may hope abound. I pray that the testimony of Jesus will ring clear in their hearts. I pray for open doors and gateways into the hearts of people who have been shaken.
- iv. I pray for students returning to class who are on fire; I ask that they will stand out as different when they go back. I ask for your anointing to be on them. Pour out your spirit of boldness on them to share Jesus.
- v. There are people who are ripe for harvest. At the sound of the name of Jesus, they will get saved.
- vi. May the flood of rising water pour into the schools from our children and youth.
- vii. I pray for a season of harvest.
- viii. *Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west. 6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth— 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made" (Isaiah 43:5-7).*
- ix. I pray that the harvest will come in, in the name of Jesus.
- e. Jeanne.
 - i. On behalf of teachers, I repent for getting under the stress.
 - ii. Matthew 5:16. Let our lights so shine so that others may glorify you.
 - 1. Help us to be that light.
 - 2. Help us to let our light shine for your glory and kingdom.
 - iii. You have set us free from captivity and darkness, to walk as shining lights. Thank you that you have set us free. Now, let us go forth with the light of Jesus.
 - iv. Thank you for this opportunity.
- f. JTM
 - i. As Jeanne prayed, I thought of the teachers, staff, students as gatekeepers. Let them allow into their live the kingdom of God (righteousness, peace, joy) and through their lives into the school.
- g. Carmen:

- i. There is so much fear. We have pray against fear. I feel like the Lord says, "we are carriers of his glory." Even when we don't know it, we are infecting others with his glory. I want to pray this for the students, teachers, and staff. I want to pray this word in the name of Jesus. Even when they are 6 feet apart, we infecting others and affecting others by your glory and presence.
 - 1. What a great word and picture.
 - 2. First the natural, then the spiritual.
 - 3. May God release a revival and spiritual awakening contagion that turns this world upside down, and which strikes fear into the enemy. The gates of hell shall not prevail.
 - 4. Chorus: Turn this world upside down.
- ii. Chorus: Jesus be the new contagion in this land. We ask for a breakout of your spirit.
 - 1. What a powerful word.
 - 2. We sang into these prayers and words, in the name of Jesus.
- h. Juan:
 - i. You said that those who love you and seek you shall find you.
 - ii. We do recognize that we become tired and discouraged.
 - iii. We do feel anxiety.
 - iv. That is why we come to you: to find strength, peace, joy, and grace.
 - v. In you we find the strength, comfort, and joy.
 - vi. Matthew 11:28-30, you told us to come so that we can find in you our rest.
 - vii. Remind us that we are light. Where there is light, darkness does not prevail.
 - viii. Let your glory fall on this place; that we might testify about your grace, goodness, and miracle working power.