

Praying for Transformation of a City or Region

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What is Your Vision for Your City/Region?

How do you want your city or region to be transformed? Seek the face of God our King and Lord.

Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction. (Proverb 29:18)

... you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:15)

God has perfect plans for transformation of your city/region, ask Him to show them to you and to others who He has called to pray for and participate in the transformation. Ask Him to help His vision become your vision; a revelatory picture of the desired future for your city/region. Let His plans become reality through the prayers, intercession and witness of you and your fellow believers.

Once you have received revelation of God's plans for transformation of your city/region, prayerfully connect with fellow believers who have the same heart for transformation; ask God to guide you to them, and hear what God has shown them. Often there will be correlation and complimentary revelation that will help to paint a bigger picture: this is normally how the Holy Spirit works, revealing parts of the picture to several people so they will consult and pray with each other.

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. (Zechariah 4:6)

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 6:12)

Take note also to see these revelations with spiritual eyes and not just physical eyes: what happens in the spiritual is more important and has impact on the physical.

Principles to Pray for Transformation of Your City/Region to Jesus

Below are some suggestions that you can proceed with in your journey of transformation; they are not sequential activities and can and should be done at the same time (i.e. in parallel).

Seek to have the eyes of God, the heart of Jesus and be the hands and feet of the Holy Spirit!

Do Research on Your City or Region

The best way would be if a team of researchers (after prayer) start collecting and categorising information, e.g.:

- The history of origin, the founder and the course of history
- Which churches are there and how many people are involved in the churches
- Which cults and sects are there
- Which false religions are active and are there any temples or places of worship
- What is the purpose of existence of the city and what is it specifically known for
- What specific social groups are in the city
- What the population composition is like
- What social welfare tendencies are observable

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- Who the present VIP's are
- Which bodies or persons are in charge of the city's economy
- Statistics on rape, alcohol, illegal drugs, suicide, abortion, sexual abuse, crimes, corruption.
- Any other relevant information.

These are often included in a 'Spiritual Mapping' of a city or region. This is an essential step to establish the history of a location, in particular what corruption, wrongs, injustices and anti-Christ actions were committed by civic and religious leaders over the community. Once these issues are known, they can be dealt with in prayer and supplication to bring forgiveness and healing to the land and people.

Find the Spiritual Strongholds in Your City or Region

There are territorial spirits that live and work in specific geographical areas. These evil spirits (and those who gave them the right to erect their strongholds) must be identified in order to be able to pray for the demolition of these strongholds.

As well as using the Research gathered above to see history, read the local newspapers and remain informed of what goes on in your city, so that you can know what to pray for.

Ultimately, seek and wait on God's guidance to identify which strongholds to bring down and when.

Identify and Connect with all Existing Prayer Groups in Your City or Region

Ask around Christian churches and communities for any existing or lapsed prayer groups. You may find a few groups that are ready, however many will be inwardly focussed on their church or community but even some of these can be encouraged to expand their scope in response to Christ's Great Commission.

Above all, it is important to find a few prayer leaders or potential leaders to take up the task of spiritual warfare for your city or region. To proceed with this they will need some prayerful discernment, and maybe some training. For their own protection, they should also be covered in prayer by you, each other, and their own local prayer groups.

Bear the following in mind:

- Mobilise as many people and groups as possible to pray.
- Never try to take over different prayer groups. Allow each to retain their character, but ask them to pray with you for these matters.
- Do not try to convince or 'poach' people from these groups; present the need for prayer warfare and your invitation to be a part of the battle, and then wait for people to step forward as the Spirit leads them.
- The principle of Prayer Triplets can be very effective in getting people involved in interceding for the city (see <http://prayerstrategy.org/prayer-triplets/> for more information).

Establish Prayer Teams to Pray Against Specific Spiritual Strongholds

Start prayer groups, teams or triplets in order to intercede systematically for issues identified. It will probably be necessary to teach people about spiritual warfare and intercession. Intercessors must learn to pray from their position of power in Christ and to stand against the strongholds of the Evil One.

Specifically also pray for the right person to take the lead in these prayer actions and to coordinate it.

Don't think you can tackle a city or region on your own. Christ established a team of apostles and disciples, not a single person to continue His Kingdom work. So be confident but humble and try to involve as many

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churches and especially prayer groups in this matter. Work complementary, not in competition. Do not allow the enemy to tempt you to steal from God's glory to raise yourself up. Glorify God, lift up your brethren in honour and prayer, and God will reward you.

It will undoubtedly be necessary to fast when you start praying for your city/region.

Use 2 Chronicles 7:14 to pray for the city/region and its people: *"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."*

Some Key Items to Pray For in Your City or Region

Below are listed some generic topics that should be covered in prayer as part of

1. Pray for the spiritual leaders of all the various churches in the city/region.
2. Pray for an attitude of prayer and supplication across the church in your city/region. Especially look at Scripture like Ezekiel 22:30-31 and Isaiah 62:6-7.
 - *"And I will pour out...a spirit of grace and supplication" (Zechariah 12:10)*
 - *"I have posted watchmen on your walls, o Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord give yourselves no rest and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth" (Isaiah.62:6-7)*
 - *"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30)*

You cannot pray for the city/region unless you love it and its people. Ask the Lord for a prayer in your heart like John Knox's when he prayed: *"Lord give me Scotland or I die!"*:

3. Pray for the persons in policy-making positions and others in positions of authority in the city. The following areas are relevant:
 - Religion
 - Culture
 - Education (schools, colleges, universities)
 - Politics
 - Municipality
 - Government
 - Justice
 - Protective services (police and prison services)
 - Health services (doctors, hospitals)
 - Media
 - Art, recreation, sports
 - Economics or business sectors

The guidance of the Holy Spirit is very important in this matter. The Lord has a plan and strategy for the city. Make sure that you know what God's strategy is and follow it. Before the city can be reached for God, special efforts must be made to achieve unity and sanctification within the church. Do not act before clear guidance is received from the Lord. This is no child's play. Don't just start to

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rebuke Satan and try to take authority over demonic forces before the victory has been won and the Holy Spirit has guided you to do so.

4. Pay special attention to the strongholds of the evil one in the following areas:
 - Political (government/authority) strongholds - and for satanic inspired laws
 - Cultural strongholds - for satanic inspired attitudes and inclinations
 - Religious strongholds - for satanic inspired faith
 - Materialistic strongholds - for satanic inspired ideals
 - Ideological strongholds - for satanic inspired philosophies and ideologies (e.g. communism; humanism; materialism)
 - Personal strongholds - for satanic inspired lifestyles (personal sin, sinful thoughts, sinful emotions, sinful attitudes, sinful behaviour patterns)
 - Social strongholds - for satanic inspired behaviour patterns

Regular Items for Prayer in Your City or Region

Below are some items for prayer that be started on right away as you set the above in motion:

1. Local Churches:
 - Pastors, Priests, Nuns, Ministers, Bishops, Archbishops, Deacons Staff, Leadership Boards
 - Church Community Outreach and Services
 - Protection over Buildings and Services
 - Revival and Witness in the Community
2. Service Organisations & Medical Facilities
 - Caring for the Poor and Homeless
 - Caring for the Sick, Mentally Ill, Elderly & Dying
3. Local Schools and Education Facilities:
 - Teachers/Students
 - Administration – Principals & Superintendents
 - School Boards
 - Facilities – Protection
4. Governmental Leaders & Services
 - Officials & Service Facilities
 - Mayor
 - City Council, City Planner, P&Z Board
 - Judges and the Court System
 - Jails, Prisons and Detention Centres
 - Protection of all Offices and Buildings

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- Civil Servants
 - Police Officers and all Departments
 - Firemen & all First Responders
 - Ambulance Workers
 - Social Workers
- 5. Newspapers, Television, Radio and Internet Broadcasting
 - Local Newspapers and newsletter publishers and printers
 - TV and Radio studios, offices and broadcasting facilities
 - Community Radio
 - Bulletin Boards, Facebook and other social media community pages
- 6. Galleries, Theatres, and Recreation and Sports Venues
 - Art Galleries
 - Movie Theatres & Sports Bars
 - Arenas, Gymnasiums, Stadiums & Playing Fields
 - Parks, Golf Courses, Pools
- 7. Businesses & the Marketplace
 - Large organisations, corporates
 - Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), family businesses
 - ‘Adopting a Business’ – commit to pray for a specific business

Some Prayers

Prayer of Commitment

Lord you tell us to “seek the welfare of the city where [you] have sent us into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare we will find our welfare.” (Jeremiah 29:7)

You’ve promised that “when it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.” (Proverbs 11:10-11)

*Lord I want to take my place on the wall and guard my [city/region & nation] for your glory.
I declare that your kingdom plans and purposes will be fulfilled and that the enemy will not have his way on my watch. Amen.*

Prayer for Local Churches to Equip and Raise Evangelists and Intercessors

*Lord I pray for the church which is your body in this place. Make it a “city set on a hill that cannot be hidden,” salt and light in our community that preserves and safeguards us from evil and heralds the gospel of Your Kingdom to all who have ears to hear, thereby ushering in your end time purposes.
Amen.*

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Some Relevant Bible Passages

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it (Genesis 1:28)

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession (Psalms 2:8, see also Rom 16:26 and Rev 2:26).

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5)

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. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither 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. In 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)

For the son of man came to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19:10)

You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everybody. You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross (Colossians 1:15-20)

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10)

There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6).