

God is Able

Prayer Guide- Stewardship is Lordship

Use this guide to help you pray in your half hour block and throughout the stewardship process.

Praying God's Will-

"God initiates and we respond"- *Pastor David Chotka (Power Praying)*

What does this look like? How do we know that God is initiating something and waiting for us to respond through prayer?

In order to know what God's Will is we need to know what his Word says. Then we need to go beyond knowing the Word, we must believe it and put it into action; live by it!

James puts it this way;

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does." James 1:22-25 NKJV

How foolish it would be for us to leave the mirror and forget what we look like. James is telling us that it is as equally foolish for us to read God's Word, believe it to be true and then forget about what it says and go on with our everyday lives. We are to apply what we know as truth to how we live.

So if we are to be doers of the Word we are to also be prayers of the Word. We need to read and meditate on Scriptures seeking what God wants done and then praying what we know to be true.

This same process needs to be done in every area of our lives. However for this prayer block you will be focusing your time around the Stewardship campaign and the Lordship of God both in your personal life and in the corporate body of Spruce Grove Alliance Church.

We know that God wants us to pray for our leaders and to pray for those that do not know Him.

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to knowledge of truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4 NKJV

Prayer focus:

1. Make a list of the leaders in our church. Thank God for them, and ask Him to help them walk in integrity, peace, godliness and reverence. Ask the Lord to show them specifically what He wants done in regards to buildings and land and ask God to make this known not only in their hearts but yours as well.
2. Next make a list of those in your immediately sphere of influence that do not know Christ as their personal saviour. Pray for them individually that God will remove the blinders that the enemy has put on their eyes, revealing Himself to them, that they will come to saving faith.

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Praying God's Will

We first looked at James chapter one where we are instructed to put into action what we read in Scripture. As well as praying the things that we know God wants done. Sometimes as we begin to pray Scripture and seek the Will of the Lord our natural instincts for instant answers can kick in. We live in a society where we can get stuff and answers instantly. Research on any topic is only a click away on the internet and that favourite shirt that we have had our eye on can be purchased with one swipe of our credit or debit card. But God does not always give us instant answer. He wants us to stand on what we know is true and continue to seek Him until the breakthrough comes.

Elijah knew that God was going to send the rain yet he had to pray for that to happen. Elijah did not get an instant answer in fact he had to ask God six times before he saw even a small sign of an answer to come.

"Then Elijah said to King Ahab, 'Now, go and eat. I hear the roar of rain approaching'. While Ahab went to eat, Elijah climbed to the top of Mount Carmel, where he bowed down to the ground, with his head between his knees. He said to his servant, 'Go and look toward the sea'. The servant went and returned, saying, 'I didn't see a thing.' Seven times Elijah told him to go and look. The seventh time he returned and said, 'I saw a little cloud no bigger than a man's hand, coming up from the sea.' Elijah ordered his servant, 'Go to king Ahab and tell him to get in his chariot and go back home before the rain stops him.' In a little while the sky was covered with dark clouds, the wind began to blow, and a heavy rain began to fall." 1 Kings 18:41-45 GNT

Elijah heard from the Lord, he knew that God was going to send rain and believed it to be true despite the signs that pointed in the opposite direction. Elijah then prayed asking God to bring about what he knew to be the Father's will.

This is intercessory praying.

1. Know God
2. Know God's heart. Then:
3. Pray God's heart into the creation

Elijah knew three things:

1. God had spoken
2. He had to speak of his faith conviction aloud
3. He had to pray for the thing God wanted done to be done. - *Pastor David Chotka- Power Praying*

I learned this personally in my own life about a year after our son Cody passed away. My husband Tony was going in for surgery for his back. He was going to have the L4 & L5 disks in his back fused together, to alleviate the pain that he was constantly in. The doctors of course had to give us all the case scenarios around the surgery. They said that there was a 50% chance that he would be in a wheelchair for the rest of his life as well as a 50% chance he would not survive the surgery. Even with the possibility of bad results Tony needed to have the surgery. I remember very clearly sitting in my room alone and hearing God speak to me. He told me that Tony was going to die in the surgery and I needed to pray in order for that not to happen. There was such a deep conviction in my heart that I absolutely knew that I had heard from God and that this was what I needed to do. I shared this with as many believers and

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family members as possible. Of course they did what most of us probably would have done. They assured me that everything was going to be okay and that I was probably just worried because of the scenarios that doctor gave us as well as the surgery coming a year after our son's death. But I knew what I knew and I prayed every day for the two months leading up to Tony's surgery. On the day of the surgery I prayed non-stop. I knew that this was God's will for my husband's life but I also knew that I needed to pray for this to happen. Tony visited Heaven that day and then returned to his body. He received the assurance from God that our son Cody was in glory. The Lord answered my prayers and saved my husband's life. "God initiates and we must respond"!

Prayer Focus:

1. We began by asking God to show us what He wanted done here in regards to Stewardship and make that known to us in our hearts. If you are still unsure continue to pray for that assurance.
2. If you have received that assurance in your heart than begin to pray what you know the Lord wants done. Pray even though the signs around you may point in the opposition direction.

Praying God's Will

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph. 3:20-21

If I was to ask you a couple of simple questions,

1. Do you want to see all of Spruce Grove come to saving faith in Christ Jesus?
2. Do you want those people to become fully devoted followers?
3. Do you want to see them get connected into a church fellowship?

I am sure that your answer to all of those questions would be a loud and enthusiastic; YES! In order for those things to actually happen a couple of things need to happen within us individually and corporately.

1. We need to be filled with the presences and power of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit
2. We need this infilling daily
3. We need to surrender to the work of the Spirit within us- as He transforms our very lives from the inside out.
4. We need to allow God to unify this body of believers, by laying down our agendas and picking up His.

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Prayer Focus:

1. If you have never asked the Holy Spirit to fill you ask Him now. If you are unsure how you can follow this simple prayer from Fred Hartley:
Jesus, I am grateful to You for my salvation, because Your death and resurrection purchased a place for me in heaven. I was unworthy of Your grace but You gave it freely to me. I know I have eternal life, and I now have a deep longing in my soul to know for certain that I have been filled with the Holy Spirit. I know You have given me this promise. Cleanse me of all sin by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I turn over my entire life to You. Right now, fill me, saturate me in every area of my life, every cell of my body, every thought. Immerse me in the Holy Spirit. I receive this by faith and I will never again doubt whether or not I have been filled, Yes, I know I am filled, Praise You Jesus. Thank you for filling me; continue to fill me every day of my life and equip me to do the work you have called me to do.
2. If you have already had this initial experiences then ask the Holy Spirit to fill you again. Ephesians tells us that we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, which is a continuous moment by moment filling.
"...but be filled with the Spirit" Ephesians 5:18b
3. Take time to allow the Holy Spirit to examine your heart like King David did. *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23 & 24.* As He reveals things to you repent, receive His forgiveness and allow Him to fill you up. This is the process of Sanctification.

Praying God's Will

The first mention of the tithe in the Old Testament is when Abram gives a gift to Melchizedek in Genesis 14:20-*"And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand. Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything."*

The tithing principle to follow in the Old Testament was 10% of your earnings.

"Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year." Deuteronomy 14:22 NKJV

John the Baptist, the forerunner to Jesus Christ, encouraged believers in the New Testament to give away 50% of their belongings.

"He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise." Luke 3:11 NKJV

But Jesus said in Luke 9:23-25

"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

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To be a committed follow of Christ we need to deny our wills and give everything that we have to God; 100% submission.

God wants us to give to Him on a regular basis. And over and above that He wants us to give to Him sacrificially. Sacrificial giving does not look the same for everyone. As much as we are a body of believers we are also individuals with an individual responsibility to what God is asking of us. Remember the parable of the widow's mite. The rich people put a lot of money into the treasury, but the poor widow was only able to put in two mites. Jesus said that she gave more than the others because she sacrificially gave out of all she had. (Mark 12:38-44).

In Matthew the boy gave of his lunch to Jesus to feed the crowd of people. Jesus took the little boys offering of two fish and five loaves of bread and feed 5,000 men (Matt. 14:13-21).

Jesus takes our offerings no matter how large or how small in our eyes and uses them for great things! So however the Lord is directing you to give remember to do it with a joyful heart.

Prayer Focus:

1. Pray and ask God to teach you the importance of a regular tithe. If you already know and are giving a regular tithe ask God to bless it and use it to further His Kingdom work.
2. Pray and ask God how He would have you give reasonably, sacrificially or with a faith gift, towards the Stewardship campaign.
3. If you have already made a faith commitment, ask God to bless it as you continue with that commitment.
4. Ask the Lord how He would have you steward the other resources He has blessed you with; such as time, Spiritual gifts, etc.

Praying God's Will

As we desire what God wants done and then begin to pray into that very thing; we will find ourselves in the middle of spiritual warfare. We have an enemy who does not want to see the Kingdom move forward and he will stop at nothing to keep that from happening.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6 about the whole armour of God which we are to put on to protect us in the daily battle against our enemy. I am sure that most of you learned about the whole armour of God and the different pieces you are to put on, in church just like I did. But the emphasis of this passage is not about the individual putting on the armour for his or her protection, even though that is true we do need to protect ourselves against the enemy's attacks. In this passage Paul is addressing not the individual's protection but the corporate body of believers standing together with their whole armour on ready to face the enemy together as one unified body of Christ. In Paul's time, battles were fought in hand to hand

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combat. Soldiers would put their suits of armour on and then stand side by side arms linked on the frontline facing the enemy. They would make a human wall to stop the enemy's advances. The wall remained strong as long as the soldiers stood together, but if one of them broke rank or was taken out the wall became weak in that spot and the enemy could break through.

As we pray for God's will to be done in SGAC church particularly around the future of this church our enemy will attack us. We must stand strong with our whole armour on, linked together on the frontlines facing our enemy as he tries to break through. We must pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and supplications, giving thanks to God. And we must lay down our agendas and pick up our crosses following Christ wherever He may lead.

Prayer Focus:

1. Pray that God would protect the church from the enemies' attacks. That we would stand unified in the goal of the Kingdom.
2. Pray that the lies of the enemy would not break through our ranks. Pray that we would not give in to fear, doubts or unbelief.
3. Pray that our eyes would be fixed on Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

May God guide you as you seek Him!

Blessings
Pastor Candice Bacon