

# Prayer Force Manual

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## The Mandate of a “Prayer Force”

**Mark 11:15-18** And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. 17 And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

## The Origins of This “House of Prayer” ...the Establishment and Dedication of the Temple

- The Burden of the Builder of the House ... 1Ki 3:5-9
- The Dedication Prayer of the Builder ... 2Chr 6:12-21
- The Intention of God Toward this House ... 2Chr 7:11-16

***God has granted the earth access to the Throne of Grace through the House of Prayer... so the neglect of prayer is problematic to how God has chosen to bring His kingdom into the earth.***

**Rev 5:8** And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

***“Christ meant prayer to be the great power by which His church should do its work. The neglect of prayer is the great reason the church lacks greater power over the masses in Christian and heathen countries.” Andrew Murray***

*When God has something very great to accomplish for his church it is his will that there should precede it, the extraordinary prayer of his people. When God is about to accomplish great things for his church, he begins with a remarkable outpouring of his spirit of grace and a desire to pray. If we are not to expect that the devil should go out of a particular person, who is in the grip of bodily possession, without extraordinary prayer, or prayer and fasting; how much less should we expect to have him cast out of the land without it.”* **Jonathan Edwards**

*“Prayer, we assert, is the prelude of all mercies. ...Great prayer is the preface of great mercy, and in proportion to our prayer is the blessing that we may expect....In proportion to the prayerfulness of the Church shall be its present success, though its ultimate success is beyond the reach of hazard.”* **Charles Spurgeon**, “Prayer—the Forerunner of Mercy”, *The Park Street Pulpit*, vol 3, p. 415, 416, 418

*“There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.”* **A.T. Pierson** (quoted by J. Edwin Orr in “Prayer and Revival”)

*“God does nothing, except in answer to believing prayer.”* **John Wesley**

## **The Necessity of a “Prayer Force”**

***Prayer Meetings and Prayer Groups are treated as optional by the modern church***

*What does it say about our churches today that God birthed the church in a prayer meeting, and prayer meetings today are almost extinct?... Am I the only one who gets embarrassed when religious leaders in America talk about having prayer in public schools? We don't have even that much prayer in many churches!*

*Let's not play games with ourselves. Let's not divert attention away from the weak prayer life of our own churches. In Acts 4, when the apostles were unjustly arrested, imprisoned, and threatened, they didn't call for a protest; they didn't reach for some political leverage. Instead, they headed to a prayer meeting. Soon the place was vibrating with the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 23-31)." Jim Cymbala, "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire", p. 72*

*"You can do more than pray, after you have prayed. But you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. ... We think we can do more where we are through our service: then prayer to give power to our service. No! — with the blackest underscoring of emphasis, let it be said — No! We can do nothing of real power until we have done the prayer thing ... Here is a man by my side, I can talk to him, I can bring my personality to bear upon him, that I may win him. But before I can influence his will a jot for God, I must first have won the victory in the secret place. Intercession is winning the victory over the chief, and service is taking the field after the chief is driven off." S.D. Gordon, Quiet Talks on Prayer, p. 14*

*"Well now, it is in the field of prayer that life's critical battles are lost or won. ... In prayer we bring our spiritual enemies into the presence of God and we fight them there. Have you tried that? Or have you been satisfied to meet and fight your foes in the open spaces of the world? If I am like Bunyan's pilgrim and encounter Apollyon on the exposed road and begin my warfare there, I shall be sadly beaten, and he will leave me bruised and broken by the way. John H. Jowett, Classic Sermons on Prayer, p. 56*

### ***Effective Ministry NEEDS Effectual, Fervent Prayer!***

*"I cannot insist too strongly on my own helplessness among these people apart from the grace of God. Although I have now been ten years in China and Lisu, I find myself able to do little or nothing apart from God's going before me and*

*working among them. Without this I feel like a man who has his boat grounded in shallow water. Pull or push as he may, he will not be able to make his boat move more than a few inches. But let the tide come in and lift his boat off the bottom—then he will be able to move it as far as he pleases, quite easily and without friction. It is indeed necessary for me to go around among our Lisu, preaching, teaching, exhorting, rebuking, but the amount of progress made thereby depends almost entirely on the state of the spiritual tide in the village—a condition which you can control upon your knees as well as I. Sometimes I feel that a village is grounded like that boat at low water! In such a case you can no more get the people to hold together and strengthen each other than you could roll dry sand into a ball. They will be cold and unresponsive, and weeks or even months of teaching will not do much for them. Their “prayers” are not answered as the power of the Holy Spirit is with them. I repeat, I feel powerless to help in such cases, except to do all that is possible then commit them to God. J.O. Fraser, “Beyond the Ranges”, p. 236*

*“Our struggle is a deep one, spiritual and supernatural. In such a conflict, we must learn to deploy appropriate weapons. And among the chief of these is this kind of earnest, urgent, persistent prayer.” D.A. Carson, “A Call to Spiritual Reformation”*

## **The Mission of the “Prayer Force”**

*“65 plus people who will dedicate the next 6 months to keeping the ministry of prayer as a priority in their lives by preparing themselves to understand and operate in the ministry of intercession and by preceding the ministry activity of the church in intercessory prayer”.*

## The “Prayer Force” Concept

### **THE PRAYER FORCE TEAM ENLISTMENT AGREEMENT**

- 6 Month Enlistment
- Boot Camp Training – Upcoming SOW classes; Additional training resources throughout term (books, articles, messages)
- 65 member team that will be divided up into squads who pray for a minimum of 30 minutes on different days
  - Squad 1 – Monday, Wednesday, Friday
  - Squad 2 – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

\*Note: Off days should be dedicated to times of personal prayer and devotions so that your personal spiritual disciplines are staying vibrant
- Use of “Prayer Targets”—Prayer targets are specific areas of ministry and needs that we will be making you aware of for the purpose of preceding and supporting these aspects of the church’s life in prayer. You will receive monthly updates from the pastors and other ministry team leaders on how you can be supporting them and the ministry in prayer
  - Staying involved in the various personal prayer needs that are available through the prayer chain at [www.lccprayer.com](http://www.lccprayer.com)
- Weekly participation in a corporate prayer time, which may include:
  - Sunday morning (8-8:40 at LCC)
  - Other prayer meetings that are available at LCC or through the Covenant Group ministry
  - A prayer group that you form with others
  - Getting on the phone with others for a prayer meeting
- Prayer ministry is your priority not an optional consideration
- Monthly Mission Updates and Support Materials will be made available to be picked up in the bookstore at the beginning of each month