



## **A Brief Resource on Developing a Prayer Team**

*The Fuel for Congregational Renewal*

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*In Philippians 4:6 it is written, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”*

Prayer is a direct gift from God. It is free, it can be done anywhere, and it is an opportunity for us to experience the Lord’s presence and persistent response in our lives.

### **What are some ways to pray?**

- *Set Prayer*—Formal, time-tested, written in scripture prayers like the Lord’s Prayer
- *Thanksgiving Prayer*—Acknowledging and praising God for what He has done for us
- *Intercessory/Supplication Prayer*—Lifting up the needs of others
- *Confessional Prayer*—Asking Jesus to forgive our sins
- *Contemplative Prayer*—Listening, being quiet, and waiting for the Spirit to speak to our heart

One of the essential components of church renewal is prayer. If there is going to be spiritual and discipleship revival within a congregation, it must be steeped in prayer. Prayer opens us up to hear and respond to the Spirit’s moving in our lives and in the faith community.

Along with modeling prayer in worship, meetings, studies, and teaching others to pray spontaneously whenever and wherever, developing a prayer team to specifically pray for the renewal and needs of the local church will produce much fruit.

### **What are some steps for developing a prayer team?**

- Engage known “prayer warriors,” and invite others with a passion and giftedness to join a prayer team.
- Ask for a weekly commitment for the team to come together and pray for the church’s renewal, mission, a hunger for discipleship, clergy, and the needs of its members/neighbors, and things happening within the community/nation.
- Finding the best path to receive prayer requests for the prayer team, for example: prayer sheets, prayer boxes, email, etc.
- Expect confidentiality will be maintained concerning prayer requests and the individuals involved.
- Specifically pray against any darkness or conflict within the congregation.
- Offer the laying on of hands and the anointing with oil for healing.
- Encourage parish members to share praise and thanksgiving reports of how the Lord has answered prayer.

Prayer is the fuel that ignites church revival. It doesn’t make any difference if there is a prayer team of only two or three people. When prayer is centered in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, things happen. Please consider developing a prayer team for your congregation.