

# *Heal My Land*

## **Transformation Prayer Guide**

***Published by Prayer Transformation Ministries***

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*Cover photos by The Sentinel Group*

*Cover design by Pete Berg*

*Scripture quoted from:*

*New International Version is designated NIV.*

*New Living Translation is designated NLT.*

*New Revised Standard Version is designated NRSV.*

*New King James Version is designated NKJV.*

## Transformation: *Heal My Land*

Amazing as it may seem, it's happening! Imagine coral reefs that were once dying now coming back to life—to the amazement of the scientific world. Imagine once unproductive fields now yielding crops of “biblical proportions” in shortened growing cycles. Imagine 15,000 caribou suddenly appearing on land that had been rededicated back to God. Imagine a toxic stream being completely healed and cleansed after people in a village repented of generations of sin. These amazing stories are documented examples of how God is introducing the literal fulfillment of His promise to believers in 2 Chronicles 7:14: “*Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land.*” (NLT)

Perhaps for too long we have relegated this Scriptural promise to being a figurative and not a *literal healing of the land* and the ecology. Many have assumed the promise was meant for a different people in a different time. But as God continues to cascade His transforming and healing work across our globe, we must awaken to the reality of His undeniable handiwork. If God is ready to demonstrate His glory through transformation of communities and literal healing of the land, how do we align ourselves with His purposes?

These amazing stories are documented in the *Transformation* videos (produced by The Sentinel Group; see pages 69-71) to inspire us to reconsider our assumptions about God's creation and our relationship to the Creator. They compel us to recalculate the power of repentance, seeking God, and turning from sin—and its impact on our cities and nation. God is calling to us to join Him in ushering His manifest presence into our communities with revival fire, resulting in salvation of unbelievers and a reawakening of believers into passionate pursuit of God. The result is the literal transformation of entire societies and the restoration of our land back to its Genesis purpose.

*It is important that we not focus solely on the stories and miracles of transformation, as wonderful as they are. It is not about wonderful ministries and programs, as necessary as they may be. It is about Him! It is about stepping into line with God's greater purpose and plan for our lives, for our cities, and for the world that He created.*

This prayer guide is designed to help you with greater awareness and understanding of Scriptural principles about healing of the land. As you pray, you will be challenged with fundamental truths about God's conditional promises that may at times seem uncomfortable. You will pray through God's intended purposes for His creation, and then what we have done to defile the land. You will be asked to submit your heart to a lifestyle of repentance. You may feel boldly confronted with the biblical truth of our desperate need to "inquire of the Lord." You will be encouraged to begin engaging with the use of powerful spiritual weapons. It is time that we embrace the truth about the true conditions of our churches and communities, and then step fully into God's prescribed plan to remedy our fallen world.

It is our prayer that as you pray for the next year, you will catch God's heart for your city and your land. If you are faithful in your prayers and walk in humility and honesty, in the end you will most likely be "ruined" for the plans and purposes of God. You will become a passionate voice for restoration and healing, and accept nothing less. You will walk in amazement at the awesome power of God!

*The LORD replied, "Look at the nations and be amazed! Watch and be astounded at what I will do! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it."*

Habakkuk 1:5 (NLT)

### **Ideas for Using the Prayer Guide**

- Distribute the prayer guide to every person and family in your church. Pray through the guide together for the entire year. Offer times to share what God is doing and speaking into lives. Use the prayer guide frequently as the basis for small group prayer times.
- Pastors can plan messages throughout the year that will reinforce the principles outlined in the prayer guide.
- Show the various *Transformations* videos to continue to cast vision and hope.
- Churches in your community can collaborate together to use the prayer guide as a basis for corporate prayer on behalf of your community. Pastors can meet and pray together through the prayer guide.

Together, let's believe God for the transformation of our communities and the *healing of our land!*

Much attention has been given in recent years to issues regarding the care of the earth. There are many views about the ecology of the earth, ranging from complete disregard of the value of creation, to elevating the earth to a place of worship over its Creator. In the storm of controversy over a proper perspective of stewardship of the earth, we need to have God's perspective. It is stated pretty clearly in Psalm 105:1-2: *"The earth is the LORD's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths."* God made the earth, and He designed it with an intended purpose and destiny. The God who created this world and placed in it all creatures and His highest creation, man, is a personal God. He desires personal involvement, not only with man, but with His creation. Within this tri-part relationship of God, man, and the land, God has an intended purpose and destiny He wants to see fulfilled through His creation. Sin, however, entered into this pure and pristine world, and not only defiled the land, but fractured the relationship between God, man, and the land.

God's desire is to use His people of covenant to bring back at least a portion of those purposes and destinies for lands, nations and peoples. 2 Chronicles 7:14, although spoken directly to the nation of Israel regarding their land and relationship, gives us a model for a very strategic truth. "If human beings live in covenant relationship with God (i.e. love God and obey Him), the earth will be blessed and flourish. If human beings break covenant relations with God (i.e. reject God and disobey Him), the earth will be cursed and will languish." (*Earth's Enduring Testimony, The call to rededicate the earth to the Glory of God*, by G.J. Wiese).

In many locations around the world, this very thing is happening. When God's people take seriously God's covenant mandate between Himself, His people, and His creation, the earth is being restored and healed. This is not a statement of "Kingdom now" theology or some sort of triumphalism. We know that the ultimate healing of the earth will happen when Christ makes a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21), but we can experience a "foretaste" of that in our times if we will begin to view our world from a different perspective. From the place of our restored covenant relationship with God and His creation, we can live in a way that affects the world for His glory.

As we pray for transformation and healing of our land, we must begin by understanding God's intended purposes for His creation.

## Week 1

### **God's Intended Purpose For His Creation**

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*By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth....For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

Psalm 33:6, 9 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** How quickly we can lose the awe, wonder, and amazement of God's creation around us. As we busy ourselves with daily tasks and responsibilities, our awareness of the magnificent splendor of creation can become casual and routine. Rarely do we notice the intricate detail of the leaves on the trees or the glorious beauty of a songbird. But the creation that we may "glance over" was brought forth by the very breath of the Lord. It was created out of nothing by the simple, but powerful, word of our God. *"He spoke, and it was done."* Every molecule, every grain of sand, every land mass, and every planet is the result of the intentional and purposeful act of God. We need a fresh realization of the tremendous miracle that is set before us. With purpose and intentionality, God Almighty created the earth—and it was good. We do not worship the creation, but we certainly need to regain a proper biblical wonder and respect for God's intentions in creation.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the One who made everything by the power of the word of His mouth.
- Day 2:** Confess the ways you have taken for granted the wonders of His creation.
- Day 3:** Take time this week to be more intentional about noticing the glory of what God has created.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to open your eyes to see and appreciate His creation in new ways. Ask Him to fill you with joy!
- Day 5:** Pray that the people of God will come to a fresh and biblical appreciation of the creation, seeing God's hand all around them.
- Day 6:** Pray that churches and church leadership will appreciate the creative power of God.
- Day 7:** Ask God to make this a new way of life for you, that you will walk in a new awareness of His glorious creation.

*God's Intended Purposes*

## Week 2

### It Belongs to Him!

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*The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. For he laid the earth's foundation on the seas and built it on the ocean depths.*

Psalm 24:1-2 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Ownership of the earth is not in question! The Lord declaratively states that the earth, everything in it, and all of us belong to Him. But our tendency is to claim ownership ourselves. We quickly become possessive of the things around us, beginning at infancy. Our possessiveness grows throughout our lives, and the words “me” and “mine” quickly become common expressions. Eventually we claim ownership of houses, land, and even other people. Yet the truth of the Word of God is that all of this—everything and everyone—does not belong to us; it belongs to Him! As the rightful Creator of all things, God is the sole owner of the earth. But He invites us into ownership and stewardship with Him, as indicated in God’s promise to “heal *their* land” (2 Chronicles 7:14). Understanding this truth should revolutionize the way we think about all of life. It should force us to re-interpret our relationships, the purpose of our lives, and our relationship with the rest of His creation. This should stir a new honor and respect for all that belongs to God, and a desire that it be healed to glorify Him.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the One who owns all things.

**Day 2:** Confess to the Lord the ways you have not acknowledged His ownership over your life.

**Day 3:** Repent before the Lord of the inclination of your heart toward selfish possessiveness.

**Day 4:** Ask the Lord to do a work in your heart that will “wean you away” from the power of possessing.

**Day 5:** Pray that God will stir in you a greater honor and respect for all that belongs to Him.

**Day 6:** Pray that pastors and ministry leaders will recognize that even their ministries are not their own.

**Day 7:** Ask the Lord to give you a greater vision for healing of the land in a way that glorifies Him.

*God's Intended Purposes*

### Week 3

## God Intends the Earth to Declaring His Glory

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*The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or a word; their voice is silent in the skies; yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world....*

Psalm 19:1-4 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Creation is so vast and powerful that the heavens actually speak to the entire world of God's glory. The skies are a stage that display the marvelous things that God has crafted by His own hand. The heavens are not an accident at the hands of some cosmic evolution. God was purposeful as He created the canopy of the heavens that fill the earth. As new galaxies are being discovered, their increasing vastness and beauty adds to an already overwhelming presentation of God's glory. The heavens and the earth are not simply inanimate objects floating through endless space; they are actually a wonderfully designed choir that sings out the greatness and majesty of our mighty and loving God. As David wrote about creation in this Psalm, he was led to a new self-examination and humility before the greatness of such an almighty and glorious God. As you examine the skies tonight, invite God to do a new work of awe and humility in your life as well.

- Day 1:** Bow in worship before the greatness of our God.
- Day 2:** Have you stopped hearing the voice of God's creation declaring His glory? Examine your own heart.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to forgive you for the ways your hearing has been dulled by the noise of this world.
- Day 4:** In prayer, submit yourself to God's work to restore your ability to see and declare His glory.
- Day 5:** Pray that believers in your community will submit themselves to this path of humility and brokenness demonstrated in Psalm 19.
- Day 6:** Pray that pastors will frequently declare God's glory.
- Day 7:** Pray for a renewed desire to see creation through new eyes of appreciation and awe.

*God's Intended Purposes*

## Week 4

### God Intends for the Blessing of Man

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*He sends the springs into the valleys; they flow among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens have their home; they sing among the branches. He waters the hills from His upper chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works. He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart.*

Psalm 104: 10-15 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Man is God's most beloved part of creation. God created the earth for His glory, and men and women are to be the recipients of His overflowing blessings of springs of water, along with a variety of animals, fruit, vegetation, and other abundance. As God's people remain faithful to His commands and purposes, God will use creation to support and bless their lives. From the patterns of weather to the crops and grasses of the field to the creatures God has made, all are intended to work together in harmony when in right relationship with their Creator. God's desire and intention is that the earth support, sustain, and bless the people He has made. When the earth does not adequately support His creation, then we can assume that God's people are out of alignment with His purposes. God's blessings are contingent on man's heart.

- Day 1:** Praise God for the abundance of His creation.
- Day 2:** Worship the Lord for His heart to bless His creation.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to open your heart to see His creation from a perspective of His purposes and intentions.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to forgive you for ways you have taken God's creation and blessing for granted.
- Day 5:** Pray for believers to gain a new understanding of God's purposes in living in right relationship with Him.
- Day 6:** Pray that churches in your city will come together to seek God's purpose for their city and land.
- Day 7:** Begin to ask the Lord for a new vision of how He would bring transformation and healing to your city and land.

*God's Intended Purposes*



## Week 5

### God's Covenant of Peace

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*"I will make a covenant of peace with them and drive away the dangerous animals from the land. Then my people will be able to camp safely in the wildest places and sleep in the woods without fear. I will cause my people and their homes around my holy hill to be a blessing. And I will send showers, showers of blessings, which will come just when they are needed."*

Ezekiel 34:25-26 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** God so desires to be in relationship with His people, providing peace, safety, and showers of blessings. He offers a covenant of peace that reflects a place of safety in the land, even in the wilderness. But God's covenants are conditional in that we play a role in their fulfillment. Prior to this promise of peace, God speaks directly to the spiritual leaders who have allowed their people to live as scattered sheep. They have stood by and preserved their own lives while people in their care are weak, sick, lost, and prey for wild animals. Leaders are accountable to lead their people into places of safety and blessings through restored relationship with God. Then our homes will reflect God's blessings to our communities, and we will be overwhelmed with God's gracious provisions in exact proportion to our needs.

- Day 1:** Worship God as the Restorer of peace and the Provider of blessings.
- Day 2:** Repent for not being broken over those who live outside of relationship with God as hurt and lost sheep.
- Day 3:** Invite God to renew His covenant of peace in your life by revealing how to live in right relationship with Him.
- Day 4:** Pray that the leaders in your church will take seriously their role in the spiritual care of your congregation.
- Day 5:** Pray for restored relationships with God for those in your church, family, and circle of friends.
- Day 6:** Pray that the homes of believers in your community will be known as holy places of hope and peace.
- Day 7:** Invite God to pour out His showers of blessings at just the moment when you need them! Acknowledge that He can be trusted to provide for all your needs.

*God's Intended Purposes*

## Week 6

### God's Covenant of Awesome Power

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*Then the LORD replied, "All right. This is the covenant I am going to make with you. I will perform wonders that have never been done before anywhere in all the earth or in any nation. And all the people around you will see the power of the LORD—the awesome power I will display through you. Your responsibility is to obey all the commands I am giving you today...."*

Exodus 34:10-11 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** If God's intended purposes for His people are to pour out His blessing and bring healing to His land, then we can be assured that the world will be astounded when He moves His mighty hand. When God promises to use His awesome power and perform wonders, we can only hang on for the ride! What God desires to do in the healing of the land cannot be envisioned or even "helped along" by man. When God demonstrates those wonders never seen before, only *He* will get the glory and credit. Our role is to humble ourselves in obedience to Him. God's covenant promise in this passage is in response to Moses desperately pleading with Him for forgiveness of iniquity and sins. There are places in the world today that are eyewitnesses to God's healing and restoring of His creation because they are living in covenant with God. If our unbelief and disobedience are holding Him back, may we find ourselves, as Moses did, falling on our faces and worshiping Him with all our hearts!

- Day 1:** Praise God for His awesome power and display of mighty wonders throughout creation.
- Day 2:** Repent of any places of unbelief in your heart.
- Day 3:** Invite God to show you areas of disobedience in your life, and then determine to walk in right relationship.
- Day 4:** Ask God to increase your vision to pray toward His wondrous works that will display His glory.
- Day 5:** Pray that believers in your church will grasp a vision for God's power beyond what they can see now.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will pursue God with passionate and repentant hearts.
- Day 7:** Pray that your community will one day be a "showcase" for God's awesome power and wondrous works.

*God's Intended Purposes*

## Week 7

### God's Covenant of Unfailing Love

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*"If you listen to these regulations and obey them faithfully, the LORD your God will keep his covenant of unfailing love with you, as he solemnly promised your ancestors. He will love you and bless you and make you into a great nation. He will give you many children and give fertility to your land and your animals.... You will be blessed above all nations of the earth."*

Deuteronomy 7:12-14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** As God prepared the Israelites to occupy the land, He made it clear that He was *choosing* to love them and honor them. In previous verses (vs. 7-8), He reminds the people that they were not selected for His lavish love because they were a great nation or even the smallest of nations. It was simply because the Lord loved them and was keeping His covenant. A covenant is defined as "a promise under seal between two or more parties specifically for the performance of some action." That means that a fulfilled covenant must have the actions of two parties—God and His people. God promises His unfailing love and blessings—even in the land—when we obey His regulations faithfully. If we desire to see our land healed, we will commit ourselves to seek God with all our hearts, that we might walk in radical obedience and intimate fellowship with Him. The outpouring of His lavish love is worth keeping covenant with Him!

- Day 1:** Praise God for His lavish love for us.
- Day 2:** Repent of the ways that you have not walked in full covenant with the Lord.
- Day 3:** Invite God to give you a new awareness of His lavish love for you.
- Day 4:** Thank God that He pours out His love, healing, and restoration through His Son Jesus Christ.
- Day 5:** Commit to the Lord that you will be a demonstration of His lavish love to others.
- Day 6:** Ask God to reveal to leaders in your church about the need to live in right covenant with God and all His commands.
- Day 7:** Invite the Lord to bring healing and restoration to your land and community by showing you how to live in restored covenant with Him.

*God's Intended Purposes*

## Week 8

### God's Everlasting Covenant and Sign

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*"Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David....You 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. Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree....This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."*

Isaiah 55:3; 12-13 (NIV)



**Prayer Focus:** God has great incentive for keeping His covenants with His people because ultimately it brings honor and glory to Him! And you have great incentive because, as the Lord puts it, the life of your soul is at stake. When we live out the fullness of God's covenant for our lives, we will see the evidences of His mercies and unfailing love. The land will burst forth in praise, the trees will clap their hands, and all of creation will rejoice in the restoration of what God originally intended for our world. Instead of thorns covering the ground and choking out life, the regal and majestic pine tree will rise up as a miraculous sign that brings great honor to the Lord's name. Let this picture of the land rejoicing be incentive for you to walk in obedience to the Lord. He may surprise you in how He fashions and restores His creation in response to your covenant-keeping relationship with Him.

- Day 1:** Join God's creation in praising Him!
- Day 2:** Confess to the Lord the ways that your life has not always been a voice of praise to His greatness.
- Day 3:** Thank God that His covenants are everlasting and trustworthy.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to speak into your life in ways that will bring healing and restoration both to you and the land.
- Day 5:** Pray that God will open your eyes to see and understand His intended purposes for your life and community.
- Day 6:** Invite God to surprise you with the wonder of His creation.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will give you the understanding and courage to walk in restored covenant with Him.

*God's Intended Purposes*

When God created the universe and this earth, His intentions were for *everything* to bring glory to Him. He intended for the earth to sustain man and be a blessing to him. God made promises (or covenants) based upon a relationship between Himself, man, and the land. As long as man and God were in proper relationship, the earth would sustain and bless man in abundance. The richness, beauty, and fullness of creation were at man's disposal and he was to care for and nourish the land God had given him.

However, sin entered into the world through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. The earth that was once pronounced "good" (Genesis 1: 4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25) became defiled by sin. Its intended purpose had now been thwarted and usurped because man sinned and broke the covenantal relationship with God. Down through history, sin has continued to defile God's creation, and undermine God's purposes for the earth. Because of sin, Satan—the god of this world—has been given power in the spiritual realm to influence our lives in both the spiritual and physical realms. Unless sin is confessed and its roots renounced and removed, our lives are subject to an authority that was not in God's original established order.

The promises or covenants that God established with Israel are principles that we can embrace for our own relationship with God. Throughout Scripture, all people in every generation are held responsible for their conduct and their response to God their Creator (Romans 1). The sins that God warned would defile the land of the Israelites are equally defiling sins today. Romans 8:20-22 describes the impact our sin has had on the earth: *"Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time."*

In this next section, we will explore and pray about specific sins that have affected creation. These are not just arbitrary sins, but ones that are pointed out by God as being those that bring defilement to the land. We as the people of God must begin to recognize where these sins have occurred in our lives and communities.

Dealing with the sins that defile the land is like pulling up the roots of a nasty weed. Only by going to the root of the sin can a true healing come to the land. Then God's intended purposes will be reinstated.

## Defilement by Immorality of Non-Believers

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*“Do not defile yourselves in any of these ways, because this is how the people I am expelling from the Promised Land have defiled themselves. As a result, the entire land has become defiled. That is why I am punishing the people who live there, and the land will soon vomit them out. You must strictly obey all of my laws and regulations, and you must not do any of these detestable things. This applies both to you who are Israelites by birth and to the foreigners living among you.”*

Leviticus 18:24-25 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Praying about God’s intended purposes for His creation and His covenants with His people must be accompanied with the understanding of how disobedience becomes a place of defilement of all that is good. Leviticus 18 is very specific about the types of immorality that bring defilement to the land. This defilement existed with non-Israelites that God expelled from the Promised Land, and this passage indicates that their sinful living had an impact on the entire land. The list of specific defiling sins included incest, adultery, homosexuality, and bestiality. At the beginning of this chapter, the Lord was also very clear that Israel was not to “...act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life” (Lev. 18:3). If we wonder why our cities are in disrepair and our nation falls prey to immorality, we need to recognize how sin and imitation of the world has defiled our land.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His holy and true Word.
- Day 2:** Allow the Lord to search your heart for any traces of immorality in thought or deed.
- Day 3:** Confess *every* way that lifestyles of the world have influenced your thinking and values.
- Day 4:** Pray that the Word of God will be preached with clarity and truthfulness in these matters.
- Day 5:** Pray that pastors and ministry leaders will not hesitate to stand strong against immorality.
- Day 6:** Pray for an increased understanding of how immorality defiles our land.
- Day 7:** Pray that believers will walk in a spirit of repentance.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Defiled by Immorality of Believers

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*For the land is full of adultery, and it lies under a curse. The land itself is in mourning—its pastures are dried up. For the prophets do evil and abuse their power. “The priests are like the prophets, all ungodly, wicked men. I have seen their despicable acts right here in my own Temple,” says the LORD.*

*Jeremiah 23:10-11 (NLT)*



**Prayer Focus:** The previous week of this prayer guide focused on God’s declaration that defilement of the land came through the non-Israelites living there. Here in Jeremiah, the land is again under a curse—this time as a result of the sins of God’s own people. Even the priests and prophets are indicted for their own sins right in God’s Temple! When it comes to sin defiling the land, God makes no distinction between believers or unbelievers. The people of God may point fingers at the immorality of world and lay blame there for the ills of society. The reality is that the sins of God’s people are just as much—if not more—to blame for the conditions that surround us. The Lord says even the land itself is in mourning because of the sins of God’s people. For transformation and healing of our land to come, the people of God must deal honestly with the sin of immorality in our own hearts. When we repent with integrity and humility, there is hope for the healing of our land!

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord that nothing is hidden from His sight.

**Day 2:** Praise Jesus that shed His blood to make atonement for all of our sins. Walk in gratitude and repentance!

**Day 3:** Give the Lord permission to search your heart for any hint of immoral thoughts or actions.

**Day 4:** Repent and renounce everything the Lord reveals to you as sin. Make repentance your ongoing lifestyle.

**Day 5:** Pray that every hidden sin in your church will be revealed and that repentance will be offered to the Lord.

**Day 6:** Pray that the Holy Spirit of God will initiate a thorough cleansing in Jesus’ Church.

**Day 7:** Praise the Lord for the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse from every sin as we truly repent.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Defilement by Idolatry

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*“Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their evil deeds. To me their conduct was as filthy as a bloody rag. They polluted the land with murder and by worshiping idols, so I poured out my fury on them. I scattered them to many lands to punish them for the evil way they had lived.”*

Ezekiel 36:17-19 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Even though the Israelites had known God’s mercy, protection, and restoration, they still defiled the land by their idol worship. They turned their hearts away from God and chose to live evil lifestyles, offering their allegiance and devotion to other gods. We may believe that idol worship is just an ancient practice or happens only in more pagan nations, and therefore no longer applies to the Church today. But how does God define idol worship? An idol is anything that comes before the Lord Jesus Christ in our hearts and our affections. An idol can be a devotion to leisure activities, or a desire to make more money, own a larger home, or drive a more expensive car. An idol might also be a person, a love interest, a spouse, a celebrity, or even a Christian ministry personality who becomes a greater focus in our lives than the Lord Himself. Freeing our lives from the defilement of idol worship will bring us into closer relationship with God and closer to the healing of our land.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord in pure devotion to Him alone.

**Day 2:** Humble yourself before the Lord and let Him show you *everything* that has replaced your affections for Him.

**Day 3:** Confess all idols that God reveals to you.

**Day 4:** Repent of any idolatry, and rededicate yourself to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ above all else.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will see clearly and repent of any idolatrous things that have come before the Lord.

**Day 6:** Pray pastors and leaders will preach and live this truth from the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

**Day 7:** Pray that fresh and vibrant love for the Lord Jesus will move across the church in your city, freeing people from even the most subtle of idols.

*Defilement of the Land*



## Week 12

### Defilement by Idolatry

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*“Look all around you. Is there anywhere in the entire land where you have not been defiled by your adulteries? You sit like a prostitute beside the road waiting for a client. You sit alone like a nomad in the desert. You have polluted the land with your prostitution and wickedness. That is why even the spring rains have failed....”*

Jeremiah 3:2-3 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** The Prophet Jeremiah, speaking on behalf of the Lord, equates idolatry with adultery. Seeking ultimate pleasures from sources other than the Lord Himself is spiritual adultery. It means that we give ourselves to other things, hoping to fill empty places in our lives that only God can truly fill. This spiritual adultery can take many forms, such as giving ourselves to our work or even to ministry in a way that replaces our devotion to Christ. It can mean looking to worldly systems and methodologies as the ultimate solution, instead of looking to the Lord. Seeking affirmation or guidance from Christian leaders instead of the Lord is also spiritual adultery. When something displaces our love and faith in the Lord, it becomes an idol in our lives. Jeremiah states that this kind of idolatry can affect even God’s creation that provides the spring rains. True healing and restoring of the land can come only as idolatry is replaced with pure love and affection for the Lord.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the One who fills every need.

**Day 2:** Affirm to the Lord your desire that He be first in every area of your life.

**Day 3:** Don’t let up! Give the Lord permission to point out every area of idolatry in your life.

**Day 4:** Pray that your church will remove every idol of ministry, personality, or methodology.

**Day 5:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you discern ways that Satan has tried to seduce you away from the Lord Jesus.

**Day 6:** Pray that believers in your city will have hearts of pure devotion to the Lord.

**Day 7:** Praise the Lord that His jealousy for us comes from His desire that we walk in healing and restoration.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Shedding of Innocent Blood

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*Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The LORD has filed a lawsuit against you, saying: "There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You curse and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with one murder after another. That is why your land is not producing. It is filled with sadness, and all living things are sick and dying. Even the animals, birds, and fish have begun to disappear.*

Hosea 4:1-3 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** On the surface, we may look at our communities and nation (our land) as a place that acknowledges God, and for the most part, treats each other with civility and respect. But we need to ask for God's eyes to see things as they truly are; for a heart that breaks alongside God's heart. There is bloodshed in our land, and it cries forth from the voices of millions upon millions of babies who have been aborted and cut short from the fulfillment of their lives. Our land has been defiled by the devaluing of life among the most innocent of God's creations. If our hearts do not break, if our souls do not cry out for justice, and if our inner beings do not agonize over the shedding of this blood, then we must agree with God that there is no faithfulness or kindness or knowledge of God in our land. This is the harsh reality of our nation, and we desperately need healing from this defilement.

**Day 1:** Worship God as the One who breathes life into us.

**Day 2:** Repent before the Lord if your heart does not break over the shedding of innocent blood in our land.

**Day 3:** Ask God to give you eyes to see things as He sees it, and then the desperation to seek Him for our nation.

**Day 4:** Offer your heartfelt cries of repentance before God for the devaluing and wasting of His treasured creation.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will increase in their fervency in prayer for deliverance of our nation from this curse.

**Day 6:** Pray for the fear of the Lord to descend upon our nation.

**Day 7:** Pray that churches will rise up and lead the way in cleansing our nation from this atrocity.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Defilement Through Violence

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*You curse and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with one murder after another. That is why your land is not producing. It is filled with sadness, and all living things are becoming sick and dying....*

Hosea 4:2-3 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Just as the shedding of innocent blood through abortion brings defilement to the land, so does the act of murder and violence toward one another. The first-ever murder, committed by Cain against his brother Abel, is confronted by God with this graphic declaration: “Listen—your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! You are hereby banished from the ground you have defiled with your brother’s blood” (Genesis 4:10-11). As the Creator and Sustainer of life, God looks with great disdain when His precious creation is violated through the willful sin of man. Hosea declares that because of the violence and murder everywhere, the land is no longer producing. The land is actually filled with sadness, as this was not God’s intention for His creation. We must be honest about the desperate condition of our communities and nation where murder and violence against each other are widespread. Rather than assume this doesn’t affect us or ignore what happens behind many closed doors, we should begin crying out to God for His mercy and cleansing of our land.

- Day 1:** Worship God as the Creator and Sustainer of life.
- Day 2:** Confess any attitudes you might have of not wanting to deal with the reality of violence in your community.
- Day 3:** Pray that God will open your eyes to see things as they truly are, and then ask for insight as to how to pray.
- Day 4:** Pray for healing for those living in violent situations.
- Day 5:** Ask the Lord to begin cleansing our land from the longstanding sins of murder and violence.
- Day 6:** Pray the churches will become safe havens for those who have had atrocities committed against them.
- Day 7:** Pray that your community will become known as a “city of refuge” for those who need healing and restoring.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Breaking Covenant Curses the Earth

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*The earth dries up, the crops wither, the skies refuse to rain. The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted the instructions of God, violated his laws, and broken his everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse consumes the earth and its people....*

Isaiah 24:4-6 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Throughout Scripture there has always been a correlation between the breaking of God's covenant and the impact it has on the land. As this passage states, the earth is the victim of its inhabitants' sin. We tend to view sin as affecting only those who sinned (in their relationship with God) or those who were sinned against (in relationship with each other). But God did not create people and the earth to live independently of each other. God's requirement for healing and restoring the land (2 Chronicles 7:14) is dependent on God's people fulfilling the requirements of His covenant (repentance and turning). When sin is rampant in the world and God is not honored and esteemed, we should not be surprised when the earth groans and responds with calamities and turmoil. Perhaps what we witness in creation is a barometer for the actual spiritual condition of our communities and nation. God declares that the earth will suffer because of us, and therefore it follows that it will prosper through our humility and right alignment with God.

- Day 1:** Praise God that He created the earth as a testimony to His greatness.
- Day 2:** Ask the Lord to show you ways that your sin has had a greater impact than you realize on the things around you.
- Day 3:** Invite God to bring conviction to His Church for the restoring of all covenants with Him through repentance.
- Day 4:** Pray for the healing and restoring of the land as promised in 2 Chronicles 7:14.
- Day 5:** Pray that God's glory will be fully restored to the earth.
- Day 6:** Ask God to give you insight in praying for calamities and turmoil around the world. Seek His heart.
- Day 7:** Pray that your church will fully engage in prayer on behalf of the true condition of the earth.

*Defilement of the Land*

## Week 16

### Breaking Covenants Brings Chaos

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*The city writhes in chaos; every home is locked to keep out looters. Mobs gather in the streets, crying out for wine. Joy has reached its lowest ebb. Gladness has been banished from the land.*

Isaiah 24:10-11 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** If you live in a community that is plagued by poverty, abuse, and victimization, you know the reality of a city writhing in chaos. You feel the hopelessness that overshadows any sense of joy. Your heart is broken by sin and the schemes of Satan. It feels as though gladness truly has been banished from the land. You know that place of desperation that comes from broken covenants with God. And you know that whereas your city has chaos that has exploded to the surface, other cities have yet to discover the pain and poverty that lies beneath. Man cannot manufacture enough vision to redeem a city from chaos. But Jesus Christ is the Redeemer of our cities. By the power of His atoning blood, we can stand with Christ on behalf of our cities. Even one person can make a difference with a truly repentant heart. God said that He would not destroy Jerusalem if just one honest and just person could be found (Jeremiah 5:1). Invite the Lord to make you that one person who is willing to stand before the Lord with a clean heart, interceding on behalf of your city in chaos. Be first in line to restore covenant with God!

- Day 1:** Praise God for the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.
- Day 2:** Confess to the Lord any indifference you have felt toward your community and its spiritual poverty.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to purify your heart and use you as just one of many willing to stand on behalf of your city.
- Day 4:** Pray that your church will be broken over the true condition of your city.
- Day 5:** Pray that God will restore hope in believers who are overwhelmed by the chaos of their cities.
- Day 6:** Pray that believers will unite in heart and God's vision for their cities.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will free your city from chaos and that gladness will be restored to your land.

*Defilement of the Land*

“We inquire of the Lord, and then we repent of everything He tells us.” That was the simple explanation of the “Healing the Land Team” from Fiji when asked how they lead people and communities on the path of transformation and healing of the land. Having seen amazing and miraculous works of God in their own land, they humbly share the profound truths that they have discovered. And though the truths are profound, they are simple. It all comes down to obedience and the willingness to bring hear from the Lord and bring *everything* before Him in brokenness and repentance.

Often people are resistant to the thought of repentance. It is certainly not a popular message in most churches. The tendency is to soften the message of sin, and instead make people feel comfortable by not offending with the truth. Out of fear, shame, or a stubborn will, people deny their need to repent and be cleansed of the Lord. But God offers so many wonderful results of repentance, including healing, restoring, freedom, joy, and reconciliation. In Acts 3:19, the call to repentance is inviting and hopeful: *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord*

When one understands that refreshing from the Lord accompanies repentance, it is tragic that need for repentance is so minimized. In places around the world where God is healing of the land and the displaying His glory even in the ecology, the primary component is repentance. In their desperation for God to move on their families, churches, and communities, people are willing to abandon all their pride and resistance to race for the Cross of Christ. They take extended time (sometimes as much as 18 months) to inquire of the Lord about absolutely everything in their lives and families that is displeasing to God. They also look into the history of their land and communities to discover any past sin that has not been confessed. They are relentless about leaving nothing uncovered because they know that no unconfessed sin is worth the holding back of God’s blessings.

As you pray through these next eight weeks on the topic of repentance, allow the Lord to examine your life thoroughly. Resist the tendency to see sin in other people without being completely transparent with the Lord in your own life. Repentance always comes back to the individual heart, and as you walk in humility and a lifestyle of repentance, God will begin to move in other people. Let Him use your life as an example of someone who is completely abandoned to Him and reconciled with Him in every matter of the heart.

## The Standard of Repentance

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*"...I am bringing you back again but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, which you dishonored while you were scattered among the nations. I will show how holy my great name is.... And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign LORD, then the nations will know that I am the LORD."*

Ezekiel 36:22-23 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Repentance is the crucial calling for God's people who desire to see defiled land healed and restored. But this is not a self-serving repentance that simply "gets us back right with God." It is a repentance that has as its standard the holiness of God. When we sin and when God's creation is defiled, we have actually defiled the very holy name of God. God is protecting His name by allowing us to walk back into relationship with Him through repentance. He wants to reveal His character of holiness through His people as a testimony that He is the sovereign Lord. This should leave us very sober in our complacency toward sin and deeply humbled that He chooses to reveal Himself through us. With God's holiness as the standard for repentance, we realize that we can do nothing but bow ourselves at His mercy. When we do so, the Lord goes on to say that He will give us a new heart with new and right desires and will put a new spirit in us (Ezekiel 36:26).

**Day 1:** Let God's holiness be your standard for worship.

**Day 2:** Confess the many ways that you have been complacent about sin and not appalled that His holy name is defiled.

**Day 3:** Ask the Lord to reveal to you a new understanding of His holiness.

**Day 4:** Express to the Lord your desire to repent for the sake of His holy name.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will not accept lesser standards of holiness, but will honor God in all things.

**Day 6:** Pray that the leaders in your church will embrace standards of holiness that honor God's name.

**Day 7:** Pray that God's holy name will be honored and revealed through you and your church into your community.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## Repentance Is a Gift from God

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*Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.*

2 Timothy 2:25-26 (NIV)



**Prayer Focus:** The only source of true repentance is God Himself. In God's pursuit of us and in His desire to be in relationship with us, He offers us a gift that no one else can give—repentance that leads to restoration with Him. Paul's instructions to Timothy in this passage are a reflection of the deep gratitude that Paul has for the gift that God granted to him. Before Paul repented in a dramatic encounter with the Lord and devoted himself to Christ, he was caught in the trap of the devil. Paul had completely lost his sense of the truth, and he was held captive to Satan's will. Imagine Paul's depth of gratitude when he was set free and was granted the gift of repentance! In fact, from that point on Paul was so in awe of God's gift that he counted it a privilege to suffer for the sake of Jesus' name. Paul approached repentance with great humility and understanding that he had been spared by the gracious hand of God. Our hearts should overflow with the same gratitude to God.

**Day 1:** Approach the throne of God humbly and thank Him for His gift of repentance.

**Day 2:** Repent for the times you have treated the gift of repentance lightly and not acknowledged God's grace.

**Day 3:** Ask God to stir a continual heart of repentance in you.

**Day 4:** Pray that the message of repentance will be spoken in your church with grace and mercy—but without compromise.

**Day 5:** Ask the Lord to free people in your life from Satan's trap, and then lead them into the gift of repentance.

**Day 6:** Pray that God will give an ongoing gift of repentance to leaders in your church.

**Day 7:** Pray that your community will be redeemed and restored through an outpouring of God's gift of repentance.



## The Character of God in Repentance

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*Then Job replied to the LORD: "I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You ask, 'Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?' It is I. And I was talking about things I did not understand, things far too wonderful to me. You said, 'Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.' I had heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in the dust and ashes to show my repentance."*

Job 42:1-6 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Job learned quickly that there was no room for arrogance or misinterpretation of true repentance. As he was confronted by the God of the Universe, his only response was to meekly take back everything he thought he knew—and then sit in ashes to think about God’s powerful attributes even more! God peppered Job with simple questions about His creation, and Job immediately knew that in the presence of the Almighty God, the quicker the repentance the better. Job most likely didn’t mean to be arrogant in his observations, but his questions were nevertheless an affront to God. If God repeatedly calls His people to repentance, it is arrogant for us to try to present a more “softened” approach. If God created hell as a place for the unrepentant, then we had better not lessen the picture by teaching only part of the gospel message. Repentance is important to God, and so our lives ought to be marked by deeply repentant hearts and attitudes toward Him.

- Day 1:** Worship God for His character and mighty attributes.
- Day 2:** Thank God that He loves us in spite of our humanness.
- Day 3:** Confess the ways you have taken the message of repentance lightly and tried to soften the reality.
- Day 4:** Read Job 38-42 and invite the Lord to give you a right perspective of His power and majesty.
- Day 5:** Pray that the message of repentance will not be softened in your church, but offered truthfully and gracefully.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will walk in true humility and a deep reverence for the Lord.
- Day 7:** Pray that the message of repentance to the lost in your community will not be compromised.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## A Lifestyle of Repentance

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*You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. But never forget the warning: “Today you must listen to his voice. Don’t harden your hearts against him as Israel did when they rebelled.”*

Hebrews 3:13-15 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** As long as it is still “today,” repentance is in order! Repentance has often been portrayed as a one-time event that makes you right with God through Christ and insures you the gift of heaven. But this passage instructs us to warn each other every day about the danger of falling into sin. Repentance needs to be a lifestyle of all believers. If we truly understand the holiness of God and the sinfulness of our own hearts, then we will be quick to heed the admonition of Hebrews 3:15 that we not let our hearts become hardened as Israel did. Warning each other every day is a picture of a lifestyle of constant vigilance to remain pure before the Lord. We must cultivate a tenderness to the voice of the Holy Spirit and an alertness to the tendencies of our hearts toward sin. If we are to pray faithfully for transformation and healing of the land, repentance *must* become a lifestyle that we embrace.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His love that always seeks us out.
- Day 2:** Confess to the Lord the ways you have not understood repentance as a lifestyle.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to give you a tender heart that is sensitive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and the conviction of sin.
- Day 4:** Pray for pastors and ministry leaders to live in a lifestyle of repentance and brokenness.
- Day 5:** Pray that the message of repentance as a way of life will be preached in churches in your community.
- Day 6:** Pray that your lifestyle of repentance will glorify God and attract unbelievers to Himself.
- Day 7:** Pray that unbelievers in your community will witness the brokenness and authenticity of the Church.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## Week 21

### Thoroughness of Repentance

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*Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.... Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:6, 10 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Genuine, God-given repentance does not just clip around the edges of our lives to make cosmetic changes. It goes to the very root and core of our sin issues. True repentance deals with every sin that is an affront to the holiness of our God. To be thorough, we must examine every attitude, every motive, every action, and every word of condemnation and criticism. David understood that for his repentance to be true, it had to go into the “hidden parts” of his life, those inward places that we don’t want to let others—or even God—examine. Often we do not even let ourselves go there, but we must open ourselves to the illumination of the Holy Spirit and the cleansing power of the blood of Christ. We cannot expect God to bring His transforming and healing presence if we keep those hidden places untouched and unexamined. If we desire God to create a clean heart in us, we must acknowledge and repent of all sins. Although this may seem painful and uncomfortable, we will be flooded with the love of Christ if we just yield to His cleansing touch.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord Who loves us so much.
- Day 2:** Praise the Lord that His grace will search out every hidden place if we surrender to Him.
- Day 3:** Present every hidden place to the Lord and let Him examine those places and reveal your sin.
- Day 4:** Welcome the Lord into those inward places and repent of everything He shows you. Rejoice in His peace!
- Day 5:** Pray that the thoroughness of repentance will be embraced by others in your church.
- Day 6:** Pray that the Lord would cause His Church not to shy away from the message of repentance.
- Day 7:** Praise the Lord that the Blood of Jesus will cleanse and redeem every part of your repentant heart.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## Relentless Repentance

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*"You were sorry and humbled yourself before God when you heard what I said against this city and its people. You humbled yourself and tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. So I have indeed heard you, says the LORD."*

2 Chronicles 34:27 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Young King Josiah is a powerful example of repentance that touches the heart of God. Josiah began ruling at age eight, and his life was immediately marked by his desire to please the Lord. Soon he began seeking the Lord with even more diligence, and God opened his eyes to see the prevailing idolatry throughout the land. Josiah was consumed with destroying altars, smashing idols, and purifying the land and cities in Judah. After several years of a relentless pursuit of purifying the land, Josiah turned his attention toward repairing the Temple of the Lord. That would seem enough to keep Judah in favor with God, but then Josiah made a horrific discovery. For the first time, he was presented with the Book of the Law that was given to Moses. When Josiah read it, he realized that there was a great deal of repentance still needed. He tore his clothes, mourned, and then led the way in bringing the people back to God. For Josiah, repentance wasn't complete *until God said so*—and granted him favor. Josiah's pursuit of repentance was relentless, but ultimately God spared an entire city and nation.

- Day 1:** Praise God for His forgiving nature when we repent.
- Day 2:** Invite the Lord to open your eyes to the idols and altars that have been built in your life, church, and community.
- Day 3:** Repent of those things that have been raised up as idols.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord about how to repair the broken-down places in your church.
- Day 5:** Pray that the leadership in your church will be relentless in their pursuit of repentance and purification.
- Day 6:** Pray that the Word of God will be revered and honored in your church.
- Day 7:** Pray that believers in your community will see a true picture of idolatry and sin—and be willing to repent.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## Results of Repentance

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*"You were sorry and humbled yourself before the LORD when you heard what I said against this city and its people, that this land would be cursed and become desolate. You tore your clothing in despair and wept before me in repentance. So I have indeed heard you, says the LORD. I will not send the promised disaster against this city until after you have died and been buried in peace...."*

2 Kings 22:19-20 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Josiah's relentless pursuit of repentance ushered in one of the greatest revivals in the history of the nation. God honored Josiah's heart and held back the promised disaster for the rest of Josiah's life. During that time the nation was blessed by the hand of God. Because Josiah's young heart was tender and open to the Lord, he could discern how the people of God had strayed far from the Lord and how previous kings had not followed God's commands. Josiah's genuine repentance was demonstrated by his actions to cleanse the land and walk in continued brokenness before the Lord. In turn, God demonstrated His love for a contrite and humble heart by relenting of judgment during Josiah's lifetime. This principle of repentance is the same for us today. If we will truly humble ourselves in genuine repentance before the Lord for personal sins and the corporate sins of our churches, communities, and nation, God will respond with grace and healing. If the promise is true, why should we hold back our hearts from the Lord?

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord today for His great heart of mercy.
- Day 2:** Praise the Lord that He delights in responding to a heart of repentance.
- Day 3:** Confess the ways you have ignored God's call to repent.
- Day 4:** Offer your heart to the Lord in repentance.
- Day 5:** Pray for discernment in your church about all sin.
- Day 6:** Pray for a spirit of repentance to sweep across your city.
- Day 7:** Thank the Lord for the truth of His Word and His promise to heal our land through humble and repentant hearts (2 Chronicles 7:14).

*Repentance in Healing Land*

## Dangers of Delayed Repentance

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*But as they came closer to Jerusalem and Jesus saw the city ahead, he began to cry. "I wish that even today you would find the way of peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from you. Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you. They will crush you to the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you have rejected the opportunity God offered you."*

Luke 19:41-44 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** This picture of the Lord Jesus Christ weeping over Jerusalem and His words of impending judgment ought to bring us to a sobering realization: *The results of delayed repentance are disastrous.* The Jews of Jesus' day refused to receive Him and the life that He offered. They continued to be content in their religious routines with hearts that had grown cold and hard. Missing the day of the Lord's visitation can happen to the Church today as well. God is certainly a God of grace and love, but He is also a God of holiness. In keeping with His character, He must judge sin. If we do not repent we will suffer judgment, and the earth will suffer the defiling consequences of our sins. Weep with Jesus over the condition of our hearts and cities—and repent.

**Day 1:** Worship Jesus for His heart of love that still weeps over cities.

**Day 2:** Give thanks that God will hear our cry of repentance.

**Day 3:** Ask forgiveness for delaying repentance because you have discounted the cost.

**Day 4:** Pray that churches in your community will not delay in repenting of personal and corporate sins.

**Day 5:** Pray that churches will not be so busy with "ministry" that they miss the importance of repentance.

**Day 6:** Pray for churches in your community to weep together over the condition of your city.

**Day 7:** Pray for the Lord to reveal every area in your community where He requires repentance.

*Repentance in Healing Land*

The path of this prayer guide thus far has been to discover God's intended purposes for His creation, and then understand how sin has defiled the land and thwarted that destiny for His people and the land. The importance that God places on repentance has been elevated beyond just an "act," but as a matter of the heart and lifestyle before God. Repentance is the key to the fulfillment of God's promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14 to "heal your land."

The next natural response might be, "OK, we've done all that. Now let's do something! Certainly there must be a program or strategy that we can now implement to really make things move forward!" If you look for a program for the next steps in ministry, you will find a flood of them in the Christian marketplace. However, it is interesting that none of these programs have resulted in the actual healing of the land. But we still resort to them when we do not know what to do next.

This is a plea for you to resist resorting to past behavior of searching out a program or strategy to spark change in your church or community. The next step is much more radical than that. It is to learn to come into the presence of God and ask *Him* what He wants you to do. The next eight weeks of this prayer guide are devoted to "inquiring of the Lord." This does not mean opening and closing your next meeting in prayer. This means intentional seeking of God's heart and voice in everything you do. Inquiring of the Lord is a very biblical action, taken with the realization that we are in vital relationship with a loving God who delights to communicate with His children in unique and creative ways. Just look at Scripture to verify that God does things in ways that men cannot dream up on their own. Joshua did not develop a training summit with books and DVDs after the Jericho walls fell down. He just moved on to the next assignment with new directions from the Lord.

Some cautions are to be noted. There is ample biblical evidence for inquiring of the Lord, but it always has to be under the authority of the Word of God—and in line with the ways of God. As you listen and inquire, you must always test those words against the written Word of God and the principles and ways of God found in the Bible.

There is no substitute for hearing fresh instructions from the Lord. It is the marriage between the wisdom of the Word of God and the fresh revelation from the Spirit who knows all things and will direct us toward transformation and the healing of our land.

## Inquiring—God’s Expectation

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*For who has stood in the counsel of the LORD, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?*

Jeremiah 23:18 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Jeremiah was challenging all the prophets who kept speaking on behalf of the Lord, yet did not know Him well enough to even hear what He was saying. Jeremiah’s charge against other prophets was that they were not telling the truth—that God wanted His people to turn from their wicked ways. If we are to speak out about the heart of God, that privilege comes with the expectation that we actually inquire of the Lord first! A careful examination of this verse teaches that we are to spend extended time in His presence (*stood*) in “intimate consultation” (*counsel*) until we truly understand what He is saying to us (*perceived and heard*), so that we can then obey and tell others (*marked and heard*). To speak on behalf of the Lord, but yet not know Him intimately or spend time in His presence inquiring of Him, is an affront to God. If we are to discover God’s plan for the transformation of our cities and the healing of our land, we must follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ in John 5:19-20. Even Jesus inquired of the Father!

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the One who invites us into intimate consultation with Himself.
- Day 2:** Thank the Lord that in the name of Jesus you are welcome into His Presence.
- Day 3:** Confess to the Lord the ways you have neglected to inquire of Him, yet claimed to speak for Him.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to teach you how to spend intimate time in His Presence, growing in your ability to hear Him.
- Day 5:** Pray that your pastor and church leaders will learn to inquire of the Lord and intimately seek Him.
- Day 6:** Pray that pastors and ministry leaders in your city will desire to inquire of the Lord together for your city.
- Day 7:** Pray that the excuse of lack of time will no longer be a factor in keeping leaders from inquiring of the Lord.

*Inquiring of the Lord*



## Inquiring—Expected of Leaders

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*The shepherds of my people have lost their senses. They no longer follow the LORD or ask what he wants of them. Therefore, they fail completely, and their flocks are scattered.*

Jeremiah 10:21 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** The shepherds or leaders of Israel were to blame for the scattering of the people. They had ceased to ask the Lord what He wanted of them, and they are described as leaders who had “lost their senses.” One Scripture version (NASB) says the shepherds were “stupid” for not seeking the Lord. This startling description is an accurate depiction of God’s heart regarding “inquiring of the Lord.” God’s expectation of leaders is that they will seek His wisdom, His plans, and His direction for His people. If they do not, they must assume responsibility for the failure and consequences of a scattered people. Not inquiring of the Lord is a senseless way to walk in ministry! But often leaders look to the latest program or initiative as the answer to a floundering ministry rather than seeking the Lord. Leaders, you are called of God to spend time in His presence, develop an intimate relationship with Him, and learn to hear His voice with clarity. It is the only way to lead God’s people in the healing and restoring of their land and communities.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His amazing heart to invite us into His presence in Jesus’ name.
- Day 2:** Thank the Lord for His offer of wisdom and direction.
- Day 3:** Confess to the Lord the times you led others from your own initiative without seeking the Lord.
- Day 4:** Pray that your pastor and church leaders will not neglect inquiring of the Lord.
- Day 5:** Pray that the hearts of pastors and ministry leaders in your community will not grow dull to the Lord.
- Day 6:** Pray that God will reveal His plans and purposes for your city to those with listening hearts.
- Day 7:** Pray that inquiring of the Lord will become a “first response” rather than looking to programs or initiatives.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

## Inquiring—For Understanding

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*Now there was a famine in the days of David for three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, "It is because of Saul and his bloodthirsty house, because he killed the Gibeonites"*

2 Samuel 21:1 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Faced with a recurring issue that affected the land through famine, David recognized the possibility of a spiritual component to the ongoing crisis. So David inquired of the Lord to ask if there was a reason that the Lord was holding back His blessing. The Lord revealed that, indeed, there was a serious spiritual issue going back to Saul's treatment of the Gibeonites. The implication is that if David had not inquired of the Lord, the famine might have gone on for some time without acceptable resolution. As we face issues in our lives, churches, and even communities, we must also inquire of the Lord about any spiritual issues that need to be resolved. We can fail to recognize that social blights, crime patterns, and even meteorological events may very well have deeper spiritual roots that need healing and release from the Lord. Even as with Saul, spiritual issues can go back many years or generations. Inquiring of the Lord is a key tool as we ask God for the healing of our land. We need *His* perspective on our true condition.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the One who knows all things.

**Day 2:** Praise the Lord that He knows the answer to every issue we face in our churches and in our cities.

**Day 3:** Ask the Lord to forgive you for the ways you have ignored the spiritual roots behind presenting issues.

**Day 4:** Ask the Lord to give the leaders in your community the right perspective about spiritual issues.

**Day 5:** Pray that your church leaders will inquire of the Lord about spiritual issues that may be affecting your church.

**Day 6:** Pray for understanding about how seemingly common occurrences may have spiritual roots.

**Day 7:** Praise the Lord that He is ready to respond with healing and restoration when we inquire about His heart.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

## Inquiring–For Clarification

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*After this, David asked the LORD, “Should I move back to Judah?” And the LORD replied, “Yes.” Then David asked, “Which town should I go to?” And the LORD replied, “Hebron.”*

2 Samuel 2:1 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** This exchange between David and the Lord has been recorded in Scripture as an indication of David’s close relationship with God and his desire to give every detail of his life to Him. At first glance it may seem simply an endearing conversation between the two of them, but it is actually a very profound interaction. David knew that this next phase in his life was important to God, and he wanted His specific direction. Not only did David want to know whether he should move, but he wanted to know the specific place. And the Lord answered him with a very clear, specific answer. How often have you inquired of the Lord about such specifics as your neighborhood or home, your relationships or job? The Lord wants us to inquire of Him for clarification, but it is a walk of faith to trust Him for the answers. He also wants to show us specific insights concerning the needs and issues of our churches or communities. He is not reluctant to answer when we earnestly inquire of Him. We can learn to seek Him corporately for His specific direction for the transformation and healing of our land.

- Day 1:** Praise the Lord that He will hear and answer our inquiry.
- Day 2:** Worship the Lord that He has a plan and destiny for your life, your church, and your city.
- Day 3:** Repent of the ways that you have made important decisions without first inquiring of the Lord.
- Day 4:** Pray that God would teach you to ask Him for specific answers, and then give you the courage to wait for Him.
- Day 5:** Pray that your pastors and leaders will seek clarity in ministry by inquiring of the Lord in all things.
- Day 6:** Pray the Lord will begin revealing specifics about your community as you earnestly inquire of Him.
- Day 7:** Pray that inquiring of the Lord will become a lifestyle and passion of God’s people.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

## Corporately Inquiring of the Lord

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*Then all the Israelites went up to Bethel and wept in the presence of the LORD and fasted until evening. They also brought burnt offerings and peace offerings to the LORD. And the Israelites went up seeking direction from the LORD....The Israelites asked the LORD, "Should we fight against our relatives from Benjamin again or should we stop?" The LORD said, "Go! Tomorrow I will give you victory over them."*

Judges 20:26-28 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Inquiring of the Lord *together* is the key to persevering through doubt and confusion in difficult circumstances. When we take the time to corporately inquire of the Lord, we gain strength from each other's convictions that we have heard the Lord correctly and must persevere with obedience. Israel had to walk a very painful road of executing justice among their own people. Together they inquired of the Lord about whether they should attack. Twice the Lord told them to go ahead, and twice they suffered deep casualties and defeat. But instead of abandoning the place of obedience, they returned to the Lord with weeping, fasting, and offerings. They did not waver in defeat. When they inquired the third time, the Lord told them that this time they would be victorious. If they had not persisted through two demoralizing defeats, they would not have gained the victory. Listening together corporately gives the courage to persevere during dark and uncertain times.

**Day 1:** Worship the Sovereign God Who knows all things.

**Day 2:** Confess times you have not sought the Lord together with other believers.

**Day 3:** Repent of times when your church has moved ahead without first inquiring of the Lord.

**Day 4:** Pray that the Lord will increase your ability to hear.

**Day 5:** Pray that your church will commit itself to hearing the Lord before moving ahead in ministry.

**Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will grow in their intimacy with Christ and in their desire to hear Him.

**Day 7:** Pray that believers in your community will listen well together and move forward only when they hear God.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

## Consequences of Not Inquiring of the Lord

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*“Because you Levites did not carry the Ark the first time, the anger of the LORD our God burst out against us. We failed to ask God how to move it in the proper way.” So the priests and the Levites purified themselves in order to bring the Ark of the LORD, God of Israel, to Jerusalem.*

1 Chronicles 15:13-14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** King David realized that a horrendous error on his part cost the life of one of his followers. In the excitement to bring the Ark back to Jerusalem, he consulted with his army officials and developed a very reasonable plan. But he failed to inquire of the Lord about the proper way to move it. So when Uzzah (who was not the required Levite) reached out his hand to steady the Ark, he was struck dead. This put such a fear of God in David that he let the Ark sit for three months. When it was time again to move the Ark to its final destination, David was careful to follow the implicit instructions of the Lord that involved purifying and preparing the Levites. They were being entrusted with a sacred task, and David was determined to walk in complete obedience. Too often our attitude is that we can just go ahead with our plans and somehow God will bless them and make them work. Rarely do we seek the Lord first about His specific instructions, even in the seemingly insignificant things. God in His grace and mercy doesn't often strike people dead for disobedience, but how much more honoring to the Lord when we seek Him for all things. His plans always prove to be better than our own!

**Day 1:** Worship God for His wonderfully creative plans.

**Day 2:** Confess the times you have ignored the Lord and His purposes.

**Day 3:** Ask forgiveness for the times that you have implemented your own plans and then asked God to bless them.

**Day 4:** Declare to the Lord that you will earnestly seek Him.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will learn to seek God and hear Him before any plans are made.

**Day 6:** Pray that the leaders in your church will live a lifestyle of seeking the Lord for all things.

**Day 7:** Invite the Lord to rewrite your plans and be specific in the steps of obedience that He desires you to take.

## Week 31

### The Danger of Inquiring of Other Sources

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*So Saul died because he was unfaithful to the LORD. He failed to obey the LORD's command, and he even consulted a medium instead of asking the LORD for guidance. So the LORD killed him and turned his kingdom over to David son of Jesse.*

1 Chronicles 10:13-14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Saul knew that gaining knowledge from occult sources was an offense to God. Saul even banned all mediums and psychics from the land because it was such a detestable practice (1 Samuel 28:3). Yet when the Lord refused to answer his inquiries (most likely because of his disobedience), Saul panicked and desperately looked to other sources. Instead of humbling himself, confessing his sin, and restoring his relationship with God, he chose to walk independent of God. The dramatic result was that God killed Saul and gave the kingdom to David, a man who would passionately seek after God's heart. The occult is just as detestable to God today, and most Christian leaders would never consider consulting a medium for ministry direction. But at the same time, leaders are often quick to consult other sources for ministry ideas, strategies, and vision—and rarely do they fast, pray, and seek God with any fervency. Gaining knowledge from other sources may be just as offensive to God if it replaces the passionate pursuit of His heart.

**Day 1:** Worship God as the only true source of knowledge.

**Day 2:** Confess the times you have substituted man's knowledge for God's vision.

**Day 3:** Repent of any ways that you have allowed offensive practices to God to come subtly into your ministry.

**Day 4:** Ask God to increase your fervency to seek Him in all things, even when it is tempting to just take good advice.

**Day 5:** Pray that believers will recognize all the ways that occult practices have seeped into our culture and churches.

**Day 6:** Pray that your leadership will grow in their desire to passionately pursue God's heart.

**Day 7:** Pray that your community will be set free from the deceptions that lure people away from the true God.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

## The Right to Inquire of the Lord

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*“Son of man, these leaders have set up idols in their hearts. They have embraced things that lead them into sin. Why should I let them ask me anything?”*

Ezekiel 14:3 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Harboring sin in our hearts can be detrimental to the privilege of inquiring of the Lord and hearing His voice. In this passage, the Lord threatens to close Himself off from the leaders of Israel who embraced things other than the true worship of God. He displays anger toward those who “set up idols in their hearts” and then expect Him to give them answers and guidance. He even goes on to say that He will use deceived prophets to deliver false words to those who seek Him with impure hearts. God is looking for those who are wholeheartedly devoted to Him and willing to abandon all idols to seek Him (vs. 9). We should expect that the same principle applies today in terms of sin being a blockage in that intimate place of listening to and hearing from the Lord. Allow the Lord to cleanse you so that you can rightfully inquire of Him.

- Day 1:** Praise God for His holiness and purity.
- Day 2:** Invite the Lord to show you ways that you harbor sin in your heart, and confess your desire to walk in purity.
- Day 3:** Invite the Lord to give you greater understanding about idols and what they might represent in today’s culture and church. Embrace a greater awareness of those things that are a hindrance in your relationship with God.
- Day 4:** Confess anything that the Lord reveals as an idol.
- Day 5:** Pray for greater discernment around false prophets and messages that are finding their way into churches.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will not allow programs and strategies to become idols, replacing their ability to hear the heart of God.
- Day 7:** Pray that the Church in your community will experience a cleansing and a refocus on the simplicity and purity of hearing God’s voice.

*Inquiring of the Lord*

When confronted with the pain of hopelessness or destruction in our communities, we often try to figure out solutions that seem practical and rational. When crime rises in our cities, we hire more policemen and devote money to urban renovations. When drug abuse threatens our society, we implement policies to regulate its use and rehabilitate the users. We respond to unproductive soil by seeking alternative and artificial means to revitalize the ecology.

We fail to recognize that there is a spiritual component to every aspect of life. God created everything with a destiny and purpose, but our communities and land are defiled because of the spiritual misconduct of the people. Therefore the true solution through God's perspective is a spiritual resolution. Obviously real needs require real solutions. But we must not miss the spiritual component to the transformation of our societies and lands. God has given to us a mighty spiritual arsenal with to wage war against the ravages of sin and the onslaughts of our enemy Satan. These weapons are like fine military hardware. We must know when and how to use each weapon in order to wage effective battle.

These spiritual weapons of war are to be used under the direction of the Holy Spirit, in a spirit of humility and repentance. Our instructions must come from the "Commander in Chief," our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these weapons are "not the weapons of this world" (2 Corinthians 10:4), we must learn to use them from a spiritual perspective, where heart and character are more important than position and bluster. The true heroes of transformation are the humble people who may be unnoticed by the world, but yet they have faith and favor from the Lord to wield mighty and powerful weapons.

Stepping into spiritual warfare is uncomfortable for many. It is dangerous territory, and must be entered into without pride or self-sufficiency. But we can enter with confidence because of the redeeming and powerful blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Under the authority of Christ, the weapons of worship, prayer, fasting, unity, repentance, and binding and loosing become sharp-edged swords of truth and righteousness. With every step and with every weapon, we must always understand that this battle is not about us, but about the power, authority, the glory and the honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we continue walking in the vision of transformation and healing of the land, we must take up our positions as those who are willing to guard and defend the land for the renown of Jesus' name!



## Worship as a Weapon of War

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*Then David said, "Twenty-four thousand of them [Levites] will supervise the work at the Temple of the LORD. Six thousand are to serve as officials and judges. Four thousand will work as gatekeepers, and another four thousand will praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have made."*

1 Chronicles 23:4-5 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** David was a warrior at heart and the commander of the vast army of God's people. He was skilled at war, experienced in every kind of war strategy, and a successful leader in warfare. But yet he always made sure that worship was at the forefront of his nation's pursuit in conquering their enemies. David had thousands of troops to allocate to strategic positions, and he ensured that several thousand were devoted to attending to the presence of the Lord. They were considered powerful warriors, as their role was to continually honor, worship, and praise the living God. He even provided his worshiping troops with their "weapons"—musical instruments that David himself had fashioned and made for them. There can be no question that David valued his worship warriors, as he personally invested in them! David was a leader who praised and worshiped God with all his heart, and he led the nation in using worship as a powerful weapon of warfare. In seeking God for the healing of our land, let worship be a key weapon of warfare.

**Day 1:** Worship and praise God for His power and glory.

**Day 2:** Invite God to give you a new understanding of the place of worship in warfare.

**Day 3:** Confess the times you have not kept worship as a priority in your life.

**Day 4:** Commit yourself to "attend to the Lord's presence."

**Day 5:** Pray that God will pour out His Spirit afresh on those who lead worship in your church..

**Day 6:** Pray that God will raise up more worshipers.

**Day 7:** Pray that worship will become a core value in your church, and that much attention will be given to worshiping in spirit and in truth.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Worship Executes Vengeance and Judgment

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*Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song. Sing his praises in the assembly of the faithful....Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands—to execute vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, to bind their kings with shackles and their leaders with iron chains, to execute the judgment written against them. This is the glory of his faithful ones. Praise the LORD!*

Psalm 149:1, 6-9 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Worship is a warfare strategy that God uses to execute judgment and vengeance on the demonic realm in our world. With the praises of God in our mouths and the sword of battle in our hands, the unseen forces of darkness will be no match for the judgment of God. By bringing worship to the forefront as a powerful spiritual weapon, we are declaring to the principalities and powers of darkness that our God is the Sovereign Ruler over all creation. In Ephesians 3:10, we are told the role of the Church in proclaiming truth throughout the spiritual realms: “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” In a divinely supernatural way, our worship of God binds rulers of darkness (kings/leaders) in shackles and iron chains, and His judgment is executed against them. Let us give final notice to the demonic realm with the praises of God that come from our mouths!

- Day 1:** Worship God as the One who reigns over all creation.
- Day 2:** Worship God by proclaiming aloud His majesty.
- Day 3:** Repent of times you have held back in giving God all the praise, honor, and glory.
- Day 4:** Consider the attributes of God and offer praise for them.
- Day 5:** Ask God to put praises in your mouth and a sword in your hand. Invite Him to show you how to use them.
- Day 6:** Pray for those who have been raised up to lead worship—that they will walk in the fullness of this powerful spiritual weapon.
- Day 7:** Pray that your church will have a new vision for the place and power of worship.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Personal Fasting

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*In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.*

Daniel 10:2-3 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Fasting is a strategic weapon in the arsenal of spiritual warfare. Throughout Scripture, fasting is portrayed as a normal part of the lifestyle of believers who were fully devoted to God. Fasting has always been recognized as a necessary discipline for the Christian life and for victory in the spiritual realms. In this passage, Daniel was wrestling to understand a message from the Lord. He needed clarity and understanding, so he spent three weeks in fasting. In fact, during his 21 days of fasting, unknown to him, there was a battle raging in the heavens between a ruling demonic spirit and the angel messenger being sent to Daniel. It wasn't until the end of Daniel's fast that the angel was freed to arrive and give Daniel the clarity that he sought. Fasting is a powerful spiritual weapon that brings you into a position where you can receive all that God wants to show you and pour into you. By engaging with God in a sacrificial fast (in whatever timeframe and type God leads you), you will prepare yourself to step into greater realms of corporate fasting on behalf of your church and community. There are battles to be won and captives to be set free!

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His desire to give vision.
- Day 2:** Confess to the Lord any neglect of the discipline of fasting in your life.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to teach you greater depths of a fasting lifestyle. Invite Him to remove any fears about fasting.
- Day 4:** Pray for your pastor and church leaders to model and lead the way in lifestyles of fasting and seeking God.
- Day 5:** Pray that the Lord will begin using fasting in your church to wage war in the heavenly realms.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your community will fast together.
- Day 7:** Pray that genuine fasting will break strongholds in your community and bring decisive victory and freedom!

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Corporate Fasting

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*Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go and gather together all the Jews of Susa and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do the same. And then, though it is against the law, I will go in to see the king. If I must die, I am willing to die."*

Esther 4:15-16 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Fasting is clearly a Scriptural expectation on a personal level, but there are also times when a corporate fast (people fasting together in unity) is critical to breakthrough on a broader scale. Esther was about to step into a place of risking death, and she called on the dispersed Jews to fast for her as she went before the king on their behalf. Although she was willing to die alone, she knew that her people needed to be unified in fasting with her. In the Book of Jonah there is another example of corporate fasting that impacted an entire city. The king ordered a corporate fast of repentance that included *everyone* in Nineveh, even the animals (Jonah 3:7). Corporate fasting may also be called to seek the Lord for direction in decisions (Acts 13:1-4), or for the lifting of oppression (Isaiah 58:6). Corporate fasting will have power to break the yoke of oppression over our cities, especially as it is employed with other powerful weapons that God has put in our spiritual arsenal.

- Day 1:** Worship God as the One who responds to our fasting.
- Day 2:** Praise the Lord that fasting is a spiritual weapon of His making, and that He honors the hearts of those who fast.
- Day 3:** Repent for times that you have not responded to the call for corporate times of fasting.
- Day 4:** Pray for your church to understand the place of corporate fasting, and that calls for fasting will be heeded.
- Day 5:** Pray that Christians in your city will be willing and ready to fast corporately on behalf of the people.
- Day 6:** Pray that pastors in your community will teach and model corporate fasting for community breakthrough.
- Day 7:** Pray that spiritual oppression in your community will be broken through the power of corporate fasting.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Unity Puts Enemies to Flight

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*“...you will chase down all your enemies and slaughter them with your swords. Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand! All your enemies will fall beneath the blows of your weapons.”*

Leviticus 26:7-8 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Do the math. God is declaring that the more united we are in warfare strategies, the greater our capacity to overcome the enemy. If the ratio simply remained one warrior defeating 20 enemies (five chasing 100), then it should follow that 100 would put just 2,000 to flight. But God is promising that 10,000 enemies will fall beneath the blows of weapons being wielded under His command. In the same way, this principle is demonstrated on a simpler level when Jesus declares, “...If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you” (Matthew 18:19). Jesus is building the faith of the Church by teaching that the unity of even two believers is powerful in the Kingdom of God. The unity of believers in confronting forces of darkness is critical. Together we have greater capacity to see our communities released from the strongholds that hold so many in captivity to false doctrines, sinful patterns, and destructive lifestyles. By coming together to pray and worship together, we are wielding the powerful spiritual weapon of unity. God promises our enemies will fall when we are united.

- Day 1:** Praise God that under His power, strongholds will fall.
- Day 2:** Confess times that you have struggled in unity with other believers.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to give you the capacity and understanding to be unified with other believers in honoring ways.
- Day 4:** Invite the Lord to fill your heart with the value of unity.
- Day 5:** Invite the Lord to stir a work of unity in your church.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will identify ways to call your church together in unity of worship and prayer.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will do a work of unity in Spirit in your community with those who are true followers of Jesus Christ.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Unity Brings Discernment

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*You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.*

Hebrews 3:13-14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** When we step into places of spiritual battle related to the healing of our land, we can expect Satan to counter-attack with a vengeance. If he can create doubt, bring deception, and destroy unity, it gives him just a little more breathing space to continue to wreak havoc on the Church. And if the Church can be divided, the demonic forces can hang on to the ground they have gained in our communities through our sin and disunity. This passage speaks of the need to be issuing constant alerts and warning to each other about the potential of deception. Often our own deceptions are revealed through other believers who love us and care enough to call out the potential dangers. The powerful spiritual weapon of unity brings greater discernment as we seek the Lord and engage in battles together. If we remain faithful to each other in the midst of darkness, our trust in God will remain firm. By sharing in the riches and wisdom of Christ and all that belongs to Him, we can be assured that our enemies cannot overcome us. As we move forward in reclaiming land for Christ, we must walk with great discernment and unity, lest one by one we are isolated, deceived, and rendered ineffective.

- Day 1:** Praise God for the powerful spiritual weapon of unity.
- Day 2:** Repent of ways that you have not sought out the gift of discerning together with others.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to surround you with discerning people who can speak into your life and issue alerts.
- Day 4:** Pray that the Church will grow in its discernment of the spiritual battles that are keeping it in bondage.
- Day 5:** Pray that your church will value the gift of discernment.
- Day 6:** Pray that your leaders will be deeply discerning.
- Day 7:** Pray that believers in your community can encourage and warn each other of the dangers and threats.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Intercession

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*And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.*

1 John 5:14-15 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Intercession is a sure weapon in the hands of godly people who know how to come before the Throne of God according to His Word. Powerful intercessory prayers are strategic in our calling as believers to pray according to God’s purposes. We must seek to recognize and repent of any defilement of the land, and then invite God’s presence to overwhelm our communities. The most effective intercession comes in a spirit of humility, worship, and fasting—seeking God for His will and direction. The Apostle John gives the assurance in this passage that if we line up our prayers according to God’s will, we can be absolutely confident that He will answer us. As we intercede for our communities, we do so under the direction of the Holy Spirit. If we have inquired of the Lord, the Spirit will direct our prayers with precision in God’s purposes and plans. Our prayers cease to be random “shooting into the air” and become strategically guided missiles with powerful impact in bringing transformation and healing to our land.

**Day 1:** Praise the Lord for His gift of intercession.

**Day 2:** Thank the Lord that He has given His Church great power through intercession.

**Day 3:** Confess times that your prayers have been random and misdirected because you did not seek God’s heart.

**Day 4:** Ask the Lord to teach you how to intercede according to His will. Ask Him to reveal His purposes to you.

**Day 5:** Pray that your pastor and church leaders will encourage and model strategic intercession.

**Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your city will know how to teach and lead people into informed intercession.

**Day 7:** Pray that the Lord will help your community intercessors to pray in unity and precision for His glory.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Prayer Walking

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*Next Paul and Silas traveled through the area of Phrygia and Galatia, because the Holy Spirit had told them not to go into the province of Asia at that time. Then coming to the borders of Mysia, they headed for the province of Bithynia, but again the Spirit of Jesus did not let them go. So instead, they went on through Mysia to the city of Troas.*

Acts 16: 6-8 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Prayer walking is another form of strategic prayer for the healing and transformation of our land. Prayer walking has been described as “praying on-site with insight.” Through prayer walking we can take our prayers to the very plots of land or parts of our community where we want to see God bring His transforming power and presence. Paul and Silas were so directed by the Holy Spirit to certain regions and provinces that they had confidence that their walking and praying would yield powerful spiritual results. Prayer walking is an act of faith coupled with our physical presence in the specific place that we desire to be overrun with God’s Kingdom values. As He directs us and as we understand His will, we can expect to see God answer our prayers in our neighborhoods and literally on our city streets. Regular prayer walking done over a period of time invites breakthrough that only God can bring. Prayer walkers should go in a spirit of humility and repentance so that they are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit—and not give to extremes or excesses.

- Day 1:** Worship God as the only One able to transform society.
- Day 2:** Praise the Lord for His desire to use believers in strategic ways for His Kingdom purposes.
- Day 3:** Repent for ways that you have not stepped out and sought God on behalf of your neighbors. Determine to become more of a praying presence in your neighborhood.
- Day 4:** Ask God to help you learn how to prayer walk your streets with great sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading.
- Day 5:** Pray that God will show leaders in your community the strategic areas that need on-site intercession.
- Day 6:** Pray that pastors and ministry leaders will work in unity to mobilize the Church in prayer walking.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will raise up prayer walkers throughout your community who are intentional about the assignment.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*



**Week 41**

## **Willing to Stand on Behalf of the City**

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*"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one."*

Ezekiel 22:30 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** God is looking for people who are ready to receive the vision and assignment of reclaiming the land for His glory. As this passage indicates, God is willing to hold back destruction and bring restoration if just one person is willing to stand in the gap and rebuild a wall of righteousness in his or her community. This wall of righteousness will guard the land from further defilement, as well as restore those places that need to be redeemed from the sin of our culture. God did not specify that this person needed to be highly trained, exceptionally gifted, or even recognized as a leader. He is just looking for *someone* with a humble heart of obedience. In places around the world where transformation and healing of the land is occurring, God is using people who are often uneducated but desperately dependent on Him. They are willing to devote themselves to standing in the gap by repenting and doing everything God shows them to restore that wall of righteousness. A spiritually powerful weapon is the willingness to stand in the gap in repentance and brokenness on behalf of all that has defiled the land.

- Day 1:** Worship God for His righteousness and mercy.
- Day 2:** Praise God that He honors hearts fully devoted to Him.
- Day 3:** If you are serious about being used of God, commit to Him that you are willing to stand in the gap.
- Day 4:** Ask God to fill you with courage and boldness to fulfill His vision of restoration and healing of your land.
- Day 5:** Pray that believers in your community will respond to the call of God to begin standing in righteousness.
- Day 6:** Pray that the leaders in your church will be captured by the vision of healing the land of your community.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will begin revealing the many ways that the walls have been broken down and the land has been defiled in your community. Let repentance be your powerful weapon of healing and restoration.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Identificational Repentance

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*I went on praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, pleading with the LORD my God for Jerusalem, his holy mountain. As I was praying, Gabriel, whom I had seen in an earlier vision, came swiftly to me at the time of the evening sacrifice. He explained to me, "Daniel, I have come here to give you insight and understanding. The moment you began praying, a command was given. I am here to tell you what it was, for God loves you very much...."*

Daniel 9:20-23 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Daniel was willing to plead with God on behalf of his people and the city of Jerusalem. He was grieved by the sin and disobedience to the law, and he knew that destruction was in order because of God's justice and righteousness. Although Daniel was not guilty of the sins of his people, he was willing to stand and confess before God, inviting His mercy. This has been called *identificational repentance*, a term referring to identifying with and confessing sins that can go back generations. As Daniel humbled himself and confessed the sins of his people, there was an immediate response from God. The moment he began praying, a command was given! As we examine our communities through a spiritual perspective, we may discover there are sins that have been committed over the years that have culminated in the defilement of the land. We can offer ourselves to be the ones to stand in the gap and rebuild that wall of righteousness (Ezekiel 22:30).

- Day 1:** Worship God for His extravagant love for His people.
- Day 2:** Praise God that He responds to humble hearts.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to begin revealing the sins of your community, that believers might sincerely repent.
- Day 4:** Ask Him to stir a "heart of pleading" within you.
- Day 5:** Pray that God will give you insight in praying for your community according to the things that are defiling.
- Day 6:** Repent for all the things that God shows you, pleading for His mercy and grace over sins of your community.
- Day 7:** Pray that God will use your prayers of repentance as a powerful spiritual weapon in your church and city.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## The Key of Binding and Loosing

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*“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”*

Matthew 18:18 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** In the context of the disciples asking questions about the Kingdom of God, the Lord Jesus Christ shared a key principle in understanding the true power of spiritual weapons. By understanding and implementing the principles of “binding and loosing” in the spiritual realm, believers are given an invitation to participate fully in the Kingdom of God here on earth. Jesus has delegated to His followers the authority to implement on the earth those things that He has already designated from His throne in heaven. If we are discerning those things on the Lord’s heart, then whatever we bind on earth has already been bound in heaven—and the same goes for loosing. The New American Standard Bible translates it: “Whatever you shall bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.” This calls for us to be inquiring from the Lord as to what we bind or loose. The responsibility of believers is to take action on earth and make heaven’s decrees effective.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His unlimited power.
- Day 2:** Thank the Lord that He has delegated authority to us.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to help you to learn to be balanced and discerning in the application of binding and loosing.
- Day 4:** Repent of any ways that you may have improperly applied this verse beyond your designated authority.
- Day 5:** Ask the Lord to help your church to learn how to rightly bind and loose according to His power and authority.
- Day 6:** Pray that leadership in your city will hear from the Lord and use the weapons of binding and loosing.
- Day 7:** Pray that Satan will not dilute or negate this weapon by making it an object of controversy or misunderstanding, thereby crippling the Church in its effectiveness.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## Authority in Jesus to Bind and Loose

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*“No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.”*

Mark 3:27 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** Jesus introduces another powerful concept regarding the effectiveness of spiritual weapons. In this verse the strong man is Satan, and Jesus is the One who has the power to bind him. Luke 11:22 references someone stronger who can overpower Satan, strip him of his weapons, and carry off his belongings. That “someone stronger” is the Lord Jesus Christ. In turn, Jesus has delegated this authority to His followers here on earth. It is by the power of the risen Christ Jesus that we can bind the strong man and plunder his house. This is done only with repentant, submissive hearts that are tuned to the voice of the Lord. Some of the weapons that Satan uses so effectively to keep people in bondage are unbelief, fear, idolatry, sexual promiscuity, witchcraft, rebellion, drugs, lying, deception, power, and murder. We are taught in these passages that aggressive spiritual warfare against the strong man is a biblical prerogative for the Church. In order for the Church to gain victory in our cities, we must learn how to pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, bind Satan, and plunder his house of all those things that he has taken captive. Done in humility, repentance, submission, unity, and love, binding and loosing is a necessary spiritual weapon.

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord for His power over Satan.

**Day 2:** Praise the Lord for the victory of the cross.

**Day 3:** Pray that the Lord will give you discernment in the proper use of binding and loosing.

**Day 4:** Pray for leaders who can demonstrate and teach this truth in a balanced way.

**Day 5:** By the authority of Jesus, bind Satan from your life and family—and anywhere that he has taken you captive.

**Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your city will understand and walk in this teaching with a true biblical perspective.

**Day 7:** Give thanks for the way the Lord will conquer the “strong man” in your community.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## The Redeeming Blood of Christ

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*“And they have defeated him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of their testimony. And they were not afraid to die. Rejoice, O heavens! And you who live in the heavens, rejoice! But terror will come on the earth and the sea. For the Devil has come down to you in great anger, and he knows that he has little time.”*

Revelation 12:11-12 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** As we see the true condition of our families and cities, we can see the fury and the “great anger” of Satan as he tries to destroy and thwart God’s intentions for His people and His creation. As the time shortens for Satan, His fury is released in even greater measure. Our hope rests in knowing that God birthed this world with a destiny and a purpose, and He has given His people the weapons and the calling to take back everything the enemy has stolen. But we must always remember with humility that our victory over the enemy is not in our own strength or our good intentions. Our victory comes because of the blood of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His shed blood on the cross of Calvary that has purchased and redeemed us from the enemy, and it is by the power of His blood that we *can* and *will* overcome Satan. The precious blood of Jesus draws us to repentance. It is only through the blood of Jesus that we have access to God’s holy throne to inquire of Him. By the blood of Jesus we have been given the weapons by which we can defeat the enemy and usher the presence of God into our cities. There is no more precious gift to us!

**Day 1:** Worship Jesus for His gift of redemption.

**Day 2:** Thank the Lord that He paid the price for our sin.

**Day 3:** Confess any ways you have ignored or discounted the power of the blood of Christ.

**Day 4:** Ask God to give you a fresh appreciation for His gift of love and life through His shed blood.

**Day 5:** Pray that your pastor will preach the power of the blood.

**Day 6:** Pray for leaders in your community to acknowledge and live under the power of Christ’s redeeming blood.

**Day 7:** Claim the power of the blood of Jesus for your life.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

## The Power of the Blood of Christ

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*Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death.*

Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** The most powerful spiritual weapon we possess is the truth of the blood of Christ. As Christ shed His blood through His human flesh, He broke the power of Satan to hold us captive to sin and destruction. We must rise up and live boldly in the covering of the blood. We need to proclaim the blood of Christ, pray with the power and authority of His blood, and live in confidence that the Lord is cleansing and restoring our land as we call upon Him to break the power of Satan over our communities. The power of death is no longer over us, and we need to live in that confidence. Even in the moment of our last breath in our earthly lives, we are immediately present with Christ for all eternity. If we live in the fullness of this reality, we should walk in courage and boldness in this battle for the healing of our land. Satan no longer has the power over us! Repeat this precious truth over and over. The blood of Christ will take us triumphantly into all the assignments that God has for us in reclaiming the land for His glory.

- Day 1:** Worship Jesus for His precious blood shed on your behalf, covering all your sins.
- Day 2:** Thank Jesus for willingly giving of His life and breaking the power of Satan over us.
- Day 3:** Confess to the Lord ways in which you have not walked in the truth of the power of His blood.
- Day 4:** Ask the Lord to fill you with boldness because of His shed blood.
- Day 5:** Pray that the unsaved in your community will experience salvation through Jesus Christ.
- Day 6:** Pray that believers will no longer walk in fear of death.
- Day 7:** Pray that the Lord will show you how to apply His blood to all spiritual battles.

*Powerful Spiritual Weapons*

Truth means little if it is not personally applied and walked out in the lives of those who are willing to contend for the healing of the land. The wonderful promise of God's Word is that He will grant us wisdom to use the truth He has given to us. Ecclesiastes 7:19 states: "*Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful than ten rulers in a city.*"

If we are to walk in wisdom and truth, we must align ourselves closely with God. To do that, the core values of devotion to Christ, humility, holiness, and perseverance must go deep within us. These values must characterize us and be the identifying markers of our lives. If we are to stand on behalf of the healing of the land and "seek the peace and prosperity of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7), we must make sure that our hearts, mindsets, or ways of thinking are being cleansed and brought into alignment with the truth.

Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 may work well as our guide for walking powerfully in truth: "The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete."

The ultimate personal core value is a deeply intimate relationship with God. Listen to the wise words of this author: "We think, many times, that healing the land is about sin, prophetic proclamations, mapping, etc., but it's really more about being in relationship with the Creator of the land and of us. It's not about ministry—it's about *Him!*" (*Can You Feel The Mountains Tremble*, Dr. Suuquina, Inuit Ministry International, 1999, pg. 114.)

Focus on the Lord and ask Him to bring you into alignment with His plans and purposes for your community and land. He will bring you together with others believers of like heart and mind to be agents of transformation for your city. As you cling to Him and inquire of Him for all wisdom and revelation, God will bring about the fulfillment of His promise in 2 Chronicles 7:14-15:

*"Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land. I will listen to every prayer made in this place"* (NLT).

## Devotion to Christ

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*I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself. For I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ. But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent.*

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** A core value that we must always carry in our hearts is that true transformation comes through intimacy with Christ. Because a society is only truly transformed by the very manifest presence of God in its midst, we must value seeking intimacy with Jesus and His presence over any program-based activities. Paul speaks in this passage of desperately desiring the Church to be the pure bride of Christ. But he also expresses his fears that the Church will be deceived and turn its devotion to other things. It is not uncommon in the Church today to experience an entire worship service without even hearing the name of Jesus mentioned! We have multiple activities that we believed are designed to draw people to Christ, but we rarely mention His name in connection with them. When Christ is slowly marginalized and replaced with the ideas and programs of man, the Church is headed down a path of deception. Recommit yourself to a pure and simple devotion to Christ as the priority of your heart.

- Day 1:** Lift up and worship the name of Jesus today.
- Day 2:** Repent of the ways that you have marginalized Christ.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord Jesus to give you a fresh and new vision of Him that reprioritizes His presence as the core value of your heart.
- Day 4:** Determine to use the name of Jesus frequently in your conversations with both believers and unbelievers.
- Day 5:** Confess any times that you have been ashamed of the gospel of Christ.
- Day 6:** Pray that the Lord will give you the courage to walk out your life with pure and simple devotion to Him.
- Day 7:** Pray that your church will proclaim the name of Jesus without fear of how others might receive it.

*Personal Core Values*



## Perfecting Holiness

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*Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

2 Corinthians 7:1 (NIV)



**Prayer Focus:** We have been called out to live holy and pure lives. That is the only way to truly reflect God's glory. If we are to carry the presence of Christ with us as a testimony to His transforming power, we must recognize that our sin dims that glory within us. How will the world know of God's power if our lives are not discernibly different from those who walk in darkness? If marriages and families are being destroyed at the same rate in the Church as in the rest of society, how can we speak of the hope of salvation? God has promised to live in us and walk among us, but we must separate ourselves from the unholy and detestable things (2 Corinthians 6:16-17). Paul exhorts us, out of reverence to God, to abandon ourselves to cleansing from everything that might contaminate us. Paul does not flinch from the goal of "perfecting holiness." If we live in a constant state of awareness of our sin, it is possible to walk with a heart of continual repentance before Him. As we do, God will entrust us with greater revelation of His plans and purposes—because He knows *He* will get all the glory! Let holiness be the mark of your life.

- Day 1:** Worship God in His holiness and splendor.
- Day 2:** Repent of any resistance to walking in purity and holiness before the Lord.
- Day 3:** Ask the Lord to give you a constant awareness of the presence of sin in your life.
- Day 4:** Pray that the Lord will bring quick conviction to your heart, and that you will walk in an attitude of repentance.
- Day 5:** Pray that the message of holiness will be proclaimed in your church, along with the hope of repentance.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will walk lives characterized by the perfecting of holiness.
- Day 7:** Pray for a new reverence for God to rise up in your church and community, leading to a desire for holiness.

*Personal Core Values*

## Committing to True Lifestyle Change

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*So this was the plan that they followed. Ezra selected leaders to represent their families, designating each of the representatives by name. On December 29, the leaders sat down to investigate the matter. By March 27 of the next year they had finished dealing with all the men who had married pagan wives.*

Ezra 10:16-17 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** Ezra was a radical reformer. He directly confronted the people of God who had allowed their lifestyles to be in conflict with God's Word and His purposes. When Ezra challenged them on the need to confess sin and separate themselves from pagan practices, the people agreed to take responsibility. Over the next months they made radical changes in their lifestyles to conform in obedience to the Lord. If we are serious about transformation and the healing of the land, we must give serious and prayerful thought to our own lifestyles. If we are to come into alignment with the destiny and purposes of God for our communities, there may be difficult changes that the Lord will ask us to make. As we draw closer to Him, we will face choices that honor the Lord, just as the people of Israel did in Ezra's day. Issues may include recreational activities, relationships, attitudes, material possessions, stewardship of time, money and possessions. All will be on the altar before God. If we really want God's transforming presence, we must be willing to make whatever changes He asks of us.

- Day 1:** Worship the Lord as the King of all in your life.
- Day 2:** Thank God that He wants to use us for His purposes.
- Day 3:** Examine your heart before the Lord for any attitudes or possessions that have not been yielded to Him.
- Day 4:** Invite God to show you areas that need reformation to bring you into alignment with His heart.
- Day 5:** Make a deliberate offering of everything in your lifestyle that needs change before the Lord.
- Day 6:** Pray for strength to follow through with what God tells you about choices that you must make.
- Day 7:** Thank the Lord that He rewards obedience with healing and transformation.

*Personal Core Values*

## Persevere with Endurance and Faith

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*Anyone who is willing to hear should listen and understand. The people who are destined for prison will be arrested and taken away. Those who are destined for death will be killed. But do not be dismayed, for here is your opportunity to have endurance and faith.*

Revelation 13:9-10 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** As we walk in greater commitment to seek God for revival and transformation, we can expect opposition from many sources. As we grow more passionate in our desire to see the presence of Christ fill our churches, we can expect to be misunderstood. As we plead with God for our communities to be healed and restored, we can count on persecution. As we determine to walk in obedience to everything God shows us, we can expect to be ridiculed. But we are encouraged not to be dismayed in whatever the consequences. God knows, and God called us into those places. In fact, according to this passage, we will be destined to face some sort of consequence for our willingness to hear and understand the voice of God. But this is our opportunity to persevere with greater faith and endurance. Rejection from man should increase our resolve to passionately pursue God. Threats of intimidation should free us from fear of man and increase our trust in God. There is no opposition that can overtake our destiny as purposed by God!

**Day 1:** Worship God for His trustworthiness in all situations.

**Day 2:** Thank the Lord that the battle belongs to *Him*.

**Day 3:** Confess the times that you have given in to fear of man or your circumstances. Ask Him to restore you to a place of trust in God alone.

**Day 4:** Invite the Lord to fill you with a perseverance that can only come from His divine hand.

**Day 5:** Pray that you will have the understanding to embrace the consequences of your obedience.

**Day 6:** Pray that God will increase your faith and endurance.

**Day 7:** Pray that God will use you in your church and communities in a profound way as you listen and seek to be obedient to all He commands you. Thank God for the privilege to be identified with Christ!

## The Priority of Humility

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*...Should we sacrifice our firstborn children to pay for the sins of our souls? Would that make him glad? No, O people, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Micah 6:7-8 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** The Lord had a case against Israel for turning from Him. Through Micah's prophetic words, the Lord gave warning of His coming prosecution. And so the question was posed: "What can we bring to the Lord to make up for what we've done?" Sacrifices of calves, rams, olive oil, and even firstborn children were not acceptable. Instead, the Lord asked them to prioritize the matters of the heart. He asked for right living, merciful expressions, and a humble walk before Him. Those who have experienced true transformation and healing of their land and communities in Fiji know that the purity and humility of heart is God's top priority. Although members of the "Healing the Land" team have seen amazing works of God, they do not boast or embellish stories to impress people. They do not make their ministries "the story" by pointing to their own vision or strategies. They are almost reluctant to share the miraculous stories lest in some way the glory might be reflected back to themselves. They walk with such a humility that only God receives the praise, honor and glory. We need to check our pride in anything we have accomplished ourselves, and instead let our hearts do the talking!

**Day 1:** Worship the Lord Who gives grace to the humble.

**Day 2:** Ask the Lord to help you not be boastful or proud.

**Day 3:** Confess any times you have embellished the truth to impress others with stories of your ministry.

**Day 4:** Repent of all attitudes of pride that the Lord may show you regarding the "stealing of His glory."

**Day 5:** Ask the Lord to make you an example of Micah 6:8.

**Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church will learn to walk in genuine humility.

**Day 7:** Pray that a lifestyle of humility will characterize believers in your community, for the glory of God.

*Personal Core Values*

## Abandonment with Expectation

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*No, dear brothers and sisters, I am still not all I should be, but I am focusing all my energies on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.*

Philippians 3:13-14 (NLT)



**Prayer Focus:** It is worth it to abandon everything for the sake of Christ! Paul learned this firsthand in his desperate desire for Christ to be glorified through his life. Paul abandoned everything, including his personal comfort, worldly possessions, and eventually his life. Paul was willing to learn how to suffer with Christ, sharing in His death and ultimately in His resurrection (vs. 10-11). If we really believe that God's desire is for the transformation of our cities and the healing of our lands, then we must commit ourselves to walk in complete obedience. If God has called us to participate in this grandest of callings—the salvation of people and the restoration of His creation—then what hinders us from abandoning ourselves to this calling? Paul stood before King Agrippa and say: “I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision” (Acts 26:19 NKJV). Let us join with Paul in abandonment to obedience to the heavenly calling of transformation.

- Day 1:** Worship God as the One who is worthy of our worship.
- Day 2:** Give praise to the Lord for His heavenly calling on you.
- Day 3:** Confess the ways that you have strayed from His calling.
- Day 4:** Recommit yourself to a life of abandonment with expectation, believing that God will fulfill His Word.
- Day 5:** Pray for the Lord to call out believers in your church to lives of abandonment and expectation.
- Day 6:** Pray that leaders in your church and community will commit themselves to lead with radical obedience.
- Day 7:** Tell the Lord how much you believe He is worthy of your abandonment to Him!
- Day 8:** Worship and adore the Lord for calling you into extreme hope and expectation for the healing of our land.

*Personal Core Values*

As we pray about transformation, we need a common definition of what a truly transformed community might look like. Here are some characteristics:

**A transformed community is:**

- A neighborhood, city, or nation whose values and institutions have been overrun by the grace and presence of God.
- A place where divine fire has not merely been summoned, but has fallen.
- A society in which natural change has been disrupted by invasive supernatural power.
- A culture that has been impacted comprehensively and undeniably by the Kingdom of God.
- A location where Kingdom values are celebrated publicly and passed on to future generations.

**Community transformation is indicated when:**

- Political leaders publicly acknowledge their sin and dependence on God (2 Kings 11:17-18; 23:1-3; Jonah 3:6-9).
- New laws, curricula, and business practices are put into effect (2 Chronicles 19:4-10; Nehemiah 10:31).
- The natural environment is restored to its original life-nurturing state (Leviticus 26:4-5; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel 34:27-31).
- Economic conditions improve and lead to a discernable lessening of poverty (2 Chronicles 17:3-5; Psalm 144:13-14; Isaiah 60:5-7; Amos 9:13).
- There is a marked change in social entertainment and vices as Kingdom values are integrated into the rhythm of daily life (Ezra 10:1-4; Nehemiah 8:10, 16-17; Acts 19:17-20).
- Crime and corruption diminish throughout the community (2 Kings 12:13-15; Nehemiah 5:6-12; Isaiah 60:17-18).
- Volunteerism increases as Christians recognize their responsibility to heal and under gird the community (Isaiah 58:10-12; 61:1-4).
- Restored hope and joy leads to a decline in divorce, bankruptcy, and suicide (Nehemiah 12:27-28, 43; Isaiah 54:11-14; 61:3-7; Jeremiah 30:17-19; 31:11-13; Hosea 2:15).
- The spiritual nature of the growing socio-political renewal becomes a hot topic in secular media (2 Chronicles 20:29; Nehemiah 6:16; Isaiah 55:5; Ezekiel 36:36; Acts 19:17).
- Overwhelmed by the goodness of God, grateful Christians take the embers of revival into surrounding communities and nations (2 Chronicles 17:9; Isaiah 61:6; Acts 11:20-26).

***Note:** The following six pages are samples of sermon outlines and prayer gathering formats that can be used in your church throughout the year—to encourage your congregation to keep praying!*

## **A Biblical View of Land and Stewardship**

God's intended purpose for His creation was tainted by man's sin, but there are ways He has given us to bring healing to His land so that it can begin to fulfill its intended purposes.

### **I. God's Intended Purpose**

- A. Creation Declares God's Glory – Psalm 19
- B. Creation sustains His Creatures – Psalm 104:30
- C. Creation is a stewardship given to man – Gen 1:

### **II. The Defilement of Sin**

- A. Immorality – Leviticus 18:24-25
- B. Idolatry - Ezekiel 36: 17-19
- C. Shedding of blood –
- D. Breaking covenants –

### **III. The Healing of the Land**

- A. The blood of Christ
- B. Repentance
- C. Rededication

**Conclusion:** Although sin brought defilement to the land, God is showing us that He can heal the land for His glory

## Revisiting Repentance

**Introduction:** Repentance is important to God, therefore it should be important to us. That means we must come to a new understanding of repentance by revisiting the topic often in our lives.

### I. Repentance and the Character of God

- A. God as The Holy One – Ezekiel 36:22-23
- B. God as the Standard – Job 42:1-6
- C. God as the Judge

### II. Repentance and the nature of man

- A. Our sinful nature – Psalm 51: 5-6
- B. Our sinful actions – Psalm 51:3-4
- C. Our pursuit of repentance – II Kings 22: 19-20

### III. Repentance as a lifestyle

- A. Repentance is a Gift from God - II Timothy 2:25-26
- B. Repentance is for each “today” – Hebrews 3: 13-15
- C. Repentance must be thorough – Psalm 51:6&10

**Conclusion:** God tells us in His Word that this area of repentance is important to His heart, let's take the time to examine our own lives, and see how we measure up to His standard of repentance.



# Inquiring of the Lord

## **Introduction:**

Inquiring of the Lord is a Biblical expectation of God for His people. It is born out of the realization of our personal intimate relationship with the Living God.

## **I. Inquiring – God’s Expectation**

- A. In Intimate Relationship – Jeremiah 23:18
- B. For Understanding – 2 Samuel 21:1
- C. For Clarification – 2 Samuel 2:1

## **II. Types of Inquiring**

- A. For Personal answers – I Samuel 30:8
- B. For Corporate Issues 0 Judges 20:26-28
- C. For Leadership success – Jeremiah 10:21

## **III. Cautions regarding Inquiring**

- A. Sin hinders – Ezekiel 14: 3
- B. Inquire only of the Lord – I Chronicles 10:33-34
- C. Consequences of not inquiring – I Chronicles 15:13-14

**Conclusion:** Inquiring of the Lord for direction and wisdom is a vital part of the individual and corporate life of all believers. Let us commit ourselves to sharpening our abilities to inquire of our Great and Awesome God.

In Rankin Inlet, on the morning of Monday, July 10, some of the descendants of the original inhabitants of the area began to humble themselves, and to repent of the bitterness and anger they that held in their hearts towards the descendants of the later inhabitants. They had memories of what the land was like before other people moved in, and started building buildings and changing the landscape without asking permission.

Most often, as was true in this case, the resentment, bitterness and anger are not always spoken about, but it is there underneath the surface. It will keep manifesting deep-seated attitudes of hostility that keep a community from uniting, and there is a perpetual state of either latent or open conflict.

On that same morning of July 10 in Rankin Inlet, the latter people and their descendants began to repent to the original inhabitants for not having observed proper protocol, of having simply come into the area, and doing their own thing without even asking for permission. Many tears were shed as representatives from both groups began to embrace one another. The healing Presence of God was very palpable.

For that very afternoon, plans had already been put into place to go to the site of one of the original settlements where conflicts had taken place, and hurts and wounds had been inflicted, the effects of which remained until this day. The whole community was aware of this, and a news reporter was there to document it for *CBC North* radio.

Some 30 believers showed up who wanted to bring cleansing to the land where it had become defiled through past conflicts and violence.

On the land of the original settlement near present-day Rankin Inlet, the descendants of the original inhabitants stood within a circle of stones that marks the site of one of the original dwellings. A representative of the later groups repented to them for past violations of protocol in not respecting the spiritual authority that God has given to the original inhabitants of this area. The two groups then partook of Communion with one another, and then, together, with the land itself as David Aglukark, one of the original inhabitants symbolically applied the blood of Jesus to the land, and Tagak Curley, one of the later inhabitants, is waiting to apply the bread which speaks of the Body of Jesus Christ which was broken for us.

People then put their prayer requests into the hole as well, which contained their heart's desires, and what they wanted to see God do for the land that they had inherited from their fathers. A stone memorial was then erected right on this historic site. The very next morning, the caribou arrived in abundance. Caribou had been and continues to be the staff of life for the Inuit, and according to the wildlife manager in Rankin Inlet, some 15,000 of them showed up right at the spot where the forgiveness and cleansing had taken place, and where the healing of the land had been prayed for. Local residents stated that the caribou in this number had not been seen in the area for some four years. Even before the *Fiji Healing the Land Team* had left Rankin Inlet on Wednesday afternoon of July 12, they had been able to witness the first fruits of the caribou that had come in such great abundance!

*From web page entitled: The Spiritual Authority of the Original Inhabitants of Rankin Inle Nunavut Brings Blessing and Healing to the Land!*

[www.canadaawakening.com](http://www.canadaawakening.com)

## **Prayer Gathering**

### **Heal My Land**

**I. Worship time – Focused on the power and might of the Lord as seen in creation.**

**II. Acknowledgment of God’s purposes in creation**

- His Creativity
- His Glory
- His Ownership
- Blessing of Man

**III. Worship time – Focused on God’s provision for forgiveness and cleansing**

**IV. Confession – Our confession of ways that we have brought defilement to the land**

- Confess the ways that we have tolerated immorality in society and in the church
- Confess the ways we have put other things before Him in our attention, and hearts (Idolatry)
- Confess the ways we have turned away from the shedding of blood in our communities
- Confess the ways we have broken covenants with God and with one another

**V. Worship time – focused on the Lord as our prayer answering god**

**VI. Thanksgiving – Giving thanks to the Lord for the ways He will “heal our land” in answer to our confession and prayer.**

- Thank the Lord that He hears our prayers of brokenness and confession
- Thank the Lord that He forgives our sin in Jesus Name
- Thank the Lord for His desire and intention to “Heal our Land”

In February of 2006, the “Healing the Land Team” of Fiji responded to an invitation from the chief and elders of the village of Namoka , a village that was in desperate straits. There was generally a spirit of offence and disconnectedness throughout the village. The young people were rebelling, and not cooperating with the elders. The youth suicide rate was of great concern. The land itself was in a state of mourning and non-productively. The village did not have good relationships with the communities around it either. Namoka was isolated, alienated, and devastated. For many years, the families of Namoka worshipped and revered a particular stone which was the dwelling of a snake god. They and their forefathers believed that this stone was their ancestor, that they came from this stone. The presence of this stone became a control, a domination over their lives. It controlled their lives with fear, intimidation, and a spirit of bondage. They would drink *kava* (a root that was pounded into an intoxicating drink) all Saturday night, and get very drunk, and then summon the devil by turning the iron pitcher (a *Tabili* ) in which they had pounded the *yaqona* ( *kava* ) into a *Lali*, or *Fijian Drum* with which they would summon the devil to come to the village. The people came to realize that this ruling spirit over their community was not of God, and they had the faith to break it. In April 26, 2006 the team reported: “We have just recently been invited to a community to do the process of Healing the Land. Namoka had no church, and the community had been under oppression, and influence from the devil for a very long time. We had a two week meeting there, and God just came and did His work as the whole community invited Him into their community. The first thing that you hear a 5:00 a.m. in the morning is singing and prayer in individual homes, and that is also the last thing that you hear at 7:00 p.m. “During the two-week meeting, there was a lot of confession and repentance, and the whole community gave their lives to the Almighty, and also dedicated their land back to God. This is the very first community for us to have gone to see full blown revival as people have chosen to worship God. As you enter into this community, you can sense the manifest presence of God over the community. Blessings are coming through to Namoka in abundance. The iron *Tabili* that they used to use to pound kava on which they would get drunk, and then use it as a *Lali* to summon demons, is now used at 5:00 every morning to summon the people for worship and prayer in their homes. The use of the *Lali*, usually hollowed from a hardwood log, was traditionally a summoning signal for village meetings, or as a preliminary to inter-tribal battle. Now it is used to summon the spiritual warriors to the hour of prayer, and stand on guard spiritually.

The land is now starting to produce, and vegetation is returning. The joy of the Lord has come to Namoka, and the land is being revitalized! The *Lali* (Fijian drum) has been redeemed to accompany their dances that minister a spirit of joy and freedom to the people! Even the little children worship God with the dance!

## **Ad for *Unconventional War***

**(Coming from Sentinel Group)**

## **Ad for Quickening**

**(coming from Sentinel Group)**

## **Ad for Let Sea Resound**

**(coming from Sentinel Group)**

### About Prayer Transformation Ministries

This prayer guide is written and published by Prayer Transformation Ministries, a prayer ministry located in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. Formed in 1994, Prayer Transformation Ministries (PTM) has worked with the prayer movement in the Twin Cities, the state of Minnesota, and the nation.

*Prayer Transformation Ministries seeks to serve the Church and the prayer movement by teaching, encouraging, supporting, and developing biblical, Christ-centered prayer on personal, citywide, and national levels, with the goal of seeing genuine, measurable transformation on all levels of society.*

Specific ministry involvement of PTM includes:

- *Call to Prayer* daily radio spots.
- Networking of intercessors and prayer movements.
- Encouraging local churches to develop “cultures of prayer.”
- Giving leadership to citywide catalytic prayer events.
- Raising up a children’s prayer movement in the Twin Cities.
- Networking and training local church prayer leaders.
- Teaching and writing on principles of revival, transformation, and churches becoming houses of prayer.
- Publishing prayer guides devoted to united prayer.

May the Lord bless the use of this *Transformation Prayer Guide* in your church and community!

Steve Loopstra, Executive Director  
Carol Madison, Associate Director

### About The Sentinel Group

The Sentinel Group, based in Lynnwood, WA, is a Christian research and information agency dedicated to helping the Church pray knowledgeably for end-time global evangelization and enabling communities to discover the pathway to genuine revival and societal transformation. After thoroughly investigating spiritual dynamics at work in various cities and regions around the world, The Sentinel Group then seeks to inspire the global church through vivid documentaries and other resources. These moving accounts of spiritual revival inspire viewers with a vision of new possibilities for their own community when they humbly invite God’s presence.