

ATHENS *Prayer Network* USA

Strategy for Winning the Spiritual War for Your City

Winning a citywide war requires a citywide church. The following principles are not a recipe for city winning or city transformation. Rather, they are a means of establishing and advancing the kingdom of God where He has called you to live and minister.

1. Establish your church as a house of prayer

This starts personally with each individual believer being mobilized to pray, starting with the pastor down through the congregation. Prayer needs to become a top priority, a value, a lifestyle characteristic of the church. Prayer starts, moves and is maintained with a simple desire of intimacy with Jesus.

2. Define a manageable geographic area with discernable boundaries

God will reveal the spiritual boundaries of the church as you ask Him to. Usually these are natural or physical things such as a river or a freeway. Draw these boundaries on a wall map of the city.

3. Establish unity among the pastors and churches of that area

If the pastors are not already meeting together begin by simply meeting with one and then inviting others to begin joining you in prayer. Unity is not an event or something you do together. These things come out of loving God and love others. Partner with the pastors in establishing houses of prayer in their churches.

4. Prepare both the local and citywide church for warfare

The bottom line, this warfare is all about establishing and advancing God's kingdom in your city. His presence is advanced through prayer, intercession, worship, repentance, humility, holiness, unity and serving. Get ready for things to heat up!

5. Spiritual map the area

Assign a task force from several churches, to do some spiritual reconnaissance. Though it is important to know the corporate sins of the city, the places the devil has strongholds, what is more important is to discover what the redemptive gift of the city is and what God is doing. Spiritual mapping can become overwhelming and dark, especially if your focus is on what man and the devil is doing. What you really want to do is find out what is on God's heart and mind for you city!

6. Wait on the Lord for insight and timing

Just because you may discern the principalities and powers operating in your city, do not go out and engage them unless the Lord leads you in that way. You need His strategies. You are not to lose focus of your worship but stay abiding, listening and obeying.

7. Worship and prevail in prayer until God's purposes are birthed

It is important to stir, connect and sustain prayer and worship across the city. Remember, it's all about increasing God's presence and then resisting the devil as the Holy Spirit leads (James 4:7-8).

8. Identify and serve those you want to reach

Get out and love your city. Pray for those in it. Identify with their struggles and sins. Minister in the opposite spirit, with acts of love and kindness.

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