

THE 4 LEVELS OF PRAYER

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PRAYER LEVEL 3

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW

In Matthew 6:5-15 Jesus gives both the reason for prayer and the pattern for prayer. This is not just a prayer to repeat, but a framework, a set of “doorways” into every area of human need. Scan the code and read/study the notes on the prayer pattern...



Preview

Prayer Level 1 | Prayer at this level is personal and practical. It's where we bring our needs, concerns, and desires before the Lord and begin to trust Him as our Source. (Matthew 6:11, 25-34)

Prayer Level 2 | At this level our focus is to intentionally pray for people and situations, aligning our hearts with His kingdom and purpose (Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 6:10; 1 Timothy 2:1-2)

- The Biblical principle of **Identificational Intercession** is standing before God on behalf of others by identifying with their sins and needs... confessing as if they were their own and seeking God's mercy and restoration. (Daniel 9:2-19; Nehemiah 1:4-7; Moses in Exodus 32:30-32; Ezra 9:5-7...)
- **Spiritual Mapping** diagnoses obstacles to revival in a community or area. In the same way, God instructed Moses to send twelve spies to explore the land Numbers 13:1-2, 17-20
- **Prayer walking**, prayer outside the walls (POTW) and prayer journeys are ways we can sense the spiritual climate outside of the safety of the church walls. Scan the code to learn more about prayer walking.



PRAYER LEVEL 3

1. **This is prayer that participates in God's burden for the nations.** At this level, prayer focuses on the nations, asking for the Kingdom of God to break through demonic strongholds and sociopolitical barriers.

- Psalm 2:8 *Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.* (A messianic prophecy but applicable to us)
 - Matthew 24:14 *And this gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*
2. **Entering strategic level prayer for nations calls for extreme wisdom and an understanding of this level of warfare.** This seen so clearly in Daniel when he was interceding for Israel's freedom from captivity. Daniel 10:12-14 *Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.*
 - The principle of spiritual mapping as the 12 men who were sent into Canaan to spy out the land (Numbers 13) also applies here on a broader scale. This requires tremendous research to see the layers history, all built upon each other!
 3. **From the very beginning, God's covenant vision was global.** God's plan was *never* about just one person or one nation, it was always about the whole world. When He called Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3, He made it clear that the blessing wasn't meant to stop with him, but to flow through him to *all peoples on earth*. And after Abraham's (Unimaginable) obedience to offer Isaac as a sacrifice to God in Genesis 22:18, God reaffirmed that promise. What started with one man would reach the nations.
 - Genesis 12:2-3 *I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*
 - Genesis 22:18 *...and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*
 4. The word for "nations" is the Hebrew word, *goyim*, meaning **ethnic groups, not just political countries**. When the Hebrew Scriptures were translated into Greek (the Septuagint), *goyim* was translated as *ethne*. Both point to the same idea of people groups outside of geopolitical boundaries. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus says, "Go and make disciples of all nations (*ethnē*)..." This was again emphasized in Acts 1:8. This is the fulfillment of God's heart clearly seen throughout the Old Testament, that His salvation would reach all the nations (*goyim*), not just Israel.
 - It couldn't be any clearer that in Isaiah 56:7 *My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.* His "house" represents a place where people from every background, culture, and nation are welcomed to come and seek Him.
 5. **Much of today's missions focus** is to bring the Gospel to countries who already have some level of Christianity in it. The vision of Christian Life Center is to pray (here and on international soil, for the unreached "ethnos," people groups. Sadly, this mindset is not shared across Christian missions as the following information reveals.



UNDERSTANDING STRATEGIC LEVEL PRAYER

Because of the style and focus of CLC's approach to global missions we have developed a method that allows us to place our feet where the Gospel is not accepted, and many times resisted with persecution. Reaching the unreached and the unengaged requires genuine relationship rather than an evangelical approach. Scan the code to see the missions information on our blog.



The three fields: one is ready for harvest with no workers, the other is ready but has workers. The third field is not even ready for seed planting. (Matthew 9:37–38; John 4:35)

Ephesians 6:12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

A few of the barriers...

1. Strongholds of belief systems.

- Entire cultures are often shaped by deeply rooted spiritual worldviews: whether animism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, or even secular ideologies. These are not just systems of thought; they carry real spiritual influence. We are not presenting new information but are confronting entrenched strongholds, as Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 10:4–5.
- When we begin to understand the dominant spiritual framework of a people group, we can see how to reach them effectively. However, this requires more than surface knowledge. Belief systems such as Hinduism, for example, are highly layered and complex. Meaningful engagement requires careful study, identifying points of connection, parallels, and shared questions that can open the door for genuine conversation and the truth of the gospel to be heard. This requires patience!

2. Fear and bondage.

- In many unreached areas, fear is a dominant force: the fear of spirits, ancestors, curses, or community/familial rejection. People may be more afraid of consequences than they are open to truth. The gospel must be demonstrated as power motivated by compassion, not just words.

3. **Persecution and dangerous resistance.**

- Following Christ can mean losing family, status, or livelihood... and life. That pressure alone can shut people down. The battle isn't only internal, it's relational and societal. Pray for courage and protection over those who respond.
- Over 388 million Christians face high levels of persecution or discrimination worldwide, about 1 in 7 Christians globally! In Africa, it rises to 1 in 5 Christians, and in Asia 2 in 5. Persecution is not rare, it is a normal reality for a significant portion of the global Church, often in their own homeland. (OpenDoors.org)

4. **Deception and counterfeit spirituality.**

- There are often spiritual experiences already present, visions, rituals, miracles, that can mimic truth. Discernment is critical. Not every spiritual manifestation is from God (Exodus 7:10-12; 1 John 4:1).

Unreached and unengaged people groups...

1. **The definitions**

- **Unreached:** A people group is considered unreached (UPG) when there is no *indigenous community of believing Christians* able to engage this people group with church planting.
- **Unengaged:** Many unreached people groups are not only unreached but unengaged as well (UUPG). They do not know Christ nor do they know anyone who is believer. *There is no way, socially, religiously, geographically, etc., for them to know and understand God's love through Christ.*

2. **The 10/40 Window** is a rectangular shaped area on our globe extending from West Africa to East Asia. Nearly 4 billion people live in the 10/40 Window, as well as 80 percent of the world's poorest of the poor. The 10/40 Window also encompasses the majority of the world's Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and animists. The great imbalance of missions is the fact that most missionaries are sent to areas of the earth where the Church already exists, and the name of Jesus is known.

The crisis... *Source: Global Frontier Missions, The Joshua Project, etc.*

1. **33% of the world considered Christian.** (2.5 billion people)

- 72% of all world missionaries go to people that have Bibles and churches.
- \$39 Billion (87%) of all the money given to missions goes to countries considered Christian or have a Christian presence.

2. **38% of the world has access to the Gospel but has not chosen to follow Jesus.** (2.9 billion people)
 - 25% of all world missionaries go to people that have some access to Bibles and churches.
 - \$5.4 Billion (12%) of all the money given to missions goes to countries that have access to the Gospel.
3. **29% of the world has never heard of Jesus and has no access to the Gospel.** (2.3 billion people)
 - 3% of all world missionaries go to people that have no way to hear the Gospel.
 - \$450 Million (1%) of all the money given to missions goes to countries that have no access to the Gospel.

In other words... *3% of missionaries with only 1% of the total finances is going out to reach over 2 billion people who have no access to the Gospel!*

HOMEWORK

1. The Joshua Project highlights peoples and places with the least access or response to the gospel so the Body of Christ can prioritize its prayer and mission efforts. Scan the code to learn more and go over some of the unreached people groups.
2. Spend quality time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit which ethnic group He would want you to pray for.

