

# How to pray for a city/town

The majority of the world's population live nowadays in large cities. In the year 2010 three out of every four people will live in a city. Large cities and even towns, each have their own character, make-up and history. How do I pray for the city/town I live in? The following two books are worthwhile reading if you really want to intercede for your city/town: *Taking our cities for God* by John Dawson, and *Strategy for cities* by John Dawson and Linda Cowie.

Before you can start to pray effectively for a city, you have to know what is going on in that city/town. You may need to do some research.

**The best way to go about is to put together a team of researchers to collect and categorize formation, e.g. about the history and current events in the city/town:**

- The history of origin, the founder and the course of history?
- Which churches are there and how many people are involved in a church?
- Which sects are there?
- Which false religions are active and are there any temples or places of worship?
- What is going on as far as Satanism and the occult is concerned? Usually young people are caught up in this.
- What is the purpose of existence of the city and what is it specifically known for?
- What kinds of social groups are in the city?
- What is the population composition like?
- What social welfare tendencies are observable?
- Who are the present VIP's?
- Which corporate bodies or individuals are in charge of the city's economy/finances?
- Any other relevant information.

This information is necessary to pray for a city meaningfully; to be able to determine where Satan has strongholds. Don't move past this point too quickly. Be thorough in this and you will save yourself years of aimless and fruitless prayer. There are territorial spirits that live and work in specific geographical areas. These evil spirits (and those who gave them the right to erect their strongholds) must be identified in order to be able to pray for the demolition of these strongholds. E.g. alcoholism can be such a stronghold. Read the local newspapers and remain informed of what goes on in your city so that you may know what to pray for.

**Start prayer groups** in order to intercede systematically for the city. It will be necessary to teach people about spiritual warfare and intercession. Intercessors must learn to pray from their position of power in Christ and to stand against the strongholds of the evil one in prayer and by living holy lives before God.

**Bear in mind the following:**

- Don't think you can tackle a city on your own. Try to involve as many churches and especially prayer groups as possible.
- Specifically pray for the right person to take the lead in the prayer initiative and to coordinate it.
- Mobilize as many people and groups to pray as possible.
- Never try to control different prayer groups. Allow each group to retain their own character, but encourage them to pray with you about this matter.
- The principle of *Prayer Triplets* (people praying together in groups of three) can be very effective in getting people involved in interceding for the city.

**Use 2 Chronicles 7:14 to pray for the city and its people.** *If My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My Face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Pray for the **spiritual leaders of the various churches** in the city.

**Pray for those in policy-making positions and others in positions of authority in the city.** The following areas are relevant: Politics, media, religion, culture, economics or business sector, justice, protective services (police and prison services), health services (doctors, hospitals), education (schools, colleges, universities), art, recreation, sports, municipality, government.

**The guidance of the Holy Spirit is very important** in this matter. The Lord has a plan and strategy for the city. Make sure that you know what God's strategy is and follow it. Before the city can be reached for God, special effort must be made to achieve unity and sanctification within the church. Do not act before clear guidance is received from the Lord. This is no child's play. Do not just start to rebuke Satan and try to take authority over demonic forces before the victory has been won and the Holy Spirit has guided you to do so.

**Pray for God's spirit of prayer and supplication to be poured out in the city/town.** Look at Scriptures like **Ez.22:30-31** and **Is.62:6-7**. You cannot pray for the city unless you love the city and its people. Ask the Lord to put a similar prayer to that of John Knox in your heart when he prayed: "Lord give me Scotland or I die!" Other Scriptures: *And I will pour out...a spirit of grace and supplication (Zech.12:10) I have posted watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on The Lord give yourselves no rest and give Him no rest till He establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the Earth (Is.62:6-7). I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before Me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it but I found none (Ez.22:30).*

It will undoubtedly be necessary to **fast and pray** when you start praying for a city/town.

**Pay special attention to the strongholds of the evil one over your city/town in the following areas:**

- political (government/authority) strongholds; for satanic inspired laws,
- cultural strongholds; for satanic inspired attitudes and inclinations,
- religious strongholds,
- for satanic inspired faith and lifestyles,
- materialistic strongholds,
- ideological strongholds; (communism; humanism; materialism),
- for personal strongholds (personal sin; sinful thoughts),
- sinful emotions; sinful attitudes; sinful behaviour patterns.