

ALL IN - Week 4: Praying with Purpose

Bottom Line: **It's through prayer that we hear God's strategy and stay encouraged, so that we can stay in position**

Vision: **To win the heart of the next generation, it's going to take all of us, going all in, with all we have**

Stand for the Word

*I've posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem,  
Day and night they keep at it, praying, calling out,  
reminding GOD to remember. - Isaiah 62:6 MSG*

*The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.  
He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.  
5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;  
I have not been rebellious,  
I have not turned away. - Isaiah 50:4-5 NIV*

Story: Learning the difference between praying....and praying with PURPOSE (seeing my mom pray passionately even for "little" things)

Prayer is not just an option we choose...it's a **position** we take

Let's put an end to "just" praying. It's not a LAST resort, it's a FIRST response!

All those statistics we heard a few weeks ago about the state of the next generation?

You know what the enemy would have us do? Be upset and discouraged. Feel sorry for them. But, as Pastor Michael has said, "what if instead of being discouraged, we were EMBOLDENED?"

Prayer is the most powerful tool we have as believers. Perhaps not all of us will teach a kid's class, but all of us can pray. Prayer = waging war! Now the battle has already been won, but it's through prayer that we daily reinforce the victory of Christ! It's where we, like Elisha, get a battle strategy to fight for the next generation. See, God is FAITHFUL to reveal things in prayer that couldn't be known otherwise! Check this out from Isaiah 50...

*The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.*

***He wakens me morning by morning,***

***wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.***

***5 The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;***

***I have not been rebellious,***

***I have not turned away. - Isaiah 50:4-5 NIV***

Through **passionate and persistent** prayer, God will move on behalf of the next generation. We don't serve a God who stamps a "return to sender" label on our prayers. He responds according to HIS perfect will! Prayer puts us in the right place at the right time to hear what God is doing and wants to do in the next generation. Why do we know God will answer our fervent prayers? It's His will to align the hearts of the next generation with His!

***23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. - John 16:23-24 NIV***

IN MY NAME - His name is the Word! When we ask for things, according to His will, He is faithful to include us in on His agenda.

He's raising up intercessors!

**The future of the next generation is significantly influenced by devoted intercessors**

We won't win the heart of the next generation without fervent prayer and teaching. Specifically, God wants to equip parents to pray boldly for their children. I'm a parent: can I just say, I can't do it without prayer!

What's beautiful about praying with purpose for the next generation: **God will reveal to us the strategy of the enemy so that we can counter it with the strategy of Heaven.**

Example: God will tell you what your kids are struggling with even before they tell you, so that you can confront it with the Word of God.

Why? Because we are watchmen. Check out Isaiah 62:6...

***I've posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem.***

***Day and night they keep at it, praying, calling out,***

***reminding GOD to remember. - Isaiah 62:6 MSG***

Look at this...DAY and NIGHT. In other words, unceasing prayer! The Bible tells us to "pray without ceasing." This may not mean your lips are always moving in prayer, but what it should mean is that prayer is not just a reflex or box to check, but it's a lifestyle we are committed to throughout our day! I want to ask you something: what if you

committed for the next week that you were going to pray for the next generation for 10 minutes a day?

You might be thinking, “that’s not long enough!” True, but what if at the end of the week, you decided you were going to do it again the following week, but for 15 minutes? What if praying for the next generation daily just became part of your daily prayer life? How many lives could be changed? Could we see a generation in revival?

How do I position strategically for the next generation?

## **Passion, Persistence, Proclamation**

### **1. Passion**

- a. We tend to pray about what we’re most passionate about. For some, the first step is asking the Lord to give us a burning passion for the next generation (if you haven’t received an inkling of that from the first part of the series, I don’t know what will do it for you!)
- b. What does passion do? It MOVES us. Check out Romans 12:11

***“Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let him fill you with excitement as you serve him.” - Romans 12:11 TPT***

- c. Every prayer Jesus prayed was born out of passion for His Father and His people. Let our prayers, too, be motivated by passion.

### **2. Persistence**

***7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. - Matthew 7:7-8***

- a. The original language here actually implies “keep on asking, keep on knocking, and keep on seeking.” In other words, don’t give up!
- b. Some of us have been praying for some specifically in the next generation for YEARS and have yet to see the results we’re praying for.  
Transformation is up to God, but prayer is up to us! Advice: DON’T STOP

### **3. Proclamation**

- a. The Word of God is a lamp unto the feet of the next generation, and light unto their path! There is no greater prayer resource we have than the Word of God! Don’t know what to pray over the next generation? Look no further than God’s Word! Here’s some ideas:
  - They would be lights in a dark world (Matthew 5:16)
  - They would have the mind of Christ, and walk in wisdom and understanding (1 Corinthians 2:16)
  - They would fully trust in the Lord and not in themselves (Proverbs 3:5-6)

- They don't have a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- They would love God with all their heart and love God's people (Matthew 22:37-39)

I could go on...but proclaiming the Word over the next generation gives legs to our prayer and specific prayer points to give us direction. It's a position of offense, rather than defense.

Question: Are you in position to pray with a purpose for the next generation?

They need us standing in our place so that they can stand in their place. The #1 way to do that is to start with prayer. It's not a last-ditch effort. It's the first tool in our arsenal to combat the enemy and declare the goodness of God.

**ACTION STEP:** Text "Pray" to the number on the screen to register to pray for a LifeGate kid or student this year