

Raising the Prayer Level of the Church (SUMMARY)

Taking Prayer to a New Level

Every church has at least some form of prayer ministry. But no matter where the church is on the spectrum of prayer saturation, it is always possible to move to a new level of prayer. “Just as a body of believers grows in other aspects of their spiritual lives, so God expects the prayer life of a church to grow...”

Growth Levels for a Prayer-Saturated Church

The **foundational level** of a prayer-saturated church begins with a **unified leadership base**. Each leader, beginning with the senior pastor and the pastoral staff, must lead the way.

At the **motivational level**, the congregation must be **awakened** to the importance of prayer. Again, the lead pastor plays a critical role if this level is to be maintained. He must consistently and passionately cast the vision that God draws near to those who spend time in His presence. He must model an intimate relationship with Jesus, as he prepares the congregation for a prayer-focused ministry.

At the **preparation level**, **prayer leaders need to be trained**. If the foundational and motivational levels have been successful, then God has already been priming the hearts of those who need to step up into prayer leadership roles. Even if you begin with only a few, **train them and train them well**. Then do everything possible to **identify more potential leaders**.

At the **initiation level**, a beachhead is established. Begin praying with **those who are willing to pray**. The leader must keep the vision of a prayer-saturated church before the group. Pray specifically that the ministry will expand. Satan will do everything possible to keep this beachhead from being established.

At the **ignition level**, the prayer ministry starts up. At some point, the church **must move beyond a single prayer focus to a multifaceted approach with many opportunities for the church to pray**. The starting point depends on resources, space, leaders, and those willing to pray. Additional prayer points may include things like prayergram writing, prayer chains, prayer partners, or a prayer library.

At the **expansion level**, the prayer ministry is broadened. Expansion doesn't mean just adding more prayer meetings to the calendar. It means motivating members to pray more. It means training people how to pray effectively. And it means developing multiple entry points for people to get involved in prayer.

At the **invasion level**, the prayer ministry becomes a mobilized command and communications center. At this level, the prayer leaders develop long-range strategies for prayer ministry that might include such things as crisis and healing teams, prayer conferences, citywide gatherings, and 24-hour prayer times.

Finally, at the **saturation level**, the church becomes a house of prayer. In a church that is truly a house of prayer, all the leaders take responsibility for casting the prayer vision. Training opportunities are presented at all levels of one's spiritual journey.

Breaking the Prayer Level Barrier: Remove Hindrances to God's Presence, The Shield and the Sword – Offensive and Defensive Prayer, Concentration of Force, Discern and Combat Spiritual Attacks with United Prayer

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