

HOW CAN WE PRAY TO AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY?

In the last two articles, we noted that, while the Granbury/Hood County area is a great place to live, it's still plagued by the same woes as most other communities – crime and immorality. We also noted that there seems to be no end to war and that the church seems to be largely ineffective in leading people to put their trust in our Lord Jesus Christ. This last issue, the lack of people trusting Jesus, is a root cause of all the other woes. God said that, if we – His people – would humble ourselves and turn from our wicked ways, He would indeed hear us, forgive our sin and heal our land. (2nd Chronicles 7:14) That is exactly what we need!

Kingdom praying is prayer that emphasizes spiritual issues and conditions that have to do with our sin, our righteousness, our need for repentance, the spread of the Gospel to the world, the discipling of believers and the need for righteousness and safety in our communities. I submit to you that this kind of praying is of much greater importance than emphasizing concern for our own needs or concern for people's health and convenience issues, because God will use it to change our communities and the world. He will use it, and us, to bring people to Him for salvation and abundant life.

Well, how do we get there from here?

- Start setting aside significant time for prayer, in addition to your *Bible* study time. Start with 15 minutes and work up to 20 or 30 minutes. Ask God to make it possible. Be aware that you may have to set aside other, less important things.
- Spend time telling God how much He means to you, how wonderful He is and how thankful you are that He saved you from the penalty of your sin and that He is involved in your life. (I am not good at this, so I do it by letting others help me. I read back to God portions of His Word or hymns that express adoration and thanksgiving.)
- Pray about your own relationship with God. Examine yourself to see if you really are in the faith (2nd Corinthians 13:5). Compare your thinking, attitudes and actions with those the *Bible* says you should have. Discuss any differences you find with God, indicate your willingness to change and ask God to adjust you as needed.
- Be aware of what the *Bible* has to say about morality, behavior and justice. Compare the goings-on in our community and our world with what God has revealed to you. Remember to pray for the salvation and discipling of people and to ask God to energize His missionaries who are trying to reach them. Ask God to bring this world into conformance with His desires. Don't forget that He chooses to work through His people. Make yourself available to Him for this – whatever the cost.
- Thank God for hearing you and answering your prayers. Trust Him and watch *expectantly* for Him to do so.

If you are like me, remembering all the things the *Bible* says we should pray about is hard. You can find prayer guides in any *Bible* bookstore. It is likely your denomination publishes one or more prayer guides that will help you. Finally, there is a *free* guide full of kingdom prayer topics, many specific to the Hood County area. You can see or download it from:

[http://granburyministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Kingdom Prayer Guide-2022-Complete.pdf](http://granburyministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Kingdom_Prayer_Guide-2022-Complete.pdf)