

The Strategic Prayer Initiative™, Inc.
Support in the battle -- because we were never meant to go it alone.

*“Prayer is warfare. Just getting to prayer is half the battle;
staying there is the other half.” Anonymous*

*“On the basis of the record of the whole Bible, I would say that prayer
and fasting combined constitute the strongest single weapon that
has been committed to God’s believing people.” Derek Prince*

*“The greatest impact any of us can have on Christ’s global cause
is to be involved in consistent prayer for the whole world
and to teach other Christians how to pray this way.” David Bryant*

**THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE EXISTS (EPHESIANS 6:12)
AND THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD ARE GREAT!**

Some of you are receiving this information after a formal presentation concerning The Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI) PrayerCords. Others of you have not attended a presentation, but may have been a guest at a Transformation Party, or some other type of grassroots launch. For those who have seen a formal presentation, this information is intended to help reinforce some of the main aspects of the presentation, as well as fill in some extra detail. If you have not been part of a formal PrayerCords presentation, the following pages will not give you all of the information that was presented, but will give a good picture of what is involved with a SPI PrayerCord, and some of what the Strategic Prayer Initiative looks like. To fully understand SPI you need to know that the PrayerCords System can easily be adapted to a new or existing small group. Additionally, you will need to become familiar with The 5y80™ Objective and how it can be used to change the country. More information is available at www.SPIprayer.org.

If you have not been to a presentation and are considering becoming a participant in the Initiative we would like to encourage you to take the next step. Surveys indicate that at least two-thirds of all American Christians self-rate their prayer lives as either “fair” or “poor” versus “good” or “mature.” If you are part of the fair or poor group, are not satisfied with your prayer life, and feel it is finally time to change, The Strategic Prayer Initiative has been designed for you. Read on to discover how a commitment of just two to three minutes per day, along with meeting with two friends once a month, can move you quickly into much greater satisfaction in your prayer life. Additionally, the Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI) will help lay a foundation of Biblical disciplines that can actually help take you to even more significant levels of spiritual growth. If you are willing to commit two or three minutes a day to the long-term practice of brushing your teeth, isn’t it even more reasonable to spend as much time growing spiritually and praying effectively? God desires all of His believing children to have good prayer lives.

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The Strategic Prayer Initiative

One of the only ways the average American Christian can hope to truly affect many of the needs of the country and the world is in the place of prayer. This is one of the reasons Scripture directs believers to be in prayer for various categories such as:

- Leaders, 1 Timothy 2:1-4
- Prisoners, Hebrews 13:3
- Orphans, James 1:27
- Nations, Matthew 28:19a
- Laborers, Luke 10:2

The Strategic Prayer Initiative has been formed for the purpose of helping the average believer to be easily involved in Biblically-based strategic prayer which reaches beyond the individual's own sphere of needs, contacts, and knowledge.

The Initiative is committed to gathering information from many sources and making that information painlessly available to you, and in a simple-to-use format. Additionally, the expectations that are being asked of the average Christian are not burdensome. Two minutes of strategic prayer per day is doable by virtually every Christian (it can even be done by muting one commercial break during a television program), ***but even this easily attainable goal will fail without more help.***

ECCLESIASTES 4:12 -- A CORD OF THREE STRANDS IS NOT EASILY BROKEN!

*And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated,
but two can stand back-to-back and conquer;
three is even better, for **a triple-braided cord** is not easily broken.*
The Living Bible (LB)

*Where one alone would be overcome, two will put up resistance;
and **a threefold cord** is not quickly broken*
New Jerusalem Bible (NJB)

*And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him;
and **a threefold cord** is not quickly broken.*
King James Version (KJV)

PRAYERCORDS:

You have been asked, or are being asked, to set yourselves up into groups of three, known as PrayerCords or Cords for short (three men or three women). If, after prayerfully considering who to group off with, you still need one more or both of the partners, a list of others also needing Cord members may be able to be provided to you. You will still need to prayerfully ask one or more people on the list if they would prayerfully consider being in a Cord with you. Although the Initiative has tried to help set up Cords for people in the past, we have found it best for Cords to be set up by the people who are in them. Furthermore, if you are setting up a Cord we always suggest that once you have the next Cord member chosen and signed on, that you and member number two work on picking member number three together. This way person two will typically be comfortable with person three, since they helped pick them.

These partnerships or Cords are crucial to attaining the seemingly easily reached goal of two minutes a day. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, we are told that a cord of three strands is not easily broken. Not only is this true of rope, but it has been proven to be true for prayer purposes as well. Your Cord is vitally important in helping you to effectively fight the good fight: strategically, consistently, and righteously. We must not underestimate the additional strength that comes from these triple-braided cords.

Once each month (more often if you want to) you will need to meet with the two members of your Cord. This meeting is for the purpose of keeping each other accountable in some vitally important (yet not overly burdensome) areas concerning spiritual growth and success in kingdom building prayers. Reasonable accountability is a proven way to progress the average Christian's effectiveness in the spiritual battle, an ongoing battle that is for no less than the eternal souls of over seven-and-one-half-billion people. If your Cord is not able to meet on a particular month, the Cord Administrator should still contact the Cord members and ask them (and themselves) the accountability questions. The monthly tracking of the five (not overly burdensome) accountability questions, even if the PrayerCord was unable to meet that month, keeps the Cord on track concerning their growth and progress. This is very important, since many things will happen in life in general, that will end or stagnate the growth of the PrayerCord, without the ongoing tracking. The mission of growing the prayer lives of millions of average American Christians is so important, yet so difficult, that **if we do not help each other, it just won't happen.** Can you imagine the spiritual power that can be released if 80% of the actual Christians in the US developed and/or maintained a good prayer life for five years? Let's wake this sleeping giant!

During your monthly meeting you and your partners will ask each other five questions:

Question 1. Have you achieved your two minutes a day of Strategic Prayer?

One of three answers may be given to Question #1: Yes, No, or Almost

(Almost means not missing more than three days in a given month. Almost is still a success.)

Following are the easily achieved requirements of your two minutes a day:

- *Each day's strategic prayer from your monthly Pink Sheet i.e. Strategic Prayer Data Sheet*
- *The three daily bullet point prayers for your partners which are listed on the Blue Card*
- *A Radical Growth Prayer also found on your Blue Card (done at least weekly for your two partners; this will be explained in the following pages)*

Note: The 30 or 31 prayers from your Pink Sheet need to be prayed for and checked off by the end of the given month. If you miss a few days, you can catch up. Alternatively, some participants prefer to pray through the entire "Pink Sheet" in one sitting each month. For many people this can be achieved in about 25 minutes (once a month). However, the prayers found on the "Blue Card", which are prayed directly for your two Cord partners cannot be made up or done in one sitting. Your Cord members need your consistent and ongoing prayers. Praying for your two Cord members daily allows them to receive the added protection and growth that will come to them because of your regular prayers. Remember, we were never meant to fight the battle alone. (See Proverbs 27:17, James 5:16-20, Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 -- and in principle see: Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25, Mark 6:7, Luke 10:1, and Psalm 133:1)

Question 2. Have you been in the Word daily?
(Sundays are free days since you hear the Word in church)

Many of you are reading the Bible regularly, but for those who are not, we ask that you read at least two verses per day. This exceedingly simple assignment will be very helpful in building a powerful habit into your life if you are not currently looking to the Scriptures each day.

One of three answers may be given to Question #2: Yes, No, or Almost
(Again, almost means not missing more than three days in a given month. Almost is still a success.)

You are free to use any reading plan or system that you prefer. However, if you are not sure where to read, we suggest using the Strategic Prayer Initiative's Chapter-A-Day reading chart. This chart specifies one chapter per day, except Sunday (you are only required to read the first two verses). If you want to you can read the whole chapter each day, but you are only obligated to two verses per day. We do ask that you read the first two verses of the new chapter for each new day. Note: If you did use the chart to read a chapter a day (a full chapter is usually two pages long, or less) you would read the whole New Testament, and a few Old Testament selections in one year.

The Strategic Prayer Initiative's process is not meant to be burdensome. The brief but strategic prayers and the two verses per day of Scripture are intended to be doable, in literally three (3) minutes per day. We would love to see you read more than two verses per day, but all you are signing on for is two, and that is all that you'll be asked about. (As previously stated, Sundays are days off.)

Question 3. Have you given in to significant sin during the past month? (See Note Below)

One of two answers can be given to Question #3 Yes or No
(Following you will find some helpful Scriptures for discerning if you should consider a sin significant.)

Note: We understand that Question 3 can be very threatening in some cases. On page seven (7) you will find three ways to reply to this question, which will reduce the sensitivity the question will elicit for many. For those who do not feel comfortable or able to reveal much of their moral failings we suggest Approach A. This approach allows almost no vulnerability or risk, while still allowing your Cord partners to pray more fervently for your needs in this crucial area of spirituality.

The reason this question is asked is because it is extremely relevant for your greater effectiveness in prayer (both personal prayers as well as strategic prayers), and for your own spiritual growth. *"Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear."* Isaiah 59:1-2 NIV

To elaborate further, the two main reasons for asking this question are as follows:

- 1) because it is necessary for any true follower of Jesus Christ to advance in holiness if they are going to live the Christian life.
"...for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'" 1 Peter 1:16 NIV and,
- 2) the greater impact you can have by increasing the strategic portion of your prayer life will be far less effective if you are living (and praying) with unchecked sin in your life. ***"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*** 1 Peter 3:12 NIV ***"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened"***
Psalm 66:18 NIV

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God his Savior. Psalm 24:3-5 NIV

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalm 139:23-24 RSV)

What Should I Consider Significant Sin?

For those of you **wondering if a sin is significant** or not, we encourage you to assume it is if you are in doubt. Also, you have the option to bring up any possible moral struggles to your fellow PrayerCord members. Your Cord members can often shed some important light on whether or not a particular struggle should be considered sinful. Additionally, the list in **Galatians 5:16-26** can be helpful in discerning sin in one's life. Some other Scriptures to consider are: 1 Thessalonians 5:18-**not giving thanks**, Romans 12:3-**pride**, Ephesians 4:31-**anger**, Ephesians 4:29-**language**, 1 Corinthians 8:9-**stumbling blocks**, Hebrews 10:25-**forsaking assembling**, Colossians 3:9-**lying**, 1 Peter 2:11-**fleshly lusts**, John 13:35-**not loving others**, Colossians 3:13-**forgiving**, Ephesians 4:28-**stealing**, Ephesians 5:16 **redeeming the time**, Matthew 6:24-**servng money**, Matthew 23:28-**outward righteousness**, Philippians 4:8-**think on these things**, Jude 1:7 & 10- **perversion**, Hebrews 13:4-**adultery & premarital sex**, 1 John 4:20-21-**prejudice**. Most of the previous scriptural references come from What Happens When Women Pray, by Evelyn Christenson pp.147-151

(The above Scriptures are given in their entirety on pages nine (9) and 10 of this document.)

At the bottom of the standard Yellow Card used to track PrayerCords is a dotted line. Beneath the dotted line are three more questions listed in an abbreviated form. When a church or group is also using another SPI Tool known as The QuickCheck™ Card for Group Assessment, the questions below the dotted line are ignored. However, when no QuickCheck Card is being used Questions #4 and #5 do need to be answered. Question #3.1 on the other hand, is a replacement question for Question #3. Question #3.1 is intended to never be used unless the individuals in the PrayerCord or SPI Small Group feel they are ready for this higher level of transparency.

Question 4. How would you self-rate your prayer life during the past month?

One of four answers can be given to Question #4 **P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good, or M=Mature**

Question 5. How would you self-rate your personal relationship with the Lord in the past month?

One of five answers can be given to Question #5 **P=Poor, F=Fair, PD=Pretty Deep, D=Deep, and ED=Extremely Deep**

[We would like to point out that with Questions #4 and #5 the possible answers that are available can appear to be too general or imprecise. On the contrary, we have found that these possible options are typically easy for a SPI participant to place themselves into. Additionally, Questions #4 and #5 and #3.1 are also self-correcting. For example, if the person thought they had a "Good" or a "Mature" prayer life at the beginning of their involvement in SPI, but after they go further up the learning curve (regarding the subject and practice of prayer) they come to realize their prayer life had been just "Fair" at best, they will change their answers accordingly. However, with their deeper understanding, they choose their future answers from their new more informed base, which means going forward if they say their prayer life is "Good" or "Mature," it is said with a much fuller understanding than before. We do have a tool addressing What Is Involved In Having a Good Prayer Life, and recommend a booklet entitled *Love to Pray*]

A Cord or SPI Small Group can voluntarily replace Question 3. With Question 3.1 if they want to advance from the very basics.

Question 3.1 How much in the past month (or week if measuring weekly) were your prayers weakened by any known, unconfessed, and un-repent-ed-of sin in your life? a=A Huge Amount, b=A Lot, c=Pretty Much, d=A Little, e= I am aware of my sinful nature, but by confession of known sin, and true repentance, my prayers were unhindered.

Regarding Question 3.1, the way the question has been developed, it functions well whether the individual is a new believer or a mature believer. Keep in mind that this question doesn't ask to identify the sin, just the level it has weakened or harmed the effectiveness of the individual's prayers. Always remember, we Christians can be fully clean at any given time, by asking the Holy Spirit to show us the sins in our lives (Psalm 139:23-24) and then, with confession of "known" sin (1st John. 1:9), and true repentance (John 8:10-11, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 3:5-8 and 11-12, Matthew 4:17, Matthew 11:20. and Matthew 12:41) our prayers will not be hindered or weakened.

Promise of Confidentiality

Anything shared in answer to Question 3 must remain absolutely confidential within the Cord. A Small Green Card has been provided with the New Participant's Starter Packet, or is available at **www.SPIprayer.org**. Each Cord member needs to write their name on the top line of the Green Card, just below the words "Promise of Confidentiality." At or before the Cord's first monthly meeting, each Cord member needs to have their Green Card (Promise of Confidentiality) signed by the other two members of their Cord. The signing of this Promise of Confidentiality is intended to stand as an ongoing commitment to confidentiality. We know that for some of you this Green Card may seem unnecessary. However, please understand that for many the Promise of Confidentiality is extremely important, and it is because of its importance to many that it is *always* required. A larger version of this card is available for SPI Small Groups.

Helper/Administrator(s)

Finally, one of your Cord will need to volunteer to be the **PrayerCord Helper/Administrator** and will keep track of the group's monthly progress. These duties, at times, will require an additional five (5) to 10 minutes per month. Most of the time, though, all of the duties can be handled at the regular monthly Cord meeting. Please recognize, a longstanding principle is being applied here: "What gets measured gets done." We believe it is God's sovereign timing for the average American Christian to enter the spiritual battle in a more intentional and strategic manner. However, without ongoing accountability it is highly unlikely to happen. Furthermore, if the accountability is too onerous or burdensome many Christians will not even be willing to engage. Besides asking the questions on the Yellow Card, and circling the answers, the Cord Administrator makes sure the monthly meeting and a back-up date get scheduled for each month, and if the Cord cannot meet on a particular month, then they contact the members and get their answers to the five questions by whatever medium is easiest for them e.g. text, phone, social media, etc..

The responses on the monthly Yellow Cord Cards will eventually go to a **Cable Administrator** who will enter the data from the four Cords into a master database via the Internet, or mobile app. A Cable is made up of four Cords. Of each 12 Cable participants one will need to be a Cable Administrator. Cable Administrators must enter their four Cords data monthly. At a future date you may choose to be a Cable Administrator.

Prayers Of Proper Perspective a.k.a. Radical Growth Prayers

"so that in everything he (Jesus Christ) might have the supremacy." Colossians 1:18b NIV

The Strategic Prayer Initiative believes that more strategic prayer just for prayer's sake **would be a failure**. Although Biblically-based strategic prayer is often neglected, and should be done, it is not the main objective of the Christian life. God wants His Son, Jesus Christ, to be glorified and honored with the supremacy that is rightfully His. Additionally, God wants the church, Christ's bride, to know and adore Jesus Christ, as He does them.

As you bring your strategic prayers before the Lord, also lift up your Cord to the Lord by praying one of the following four Scriptural prayers directly for them. **Pray at least one of these four prayers for your partners** on a regular basis (and don't forget you will be the beneficial recipient of these prayers on your behalf). It would not be difficult to pray one of these prayers for your PrayerCord on a daily basis, as part of your two (2) minutes of strategic prayer. We do, however, ask that you pray this way for your two partners **at least once a week**. You might choose a regular day, for example Sunday. Again, the key here is that no matter how important strategic prayer for the country and the world is, these prayers of the Apostle Paul, found in Scripture, are even more important.

The Four Pauline Prayers Are as Follows:

Prayer #1 is the main prayer, you can either just pray Prayer #1, or you can rotate through the four, using a different one on different days. Prayer #1 is also located on your Blue Card. A larger Blue Card is available which has all four of these Pauline prayers listed on it.

Prayer #1 (Ephesians 3:16-21 NIV)

I pray that out of [Your] glorious riches [You will] strengthen _____ [Insert names of your Cord] with power through [Your] Spirit in [their] inner being, so that Christ may dwell in _____ hearts through faith. And I pray that _____, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints [true Christians], to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that _____ may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of [You] God. Now to [You] who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to [Your] power that is at work within _____, to [You] be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*

[* See Philippians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Romans 1:7 & 15:25-26, etc.]

Prayer #2 (Philippians 1:9-11 NIV)

And this is my prayer: that _____ [Insert the names of your Cord] love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that _____ may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God. [This is the shortest of the four prayers, some of you might want to memorize this short prayer, as others have done, so that you can easily pray it each day for your PrayerCord. It is an extremely profound prayer.]

Prayer #3 (Ephesians 1:17-19a NIV)

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give _____ [Insert names of your Cord] the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that _____ may know him better. I pray also that the eyes of _____ heart(s) may be enlightened in order that [they] may know the hope to which [you have] called [them], the riches of [Your] glorious inheritance in the saints [true Christians], and [Your] incomparably great power for us who believe.*

[* See Philippians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Romans 1:7 & 15:25-26, etc.]

Prayer #4 (Colossians 1:9b-12 NIV)

...[I] have not stopped praying for _____ [Insert the names of your Cord] and asking [You] God to fill [them] with the knowledge of [Your] will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And [I] pray this in order that _____ may live a life worthy of [You] and may please [You] in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of [You], being strengthened with all power according to [Your] glorious might so that _____ may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully give thanks to [You] Father, who has qualified [them] to share in the inheritance of the saints [true Christians] in the kingdom of light.*

[* See Philippians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 14:33, Romans 1:7 & 15:25-26, etc.]

APPROACHES TO QUESTION THREE (3)

Question 3. Have you given in to significant sin during the past month?

Approach A: Answer simply “Yes” or “No.” No more will be asked of you.

In the event that you are answering Yes to giving in to significant sin, you do not have to explain what that answer means in any way. This keeps you in a safer position, but this response still alerts your PrayerCord members that they will need to ratchet up their prayers for you to battle this/these unnamed sin(s). Furthermore, even if you don't relate anything about the nature of the sin(s), this question will still help you to not gloss over, or tuck into the back of your mind, any ongoing moral difficulties that can seriously hinder your prayer life and the effectiveness of your prayers, as well as your relationship with the Lord.

Approach B: The Question changes to (Question 3.1) - **How much in the past month were your prayers weakened by any known, unconfessed, and un-repent-ed-of sin in your life?**

One of five answers may be given to Question #3:

1. A huge amount
2. A lot
3. Pretty much, I know God expects more of me
4. A little, but I can still do better
5. I am aware of my sinful nature, but by confession and true repentance, my prayers were unhindered.

Note that although this more detailed question will give indications of your opinion of the severity of your sin, it still does not ask you to identify the sin(s). You maintain a high margin of safety, yet you advance forward in the Biblical quest of every sincere Christ follower to actively be part of the sanctification process (i.e. becoming more Christ-like, as He has asked of us) in your own life, as well as in the lives of your PrayerCord members. Remember, Jesus does say in John 14:15 *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments”* NASB, and in John 3:36 *“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”* NASB. We are, of course saved by grace not by works, but we are still expected to walk in the spirit and not the flesh (Galatians 5:16-26) and even the classic grace verses in Ephesians two tell us that God has planned good works for His followers.

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10 NASB

One caveat concerning this question. As we know any Christian can become pure at any given moment by asking the Holy Spirit to reveal any sin in his or her life, confessing the sin, and repenting of the sin. However, if someone has to keep confessing and repenting of the same sin or sins, on a daily or weekly basis, they may well have a sin stronghold, or strongholds, in their life, and ultimately need others to help them gain victory over it, or them. Remember, when we truly repent, the Lord is always there to forgive us, yet we must keep in mind that confession without repentance is a game and does not indicate sincerity. We are always wise to make sure we are in the faith, the way Scripture tells us to in 2 Corinthians 13:5, and in 2 Peter 1:10, and for sure we want to make sure we could never become the recipients of the delusion spoken about in 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12.

Approach C: The Question remains Question 3.1 - **How much in the past month were your prayers weakened by any known, unconfessed, and un-repent-ed-of sin in your life?**

One of five answers may be given to Question #3:

1. A huge amount
2. A lot
3. Pretty much, I know God expects more of me
4. A little, but I can still do better
5. I am aware of my sinful nature, but by confession and true repentance, my prayers were unhindered.

When in an established and trusting friendship with your Cord, you may one day feel the security to speak openly to them (but only to them, in full confidence, and with a signed Promise of Confidentiality) the full extent of your struggles or moral failings (this is sometimes called attaining relational transparency). Relationships of this type are of great value in maintaining moral purity, and/or growing in moral purity. This approach is of course the one that opens you up to the greatest vulnerability, but for those who have established high levels of trust and respect within their Cords, Approach C can be extremely beneficial. Remember, we all need support in the battle, and we were never meant to go it alone.

“Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous [person] is powerful and effective. . . My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save (them) from death and cover over a multitude of sins.” James 5:16, 19-20. NIV

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the [person] of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV

Scriptures Concerning Sanctification (i.e. becoming more holy, more Christ-like):

“...for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I (your God) am holy.’ 1 Peter 1:16 NIV

*Be joyful always; pray continually; **give thanks in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV*

*For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought**, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Romans 12:3 NIV*

*Do not let any **unwholesome talk** come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and **anger**, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:29-32 NIV*

*Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a **stumbling block to the weak**. For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. 1 Corinthians 8:9-11 NIV*

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **Let us not give up meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching. If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left. Hebrews 10:24-26 NIV*

***Do not lie** to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Colossians 3:9-10 NIV*

*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to **abstain from sinful desires**, which war against your soul. 1 Peter 2:11 NIV*

*A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must **love one another**. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35 NIV*

*Bear with each other and **forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another**. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:13-16 NIV*

*He who has been stealing must **steal no longer**, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Ephesians 4:28 NIV*

*Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise, **making the most of every opportunity**, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV*

*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and Money**. Matthew 6:24 NIV (Also see Matthew 6:19-21 and 1 Timothy 6:6-12 & 17-19)*

*In the same way, on the outside you **appear to people as righteous** but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness. Matthew 23:28 NIV*

*In a similar way, Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding towns gave themselves up to **sexual immorality and perversion**. They serve as an example of those who suffer the punishment of eternal fire...Yet these men speak abusively against whatever they do not understand; and what things they do understand by instinct, like unreasoning animals--these are the very things that destroy them. Jude 1:7&10*

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. Hebrews 13:4

*If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: **Whoever loves God must also love his brother.** 1 John 4:20-21*

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--**think about such things.** Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9 NIV*

*I say then: **Walk in the Spirit**, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. **The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.** I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:16-26 NIV*

Glossary Of Key Terms:

The Strategic Prayer Initiative – an interdenominational strategy designed to help the average American Christian to improve the efficacy of their prayer life. The target audience is the middle-of-the-bell-curve. Most prayer ministries hope to attract the average Christian, but in fact they typically are only able to reach a small portion of the bell curve, at most 1% to 5%.

Diagnostic Survey –There have been nine major revisions of the longest SPI Diagnostic Survey, which was developed over a five-year process. Three of the major revisions were done with extensive input from one of the nations top religious polling experts. The longest of these surveys, used in our initial research, is no longer used. There are however two survey forms still in use: **a 14-Question Survey that is our go-to recommendation** and a more elaborate 30-Question Survey. We *always* recommend using one of our surveys with individuals, groups, or congregations before you work with them. The responses you will typically get are priceless for helping you discern if a person or group would be worthwhile for you to try to help grow in prayer, or not. Moreover, the survey results are invaluable for helping to motivate an individual, or a group, and for helping church leadership to know if they should launch SPI, and if they do launch, for helping them to help the group, or church, to stay the course for the full five years laid out in The 5y80™ Objective. We have surveyed over 3,700 individuals in the past, but no longer keep track of how many people have currently been surveyed.

PrayerCord – A group of three individuals of the same gender who have banded together for the purpose helping each other walk more deeply with their Lord and God Jesus Christ (John 20:28), and so that they can help each other to develop and/or maintain a “Good Prayer Life” and a “Deep Relationship” with the Lord. Furthermore, to be substantially more effective in certain aspects of fighting successfully in the spiritual war. A war we are all caught up in, just because we are human beings, and even more so if we are actually trying to faithfully live the lives Jesus Christ has asked us to. [At the time of this writing, the longest standing PrayerCord that we know of has been operational for 16 years, and with the original three members.]

Startup Guide – A brief guide given as part of a “New Participant’s Starter Packet.” This Startup Guide summarizes the key information in this document (known as the “**Longer Explanation of SPI PrayerCords**”).

Blue Card -- Literally a blue card that has the primary components of the PrayerCords and SPI Small Groups written out in a condensed format. The monthly “Pink Sheet” and the “Blue Card” together account for the major variables needed for daily participation. Three (3) types of “Blue Cards” are available: the standard, or middle-size Blue Card (8½ x 5½), a small wallet version, and a full-size (8½ x 11) expanded version, which includes the three additional Pauline growth prayers that can be prayed on behalf of fellow Cord members. The middle-sized Blue Card was given to you in your New Participants Starter Packet.

Strategic Prayer Data Sheet (Pink Sheet) – An important component of the Strategic Prayer Initiative is the monthly Strategic Prayer Data Sheet also known by its easily identifiable color. The monthly “Pink Sheet” summarizes a large amount of strategic prayer information each month. Seventy-five percent of the information on the Pink Sheet changes each month. Some of the 31 “Data Fields” can be made up of hundreds of individual entries, but users will only pray for 12 different Data Field entries in a one year period, for the 75% of the Data Fields that rotate each month. For example, users of the Pink Sheet will pray for an Unreached People Group once a month, but it will be a different Unreached People Group each month.

Data Field – One of 31 different strategic prayer subject categories found on the monthly “Pink Sheet.” Approximately 75% of the Pink Sheet Data Fields entries change each month. The eight Data Fields that stay the same each month remain unchanged because they are either foundational to a good Christian prayer life, or because they are considered of extreme strategic significance concerning the spiritual battle.

Yellow Card – A small yellow postcard sized card used for summarizing the monthly accountability meetings of each PrayerCord. Sometimes the information on the Yellow Card is communicated with a Cable Administrator, or is directly entered into a mobile phone app. A Long-Yellow Card is also available for use with SPI Small Groups, 5y80 Teams, as well as Cords.

Green Card – A brief promise of total confidentiality (printed on a small green card). Each Cord member has his or her own Green Card, with his or her name printed on the top line of the card, and the signatures of their two Cord members at the bottom of the card. At the start of your very first meeting, each of you should fill your name in on the top line of your “Green Card” and then have the bottom of the card signed by both of the members of your Cord. This Green Card is a promise on behalf of the three Cord members to treat whatever is said in these monthly meetings as totally confidential. A larger version of the Green Card is available for use with SPI Small Groups.

Cord – Short for a PrayerCord. The term “Cord” comes from verse 4:12 of the book of Ecclesiastes found in the Old Testament. *“And one standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer; three is even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.”* The Living Bible

Cable – Four Cords make up one Cable. A completed Cable consists of twelve individuals of the same gender.

Cord Helper/Administrator – A Cord member who has the additional responsibility of making sure the Cord’s monthly meetings (including a back-up date) are set up, and who fills out the monthly “Yellow Card.” **In the event that the Cord is not able to keep its monthly meeting, for a particular month**, the Cord Administrator is responsible for communicating with the Cord members and getting their answers to the five (not overly burdensome) accountability questions, including their own, and logging them on a copy of the Yellow Card. This duty can require an additional five (5) or 10 minutes in a month, but is very important to the ongoing success of the PrayerCord!

Cable Administrator – Typically one of the twelve individuals making up a Cable will have this responsibility. The information on the four “Yellow Cards” generated by the four “Cords” making up a “Cable” is forwarded to the Cable Administrator. The Cable Administrator then uses a mobile app, or a website, to record the full Cable’s data. This accountability system is considered fundamental to the mission of literally (and actually) helping the average American Christian have a consistently “Deeper” relationship with the Lord, and to develop and/or maintain a “Good Prayer Life.” The 5y80 Objective lays out the realistic plan for increasing the number of American Christians with “Good Prayer Lives” by at least five million (5,000,000) and has spent over 16 years working (through prayer, research, prototyping, and trial and error) on how to make this possible. Additionally, the reporting function allows pastors of churches, and/or “Location Administrators” to actually know statistically about the battle effectiveness of their squads, platoons, companies or battalion. A Cable is also known as a squad, and two to four squads make up a platoon, and company is made up of three to six platoons.

Location Administrator – The person responsible for assigning Cord and Cable designations at a particular SPI Location. At times this individual also maintains various features of a SPI website for a particular SPI Location.

Backup Location Administrator – A second person at a SPI location that has the same knowledge and duties as the Location Administrator. This person may need to be identified and available prior to a SPI launch, even at a grassroots level.

Location – A particular church, school, ministry, or residence that has launched a Strategic Prayer Initiative. A SPI launch at a church, school, or ministry can be done formally to the entire organization at one time, or it can be done informally via small meetings within the organization. If the location of a SPI launch is a private residence it is considered a **“Grassroots Launch.”**

Zone – A subsection of a particular “Sector” used for tracking corporate prayer meetings that utilize the SPI Corporate Prayer meeting strategy. These meetings are designed to launch and maintain interdenominational responses to certain types of prayer needs. The subjects of prayer are, in part, specific to the particular community, or group of communities, as well as to the state where the Zone is located. Zones are logged by the zip code of the location (church, school, or ministry, etc.) where the Strategic Prayer Initiative has been launched, or by the zip code of the “Location Administrator” of a Grassroots Launch.

Sector – The closest “major” metropolitan area associated with a particular church, school, ministry, or residence.

Supplemental Prayer Guide – An eight-page supplement to the “Pink Sheets” which gives prayer suggestions for most of the “Data Fields.” For example, if a participant is unsure of how to pray for a Congressman or Senator, this optional guide gives them a number of suggestions, as well as suggestions for most “Data Fields.” This guide also gives many Scriptural supports pertaining to why we should be praying for many of the strategic topics. In addition, expanded source references can be found in this guide.

Index To The SPI Information Center At Your Church Or Location

Each church that has made the Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI) part of their church’s ongoing culture has the option of having a SPI Information Center where current and perspective participants may pickup “**Pink Sheets**”, and “**New Participant Starter Packets**”, as well as other various information concerning the work of strategic prayer. Following is an index to the material that can be found at your church’s SPI Information Center, or from your Location Administrator:

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| 1. The 5y80™ Objective & Surveys | 6. What Is The Strategic Prayer Initiative | 11. Current Month’s Pink Sheets |
| 2. New Participant Starter Packets | 7. SPI 14-Question Diagnostic Surveys | 12. Yellow Sheet Prayer Teams |
| 3. Yellow Cards for PrayerCord Tracking | 8. Longer Explanation of SPI PrayerCords | 13. Triad Level Cords |
| 4. Blue Cards & Small Group Green Cards | 9. Supplemental Prayer Guide (for Pink Sheets) | 14. SPI Battle Cords |
| 5. Long-Yellow Cards for Tracking | 10. Good Prayer Life Guidelines | 15. NHB Cords (Nothing Held Back) |

In conclusion, those of us committed to helping people have deeper relationships with Jesus Christ, and achieve “good prayer lives” (of course taking into account their personal circumstances) would like to say, that “**we believe the prayer life of the average Christian is a sleeping giant in the American church.** The spiritual battle ramifications of releasing this latent potential are enormous.” Will you please commit to three minutes a day of prayer and Scripture, and fellowshiping once a month with two friends? These modest expectations are truly achievable by even the busiest of us. Won’t you join this effort to mobilize the faithful? If you are already doing well, would you consider helping motivate and/or train up two who are not?

Why Me – Why Now?

The stakes in the country and the world are higher than they have ever been. With the world population approaching eight (8) billion people, a large number of all the people who have ever lived are alive at this moment in time. In the next 70 or 80 years at least seven billion people are going to die and then stand before God for His final judgment of their lives (*Hebrews 9:27*). Jesus Christ said most will not escape damnation (*Matthew 7:13-14 & 7:21-23*), but He also told us the fields are ripe for harvest (*Matthew 9:37-38*) and for His followers to become fishers of men (*Matthew 4:19*). In addition, Jesus taught that we all have a responsibly to be disciples ourselves, and furthermore we are responsible to help make disciples in all the nations (*Matthew 28:19*). The average American Christian’s greater effectiveness in the spiritual battle has never been more needed. Isn’t our accountability to these very modest goals a reasonable tribute to our crucified Lord? As our survey research has indicated, without help the majority of American Christians are not doing very well in prayer, let alone fighting this spiritual battle more effectively (a battle that has become even more intense with the advent of the internet and all of the advantages it affords to the forces of evil, and the agendas of the Adversary. The Christian disciplines of prayer, Scripture reading, helping each other, accountability, pursuing holiness, fasting, and growing closer to Christ, are not trends; most of them, if not all, are basic realities of a Biblical faith. Jesus Christ has given so much of Himself for us, can we not give this little bit back for Him? If 80% of American Christians could develop and maintain a “deeper relationship” with Jesus Christ, and “good prayer lives” would not our Lord be pleased? **Can you give three minutes?** Please go to the following website and learn what it will take for you to form a PrayerCord or a 5y80™ Team, and help change the country through The 5y80 Objective. If we wake this sleeping giant, it will change the nation, the only reason it would not, is if the Holy Bible is not true.

A great deal of Strategic Prayer Initiative™ / SPI™ information is available at www.SPIprayer.org

We also make a **weekly conference call** available on Thursday nights at / 9:30 pm Eastern Time / 8:30 pm Central / 7:30 pm Mountain / 6:30 pm Pacific. Someone will be available on these calls for at least 10 minutes. If no one has called in by then, the call will end at that time (until the following week). These calls are available to anyone. The purpose of these calls is so that individuals, or prayer teams, can ask general and/or specific questions concerning getting into a PrayerCord, or launching a PrayerCords Ministry, or SPI Small Group’s Ministry, or becoming part of The 5Y80 Objective. **To participate in the weekly conference call, use the following phone number 712.770.5505 and access code 478951.** [T-Mobile customers are charged a penny a minute for being on these type of calls. So, a 25 minute call would cost you an extra 25 cents on your phone bill, if you have T-Mobile. SPI does not benefit in any way from these surcharges.]