

Hey, Susan here

Do you ever wonder how you can make a difference in your community through prayer?

You've heard about robberies, gangs, drugs, and other evil activities that go on, and it concerns you.

What might be in the unseen realm over your city?

And how do you pray for your city?

In this video I share 5 prayer strategies for community transformation.

So stay tuned!

Spiritual transformation is the change in the appearance, nature and character of an individual, community, and nation from being self-centered to God centered.

We know that satan seeks to enslave and destroy individuals, families, communities, and nations because John 10:10 says that satan has come to steal, kill, and destroy.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

And Nahum 3:4 states that demons enslave whole nations, which would include communities and people.

"All because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft.

Notice there that whole nations are enslaved by her prostitution. That's the enemy.

It is interesting that Ephesians 4:27, which exhorts us to "not give place to the devil," uses the Greek word *topos* for the word "place."

Topos is the root word from which we get topography, which means the physical features of a region of land.

Now, every very city or town experiences evil:

Robberies

Murder

Injustice

Sexual sin

You name it. It's there. In every village, town, and city, metropolis, inner city, outer city, suburb across every nation and every country.

Bondage, even in a community, happens when sin exists without repentance.

Unrepentant sin brings defilement, which leads to demonic attachments in an area. Even in a community.

Because demons feed on unrepentant sin.

So when we pray for our city, our prayer strategies often focus on demonic powers.

Now I know that a lot of our prayer strategies are before the Lord and praying His promises for our city and enforcing those things He did at Calvary is all done in the spiritual realm, obviously, but includes dealing with demonic powers. So that's what we're focusing on here in this video in this particular strategy in praying for our community. So when we pray for our city, we're going to focus on demonic powers whether we want to or not. Sorry. That's just the way it goes.

Ephesians 6:12 explains it this way:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Now George Otis, Jr. calls some of these spirits Territorial spirits. He says, "Territorial spirits are demonic powers that have been given controlling influence over specific sites, peoples and areas.

The belief in such hierarchical arrangements is really culturally widespread and often involves protective deities linked to homes, temples, clans, cities, valleys, nations. You name it."

Throughout foreign countries today the respect for territorial spirits is common.

Different cities honor different demon gods as their city protector, their city god.

Shrines and temples pay homage to national gods as well as city principalities.

Many businesses and homes in Asia have a "spirit house" at the front of their property in which the ancestral gods are worshipped.

Even in some of the foreign restaurants in your community. If they are Thai, or Japanese, or something, you may see a spirit house. I know one of our Thai food places put in a spirit house outside and they would put offerings of food on it and later they moved it indoors, but it is still there.

I find it interesting that the God of Israel doesn't refute the belief of city principalities, although He does make it very, very clear that He is not one of them. He is not a territorial god.

He is the One Supreme God and there are no other gods before Him; only demons masquerading as such.

Scripture gives us these examples of Territorial spirits. I'm not going to explain each one of them, but you can read the Scriptures that are given here. The Scriptures will also be given in the transcript if you'd like to download it. Look them up. Study it. Get an idea of the kind of demonic stuff I'm talking about here.

Scripture mentions the "Prince of Persia" is in Daniel 10

1 Kings 20:23 refers to the "gods of the hills"

2 Kings 1:2 calls Baalzebub, the "god of the Philistine city of Ekron"

Revelation 2:12-13 talks about Satan's seat in the city of Pergamos

Revelation 18:2 identifies the city of Babylon as a "home for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit."

Jesus has come to redeem individuals, families, communities, people groups and nations.

He calls us to pray for our communities, which means we will be praying against these demonic powers.

Jesus says, "Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." That's in Jeremiah 29:7. And the word of the Lord of God comes to us saying, "Pray for your city."

Jesus Christ won the victory against sin and Satan 2000 years ago.

Yet, just like in our personal lives, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ must be applied to sin and demonic powers for His victory to be experienced.

Following are five basic prayer strategies needed to apply the work of the Cross to our communities so that revival can break forth.

Every prayer strategy to see spiritual transformation in our community will include at least one of these, if not all of these ingredients. All right?

Over time, these actions will break the sin covenants that are made between the community and the demonic. Every time someone commits a sin ... every time there's a drive by shooting or something like that there is a demonic thing attached to that and begins to set up a covenant with the demonic realm and when another drive by shooting happens in the neighborhood, that covenant is reestablished and reaffirmed.

Secondly, our actions will deplete the power base of sin within a community that a principality feeds on. As sin is removed from the community, the demonic power has nothing to feed on, to get its energy from. It loses its power base basically. So we're going to deplete that power base through our prayer and the actions I'm going to show you.

Thirdly, our actions will close down demonic embassies, or strongholds, and drive demonic powers out.

The hold of the enemy will be broken and the free flow of the gospel released.

And your community will be transformed. I've seen it happen again and again, over and over.

So let's look at some prayer strategy.

First of all, we want to talk about personal and /or Identificational repentance.

Repentance is one way to apply the blood of Jesus.

It brings forgiveness and purification to the community.

Hebrews 9:22 says it this way: "In fact, God's law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness."

Jesus shed His blood so that everyone could have forgiveness. So when we repent, we are participating in applying the blood of Christ.

In Nehemiah 9 and 10 we find examples of both personal repentance, but also what we call identificational repentance.

Verse 2 of chapter 9 says:

"On the 24th day of the same month, the Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth and having dust on their heads.

Those of Israelite descent had separated themselves from all foreigners.

They stood in their places and confessed their sins and the wickedness of their fathers."

So here's the deal. These guys are confessing their own sins but they are also confessing the sins of their forefathers. Their fathers had died. They weren't there anymore. And, of course, were responsible for their own sins. But the Israelites confessed those same sins because the sins had contaminated the whole nation. We call that identificational repentance.

It's one way to use this type of identificational repentance, one way to use it in prayer is to identify the sins that have contaminated the whole nation or what we're talking about community, identify the sins of the community you can do identificational repentance for them.

You can plan a time to take communion. Repent for your own sins, but also the sins of those who have gone before you even if you didn't commit them. Stand in, be a stand in for those who did commit those sins and confess those sins before the Lord. As you take communion which represents the shed blood of Christ. Repent of those sins. Ask forgiveness for them. It doesn't remove ... this doesn't remove the obligation for the sinning individuals from the past to repent of their own sins or even current individuals who maybe did the drive by shooting. It doesn't remove responsibility for them to repent of their own sin, but what it does is, because you're a citizen of the community or neighborhood, you can represent those in your neighborhood or community before the throne of Heaven.

Extend Forgiveness to those who have committed sin. To those who did the drive by shooting or whatever it is that you have identified. When you forgive it breaks the ties that have held demonic gateways, or gaps, open. Demons have no hold on people who are free of sin and walk in forgiveness. John 14:30 (See also John 20:23 and Matt. 18:18 where binding and loosing are tied together.) You can look into this where Jesus says, "Satan has no hold on me." Why? Because Jesus was sinless. So when we do identificational repentance and personal repentance and extend forgiveness we are getting rid of all handles that the enemy can grab onto and shake our neighborhood or shake our community. And when we extend forgiveness, that's part of getting rid of a handle so the enemy has no hold anymore on our particular little arena of where we live and function.

Next, you want to renounce the Old Ways of Sin by breaking all vows made to the ways of sin. Deut. 7:25,26 and Acts 19:18,19. You're going to want to go read those. In Acts, after the people had repented ... as new believers they repented of witchcraft that they had been involved in and then they burned all their witchcraft

materials. That was their way of renouncing their ways of sin. They repented for them and asked forgiveness for them, but then they burnt the things that were tied to those things that had been a practice of using those things. That's one way to renounce the old ways of sin. You can also make a declaration or a proclamation to the enemy and just tell him that we have done identificational repentance for the sins of others and we have forgiven them. And Satan you have no more hold here and we are renouncing the ways that have gone on before us. We have renounced them verbally and you will have no place here anymore. We refuse to partake of the things that are your ways. We will only partake of the things that are God's way. And at that point there, because you have submitted yourself to God and have come before Him and have totally submitted yourself to God and you have repented of things and you have extended forgiveness it is time to rebuke the enemy and see him flee.

So you want to resist the devil or whatever of his principality you're dealing with, and by the way, you don't need to know the name of the principality. If you don't know the name, just call it a spirit of darkness. Don't get wrapped up in the name thing. Sometimes that can eat up what is really important and the enemy can get you sidetracked. Thought I do believe that if you know a name, you'll want to use it. That's just a little side note there.

But you want to resist the devil. James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

And after that, and this last thing, number 5, is super important to do. It brings the whole thing together and puts the proper seal on it. Because what you're technically doing in the spirit realm is that you're going to where there's a gap in the wall and you are rebuilding it brick by brick when you repent of sin or do identificational repentance. When you forgive those who have sinned. And then when you renounce the old ways whether you're burning old stuff or speaking out declaration or proclamation you are rebuilding that wall and sealing up the gap where the enemy has come in. One more thing you need to do. This is kinda like the cement or the mortar between all the bricks that you are building up in the gap and this helps solidify it.

That is you want to rebuild the Old Waste Places. You have to release the redemptive purposes of your neighborhood or community through petitioning the Lord, through supplication and declaration in prayer, and by focused, outward actions. You can read about this in Isaiah 58 verse 12 or Isaiah 61 verses 1-4; I Tim. 2 verses 1 and 2. What you're going to do is get involved in action that will speak out as loud words because actions are often louder than words that what you have done you're serious about. You want to begin a neighborhood watch program. You want to support your neighbors who are going through difficult times. Whatever needs to happen in your neighborhood as far as ... maybe you need to have a block party to bring everybody together. Maybe somebody needs to organize a neighborhood watch. Maybe you need to help each other in painting each other's houses, or

keeping the lawns mowed, or watching each other's homes when someone is on vacation. You want to get actively involved. You want to help the homeless ... feed the homeless in your community. Whatever you need to do that is an outward action that says we are taking authority over the enemy here. This is what we want to do.

So here's your prayer strategy: Personal identification repentance. Extending forgiveness to those who've committed sin. Renouncing the old ways of sin. Resisting and rebuking the devil and rebuilding the old waste places. Action is very much a prayer and part of your prayer strategy. So when you begin praying for you city, don't stop short. Include all five of these things and over time you'll begin to see freedom happen. You'll begin to see transformation in your community. You begin to see the plans and purposes God has for your community being expressed to the world.

God bless. Glad you stopped by. If you'd like more information on this kind of stuff, stop by my website at www.susangaddis.net and you'll find over in the sidebar all kinds of articles dealing with prayer, community transformation, and a whole lot of other stuff that helps build your spiritual legacy beyond your own spiritual life. You were designed to impact your world and this is one way you can do it.

Thanks for stopping by and for watching the video. Leave your comments below.