



# The Covering - Prayer Guide

## Winter - Spring 2022

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# A Word from Jamie

## PRAYING FOR THE HARVEST

In the midst of all that has been going on in our city and the world in general, God is calling us to be certain to keep our eyes on the harvest.

In John 4:35, Jesus said, "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest." Here He is reminding His disciples that they were to set their gaze on the harvest which was immediately in front of them, both in time and proximity.

The following are some insights on how we can pray for the Church at large and our city in particular to see the harvest reaped in this season.

### Strategic Prayer Focus

Pray that the Church would turn its attention in prayer to the harvest. Perhaps counterintuitively, Jesus' immediate instruction to His disciples in light of the profound need around Him was not to go out into the harvest fields, but rather to pray. Although 'reapers' are necessary, the harvest begins with an increased focus on prayer.

*"Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."*

*Matthew 9:35-38*

*"Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. 16 But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."*

*Luke 5:15-16*

### Laborers Equipped and Thrust Out

Pray for laborers to be fully prepared/equipped, and powerfully sent out into the harvest fields. The word for 'sent out' in the above scripture from Matthew 9 literally means to cast out or thrust out. It is the same word used in vs. 34 when the Pharisees refer to 'casting out' demons. Pray that the Lord would thrust out fully equipped laborers into the midst of the darkest places. Pray for mature Ephesians 4 ministers to equip the laborers for every good work. Pray that every believer would increasingly see themselves as witnesses for the Lord, and would be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit to bear witness to the goodness of God and the saving grace of Jesus.

*"And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ,"*

*Ephesians 4:11-12*

*“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for [a]instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

*2 Timothy 3:16-17*

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.”*

*Matthew 28:18-20*

*“I, even I, am the Lord,  
And besides Me there is no savior.  
12 I have declared and saved,  
I have proclaimed,  
And there was no foreign god among you;  
Therefore you are My witnesses,”  
Says the Lord, “that I am God.  
13 Indeed before the day was, I am He;  
And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand;  
I work, and who will reverse it?”*

*Isaiah 43:11-13*

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

*Acts 1:8*

### **Key Leverage Points for Unlocking the Harvest**

The Lord is highlighting a few key places to focus our prayers/efforts regarding the harvest. Among them are the following, although the Lord may lead you to pray for others as well.

#### **Leverage Point 1: “The Jews First”**

The Gospel is to go to the Jew first and then to the Gentile. This is not only historically true, but also key to unlocking the fullness of the harvest in Philadelphia. A key missions strategy is to reach the Jewish people in the Greater Philadelphia area, and in so doing, unlock great life in the Spirit over the Delaware Valley.

*“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”*

*Romans 11:11-15*

*“Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.”  
Isaiah 9:1-2 (NLT)*

*“16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”  
Romans 1:16-17*

## **Leverage Point 2: The LGBTQ Community**

Few groups in our nation have had a more strong voice in culture than the LGBTQ community. A relatively small group of people have been able to influence significant change in our nation, albeit in a direction that is largely undesirable to most believers. Could it be that the enemy has commandeered the destiny of some of the greatest evangelists the world has ever known? A harvest in the LGBTQ community would be a harvest of harvesters, and is key to unlocking the fullness of the harvest, particularly among the younger generations.

*“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor [b]homosexuals, nor [c]sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were [d]sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.”  
1 Corinthians 6:9-11*

*“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.” 40 So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of His own word. 42 Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”  
John 4:39-42*

*“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ 28 He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ 29 But he said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.”  
Matthew 13:24-30*

Jamie Fitt  
Philadelphia Tabernacle of David





## Arts & Entertainment

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

To reveal truth and beauty, and to advance the Kingdom of God through creative expression.

### Primary Stronghold:

Idolatry - Exaltation of man or creation

*We declare the life, the love, the goodness, the joy, the power, and the presence of God are being poured out through arts and entertainment of Philadelphia and the region. Romans 5: 5*

*We declare God has filled those in arts and entertainment with the His Spirit, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship. Exodus 35:31-32*

**VISION FOR ADVANCING GOD'S KINGDOM** Pray that those in arts and entertainment purpose to use their God-given gifts and talents to advance God's heart in and for Philadelphia. We have a rich history of gospel music, Christian worship groups and concerts. Now new groups and artists, not necessarily related to a specific ministry, are emerging to engage citizens at a more personal level, destroying stereotypes, tearing down walls and building relationship.

- Pray favor for groups bringing artists together to share vision and talent, such as The Gathering Place, Ripe Creatives, and REC Philly, especially connecting with the people, and serving as examples for others with similar goals.
- Pray their endeavors represent the excellence of God and touch hearts, drawing both the saved and unsaved into a personal relationship with Him through His son.
- Pray for bridge-building and mutual support among these groups.

1 Peter 4:10-11, Colossians 3: 23

**CHRISTIANS IN LEADERSHIP** Pray for Marguerite Anglin, Philadelphia's new Director of Public Art. "It's really important that public art represents an expression of our current times, a diverse expression of the people and culture," Anglin says. "It should also encourage meaningful dialogue and foster people's pride and sense of place." (Broad Street Review 12/2/21)

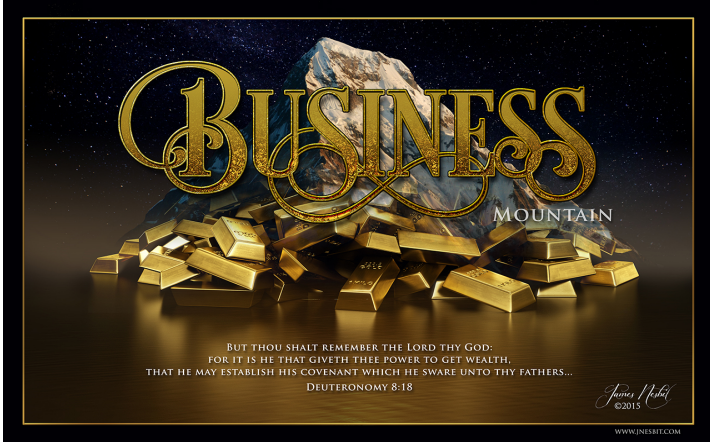
- Pray understanding, wisdom, and favor for Marguerite as she navigates the conflicts that are arising regarding what is appropriate public art.
- Pray that as her character and wisdom are recognized; her own art, which often represents Christian themes, will inspire questions and uplifting conversations about her faith.

Isaiah 41: 10, Proverbs 3: 5, Philippians 3: 17

**SPORTS TEAMS THAT SERVE THE CITY** Pray that all sports teams develop a sense of purpose to uplift Philadelphia and not just win championships. A recent article talked about how sports teams can make or break the soul of a city, citing examples over the decades. (Philadelphia Citizen, 6/17/21)

- Pray that sports teams represent the best character, unity, and honor to God as we saw in the majority of the 2017 Super Bowl winning Eagles team.
- Pray Philadelphia teams become exemplary winners, truly representing the camaraderie and joy embodied in Brotherly Love.
- Pray Philadelphia's idol worship of sports is replaced by a passion to worship the one true God and "out of control" fans are transformed into enthusiastic supporters.

1 Peter 1: 13-16, Philippians 2: 3, Philippians 4: 13



## BUSINESS

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

Wealth to establish God's covenant

### Primary Stronghold:

Greed, mammon, poverty.

*We declare that businesses throughout Philadelphia do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 14: 16*

*We declare our God will supply every need including ideas, strategies, wisdom, clients, consumers, skilled and sincere employees, favor, suppliers, peace of mind to maintain profitability and growth according to God's riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19*

**MORE AND BETTER ROLE MODELS** **Pray for more business leaders who exemplify Christian values.** Read the article, The Profit Sharer, about Will Reynolds, founder of search engine, Seer Interactive, who turned down a \$50 million offer for his firm, instead, investing his company's wealth in his employees and his community. [https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/wil-reynolds-seer-interactive/?fbclid=IwAR33yNCwqvFTA6U2IvryU88qv4WmkQdu6UTn58NSrYOM\\_3GQG0pFdyPjhVg](https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/wil-reynolds-seer-interactive/?fbclid=IwAR33yNCwqvFTA6U2IvryU88qv4WmkQdu6UTn58NSrYOM_3GQG0pFdyPjhVg)

- Pray Christian businessmen/women understand they are not just called to apply Christian values, but to be role models of what Christian leadership looks like.
- Pray examples of employee empowerment, profit-sharing, fair salaries, community involvement and charitable giving inspire other businesses to adopt similar practices.
- Pray others realize the truth reaping and sowing modeled by Christian business leaders.

Proverbs 16: 3, Proverbs 21: 5a, 1 Peter 5: 3

**REVAMP PERMIT PROCEDURE** **Pray decision makers understand that investing more money in Licensing and Inspections and streamlining procedures will enable revenue producing economic development.** "One local company had to wait a year to get their permits processed for something that would apparently take one day in New York." (Philadelphia Citizen, 9/7/21) Streamlining procedures would increase investments without reducing standards.

- Pray the Mayor and City Council stop playing politics with development regulations and empower L&I to do their job well.
- Pray for a budget that will support and increase in L&I staff.
- Pray for streamlined procedures that shift the culture from limit and control to encourage and enable; and assure swift action on permit applications.

Proverbs 20: 18, Proverbs 19: 20, Proverbs 3: 27

**SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR BUSINESS TO THRIVE** **Pray for safety and security that will support business and economic growth in Center City and other neighborhoods.** Despite the development boom, Philadelphia growth is hamstrung by familiar obstacles such as lack of parking, security and quality of schools. (Philadelphia Business Journal, 9/30/21) <https://centercityphila.org/cpdc/cpdc-news/cpdc-meeting-developments-momentum-challenges>

- Pray there is a balance between commercial and residential development, that historic landmarks are preserved, and long-term residents are not displaced.
- Pray the city cooperates with the Development Corporations in planning for and providing parking and security to support business investment.
- Pray the new school superintendent will include city Development Corporations when studying how to improve educational opportunities.

Proverbs 27: 12, James 1: 5, Psalm 41: 1

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## EDUCATION

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

To teach the truth of God and His Word

### Primary Stronghold:

Satan - the father of lies (John 8:44), pride, secular humanism

*We declare that Philadelphia's students are more than conquerors through Him who loves them. Romans 8: 37*

*We declare that educators are seekers of wisdom and understanding. They hold fast to the Word of God and to His ways. They treasure His commandments, and they cry for discernment; and through them the spirit of wisdom is poured out upon the children, youth, and adult learners. Psalm 103: 18*

**STAFF SHORTAGES** **Pray schools will be staffed with highly qualified Christians.** Philadelphia School District has nearly 1,900 vacant positions including teachers, administrators, climate specialists and bus drivers. "It's almost impossible to operate buildings with that many vacancies" said teachers' union president. (Inquirer, 11/28/21)

- Pray Holy Spirit will inspire those who God has appointed to transform the school system to apply for jobs and that they will be hired.
- Pray new hires will have vision for their calling, find favor and rise to the positions where they can do the most good.  
Titus 2: 7-8, Proverbs 20: 24, Romans 8: 28 TPT

**NEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT** **Pray God's chosen candidate is selected.** The search for a superintendent has begun with candidates being sought and an advisory board appointed. (Chalk Beat 12/7/21)

- Pray qualifications and character over-ride political considerations in the choice of a superintendent.
- Pray the new superintendent loves Philadelphia and is sensitive not only to current needs, but her God ordained destiny.
- Pray the new superintendent has the vision and strength to withstand the pressures of agendas, etc so s/he can bring to bear solutions to the district's pressing issues.  
Proverbs 3: 13-18, Proverbs 19: 20, James 3: 13

**BATTLE HOPELESSNESS THROUGH INCREASED LITERACY** **Pray literacy becomes a priority of the new superintendent.** A report earlier this year found just 32% of third graders in Philadelphia read on grade level, with gaps among racial groups and low scores for students learning English and those with disabilities." (Chalk Beat, 12/7/21) This is serious when you consider that literacy at third grade has been used as a predictor of potential incarceration and perpetuates the cycle of poverty, hopelessness and violence.

- Pray for champions who advocate for immediate action regarding literacy to rise up within the school system, in neighborhoods and in school and city leadership.
- Pray for increased focus on reading and communication skills that replace LGBTQ and political agendas, and "tried and true" methods replace the latest and greatest commercial program.
- Pray for a significant increase in vocational training and financial literacy that provide a vision and hope for a future.  
Jeremiah 29: 11, Proverbs 22: 6, Isaiah 11: 2



# The Covering - Prayer Guide Winter - Spring 2022 P4



## FAMILY

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

To demonstrate the unconditional love of God

### Primary Stronghold:

Rejection (real or perceived)

*We declare grace be with the families and neighborhoods of Philadelphia, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love. (2 John 3)*

*We declare the Lord is the God over families and neighborhoods, that they should not fear, for He will be their help. Isaiah 41:13*

**INCREASED PRAYER FOR FAMILIES** Pray the Lord will raise up intercessors to pray strategically for each neighborhood in the city. When 30% of the streets in Newark, NJ and the families who lived there were prayed for daily, crime went down 30%. When 80% of the streets were prayed for daily, crime was down 80%.

- Pray intercessors commit to praying daily for those who live in their neighborhoods.
- Pray revelation of prayer strategies for each neighborhood, eg, the spirit of adoption replacing the spirit of abandonment around abandoned buildings, or spirit of life reversing the curse of the spirit of death where there have been shootings, etc.
- Pray the Lord of the Harvest sends “laborers” throughout the neighborhoods.

Luke 10: 2, Matthew 9: 37-38, 1 Timothy 2: 1 ESV, 1 Thessalonians 5: 16

**RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA** Pray for the children and youth traumatized by poverty, violence, and the pandemic. Both non-profits and city agencies report an increase in trauma among the citizens of Philadelphia, especially the young. (Billy Penn, 9/24/21)

- Pray the city creates a coordinated trauma response team so organizations are cooperating instead of acting independently.
- Pray the city enables grassroots initiatives/organizations to develop programs that build on strengths and assets within families and communities, instead of just focusing on deficits.
- Pray youth who have recovered from trauma have a role in developing programs.

Psalms 107: 13-16, Joel 2: 25, 1 Corinthians 14: 40

**NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION** Pray for the grassroots groups and NGO’s committed to preserving neighborhoods in a climate of gentrification and real estate “development”. Philadelphia’s Neighborhood Preservation Initiative funds home improvements in an effort to increase the availability of housing and save houses from destruction. (Plan Philly 9/15/21), which, in turn, leads to reduced crime. (Philadelphia Citizen, 7/26/21)

- Pray for programs such as Basic System’s Repair, Adaptive Modification and Philly First Home that help maintain and modify homes, so they remain up to code and inhabitable.
- Pray for more private sector funding to expand these programs without government red tape.
- Pray that building improvements positively impact the atmosphere of the neighborhoods.

Isaiah 58: 12, Hebrews 3: 4, Matthew 7: 25



## Government

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

To rule and legislate with righteousness and justice

### Primary Stronghold:

Anti-Christ spirit, pride, corruption

*We declare the government of Philadelphia represents the love that suffers long and is kind, does not envy or parade itself, is not puffed up, does not behave rudely or seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things for the good of our city. 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7*

*We declare that You, O Lord, are the Father of those in government. They are the clay, and You are the potter; they are the work of Your hand, that they may serve Philadelphia and her people according to Your precepts and laws. Isaiah 64: 8*

**THE JUSTICE SYSTEM** Pray that what is godly in our justice system is enhanced and what is ungodly is exposed and eliminated. Controversy continues over some of the policies of the District Attorney. Addressing “over punitive” wrongful convictions, long waits for trial, excessive sentences, etc is essential. Other policies such as plea bargains for violent crimes and funneling a large number of gun cases to rehabilitation instead of prosecution have drawn criticism in light of the soaring rate of shootings and murder in the city. (Broad+Liberty, 12/10/21)

- Pray revelation and understanding on what God’s righteous justice looks like.
- Pray greater action regarding the roots of violence, including poverty, literacy, and jobs.
- Pray that criminals are not emboldened by the current policies as is happening in other cities.

Proverbs 24: 24-25, Leviticus 19: 15, Deuteronomy 16: 20

**SUPPORT FOR GRASS-ROOTS CRIME PREVENTION** Pray grant money is made available to programs in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency is giving \$23 million to prevention programs, prioritizing areas of greatest need. (WHYY, 9/26/21)

- Pray local programs offering recreation space, giving away gun locks, connecting people to jobs, etc. have information and help to apply for funds to expand their outreach.
- Pray favor for these groups to receive financial support, and government recognition that would enable them to be more effective.

Hebrews 13: 16, Psalm 90: 17, Psalm 5: 12

**CONTINUED EXPOSURE OF CORRUPTION** Pray that in the aftermath of the Dougherty / Henon trial, government corruption is increasingly revealed. “You’re talking about seeking vengeance. You’re talking about moving underlying legislation for a mere slight. You’re talking about paying off favors and weaponizing city departments, so now we have to call it for what it is: plain and simple corruption.” (Inquirer, 11/18/21)

- Pray corruption continues to be revealed at all levels of government.
- Pray the convictions inspire whistle blowers; put corrupt politicians, unions, and businesses on notice; and lead to increased prosecution of corruption.
- Pray the curse of Dougherty’s statement “This is how business is done in Philadelphia.” is reversed along with the “look the other way” policy the city has been known for.

Proverbs 21: 15, Proverbs 8: 15-17, Proverbs 29: 4, Proverbs 11: 11



## MEDIA

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

To share the good news of the gospel and the Kingdom of God through uncensored, unbiased truth

### Primary Stronghold:

Fear, terror, and manipulation of truth

*We declare that God's love is better than life and will be reflected in the media. Psalm 63: 3*

*We declare woe unto the media that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Instead, they will be guided into all truth by the Spirit of truth, speak it and print it. Isaiah 5:20, John 16: 13*

**MORE POSITIVE MESSAGES** Pray **“constructive” journalism becomes the standard for Philadelphia.** Research shows negative news leads to frustration, anger, distrust in leaders, lower opinions of people and feelings of hopelessness/helplessness (Greater Good Magazine, 9/12/18) One answer to this problem is replacing the “if it bleeds, it leads” rule with headlines/stories that are solution focused.

- Pray media decision makers recognize how negative journalism has significantly contributed to the chaos, violence, and division in our culture/city and make a commitment to addressing the problem.
- Pray grassroots journalists arise to feature what is true, positive, righteous and of a good report in neighborhoods and across the city.
- Pray for stories of transformation that illustrate how change occurred and steps others can take to replicate it in their communities.

Philippians 4: 8, Proverbs 15: 30, Proverbs 17: 22

**JOURNALISTS** Pray **those within the media who determine what is presented and by whom, do so for the purpose of telling the truth without bias.** It has become evident that some media leaders have a specific agenda. They control the messaging – what news is covered, how it is presented, who presents it, and what fact checks are done, if any.

- Pray wisdom and favor over those who work within media that seek to know and follow God's leading.
- Pray Holy Spirit leads more people to overcome their own bias and look for multiple news perspectives.
- Pray the media shares stories of people and faith-based organizations that are having a positive impact.

John 16:8-11, 2 Timothy 2:1-4, John 8:31-32, 2 Kings 7:9

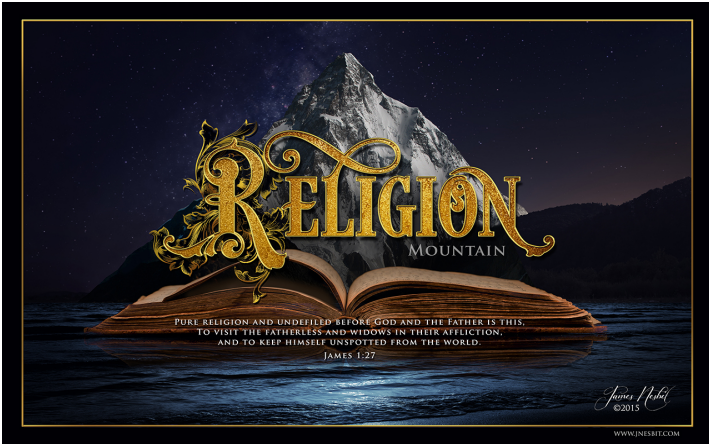
**HE WHO HAS EARS, LET HIM HEAR** Pray **the people of Philadelphia have eyes to see and ears to hear the truth of God and of a matter.** As our culture moves further and further from God, folks on all points of the “religious”/political/COVID spectrums shake their heads and think/shout: “Why don't you see the truth that is staring you right in the face?” One fundamental reason is the spirit of deception from the Father of Lies has sought to blind eyes to God's truth and the strategies Satan is using against God and His people.

- Pray all spirits of deception, mind control and spiritual blindness are bound and replaced with The Spirit of Truth, eyes to see and ears to hear.
- Pray for repentance from pride that prevents us from hearing the truth because we want to be right.
- Pray for spiritual discernment in all things.

Jude 1: 18-19, 1 Peter 5: 8-9, John 12: 39-40, Matthew 11: 15



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## RELIGION

Mountain

### Redemptive Purpose:

Equipping the saints for the work of ministry

### Primary Stronghold:

Idolatry that steals worship from God

*We declare 2 John 5-6 over the Church of Philadelphia, as was commanded from the beginning, that we love one another and should always walk in love.*

*We declare the Church of Philadelphia seeks first the Kingdom of God, His righteousness, and purposes, instead of personal interests and agendas. Matthew 6:33, Philippians 2: 4*

**LAY DOWN PERSONAL AGENDAS AND LEARN TO LOVE THE CITY** **Pray pastors and ministry leaders repent of personal agendas and commit to building the Kingdom of God in Philadelphia.** Poncho Murguia who lead Juarez, Mexico from being the most violent city in the world to a model of transformation said the turnaround came when pastors repented of building their own kingdoms to building God's Kingdom.

- Pray the Spirit of Truth reveals to leaders the ways they have not been building God's Kingdom.
- Pray leaders repent and actively partner with other Kingdom builders to see transformation.
- Pray that, through their example, leaders model for others how to love the city and her people.

2 Chronicles 7: 14, John 17, Proverbs 4: 24, Acts 20: 28

**REPENT FOR TOLERATING SIN** **Pray the mercy of God over church leaders in Philadelphia who have been in or are turning a blind eye to sin.** As violence continues to escalate, we revisit Ezekiel 8, especially v 17-18, that say leaders who allowed abominations in the city filled it with violence by provoking the Lord to anger.

- Pray revelation of how past and current attitudes and actions of leaders have opened the door to violence in the city.
- Pray leaders come to deep repentance and humility on behalf of the Church of Philadelphia that that reverses the curse of violence.

Jeremiah 29: 7, Psalm 55: 9-11, Amos 3: 6, Hebrews 4: 16

**LOVING THOSE IN SIN** **Pray the Church of Philadelphia simultaneously stands for righteousness and learns to embrace and love those who have lived or are living in sin.** Testimonies from former members of Philadelphia's LGBTQ community indicate they were judged and rejected by church leaders/members, many of whom were well intended but not sure what to do.

- Pray for revelation as to how to love those in the church who have lived or are living in sin, instead of judging and condemning them.
- Pray for outreaches of God's love into the LGBTQ community.
- Pray healing for those judged and rejected by the church.
- Pray Holy Spirit leads those still in any form of sin to freedom in Christ.

Matthew 22: 39, Isaiah 41: 10, John 4: 7-9



## GENERAL PROPHETIC

The following are prophetic perceptions gleaned from a time of prayer and sharing of several respected leaders in the Greater Philadelphia region. The points below are areas where many were sensing the same thing from the Lord.

*We declare that the love of God is being established in Philadelphia as His people cry out for the city, His Lampstand is burning brightly, and the Church of Philadelphia is growing into the fullness of its purpose.*

*We declare Isaiah 60: 1-2, and v18 over Philadelphia.*

**EZEKIEL 8 AND 9 Pray the heart of Jesus is released for intercessors to weep over the city.** For over two years, we have been praying for a purifying in the church related to abominations that open the door to violence in the city (Ezekiel 8:17-18). Recently, two prophetic intercessors had similar encounters related to Ezekiel 9, where a man (angel) is instructed to mark all those who weep over the abominations in the city (vs 3-4).

- Pray the Church of Philadelphia would have a repentant heart for the things that we have engaged in that have opened the door to violence in the land.
- Pray for those whose hearts have never been impacted by the brokenness around them to awaken to the compassion of the Lord and to begin to pray and act in a new way.
- Declare strength and blessing over those who have been weeping over the city and the abominations within it. Declare that the Lord sees and honors their prayers.

Proverbs 15:3, James 5:11, 1 Peter 4:17, James 3:16, Psalm 56:8

**THE LAMPSTAND OF THE CHURCH OF PHILADELPHIA Pray the new sound and light are released as we wait on the Lord.** The past few years have given us many reasons to become anxious and move in the flesh. However, Father is emphasizing the need to wait on Him and allow Him to release a new sound through us as well as light our lamp stand so that we can shine brightly in this season.

- Pray for the Church to wait on the Lord and receive the grace to calm and quiet our hearts in the midst of chaos.
- Pray the sound / light of the Church of Philadelphia come together and are released in a new way as we wait on Him.
- Pray for a release of strategy and insight that flows as we wait on Him and hear the sound of the Lord. (2 Samuel 5:24)
- Pray for new Pentecost experiences like when the disciples were waiting on the Lord in the Upper Room.

Psalm 89:15, Psalm 131:1-2, Psalm 37:7, Isaiah 40:28-31, Acts 2:1-4

**DAVIDIC LEADERSHIP ARISING Pray emerging leaders find their roles and voices.** The enemy has been trying to convince us that he has us pinned down and the best we can hope for is a draw, akin to David in his moment at Ziklag when all seems lost. In the midst of this, leaders that have bold and submitted hearts are rising up out of hiddenness to declare the turn-around of the Lord.

- Declare that Saul leadership structures are giving way to Davidic leadership structures in all seven spheres of culture in Philadelphia.
- Pray favor, protection, and support for emerging leaders as they encounter resistance from spirits of jealousy and tradition.
- Pray for those who the Lord is bringing from other cities to Philadelphia in this hour. Bless their purpose and destiny in the city.

1 Samuel 15:26, 2 Samuel 6:20, Acts 17:26, Proverbs 28:1, 1 Peter 1:13