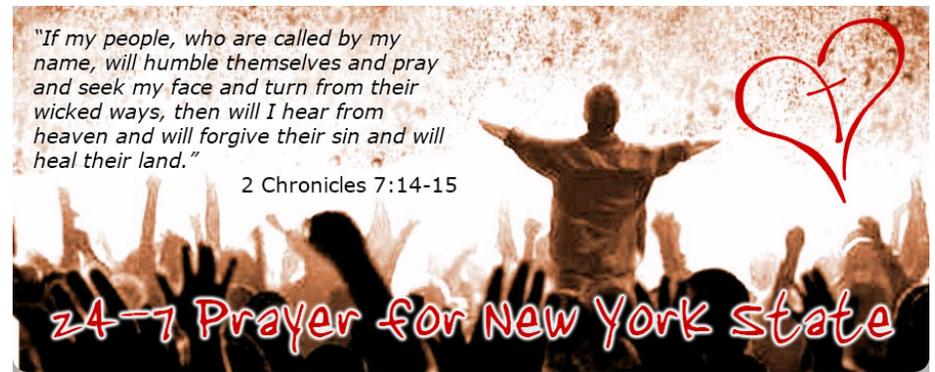


- 1) Let's pray that Governor Como, all the state Senators and Assemblymen will pray and ask God for His will to be done in all that they say, do, decide and pass into law.
- 2) Let's pray our leaders "Do not love the world or anything in the world. For everything in the world- the cravings of sinful man, the lust of the eye and the boasting of what he has and does comes from the world (1 John 2:15).
- 3) Let our leaders understand that they can have courage in God's presence. They can be sure that God hears them if they ask Him for anything that is according to His will. (1 John 5:14)
- 4) Let them recognize that goodness does not live in the human nature. Even though the desire to do well is in them, they are unable to do it. (Romans 7:15-19)
- 5) Let's pray that our leaders are led by the Holy Spirit. (Gal 5:17) "For what our human nature wants is opposed to what the Spirit wants, and what the Spirit wants is opposed to what our human nature wants. These two are enemies ".
- 6) Pray our leaders do not give in to bodily passions, which are always fighting against the soul. (1 Peter 2:11-12) Pray that their conduct be so good that when they are accused, the accusers will have to recognize their good deeds and praise God.



Desire God's purposes to see unity grow. March 2015

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me (John 17:22-23).

Most people's prayers seek the best fix for a situation. We typically pray whatever we are told to pray for a situation, with no real thought of "What does God want to do here." Something happens to that dynamic, however, when people pray together. They start to let go of their desires to see their purposes fulfilled and start to open themselves up to what God wants.

The value of this to a church is huge when it comes to ministry and decision making. If people pray together over an issue, even if people come to prayer thinking they know what the church should do, praying together opens them up to God's desire.

Years ago, I was a part of a church plant in Colorado Springs that was meeting in a school. We felt the Lord leading us to purchase land. We found two pieces of property—one was very close to the school and 42 of our families, the other was five miles away..

That distance was not a big deal, but it was not in the neighborhood we had been ministering in for the past five years. The property close to us cost 1.5 million, the other \$450,000. Many of us felt the issue was not the difference in price, but where God wanted us. Pray, figure that out, and He will provide. There were plenty of leaders on both sides of which piece to purchase. We started praying together. We even called a corporate prayer meeting on one of the pieces of property. As we did that God began to put a vision of the ministry we could have on the \$450,000 piece of property into those of us who wanted the other piece. That is what God will do when we pray together—agreement comes so we can pray His will with confidence.

People who are disgruntled with decisions a church has made usually have not prayed with the body over that issue.

Pray together and watch unity grow.

Righteous Father, how You must grieve when Your people fuss and want their own way instead of coming together to pray so that You can guide hearts toward unity. Show me how to be one who always suggests prayer over getting what I want. Give me a heart that is yielded to what You desire rather than what seems best to me. Fill me with joy in Your house of prayer as You bring our faith family together on our knees..

Adapted from the article [The Benefits of Praying Together](#) by Jonathan Graf. Check out this powerful resource also written by Jon Graf: [Praying Like Paul: Learning to Pray the Kingdom for those You Love](#), available at [prayershop.org](#).

Prayer Points

Worship God with reverence and awe as a consuming fire blazing with holiness (Heb. 12:28-29). Give thanks for his plan to refine your faith through trials and tests (Jas. 1:2-4). Confess any times this week when you have not seen God's

purpose for you in these trials (Mal. 3:2-4). Commit yourself to submitting to God's testing in your life. Ask God to strengthen you with his power (Eph. 6:10-11).

Pray for those who are undergoing severe testing, that God may show them his purpose and strengthen them in their weakness (Heb. 12:7-13).

-Prayer Points taken from [Patterns for Prayer](#) by Alvin VanderGriend. This book is available at [prayershop.org](#).

James 4:1-3

Friendship with the World

4 Where do all the fights and quarrels among you come from? They come from your desires for pleasure, which are constantly fighting within you. ² You want things, but you cannot have them, so you are ready to kill; you strongly desire things, but you cannot get them, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have what you want because you do not ask God for it. ³ And when you ask, you do not receive it, because your motives are bad; you ask for things to use for your own pleasures.

The leaders of our parties (the Democrats and the Republicans) have different desires. They quarrel to get a budget passed to meet their own needs. They oppose proposed laws the other party wants.

This month let's pray for the Democratic and Republican parties. Let's pray that they unite in agreement and work toward a healthy, strong and prosperous New York state.