

New Participant's **Startup Guide - PrayerCords or SPI Small Groups (4 page version)**

Starter Packet

(Longer Version)

Strategic Prayer Initiative

Support in the battle, because we were never meant to go it alone...

Welcome to the Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI). This guide will help you get started with your PrayerCord (or the following information can be adapted to be used with a new or already existing small group). Whether you are in a Cord or a SPI Small Group, there are two major components of SPI that you will need to become familiar with: 1) the Strategic Prayer Data Sheet known as **The "Pink Sheet"** due to the color of paper it is printed on, and 2) **The "Blue Card"** which contains a brief summary of the structure and the accountability features for the PrayerCords and SPI Small Groups. [Please note that the Yellow Cards and small green Promise of Confidentiality Cards (discussed later in this guide) differ depending on if you will be in a Cord or a SPI Small Group. Their color and functions remain the same, but the cards for Cords are designed to be used only with three people, while the Long-Yellow Cards and Promise of Confidentiality Cards for Small Groups are designed for use with more than three. It is also important to point out that for the purpose of accountability, small groups must either be all of the same gender, or if the small group has both males and females, for the purpose of monthly accountability, the men and women must temporarily separate during the accountability discussions.]

Once you have formed a Cord with two other individuals, you will need to meet with your Cord at least once a month. Some Cords like to keep this meeting very brief while others prefer to spend a little more time together, such as over a shared meal. This meeting is for the purpose of keeping each other accountable in five vitally important areas concerning your spiritual growth and success in strategic prayer. Reasonable accountability is a proven way to improve the average Christian's effectiveness in the spiritual battle, an ongoing battle that affects you, your family, your country and the world! These monthly meetings are also for the purpose of mutual encouragement and Christian fellowship. They give very real support in the battle, because we are not meant to go it alone. If your Cord or SPI Small Group meets more than once a month, the SPI accountability questions can be asked as often as you would like to use them, however they must be formally asked at least once a month. Filling out the Yellow Card at least monthly is also necessary.

At the start of your first meeting, each of you should fill in your name on the top line of your "Green Card" (which you will keep), and then have the bottom of the card signed by each of the members of your Cord, or the same gender members of your SPI Small Group. This Green Card is a promise on behalf of your partners to treat these monthly meetings with confidentiality (James 5:16-20).

During your regular meeting (at least once a month) you and your partners will typically be asked the following five key 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 considered a very successful month.)

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

- ***Each day's strategic prayer listed on your monthly Strategic Prayer Data Sheet a.k.a. the "Pink Sheet"***
- ***The three daily bullet point prayers for your partners which are listed on the "Blue Card." These are as follows:***
 - Pray that the Holy Spirit would help them to grow in fervent and righteous prayer (see James 5:16b)
 - Pray for their moral, spiritual, physical, and emotional protection (see 1 Peter 5:8)
 - Pray that they would interact with the Word on a daily basis, and be taught by the Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- ***Radical Growth Prayer found on your Blue Card (prayed at least weekly, if not daily, for your PrayerCord members)***

Question 2. Have you been in the Word daily?

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 practice can build a powerful habit into your life if you are not currently looking to the Scriptures each day. By placing a Bible next to your bed you can be encouraged and blessed by reading this small amount before you rest. On Sundays we encourage you to take a pass on the two verses since God's Word is being taught to you in church.

One of three answers may be given to Question #2: Yes, No, or Almost

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

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 (please read the first two verses). By using the chart, if you choose to read the whole chapter, you can read the entire New Testament and a few Old Testament selections each year. (Each day's full chapter is typically less than two pages in length.)

Please remember, 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 will be asked about.

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

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 relationship with God.

“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.)

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

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded”(James 4:7-8 NASB). [Also see, 1 Peter 3:12, Psalms 66:18 concerning sin weakening prayer]

Note: Please don't let Question #3 worry you. Although it is extremely important for all true Christians to get the resisting sin discussion on the table, we have done so in a way that allows the one answering the question *very* little risk. We have done this by getting you a signed confidentiality agreement in hand and on top of that, you only have to answer this question with a simple yes or no answer – nothing more needs to be said, and your Cord members are not to ask you for additional details. This approach allows little vulnerability or risk, while still alerting your Cord members of a need to pray more fervently on your behalf, in this *essential* aspect of being a Christian (2 Tim.2:19, Jam. 5:16).

For those of you **wondering if a sin is significant** or not, we encourage you to assume it is if you are in doubt. Furthermore, you may want to bring up any possible moral struggles with your PrayerCord. The members of your Cord 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-**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 in the Longer Explanation of SPI PrayerCords 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? (or week if measuring weekly?)

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? (or week if...)

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

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

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) 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. 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. 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 8:11, Mark 1:14-15, Matthew 3:8, Matthew 4:17, Matthew 11:20. and Matthew 12:41) our prayers will not be hindered or weakened.

Cord Helper/Administrator – Finally, one member of your Cord will need to serve as the Cord's Helper/Administrator. This member has the additional responsibility of making sure: 1) the monthly meeting gets scheduled, 2) each Cord member (including themselves) is asked the five questions on the Yellow Card, and 3) that the information gets properly turned in to be anonymously up-loaded to the SPI Website. These Cord Administrator duties are not difficult, but they are essential if we are going to help *the average American Christian*.

The Strategic Prayer Data Sheet – Also Known As The “Pink Sheet”

Your monthly Pink Sheet gives you prayer direction from 30 different “Data Fields” (i.e. 30 different items to pray about each month – one each from the 30 different subject categories). Having large numbers of Christians praying monthly for the 30 different subject categories / “Data Fields” means that large numbers of prayers can be achieved for each of the different subjects. Even though you will only be praying for 12 items annually, from each subject category, the body of Christ together can regularly cover hundreds or thousands of prayers from the overall SPI Database. For example, as you pray for 12 Unreached People Groups annually all participants together pray for hundreds.

The 31st category is for you to fill in the names of two individuals who need your prayers for their salvation. It is up to you if you want to pray for these two individuals only during months that have 31 days, or if you would like to pray for them more often. Space for these two individual’s names has been reserved on the midsize “Blue Card” included in your New Participant’s Starter Packet, if you would like to have a convenient reminder to pray for them daily.

You are encouraged to pray as you feel led for the various “Pink Sheet” subjects, but for those wanting some additional suggestions the following page can help get you off to a quicker start. A longer **Supplemental Prayer Guide is available** which gives many additional bullet point suggestions for the majority of the “Data Fields.” This optional guide also gives many Scriptural supports pertaining to why we should be praying for the various strategic topics. Expanded source references can also be found in the **Supplemental Prayer Guide**.

Below are listed a couple of prayer suggestions for some of the “Data Fields.” Additionally, a brief clarifying comment is also given for a few of the Data Fields. The following suggestions are excerpts from the longer Supplemental Prayer Guide that is available.

1. **Your Senior Pastor**

- Pray your pastor would maintain a life of personal holiness.
- Pray your pastor would develop (or maintain) a strong personal prayer life.

2. **Persecuted Christians** / Experts estimate that 200 million Christians worldwide are suffering persecution, many severe.

- Pray that the persecuted individual’s and their family’s basic needs (spiritual and physical) would be provided.
- Pray they would have absolute awareness of the prayers being prayed on their behalf and would feel comfort from them.

4. **Unreached People Groups** / The Bible League is the source of the majority of this information. (www.BibleLeague.org)

- Pray for the Lord to do whatever is necessary, for those truly seeking Him, to have saving knowledge of the gospel.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will soften the hearts of leaders who can influence these people groups regarding the gospel.

Some additional information is listed in parentheses for many unreached people groups. This information is provided as an additional prayer aid. Following is a brief index for understanding the additional information: **B**= Bible is in the language, **P**= Bible Portions are translated, **R**= Christian Radio Broadcasts are available, **A**= Gospel Audio Recordings are available, **J**= Jesus film is available.

5. **The Primary Leader Of Each Country On Earth** / Source: Every Home For Christ www.ehc.org (Used with permission)

- Pray that the leader would help build and/or maintain systems of real justice in their country. (1 Timothy 2:1-4)
- Pray that the leader would help create an environment of peace allowing physical safety for their citizens, and preventing religious persecution.

6. **Bibleless People Groups** / Source: Wycliffe Bible Translators www.wycliffe.org/bppp

- Pray that God would assemble and supply a team to work with the language.
- Pray the team would have favor with the indigenous (local) population.

8. **Children Of One Orphanage** / Source: Warm Blankets Orphan Care International, Inc, www.warmblankets.org (James 1:27)

- Father, please comfort _____. Provide healing from the trauma of losing one or both of his/her parents, and help him/her to gain strength out of these hardships to begin a new life.
- Father, please provide _____ with spiritual mentors – that somehow throughout his/her life, mature loving people from the body of Christ would come alongside them and pray for, disciple, and love them.

10. **Pornography and Other Addictions** / Additional pornography prayers:

- Pray for children to be protected from pornography’s devastating influence.
- Books such as Everyman’s Battle (Winning the War on Sexual Temptation) by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker can be helpful. Pray that those who would be helped by such material would obtain it, and make the time to work through it.

12. **The Damascus Road Petition**

This prayer field gets its name from Saul of Tarsus (later known as the apostle Paul), a highly trained and committed Jewish leader, who was adamantly opposed to the spreading of Christianity. Christ supernaturally intervened in Saul’s life while Saul was traveling on the Road to Damascus. Saul’s intent was to persecute the Christians in Damascus upon his arrival. Christ made it clear that Saul himself was to become a Christian and serve Him. Let us agree in prayer that God would supernaturally intervene in the lives of thousands of leaders from the other religions of the world, just as He did in the life of Saul. Pray that God would use whatever means necessary, including visions, signs, and wonders, to persuade them to become servants of the Lord Jesus Christ: the way, the truth, the life, and the only infinite atonement for their sins. Prayer for this “Data Field” alone can change the world!

13. **Community Institutions**

The institution(s) you may feel compelled to pray for could come from a broad range of different entities, some examples being: bars, adult book stores, abortion clinics, fortune tellers/tarot card readers, bookstores selling so-called soft core pornography, churches of false religions, secret societies, etc. We know from Ephesians 6 that many of these entities can have connections with demonic *principalities & powers &/or “spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* The suggested prayer on the pink sheet is a conservative prayer, please don’t pray more aggressively without looking at the caution comments for day 13 in the Supplemental Prayer Guide

14. Christian Ministries (Note: Sometimes this field is replaced with **Missionary, Church, Or Denominational Specific Prayers.**)

The Source of the ministries listed is Every Home For Christ www.ehc.org (Used with permission)

- Pray that God would bring the people of His choice to work with the ministry and keep all others away.
- Pray for sufficient resources to be made available to accomplish exactly what God wants done, not more and not less.

16. United States House Of Representatives, 17. Top 7 State Leaders, and 18. The President's Cabinet

- Pray they would realize their awesome responsibility before God and strive to honor Him in their decisions.
- Pray that God would turn their hearts to make godly decisions, even if they are ungodly individuals (See Proverbs 21:1).

Our national leaders should be bathed in prayer at a level commensurate with their power to change our country and influence the world. These are truly men and women "in authority." (See 1st Timothy 2:1-4)

24. Cultural Influencers Source: www.mastermediantl.org (Used with permission)

- Pray that those seeking or needing a relationship with God will find Him and the peace, healing, and hope which He provides.
- Pray that individual cultural influencers would become role models of lifestyles and beliefs that will help more people to get to heaven vs. being role models which lead fans down the broad path of eternal damnation. (Matthew 7:13-14 & 21)

[This data field is made up of various actors, actresses, musicians, bands, and television programs, etc. that have the ability to strongly influence American culture as well as many other cultures in the world. People often absorb and act out the values of what's current in the world of pop culture, young people particularly. The tragedy is that the values taught by the popular media are very seldom the values needed to assure one a place in heaven. The pop culture, as represented in movies, music, and television, is leading millions down a false path that will ultimately bring them great harm.]

25. Power Players In Film And Television Source: www.mastermediantl.org (Used with permission)

- Ask God to give these individuals the needed stamina and courage to deal with the pressures of their industry.
- Pray they would have the strength to make decisions on earth that they would be proud of when they meet their Creator.

[The average American home has the television on for approximately seven hours per day. Of the approximately 40% of the country that attends church regularly, they are often getting only 30 to 90 minutes of spiritual instruction weekly, versus the 7 to 28 hours a week that they are being taught values from movies and television. The women and men that make up this "Data Field" have power to influence the world at a level never seen before the 20th century. May their lives be more blessed, godly, and eternally meaningful because of our prayers.]

Abbreviated Glossary Of Key Terms

(A full glossary is included in the Longer Explanation of SPI PrayerCords document.)

Blue Card -- Literally a blue card that has the primary components of SPI summarized. The monthly "**Pink Sheet**" and the "**Blue Card**" together summarize all of the major variables needed for daily participation in the Strategic Prayer Initiative. Three types of "Blue Cards" are available: the standard size, a wallet version, and a full-size expanded version offering three additional Pauline prayers.

Strategic Prayer Data Sheet (a.k.a. - the Pink Sheet) – An important part 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. Each Pink Sheet is made up of 31 different Data Fields.

Data Field – One of 31 different strategic prayer subject categories found on the monthly "Pink Sheet." Approximately 75% of the Pink Sheet Data Field entries change each month. Some "Data Fields" can be made up of hundreds of individual entries. The six Data Fields that stay the same monthly 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.

PrayerCord or Cord – Three individuals, of the same gender, who pray for each other daily, and meet together at least monthly. The term "Cord" is derived from verse 4:12 of the book of Ecclesiastes "*Where one alone would be overcome, two will put up resistance; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*" The purpose of a Cord is for three new or old friends to help each other to walk more deeply with their Lord and God Jesus Christ (John 20:28), and to help each Cord member to become radically more effective in the spiritual battle, against the powers of darkness. PrayerCords are designed to give you "**support in the battle,**" because you were never meant to have to fight it alone.

Cable – Four Cords make up one Cable. A completed Cable consists of twelve individuals of the same gender (a.k.a. - a Squad).

Yellow Card – Yellow Cards are used to record and track the responses of SPI Participants at their monthly meetings.

Index To The SPI Information Center At Your Church Or Location

Churches that have made the Strategic Prayer Initiative (SPI) and **The 5Y80 Objective**, part of their churches' on-going culture for a five year period can setup a SPI Information Center. An SPI Information Center is where current or perspective participants may pick up "Pink Sheets," "YellowSheets," New Participants Starter Packets, as well as a host of other information concerning the work of strategic prayer. Following is an index to the material that can be acquired at a churches' SPI Information Center, or from your SPI Location Administrator.

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| 1. Current Month's Pink Sheets | 6. What Is The Strategic Prayer Initiative | 11. Grassroots Launches & 5Y80 |
| 2. Good Prayer Life (GPL) Guidelines | 7. New Participant Starter Packets (Shorter Version) | 12. Silver Bullets Prayer Teams |
| 3. Small Blue Cards, Yellows & Greens | 8. New Participant Starter Packets (Longer Version) | 13. Triad Level Cords |
| 4. Large Blue & A Nat'l YellowSheet | 9. Longer Explanation of SPI PrayerCords | 14. Battle Cords |
| 5. Current Year's Reading Charts & YellowSheet for your specific church | 10. The Supplemental Prayer Guide | 15. NHB Cords (Nothing Held Back) |

[Items 11-15 are often added later then 1-10]