

## Prayer Room Practicals - Part 2

### I. Establishing Foundational Beliefs: Why does corporate prayer even matter? (Let's continue to shape our minds through Bible rather than culture or personality)

#### A. The Kingdom is often not individually based like our culture.

We see in the Word that God often requires a corporate remnant proportionate to the size of the city or nation needing to be changed before acting (Abraham with Sodom/Gamora; 2 Chron 7; Joel 2:15-18). We are sometimes more used to this in the Old Testament, but the greatest move of God in the New Testament (the early church in Acts) shows its foundation in corporate prayer (Acts 1:14; Acts 2:1,42; Acts 4:24; Acts 12:12; Acts 13:1-3)

#### B. Humility towards/need of each other

We simply do not all have the same function, so different parts are needed to bring the different parts. Since the most amazing person still only has one part, this keeps us humble toward each other!! In the same turn, it doesn't allow others to discount themselves.

**15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where *would be* the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where *would be* the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. 19 And if they were all one member, where *would* the body be? 20 But now indeed *there are* many members, yet one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. 23 And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, 24 but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, 25 that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another." 1Cor 12:15-25**

#### C. Humility towards God

Prayer is the greatest form of humility. It shows that we do not believe that anything we can accomplish outside of God is worth anything. God has specifically designed it that those who call on Him are saved (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13), but those who insist on doing it on their own and refuse to seek His counsel (pride) are judged (1 Chron 15:13, Zeph 1:3,6, Joshua 9). I would add: Praying for things on God's heart for our own lives shows humility. Praying for things on God's heart outside of our own lives shows friendship.

#### D. Partnership

Prayer is the most basic partnership between heaven and earth; God and man. In His sovereignty He desired and designed partnership by having us declare on earth what

He is declaring in heaven and then allowing it to manifest (Matt 6:10). We cannot do His part, but He also will not do ours.

- E. To grow in corporate prayer we must first believe:
  - 1. God hears my voice
  - 2. God moves at the sound of my voice
  - 3. Everything begins with God, not me (Kingdom vs humanism), therefore everything that happens in the Kingdom *starts* with crying out to God to move, not my own ability to take action.

## II. The challenge of corporate

- A. 1 Corinthians shows us some of the challenges that come when you take different individuals that are different parts and put them all together:
  - 1. Some people come with their own agenda or burden rather than joining in corporately (1Cor 14:26-40).
  - 2. Some people think their gift or part is more important than other people's (1Cor 12:21-26)
  - 3. Some people think their gift or part isn't needed at all (1Cor 12:15-20)
  - 4. Some only flow with whatever they feel (1Cor 12:21-26)
- B. Therefore in corporate settings, we must look to:
  - 1. Find the corporate burden and support it (One accord is key Acts 2:1)
  - 2. Make sure to not withhold our part and just let others do it
  - 3. Make sure not to take over and not give room for others
  - 4. Seek to edify and work together with the body

## III. When I'm joining a prayer meeting

- A. If the Spirit is in it, the heart of God is in it. I am first looking to connect to God's heart and the corporate burden by praying in the Spirit.
- B. As I feel I begin to "catch" something, even a sense, I will begin to see how I can join in and engage by:
  - 1. Seeing if something someone is praying stands out to me where I feel the Spirit on it and can come in after them to continue to agree and focus in on that part of their prayer.
  - 2. Seeing if a verse is highlighted to me on this subject by the Holy Spirit and google the reference (ie "not by might verse"; "shake everything that can be shaken verse"; "remember those in prison verse"; "God heard their groaning verse")
  - 3. Sometimes I will just google verses of the main topic being prayed, scroll through the results, and see if the Spirit highlights any of these verses to me! (ie "persecution verses"; "perseverance verses"; "verses on the glory of God")
- C. As I go up to pray, I continue listening to what is being prayed to see if it fits in the flow of the corporate focus.
  - 1. If something on that topic is currently being covered and still seems to need some "work", I will often do that same process under B for what is being prayed to see if I can join in and agree. Tag team prayer has become rare but is

extremely powerful! We need to learn when the Spirit is on something, and not just move on to the next thing!

2. Once that part “finishes up” I will then jump in with what I had if it seems to flow
  3. Or if it flows now, I will go ahead and jump in
- D. I continue the process of praying in the spirit as others pray throughout the prayer meeting to come into agreement, while also continuing to see if there are more things the Holy Spirit highlights (through the process above) for me to pray something else.
- E. Other possibilities:
1. Prophetic picture, vision, or word: if I get something like this, know the leaders well, and it fits with the topic, I briefly share it and then pray. If I am less familiar with people/the environment, I run it by the leader to see if it's ok.
  2. If I am strongly sensing something that doesn't seem to be on the same lines as what we are praying on, and I pray in the Spirit for a while and still really sense it's a corporate thing, I mention it to the leader and then just let them decide if its a corporate burden or not (same as getting something in a service).

#### IV. Tips when praying

- A. Keep sharing to a minimum/resist preaching.  
People who aren't used to praying on a mic can occasionally have a habit of preaching when handed a mic. Resist beginning to teach people something, and instead put it into a prayer as much as possible. If a little sharing is needed, please keep it short as it can dampen the flow and the goal is prayer!
- B. Don't make it about us.  
Sometimes we simply make prayer too much about ourselves, meaning that we either see it as “our time to shine” and focus on being really “good” and “impressive”, or we overfocus on “being terrible”. Since prayer is serving others and partnering with Jesus, it's much easier and more effective if we can focus on serving rather than being self-conscious.
- C. If we are interceding for people outside of ourselves, resist bringing the focus back on us.  
We are so used to praying for ourselves that it can be challenging to focus on others. Though we always want to see ourselves in what we are praying, we must exercise the muscle of praying for others and refuse to always bring it back to praying for ourselves. We must ask the Lord to help our hearts begin to connect to what's on His heart rather than only connecting because it's about us.
- D. Resist giving major prophetic words or switching topics before running it by the leader.
- E. If reading a passage of scripture, try to narrow it down to a few verses that center around your focus. This helps keep the flow, attention spans, and focus. You can always pray a “second round” after your first prayer and worship team cycle. (Exceptions can be when we are simply declaring who God is).
- F. Try and have a specific thing you are focused on while praying and resist jumping around to 10 different things in one prayer. This will help with agreement in the room and the worship team to center around one thing. Again, you can always pray again later if you have a few different things you want to pray for. The more you can focus on one thing at a time, the more powerful the prayer is.