

Prayer Room Practicals - Part 1

I. Intro

- A. Throughout this course, we will alternate between “more spiritual” teachings and “more practical teachings. BOTH are extremely important in learning corporate prayer. These first two weeks, we are going to lay foundation with some practicals.
- B. Like with everything spiritual, there are very practical things that take place to allow the spiritual things to come about. Just because the *result* of something was very spiritual does not mean there weren't a number of practical factors that went into it. In the same turn, just because a prayer meeting ran smoothly or with passion, doesn't mean anything spiritual actually took place.
- C. When people only focus on the practical things and not the Spirit, they are often left with religious prayer that has no authority. When people only focus on the spiritual aspects, they typically either rarely get involved in the prayer meeting because they don't “feel the spirit to pray”, or they pray something they are feeling on a whim that may not flow with what is happening corporately in the room. Having a spirit of prayer and a prophetic spirit in the room is important. But most don't realize that this doesn't usually “just happen” but is often developed by those in the room doing the practical things to bring it about.
- D. We don't want to be responders. We want to turn into cultivators, and it begins with the practicals. We **all** should be able to help cultivate the spirit of prayer in a corporate setting.

II. Dealing with Some Misconceptions

- A. “It's for special people”
There is no office of intercession in the Bible. Prayer was both an individual and corporate requirement that **everyone** was expected to do (2 Chron 7; Joel 2:15-18, Acts 2:42, Acts 12:12). We have to tear down the same American thought process with prayer as we do with “ministers”, that it's for “special people”, so that Satan has the majority of the church immobilized. It's NOT a biblical concept!!
- B. “I will start praying corporately when I “feel ready””
Real talk about prayer/ministry: No one ever “feels ready”. No one. Did you really “feel ready” to get married? Become a parent? Start a business? Graduate high school? Go to college? Take a job? You just get used to doing things you don't feel ready for, do everything you can to learn and prepare, and then you just start doing it! Prayer is the same.
- C. “I will pray once I feel the spirit of prayer”
Practicing: Prayer is a muscle. In order to grow the muscle, you have to consistently work the muscle. Or in order to learn to pray corporately - you have to actually pray corporately. The more you practice, the easier it is to connect with the Spirit in it. The more familiar you become with a topic or even corporate prayer itself, the easier it will

become to flow with the Holy Spirit. It's like learning a new language (or instrument), you can be super spiritual, but you have to learn to speak a language first before you can communicate spiritual things in it.

- D. "How good the prayer meeting or my prayer was depends on how good I feel or how easily it flowed"

Evaluating: "Feeling good" or "feeling bad" at the end of praying or a prayer meeting is not always an indicator of how it went. The less something is plowed in the spirit or the less familiar we are with a topic, the harder it will feel. We have to get away from measuring the prayer meeting based simply on ease and flow.

- E. "There is only one way to evaluate a successful prayer meeting and it is ' _____ '".

There are multiple ways of evaluating a prayer meeting/prayer that depends on what God wanted to accomplish that night. Sometimes it's landing in a certain place. Other times it's taking one step further than the week before. Other times it's a whole room of people all praying that night regardless of it not going perfectly. We have to stop deciding that only one certain thing is success and have to learn how to evaluate what is "successful" for each prayer meeting. Though there is a place we are eventually looking to get the body of Christ to in the place of prayer, the goal of discipleship is growth, not perfection.

- F. "Praying corporately is for people who are strong in it and 'know what they are doing'"

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*." Romans 8:26-27

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him." 1Cor 1:27-29

We have to accept what God's Word says over our cultural thinking. And not just mentally agree with it, but actually believe it. He says that He looks to start with weakness, not strength, because He is looking for dependency more than gifting. The only legitimate gateway into Spirit-led prayer is admitting that we don't know how to pray for anything as we ought, therefore depending on the Holy Spirit.

- G. "A certain personality type is the key to strong intercession"

A close relationship with God **IS** the key to strong intercession, not gifting or a personality type (example of older intercessor friend). Therefore the primary way of strengthening your intercession is:

1. Pray the Word of God. The Word of God IS the offensive weapon of the armor of God (Eph 6:17). It's His nature and His will. Verses are an arsenal against the enemy.
2. Build friendship with the Holy Spirit. (Must start with who Jesus says He is in John 14 and John 16). Connection to the **heart** of God is what gives us burdens, groanings, fire, and travail, not personality.

“But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. 13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” 1 Cor 2:10-13

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H. “I have to really understand or be familiar with a topic in order to pray about it”

See Letter G above. In order to pray about a topic, I have to:

1. Connect with God's heart
2. Pray God's Word

That's **ALL** I need to pray for something!!!

I. “We should be able to start and finish interceding for something in one prayer meeting.”
Assignments in corporate prayer are usually building assignments that take time. As this is opposite of our microwave culture, we have to become ok with that.

1. It is not a sitcom - it doesn't always resolve in one sitting.
2. It often begins to break through in the spirit before ever breaking through in the natural, so we don't always understand everything at the beginning.
3. It naturally looks useless and unproductive. God purposely built prayer in a way that would seem useless to our human reason to keep us humble and dependent.