

Prophetic vs Responsive Prayer

I. Intro

- A. We have talked a little about building prayer and praying the heart of God. It is now time to tie this together into the framework of prophetic prayer.
- B. Much of our current prayer movement is not prophetic. It is mostly either responsive or only Word-based. Though neither of these is bad and both play a role in prayer, the majority of our prayer movement is missing the Person of the Holy Spirit and needs a major overhaul.
- C. Though foundations of consistency must be laid with people in the place of prayer, I refuse to believe that prayer can only be for every believer if the Holy Spirit, fire, and groaning are diminished. I believe the Lord desires to bring a “second wave” to the prayer movement that is again marked with “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3) and “groanings that cannot be uttered” (Rom 8:26).

II. The Current State of Corporate Prayer

- A. In general, a good portion (not all) of corporate prayer in America falls under one (or both) of two categories:
 - 1. Responsive Prayer
 - 2. Consistent Word Prayer
- B. Responsive Prayer is praying in response to something that happens in the natural. It could sometimes be known as “crisis prayer”, where something bad or significant unfolds in the natural and we begin to pray as a result of it. (It could also be just praying for an event a week or two before it happens.)
- C. Consistent Word Prayer would be simply praying anything that the Word says week after week.
- D. I want to be clear: both of these are **important** and **foundational** to prayer (I have clearly taught many foundational, practical things, and everything by the Word). However, to *stop* with these things is to stop short of the Holy Spirit’s role in prayer, and simply put: the Holy Spirit wants His prayer meetings back. (some have started to focus on this in services, but the same is true for prayer meetings)
- E. I believe the reason we are in this state is similar to the “seeker-friendly” movement: we don’t want anyone to feel bad about themselves, so we place the bar at a place that is obtainable for everyone in the natural rather than the help of the supernatural needed. I might not be seeing every person I pray for immediately healed, but I am not changing the bar so I can feel better about myself and what I can accomplish in the natural - I simply continue to pursue the supernatural. We can be growing in prayer while not settling and ask the Lord to release the full fire found in His Word.
- F. Often in removing the “supernatural element” from our prayer meetings, we have primarily removed the fire, the power, the groaning, and the travailing that the Holy Spirit brings. We can still see this “earth-shaking, bone-rattling” prayer amongst some of a much older generation, but amongst those younger, it has all but disappeared. This shows me that it is not a personality type but an issue of the Person of the Holy Spirit. We should never “learn” something to the point that we don’t think we need the Holy Spirit.

- G. Like many of our services, prayer meetings have often become a religious shell (a manmade structure that is missing the power of God, 2Tim 3:5) or a crisis hotline for two weeks of “more energized” special prayer meetings when something bad happens.
- H. I believe the Lord is desperately desiring to bring about a new wave in the prayer movement that marries the prophetic to prayer, returns the earthshaking groaning prayer meetings, and sees the power of God in them once again.

III. Prophetic Prayer

- A. Prophetic prayer can mean many things, and even the word “prophetic” can be a daunting word for those who aren’t necessarily “prophetic” in a literal sense themselves.
- B. For this class, we are referring to “prophetic” in a general sense in the following way: that the Person of the Holy Spirit is connecting us to a current burden on the Lord’s heart, and we begin praying about this with His heart, emotions, and power often before it even happens in the natural because we are already connected to Him by the Spirit (we are going to break down the phrases of this sentence from the following scripture):

“However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” — the things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.” 1Cor 2:9-12

- C. **Connected by the Spirit:** 1Cor 2:9-12 tells us that it’s the Spirit who knows and searches the deep things of God revealing them to us.
 - 1. According to John 16:13, Jesus tells us that the Spirit He sent us would show us about things yet to come

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come”.
 - 2. Genesis 1:2-3 shows us that the way that something breaks through or shifts in the natural is by speaking the Word of God *into what the Spirit is hovering over*

“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light”
 - 3. Simply put, without the Person of the Holy Spirit, prophetically praying the “now” heart of God is impossible.
- D. **Praying for the burden on His heart:** the more time we spend with the Lord and the more we grow in friendship, the more we should begin sensing/feeling/hearing His heart

for things outside of ourselves. Intimacy and friendship with Him are a part of prophetic prayer.

- E. **With His heart, emotions, and power:** the more we learn to truly connect to Him, the less we are simply getting something from Him and then praying what we think with our personality. Instead, the more we learn to connect, the more we simply become conduits of His heart, emotions, and power to pray and flow through. Growing in connection should cause us to grow in His emotions and power in prayer.
- F. **Before it even happens:** prophetic prayer often includes the element of praying for things before they even happen for several reasons:
 - 1. One aspect of the role of the Holy Spirit is to tell us of things yet to come (John 16:13)
 - 2. The burden for it is on God's heart long before it unfolds, so when we are connected to Him, we often get it "ahead of time".
 - 3. This also leads to "building prayer" where we will often build something in the spirit before it ever manifests in the natural, not only to bring it forth, but hopefully to bring it forth in a "mature" way. (which means more than only praying right before an event but building what God wants to do in prayer long before, of which that event is a part of)
- G. Example of what the Lord said to me about praying for something ahead while so many were focused on a current event.
- H. Simply put, the Lord is looking to raise up earth-shaking prayer that is found in His Word again like the book of Acts. The foundation of this prayer (along with the Word of God) is the Person of The Holy Spirit. We must pursue this type of prayer again by connecting with the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to bring us deeply into the heart and emotions of God along with seeing where He is hovering. It is time for this generation to pick the torch of revival prayer up from the older generation rather than letting it die on the altar of religion as the older generation passes on.