

## **Praying With One Another:**

### **I. Corporate Prayer Is To Be A Part Of Our Church's Life.**

- A. Private prayer is emphasized and illustrated in the Bible and most of what is taught about prayer focuses on personal and private prayer rather than corporate and relational prayer.**
- B. Thus many Christians neglect the corporate and relational aspects of prayer. James 5:16**
- C. The Book of Acts and the Epistles emphasize corporate prayer as being the context in which personal prayer becomes meaningful.**
  - 1. The Local Church is the foundation of corporate activity.**
  - 2. When the Church was introduced to the world, it was a new phenomenon.**
  - 3. With it came a whole new dynamic, new relationships, unique functions and purposes.**
  - 4. Although the Church did not start until Pentecost, the Disciples were seen engaging in corporate prayer prior to this event. Acts 1:14**
  - 5. As Christians we should not want to exclude any area of our prayer life in which God encourages us to participate.**
  - 6. Paul greatly emphasizes the importance of praying for the saints. Eph 6:13-20**
- D. As a Local Church we need to constantly evaluate our prayer life corporately.**
  - 1. Praise God together?**
  - 2. Thank God together?**
  - 3. Pray for each other?**

### **II. Corporate Prayer Is To Be A Priority In Our Church Life.**

- A. The Apostles emphasized prayer along with their study of the Word. Acts 1:14; 6:4**
- B. Prayer was one of the several regular experiences that the Jerusalem Christians practiced as a corporate body. Acts 2:41-42**
- C. We are consistently told to pray for other Christians. Rom 12:12; Eph 6:18; Php 4:6; Col 4:2**
- D. We are to be consistently involved. 1 Thes 5:17**
- E. Prayer involves personal discipline.**

### **III. Corporate Prayer Is Based On The New Covenant:**

- A. In the Old Testament we recognize the place of the Tabernacle and the ritual worship that was prescribed for Believers under the contract arrangement with God. Heb 9:11-15**
- B. When Christ died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, He changed the attitude of our worship. Heb 4:14-16**
  - 1. We can be confident that he will hear us and not reject us. Heb 10:22**
  - 2. We no longer have priests to represent us to God but a Mediator who paid with His life for us. 1 Tim 2:5-6**
  - 3. Prayer is the greatest opportunity to enter God's presence and is the greatest privilege in time given to man. Heb 12:18-24**
  - 4. Though it is a privilege, it becomes even more significant when we recognize the cost. Heb 10:20**
  - 5. For personal evaluation:**
    - a. How much do I understand this privilege?**
    - b. How much do I appreciate this privilege?**
    - c. How much do I practice this privilege?**

### **IV. Corporate Prayer Is To Be Full Of Godly Praise:**

- A. Prayer is more than asking, it is praising. Luke 24:51-53**
- B. Godly praise can come at the most "difficult" of times. Acts 16:16-34**
- C. Praise is designed to get us focused on the One who can solve our problems and heal our soul.**

### **V. Corporate Prayer Is To Be An Outgrowth Of Unity:**

- A. Luke records that at the beginning of the Church Age, their great prayer life was characterized by unity. Acts 4:32**
- B. To "pray as one" involves more than agreeing to come together to pray. It involves our total life together. John 17**
- C. Christ prayed for an observable, practical and experiential oneness that can only exist where Christians are gathered together in real relationships.**
- D. Where Christians are gathered, they are to demonstrate this oneness so the world can learn of Christ and what He has done for all mankind on the cross. John 17:21,23; Eph 2:14-16; John 13:34-35**

- E. The Lord's teachings were quite clear concerning the importance of unity and corporate prayer. Matt 18:19-20
  - 1. Sin in the community harms the unity. Matt 18:15-18
  - 2. As does lack of forgiveness. Matt 18:21-35
- F. Throughout history, Satan has attempted to destroy the unity among Believers, because he knows the impact it will have in their prayer lives.
- G. Questions:
  - 1. Are my sins hampering my prayer life?
  - 2. Are my fears hampering corporate prayer life?
  - 3. Am I forgiving?
  - 4. Am I judgmental. Matt 7:1-5

#### **VI. Corporate Prayer Must Recognize God's Sovereignty:**

- A. If we have a weak view of the Sovereignty of God, our prayers can actually lack faith.
- B. If we do not accept that God has His own Purpose and Will, then we may try and make demands upon Him.
- C. If we have the wrong view of God's Sovereignty, we may become fatalistic and refuse to pray thing that "it really doesn't matter."
- D. At times, we may ask God to do things for us without seeking to comply with his revealed will. We often then proceed to try and make things happen solely by our own human efforts.
- E. Questions:
  - 1. Do I really recognize God's Sovereignty?
  - 2. Do I use the freedom that God has given me to pray and ask for help?
  - 3. Do I really believe that prayer makes a difference?
  - 4. Am I willing to join in corporate prayer concerning mutual needs of love and unity.

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- 3. Corporate prayer is based on the New Covenant:**
- 4. Corporate prayer is to be full of godly praise:**
- 5. Corporate prayer is to be an outgrowth of unity:**
- 6. Corporate prayer must recognize God's sovereignty:**