

You are a house of prayer

One of the church's greatest privileges is prayer, sins is prayerlessness

John 2:13-22 1st Cleansing of the temple (after 1st miracle).

Matt. 21:10-19; Mark 11:12-18 2nd cleaning of temple before death.

Why? No prayer in the temple

We are God's house of prayer – because the Spirit of God is in us!

Jesus urged us to “watch and pray”

- ❖ For our own benefit = **Matt. 26:41; Mark 14:38** that we may judge ourselves.
- ❖ For the benefit of the kingdom of God = **Mark 13:33 ; Luke 21:36.**

“As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, & the business of cobblers to mend shoes, so it is the business of Christians to pray.” Martin Luther

Prayer was a common thing in the early church

Acts 1:14; 2:1+42; 4:24

Some characteristics of their prayer

- ❖ They prayed out loud - they raised their voice, **Acts 16:25** the prisoners heard.
- ❖ They were in one accord (must focus will, heart & mind in one direction) reason for closeness, to hear each other, to keep from wandering.
- ❖ They entered w/ praise & worship, magnified God.
- ❖ They prayed the Word (**Isa 37:16-20 & Ps. 2**).

The purpose of corporate prayer should be to pray out in agreement, out loud what is on the Father's heart.

Luke 11:13 This is why Jesus told us we would need the Holy Spirit in prayer

The Holy Spirit is called:

- ❖ Parakletos - one called alongside to help, to take a hold with us against.
- ❖ Spirit of Grace & Supplication – He gives us the grace & ability to pray.

Rom. 8:26 The Holy Spirit will help us in our inability to produce results in prayer
The Holy Spirit knows the heart, the plans and intents of God.

Eph. 6:18 praying with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance.

To this end... what end? To pray in the Spirit for all saints.

Note : Capital S – not a method but it's a place.

- ❖ *"In the Spirit we get into a flow, it's a place where it gets easier to pray... where time & mental realms are suspended."* (K. Hagin)

Example: we can swim down a river or we can go down by boat.

Swimming is necessary – praying what we know to pray.

Carried by boat & current, it is easier.

- ❖ It is praying **out of the heart**, not the head, finding out from the Spirit what to pray & what prayer to pray. Don't follow a method or a ritual!
(worship, intercession, authority in Jesus name, of faith, agreement...)
- ❖ It is easier to get in that flow, when we pray in tongues. The more we pray in tongues the more we will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We have to learn to quiet our mind & focus our attention.
"I see the spirit of prayer in rural areas and in the country but not so much in the city." Charles Finney
Why? Too busy in city!
- ❖ When praying all prayers **IN the Spirit**, we will often pray out the future
1 Cor. 2:9-11 The Spirit knows the plans of God
1 Cor. 14:2 Praying out mysteries in the Spirit

When praying in the Spirit, there is often a spirit of prophecy... praying out, declaring the will of God in tongues & sometimes in English.... this is the voice of God declaring His will on the earth.

There are things God wants us to pray & declare!

Isa. 40:3-5 ; John 1:23 Before Jesus came, John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord... He cried out and spoke in the wilderness.

- ➔ We as the Church we are called to watch & to prepare the way of the Lord for His 2nd coming with our prayers. Prepare a highway for God.

God always had those who prayed & declared before He did anything.

The word God spoke to me in prayer... we must position & prepare ourselves for the glory, so that God might be able to pour His glory.

Example: God wants to land a Boeing 777 but we must have the right landing strip.

Example: a bulldozer in the jungle removes all hindrances & boulders.

- ❖ The Holy Spirit will sometimes give you interpretation of what you're praying
1 Cor. 14:13-14
- ❖ The Holy Spirit will move on your heart, yield to it by faith.
Prov. 20:27; 1 Cor. 2:11; Ps. 37:4
Have you ever said "you were on my heart, the last few days"?