

## Prayer Room Practicals - Part 1

### I. Intro

- A. This class primarily focuses on corporate prayer: practically doing it, leading it, and having authority in it to shift things (I am not reteaching things from ASM on the personal walk and Israel/M.E.). Therefore, the context for this assumes two things: 1) the priority of intimacy with God is already being given at home, and 2) a personal prayer life is already taking place. Without these two things happening on a personal level, nothing on the corporate level really matters.
- B. For those who have taken my ASM class, you know that I center and focus much more on the “why” behind prayer with the big picture and our call to it, and then “throw everyone into the fire” of it with intercession sets during class. The reason is very intentional: many in the prayer movement have “learned how to do something”, and often simply catch a religious formula that has the Holy Spirit nowhere in it. I believe the Lord wants to restore groaning, earth-shaking, authoritative, fiery, prophetic prayer. **This has nothing to do with a personality type; this has everything to do with connecting deeply with the heart of God** that often has to be caught rather than taught.
- C. However, though this remains the foundation, like everything spiritual, there are very practical things that take place to allow the spiritual things to come about. 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 stuff, they rarely really get involved in prayer, or if they do, it often can be something on a whim and not always work 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 that does not just come on a whim - it is often developed by those in the room doing the practical things to bring it about. We don't want to stay as responders to this. We want to turn into developers, and it begins with the practicals. We **all** in the body should be able to help cultivate the spirit of prayer in a corporate setting.
- D. For every spiritual thing, there is a practical component and a spiritual component. In religious settings, people often do the practicals but skip connecting to the Spirit. However, in highly prophetic, spiritual, or charismatic environments, people often *only* see the spiritual component and therefore completely spiritualize everything, meaning they completely skip out on the practical partnership that brought the spiritual about. Just because the *result* of something is very spiritual does not mean there aren't a number of practical factors that go into it.

### 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 read’”  
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 do 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: 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, you can be super spiritual, but if you have to learn to speak a language first before you can communicate spiritual things in it.

- D. "How good the prayer meeting/my prayer was depends on how good I feel/how easily it flowed" Evaluating: "Feeling good" or "feeling bad" in the middle of or at the end of a prayer meeting is not always an indicator of how it's actually going/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. (examples of speaking, prayer meetings, etc). The same is true for evaluating "how you prayed".
- 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 was wanting 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 going perfectly. We have to stop deciding 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.

- 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 Marie). 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. (I did some teachings on the Person of the Holy Spirit in ASM from 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**

**"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**

H. "I have to really understand/be familiar with a topic in order to prayer 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."

Corporate building prayer is the literal opposite of our culture, and you have to become ok with that.

1. It is not microwavable/takes time.
2. It prophetically should be happening before things break in the natural, so it's often not understood.
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.