

## The Place of Prayer

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### The Prayer Movement

I believe that THE End-Times movement is the Prayer Movement.

- There seems to be an unprecedented focus on prayer over the past few years.
  - Many of us know from experience and from just looking at the average Christian Bookstore CD section that there has been a greater and greater focus on Worship for several years.
  - This has led us to the Place of Prayer.
  - You can't draw close to the Heart of God without encountering a Heart that wants to be expressed through our prayers.
  - God Desires to release the Things of His Heart into the Earth through our prayers—this is a Kingdom Vision.
- God's End-Time Church will be a people of prayer.
- Prayer's Primary Purpose is CHANGE—God will change Us and change Circumstances through us in the Place of Prayer.
- If we are not Praying, then we are refusing to Change, which is to refuse to become more like Christ, and we will not see our World Change
  - **2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)**  
if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

### The Place of Prayer and the Kingdom

How does The Place of Prayer factor into having a Kingdom Mindset?

- A young lady at our church received a word from the Lord one night during a corporate time of prayer and worship: God has given us the Keys to our city.
  - I was offended in my mind because I didn't understand.
  - I was doubtful because of my lack of faith.
  - Then I was Repentant because the Lord spoke to me.
- The Lord reminded me of the passage in Matthew when He told Peter that He had been given the Keys of the Kingdom:
  - **Matthew 16:16-19 (NIV)**  
<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
- The Lord revealed to me that these were the keys that He was referring to in the word that He gave to the young lady.
  - The Keys to our city are the KEYS OF THE KINGDOM TO BIND AND LOOSE IN OUR CITY.
- He said to me "From this Place" we would be able to Bind and Loose things in our city with the Keys of the Kingdom.
  - I believe that the Lord has revealed even more to me about this word since I have meditated further on it for the past few months:
    - I now understand that "This Place" meant "The Place of Prayer"—that's what we were doing when both words came. It didn't mean from the sanctuary of this church building.
    - I now understand that it is a word for the whole Kingdom of God—for every city of the earth, and for any church in any city that is willing to get a hold of God's heart for their city.

## Some Hindrances to Prayer

I think it is important to understand some common hindrances to people in the Place of Prayer.

- The view that prayer must always be a struggle.
  - Prayer need not always be under heavy burden.
  - Prayer can and should often be light, joyful, and comforting as we grow closer to God.
  - Prayer can and will be a struggle at times though; don't forget that.
- The fear that our faith will crumble if our prayers are not answered the first time every time.
  - If you turn on the light switch in your room and nothing happens, you do not respond with, "I never believed in electricity anyway." No, you search until you figure out the problem whether it is a burned out bulb, a bad fuse, a kicked breaker, or some other faulty connection.
  - God always answers prayer; He answers every prayer every time, but sometimes the answer is simply, "No" or "Not Now." Don't lose faith because of no immediate manifestation of what you expect.
  - Also make sure you are praying the will of God according to His Word.
- The teaching that one should "Pray once! Any more than that shows a lack of faith."
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)**  
Pray without ceasing
  - **Romans 1:9 (NKJV)**  
For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers
  - **Ephesians 1:15-16 (NKJV)**  
<sup>15</sup>Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup>do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:
- The idea that we live in a closed universe.
  - Everything is not so set in order that our prayers can't change it.
  - "We are fellow workers with God" according to the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 3: 9), which means God expects us to work with Him in order to change things.
  - John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer."
  - **Along with this is the belief that God's Will will be done no matter what.**
  - The phrase, "If it's God's Will, then it will happen." wreaks havoc on the Life of Prayer for so many people.
    - II Chronicles 7:14—"If my people pray" then "I will be able to do my will, which is to Forgive and Heal."
    - **Ezekiel 22:30 (NIV)**  
"I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.
      - Here we see that God's will was to NOT do what Justice Demanded of Him, but He needed the prayers of man to allow Him to not destroy the land.
    - The Greatest Evidence is the fact that Jesus Himself told us to pray: LET YOUR WILL BE DONE (Matthew 6:9-13). Why would Jesus tell us to pray for God's Will to be done if it was just going to be done anyway?
  - God has given us the Ministry of Intercession.
    - He uses our prayers to accomplish His will on the Earth—what we proclaim He can then do:
      - **Isaiah 44:24-26 (NKJV)**  
<sup>24</sup>Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: "I am the Lord, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; <sup>25</sup>Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness; <sup>26</sup>Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of

[His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, 'You shall be inhabited,' To the cities of Judah, 'You shall be built,' And I will raise up her waste places;](#)

### **The Journey to Intercession**

Intimacy leads to Identifying with Christ, which leads to True Intercession.

Throughout my studies on prayer and intercession I have come to the following ideas about what I feel is the proper perspective on Intercessory Prayer.

First, of all the Bible says that Jesus is the only Mediator, or Intercessor, between God and man. An intercessor or mediator is one who “stands in the gap” between two parties. Jesus is the True Intercessor. Through His death and resurrection and His current ministry in Heaven He has become The Intercessor between all of humanity and the God of all creation. Consider the following verses:

#### **1 Timothy 2:5 (NIV)**

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

#### **Hebrews 7:25 (NIV)**

Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

And the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ, intercedes through us and for us:

#### **Romans 8:26-27 (NIV)**

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

So, when we speak of intercession we are taking on the Ministry of Intercession through the Intercessor: Jesus Christ. In the same way that He is the Reconciler, but we have been given the Ministry of Reconciliation.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:18 (NIV)**

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation

So, when it comes to Intercession, the only true intercession is when we hook up with the heart of the intercessor: Jesus Christ, and pray from His heart. Now this may not feel like anything different than just every other prayer that we pray, and other times it may feel completely different. But the fact remains that for true Intercession to take place we must first hook up with the heart of The Intercessor.

So, that is why we worship and spend time in devotional prayer. We take the time to come close to the heart of Jesus so that we can pray from His heart. Through this intimacy we begin to identify with Him. Through this Identifying with Him we can know Him in the fellowship of His suffering and take on His burdens for intercession. That is our desire for this week and every time that we engage in Intercessory Prayer.

Don't pressure yourself to Find a Burden. Just seek God through Intimacy and Worship so that He can birth one in you.

Some Revealed Points of God's Will that are good to pray over:

- The cause of LIFE, Justice, Mercy & Grace for the inhabitants of the earth, Freedom, Salvation, Healing, & Deliverance