

Agape House of Worship
Wednesday Bible Study

Study Series: Keys to a Powerful Prayer Life
Part 3: Building a House of Prayer

Wednesday, December 30, 2020
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Building a House of Prayer

“The greatest working of God comes by corporate prayer and we will not see the power of God in sufficient measure to transform the world around us until we prayed together” – John Franklin, *And the Place Was Shaken*

“Personal prayer lives alone will not result in the working of God to the degree needed for spiritual transformation in our lives, our cities and our nation.” – John Franklin in *And the Place Was Shaken*

Matthew 21:12-13 – *“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves. 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant. 16 ‘Do you hear what these children are saying?’ they asked him. ‘Yes,’ replied Jesus, ‘have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’”*

When Jesus said His house should be a “House of Prayer,” He was affirming some fundamental realities about our relationship with God, which are:

1. Intimacy with the Father is the core of all our interaction with God.
2. Prayer is the communication channel that informs, encourages, empowers, directs, and protects us. At the same time, it expresses our love for all God has done for us.
3. He expects corporate prayer to be the principal activity in his church, which is his house.
4. He is unhappy and even willing to come down against any church where prayer takes the back seat.
5. When prayer takes a back seat, it is replaced by all kinds of ungodly activities.

Every powerful move of God in the Bible is connected to corporate prayer

- The Pentecost experience was preceded by an extended time of corporate prayer in the Upper Room:

Acts 1:14 - When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

- When the believers were threatened, they retreated to corporate prayer leading to a great move of God and a powerful infilling of the Holy Spirit:

Acts 4:29-31 - “Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”

- When Peter was put in prison, the church gathered in constant prayer leading to a mighty deliverance:

Acts 12:5-17 “Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. 6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. 7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, ‘Arise quickly!’ And his chains fell off his hands.

What happens when corporate prayer is restored to the principal place in the Church?

Matthew 21:12-13 – *“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 13 And He said to them, ‘It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a ‘den of thieves. 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant. 16 ‘Do you hear what these children are saying?’ they asked him. ‘Yes,’ replied Jesus, ‘have you never read, ‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise’”*

- 1) Demonic activity is restricted – the enemy thrives in an atmosphere of prayerlessness. *Matthew 21:13 - “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it ‘a den of robbers.’”*
- 2) Purity is released – *Matthew 21:12 – “Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves”*
- 3) Power is for miracles is released – *Matthew 21:14 - The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.*
- 4) Pure praise is restored– *Matthew 21:16 - “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “have you never read, “‘From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise*

How the enemy attacks our prayer life

- 1- External interference like phone calls, email, social media etc. *“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (Acts 6:3-4 NKJV)*
- 2- Distracting thoughts- Sometimes our greatest enemy in prayer is our thoughts. Often when we are on our knees Satan seek to take control of our very thoughts. *2 Corinthians 10:4-5 – “For the weapons of our warfare are not [a]carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*
- 3- Physical weariness- sleepiness, tiredness etc.
- 4- Discouragement: he does this using unanswered or delayed prayer. **Proverbs 13:12** - *“Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.”*
- 5- Deception: wrong prayer: *James 4:3 - You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (ESV)*

Conclusion

One of the things that must be restored before the return of Jesus is corporate prayer. Jesus concluded the Parable of the Persistent Widow by saying, *“I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”* (Luke 18). In saying “faith” he is referring to the kind of faith demonstrated in persistent prayer. The only way we can usher in the glory of God is through our prayer as a church, I want to challenge you to be part of the prayer life of AHOW.