

Keeping a Focused Heart at a Harp & Bowl Prayer Meeting

I. Enjoyable Prayer

(Isaiah 56:7 NASB) “7 Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.”

- a. *Corporate prayer meetings are not something that we have to endure through; rather they are something that we can enjoy. It is God’s intention for us to enjoy the corporate prayer meeting. The purpose of using a model for a prayer meeting is to keep it enjoyable for everyone who is apart of it.*
- b. *The Four living creatures around the throne of God have continually looked at God and worshiped Him since their creation and they will continue to do that for all of eternity. By gazing upon the Lord they have been entertained time and time again, and it is very possible for us to become entertained with talking to God time and time again. *Our source of Joy comes from the presence of God. Our commitment to the presence is also a commitment to joy.**
- c. *If we learn to enjoy prayer we can develop consistency to it and, consistency is the breeding ground for longevity in prayer. If we pray only out of obligation or duty we will burn out and eventually despise prayer. Therefore, it is imperative for us to learn how to genuinely enjoy prayer.*
- d. *Enjoyable prayer is the result of being content in His presence even if we don’t receive a word or “accomplish” anything. His presence is the foundation and end goal of any prayer that we pray. Our obsession should be primarily with His presence.*

II. Our Role in the Place of Prayer

- a. *Agreement with the heart of God is our primary role in the place of prayer. We’re either agreeing with who He is in worship, or we’re agreeing with the desires of His heart to be loosed on the earth and in our lives.*
- b. *We are all called to be priests who minister to the Lord. *Our primary ministry regardless of where we are or what we do should be ministry to God.* God prioritized and greatly valued ministry to Himself therefore we should examine scripture and prioritize and value our ministry to Him. *Ministry to God is a priesthood that we are called to.**
- c. *Through the Old Covenant The Lord appointed the tribe of Levi to minister before Him as priests. They would minister to Him through sacrifice (intercessory atonement).*

(Deut. 10:8-9 NASB), “8 At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord to serve Him and to bless in His name until this day. 9 Therefore, Levi

does not have a portion or inheritance with his brothers; the Lord is his inheritance, just as the Lord your God spoke to him.”

(Exodus 28:1-4 NASB), ““28 “Then bring near to yourself Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to minister as priest to Me—Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron’s sons. 2 You shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty. 3 You shall speak to all the skillful persons whom I have endowed with the spirit of wisdom, that they make Aaron’s garments to consecrate him, that he may minister as priest to Me. 4 These are the garments which they shall make: a breastpiece and an ephod and a robe and a tunic of checkered work, a turban and a sash, and they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister as priest to Me.”

(1 Chronicles NASB) 23:13, “...And Aaron was set apart to sanctify him as most holy, he and his sons forever, to burn incense before the Lord, to minister to Him and to bless in His name forever.”

- d. *Through the New Covenant God has made us to be a kingdom of priests. No longer is priesthood reserved for one certain person, but it is now available to everyone. When Jesus died the veil in the temple was torn not to let us in but to let Him out. Now The Holy Place isn’t somewhere we go but a lifestyle we live.*

(1 Peter 2:5 NASB), “5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

(1 Peter 2:9 NASB), “9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

(Revelation 5:10 NASB), “10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

- e. *Priesthood is about finding our identity in Jesus. It’s about being transformed into the image of Jesus and making His desires our desires. A huge component of longevity in prayer and intercession is realizing that life for us doesn’t end at the cross, but it begins there. Because of what Jesus has invited us into through the cross we can extend the work of the cross and the desires of Jesus through intercession.*
- f. *The value of hosting God’s presence is a biblical reality that has existed since the garden and will exist throughout all eternity. *The House of Prayer is a corporate expression of hosting God’s presence.* At PIHOP we are mostly concerned with being a host for the presence of God until His glorious appearing.*

III. Corporate Prayer Vs. Our Secret Place

- a. *Our personal prayer time with God in the secret place should look different than the way we engage at a corporate prayer meeting. *We don’t have people in our secret place otherwise it wouldn’t be a secret place, but if we are hidden in the secret place then we don’t need to have**

our secret place at the corporate prayer meeting. Both are equally as important and both are necessary for us to be involved in.

- b. There are many different plans and ways to have your personal prayer time with The Lord so it will look different dependent on every different person. *Regardless of what you choose to do in your personal prayer time the important aspect is that you actually do it.*
- c. *Corporate prayer meetings are meant to be a more focused and planned prayer meeting in order to facilitate a spirit of unity in prayer. We can go so much further and accomplish more as a team than we can as individuals. We can engage in a greater measure of prayer when we humbly set aside our own needs and intercede for others or center ourselves around The Word of God and engage in what is going on in the prayer meeting.*

IV. Practical Tips to Fuel Engagement For Corporate Prayer Meeting

These are not all biblical truths or commands but they are helpful practices that cause us to engage in prayer meetings much better.

General Tips

- 1) Set a goal for staying engaged 100 percent of the time during the prayer meeting
- 2) Remove distractions – put away your phone, complete simple tasks before the prayer meeting (filling up water bottle, etc.) sit closer to the front if you are distracted easily.
- 3) Enter in boldly ask with expectancy. Don't come to the prayer meeting passive.
- 4) Picture who and what you are praying for – you have faith for what you can picture happening. Picture similar stories or events that you remember being a part of where God broke in.
- 5) Pray according to scripture. Start developing your own 'Biblical prayer language' by using biblical passages in your prayers.
- 6) Focus primarily on God breaking in, not on the problem at hand. Be positive/kingdom focused. Do more praying "for" rather than praying "against"
- 7) Pray out loud – Don't just pray in your mind. Speak bible prayers out loud to God. Your mind will stay engaged when you actually use your vocal chords.

• During Worship

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal Jesus to you and wait.
- Sing the worship songs (out loud)
- Tell God who He is

- **During Spontaneous Singing**

- Don't disengage – speak or sing your prayers out loud
- Sing/pray in the spirit
- Open to a scripture and sing/ pray that scripture
- Listen to what the singers are singing about and join in by singing/praying those same themes

- **During Antiphonal Praying**

- Standing, pacing, or rocking is helpful to engage as you're "leaning in" to the prayer topic.
- Open your bible or use an apostolic prayer sheet
- Speak your prayers out loud
- Echo phrases that the prayer leader prays and the singers sing
- Say "amen" or "yes God" out loud to help track with what's happening in the room.
- Join in with the chorus's