

Developing Personal Prayer

John 15: 5-8; 16

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (v:5).

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.” (v:7)

Prayer = Fruitfulness

“By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” (v:8)

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” (v:16)

Praying the Word, John 15:5, 7

- Praying the Word is not just reciting the passage, but coming in a Spirit of prayer and dependence upon God. Let the meaning of the verse inspire our thoughts; our worship; our petitions; and our intercession.
- Read a chapter to get the gist of what God is saying. Now go back and read a sentence more slowly meditating on what God might want to say to you about it. Being careful to not allow a verse to mean anything we want.

- Guard your heart from worry and anxiety, even as you pray. (Too often we are telling God all our worries and fretting about this or that without *giving it to Him*).
- Watch for the things that ‘jump out’ and are especially relevant to you. Dwell on it; let it inspire you and shape your prayers.
- Carry these thoughts that gripped you throughout your day. Then re-visit the passage and watch your prayers go deeper

- Keep your heart soft, allow yourself to be stirred with the compassion of God (Isa 58:7-9). Unbelief will also harden it, so be diligent not to give unbelief any room in your speaking or thinking (Heb 3:12-19).
- Don't be content with surface prayers; take the time and go deeper. Worship helps here, as well as heart felt confession. Be willing to move to a level of greater earnestness, Ja.5:16. (earnest prayer produces something).

10 TOP REASONS WHY SOME DISLIKE PRAYING IN A GROUP

- It seems like prayer is meant to be personal
- I don't like to feel pressured to pray
- I get intimidated by someone's 'flowery' prayer
- I have a difficult time focusing on what to pray when someone else is praying, (I like a bit of silence)
- Corporate prayer can become very aggressive; sometimes even with yelling

10 TOP REASONS WHY SOME DISLIKE PRAYING IN A GROUP

- I get bored with people repeating what has already been prayed
- Too many ‘prayer hogs’
- Inevitably someone will interrupt the flow requiring personal prayer ministry, (again)
- Sometimes prayer turns into a gossip fest
- Too much talking and not enough time praying

BEING PREPARED

- Worship prepares the heart (prioritizes we are there for him)
- Be ‘prayed up’ before the meeting
- Be ready to hear before you speak (don’t be afraid of silence)
- Listen for and share God’s direction
- Willingness to lay down your own agenda
- When hearts are prepared, we “hear” better

A PLACE OF UNITY

- God blesses a ‘servants’ heart in prayer
- Be willing to lay down personal titles
- Examine your motives
- Think as a team and be willing to lay down for the sake of the whole
- Pray with the flow of the meeting not out of your own bias
- Allow time for the ‘quieter’ intercessors to enter in

STRENGTHENING CORPORATE PRAYER

- **Develop a team mindset of No Spectators!**
- **Examine your Motives;** not looking for the approval of man.
- **Engage and build** on what is being prayed. Don't be half-hearted.
- **No Prayer Hogging!** Seek to pray shorter, clearer prayers. Everyone working together
- **Watch your body language** and remember that passivity kills the corporate.

Strengthening Corporate Prayer

- Learn to move Corporately as a ‘well-oiled’ team.
- Watch the ‘Direction’ of your prayer
- Choose ‘Raw Prayer’ vs ‘Prepared Prayers’
- *Prepared prayer can create a momentum of competition*
- *Maintain an attitude of being in ‘Spirit and Truth’*
- *Honour one-another / learn how each one ‘ticks’ in the place of prayer*
- Honour the Facilitator

Watch for the Oil

- Carries a certain ‘weightiness’ of the Spirit
- This seems to agree with God’s heart
- People resonate with what is being prayed
- Stay here! Don’t go on to other prayer topics until you are sure that you have prayed this through.
- Be willing to build on this layer by layer
- Stay on this until God releases you