

# Reasons Why The Prayer Meeting Is Vitally Important

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At CFBC, the Wednesday night mid-week service has shifted its emphasis from teaching to praying. Since we no longer have the hour of prayer on Sundays during the 4pm Family Bible Hour, it would be in the best interest of CFBC to have a time in the Word on Wednesdays with a primary emphasis on corporate prayer following the time in the Word.

Why is the prayer meeting vitally important?

## **1. The Prayer Meeting Provides Consistent Opportunities to Corporately Cry out to God in Prayer.**

Many of the commands in the New Testament (NT) epistles speak of believers praying — and the commands are frequently given to local congregations (e.g., the church in Colossae). Thus, when believers gather to pray, it provides regular, weekly, consistent, and frequent opportunities for all believers to cry out to God in prayer as a family, as a flock, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## **2. The Prayer Meeting Offers a Platform to Teach the Congregation How to Pray Scripturally.**

Believers naturally pray. They cry out to their Lord and beseech Him earnestly. But praying takes focus, skill, and diligence. Praying is not simply 'asking'. Praying can include speaking God's Word back to Him and holding Him to His promises as revealed in Scripture. This kind of praying scripturally can be taught, modeled, and practiced during the prayer meetings.

## **3. The Prayer Meeting Gives All Believers Present an Opportunity to Praise God Together.**

The One most worthy of praise is God in all His splendor. He alone is God and He alone deserves incessant praise. When believers gather, they can present prayers of praise, prayers of thanksgiving, prayers of worship, and heartfelt cries of jubilation together. Part of praying to God is praising God for who He is, His perfect character, His eternal power, and His glorious gospel.

## **4. The Prayer Meeting Allows Believers to Grow in Deeper Fellowship & Relationship with One Another.**

When believers gather to pray, intimacy is created. Coming together on a consistent basis to cry out to the Lord enhances Christian fellowship and heartfelt love for one another. Praying is soul-work. Praying is discipline. Praying is a pouring out of the soul to God. In doing this Christian grace with other believers, there is a vital, deep, relationship that begins and strengthens.

## **5. The Prayer Meeting Welcomes Prayers and Praises So That More People Can Praise God for Answered Prayer.**

In the prayer meeting, believers can present prayer requests, share struggles, ask for intercessions, confess sins one to another, and boast in the Lord for His faithfulness in answering

particular prayer requests. These all prompt corporate prayer. And when prayer requests are corporately made known and followed by the answer that God provided (in due time), believers can praise God together and more glory can be given to God since more believers were made aware of the situation and God's abiding faithfulness to answer that particular request. It abounds in the giving of thanks to the Lord.

#### **6. The Prayer Meeting Resides as the Best Platform for the Local Church to Call upon God to Bring Revival.**

Revival tarries because the people of God content themselves to live without it. Many Christians neglect to pray for revival. Some are careless about it. Some don't think that it can actually happen. Some disbelieve that God can actually do it again. But church history — and biblical history — has shown that revival comes when the people of God pray to Him, beg Him for a special pouring out of the Spirit as it is attended with the proclamation of the Word of God. The local church environment sits as the best platform for men and women to cry out to God to rend the heavens and come down. May all of God's people gather and beg God to 'come to church' in a special way every time the assembly gathers.

#### **7. The Prayer Meeting Glorifies God Since Prayer Is the Most Vital Element in Church-Life.**

Jesus said that the Temple was to be a 'house of prayer.' Preaching is the speaking of God to His people. Prayer is speaking to God from His blood-bought people. Every area of church ministry will be void and vain unless prayer accompanies it all. The preaching will accomplish nothing unless prayer undergirds the entire preaching event. The music, the ordinances, the fellowship, the giving, the testimonies, and all of the related events of local church life will produce nothing unless the Spirit of God attends each of these particular events with divine power in so far as they have been lifted up in prayer. Prayer gives life to the local church. Prayer is the heartbeat of the local church. Where there is no prayer — no corporate prayer — the church cannot live.

#### **8. The Prayer Meeting Equips the People of God to Greater & More Fervent Individual Prayer As a Result of the Corporate Prayer Meetings.**

When believers attend a prayer meeting and experience the joy of calling upon the name of the Lord together with other believers, it stirs their hearts with a desire, a yearning and a zeal, for more communion with God privately. The more one prays corporately with others, the more one will long to dwell in his closet alone with God. To commune with God with the flock is glorious and profitable and yet it often is the case that it will encourage believers to prioritize personal communion with the Lord each day on their own. Corporate prayer can equip Christians to greater times of 'meeting with God' so that they can pray more knowledgeably for the flock, for one another, for the preaching, for conversions, and for particular needs that arise.

*Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;*

*— Colossians 4:2*