

THE DOCTRINE  
OF  
PRAYER

BY  
T. W. HUNT

# HOW PRAYER IS RELATED TO THE NATURE OF GOD

... JESUS TAUGHT US TO BEGIN OUR PRAYERS WITH AN AFFIRMATION OF THE HOLINESS OF GOD'S NAME (MATT 6:9)

IN THIS MANNER, THEREFORE PRAY: "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME".

... THE FIRST ATTRIBUTE OF GOD RECOGNIZED BY THOSE WHO MET HIM WAS **HOLINESS** - WHEN ISAIAH SAW THE VISION OF GOD IN THE TEMPLE, THE SERAPHIMS CRIED OUT (ISA 6:3)

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, THE LORD OF HOSTS; THE WHOLE EARTH IS FULL OF HIS GLORY!"

... DANIEL KNEW HE COULD NOT PRAY APART FROM GOD'S **RIGHTEOUSNESS** (DAN 9:7)

"RIGHTEOUSNESS BELONGS TO THEE, O LORD".

... JAMES DESCRIBES HIM AS BEING **COMPASSIONATE AND MERCIFUL** (JAMES 5:11)

... PSALM 103:8-12, DESCRIBES THE EXTENT TO WHICH GOD WILL FORGIVE SINS

THE LORD IS COMPASSIONATE AND **GRACIOUS**.....

# PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE

... PRAYER IS EFFECTIVE BECAUSE GOD HAS CHOSEN TO HEAR WHEN WE CALL TO HIM

... GOD HEARS ALL THINGS - YET HE HEARS THE PRAYERS OF HIS CHILDREN IN A SPECIAL WAY

... THE CERTAINTY OF HIS HEARING IS ESTABLISHED BY PSALM 116:1-2

"I LOVE THE LORD, BECAUSE HE HAS HEARD MY VOICE AND MY SUPPLICATIONS....."

... GOD IS PERSONAL, AND RELATES TO HUMAN NEED IN A PERSONAL WAY

... FELLOWSHIP - A MARK OF PERSONHOOD. GOD IS ACTIVELY SEEKING FELLOWSHIP WITH PERSONS WHOSE HEARTS ARE LIKE HIS (2 CHRON 16:9)

... FRIENDSHIP - IS ALSO A MARK OF PERSONHOOD. THEY TALK, WALK, AND SHARE COMMON INTEREST

... THE PRAYER OF AN INDIVIDUAL IS HEARD BY GOD. THE CHRISTIAN IS ASSURED THAT THROUGH CHRIST WE "HAVE OUR ACCESS IN ONE SPIRIT TO THE FATHER" (EPH 2:18)

... GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND YET DESIRES THE FELLOWSHIP OF THOSE HE HAS CREATED

... PRAYER GROWS OUT OF GOD'S OWN NATURE AND HIS PLANS FOR US - HIS PLAN INVOLVES ALL PEOPLE, SO ALL MAY COME TO HIM

## How to Pray (Part I)

**Ephesians 6:18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

**Phillipians 4:6** Be careful for nothing; But in everything by prayer and supplication thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God.

**Mark 11:17** And He taught, saying unto them, is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations The House of Prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves.

**Psalms 66:18** If I regard Iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear me.

**James 4:3** Ye ask, and receive not, Because ye ask amiss, That ye may consume it upon you lusts

**Mark 11:25** And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: That your father also which is in Heaven may forgive you your trespasses

**I Peter 3:7** Likewise, ye Husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hinder.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Active Prayer

**Matt. 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him to them gave he power to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Ingredient of Effective Prayer**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Ingredient of Effective Prayer**

**John 14:13** And what so ever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

## **4<sup>th</sup> Ingredient of Effective Prayer**

**Matt. 21:22** And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer believing, ye shall receive.

**James 1:6** But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that waveth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

## **5<sup>th</sup> Ingredient of Effective Prayer**

**Luke 11:5-10** And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be open unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Ingredient of Effective Prayer**

**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

## HOW WELL DO YOU MEASURE UP?

In order to start thinking about how well you measure up as a Prayer Warrior, you need to evaluate how well you are currently fulfilling your Prayer Ministry. To help start thinking about where your strong and weak areas are, read each statement below and put a check in the column that fits you best.

	Almost always	Often	Occasionally	almost never
1. I maintain a servant's role in my Prayer Ministry.				
2. I depend on God for wisdom and understanding in my Prayer Ministry.				
3. My prayer life reflects my belief in the importance of prayer.				
4. I try to read and study the Bible regularly.				
5. I memorize the scripture passages that support my prayers.				
6. I seek opportunities to share the Word of God with others.				
7. I try to keep my life separate from the world by following closer to Christ.				
8. I endeavor to keep my family and friends growing in faith.				
9. I seek to lead my family and friends to accept Christ as their Savior.				
10. I can see God's blessings in my life.				

B G C O

LEADERSHIP

DEPARTMENT

## DEVELOPING A DYNAMIC PRAYER MEETING

**HOW TO USE THIS CHART:** Design a prayer meeting by understanding what God wants in your church, developing the **FORMAT**, and then choosing **ACTIVITIES** to use in each segment of the format. An example of this is in the center. **FORMAT + ACTIVITIES = PRAYER**

### A GOD-CENTERED FORMAT

A format is the organization and process flow of the prayer meeting. In this one hour model, 5 segments are listed

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FOCUS ON GOD – 10-15 MINUTES

**The Goal:** To set the people's focus on God. God desires an intimate relationship with Him. Therefore, a prayer meeting must begin with God. The focus can be set on God by highlighting any reality about God – *who He is, what He can do, what He likes or dislikes the reality of His presence, His purposes, etc...* Prior to the prayer meeting prepare yourself by seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance to know what to emphasize about Him and the implications of our relationship with Him.

#### RESPOND FROM THE HEART – 5-10 MINUTES

**The Goal:** To create an opportunity for the heart to respond to God. When the focus is on God, the heart will respond to Him as the Holy Spirit reminds the people of key issues such as *surrendering personal agendas, faith, gratitude, dependence, repentance, praise, honesty, thanksgiving, etc.* Having an intentional segment allows the people to solidify their response which will prepare their mind and spirit as they continue their prayer.

#### SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM – 15-20 MINUTES

**The Goal:** To lead the people to be on God's agenda. God said if we seek first the kingdom He would give us everything else. That is why this segment occurs before we ask our requests. Deliberately utilize this time to encourage an outward focus on God's agenda by praying for various themes such as *missions, evangelism, social impact, the backslidden, the homeless, etc.* Remember also to pray consistently for projects and efforts occurring in the life of your church in which God is leading. Present these themes so that they become heart issues, not head issues only.

#### PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS – 15-20 MINUTES

**The Goal:** To pray for needs from God's perspective and minister to one another. Teach the people how to think of prayer requests from God's viewpoint. Also use this segment to minister to one another as prayers are offered for various requests such as *the sick, marriages, financial concerns, crises, the youth, mothers, bereaved, traveling mercies, etc.*

#### CLOSE IN CELEBRATION – 5 MINUTES

**The Goal:** To reaffirm expectation in God. This closure will be a reminder to the people to expect God's answer. You can use different means such as *giving thanks, singing, clapping, unified declaration, etc.* When God is present, people want to respond, and it sends them out on a positive note.

### AN EXAMPLE OF A PRAYER MEETING

#### FOCUS ON GOD

1. As a reminder of what God can do, read Eph. 1:4-21. Recruit a member give testimony of how God answered prayer during the week.

#### RESPOND FROM THE HEART

- (The number of prayer times may vary)
1. Encourage dependence by praying in small groups.
  2. Encourage faith and put hands together to symbolize expectation/receiving.

#### SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM

- (Often a theme) (The number of prayer times may vary)
1. Have mission teams come to the front and other members surround and pray for them on their upcoming trip.
  2. Pray in small groups for those who will bear the gospel from the mission team.
  3. Pray in small groups for local Christians at site.

#### PRESENT YOUR REQUESTS

- (The number of prayer times may vary)
1. Have every member write a prayer card and send to the Jones family currently battling with cancer.
  2. Pray for couples with troubled marriages. Let conversation symbolize standing in the gap for these couples by standing in pairs to pray.
  3. Pray in small groups for those needing jobs.
  4. Have open prayer time in small groups to pray for needs on members' hearts.

#### CLOSE IN CELEBRATION

Have members sing "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" in a spirit of thanksgiving praising Him.

### INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

An activity is any way or means to focus the heart on God, elicit participation, and facilitate ministry to one another

\*\*\*\*\*

There are 3 groupings of activities. They were organized this way to highlight their importance to you as a leader. Keep in mind that any activity can occur anywhere in the format and may also fit in more than one segment.

### FOCUSING ACTIVITIES

**The Goal:** To set peoples focus on God. The Holy Spirit stirs hearts through various focusing activities such as *the leader's words, use of Scripture, singing, testimony, drama, etc.* Especially use these type activities at the beginning of prayer meeting when you are seeking to set the focus on God. Continue orienting people to God as you progress through the prayer meeting. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, select what's appropriate for your prayer meeting.

### PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES

**The Goal:** To involve as many people as possible, both numerically and physically. This structures likely opportunities for God to speak and work through all the body. You facilitate this two ways:

**NUMERICALLY:** God wants His people (not a select few) to participate in the prayer meeting, therefore: 1. Give away leadership roles in various ways including having a number of participants *read Scripture give testimonies, guide prayer times, etc.* 2. Give everyone a chance to vocalize their relationship with God. Create these opportunities through activities such as *singing, small groups, individually praying out loud all at once, responsive reading, large group sentence prayer, etc.*

**PHYSICALLY:** People's bodily participation often encourages their heart to participate. Utilize various activities such as *coming to the altar, kneeling, writing a prayer card, clasping hands, standing to pray with another, breaking into small groups, etc.* This doesn't have to be calisthenics. It could be as simple as taking another's hand, but don't create spectator mode by allowing them to just sit there in the pew.

### MINISTERING ACTIVITIES

**The Goal:** For the body to minister to and build itself up in love. God wants us to minister to each other. Employ activities such as *kneeling beside another at the altar, having new mothers stand and congregation pray for them, having participants put their hand on each other's shoulder, having the church surround someone with a special need, having small groups surround those struggling with cancer, etc.* Incorporate these activities into the format to let the body build itself up in love.



# Two Pillars of Prayer Meeting

GOD-CENTERED FORMAT	INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Focus on God</b> -Who He is -What He can do -Presence -Perspective -His View</p> <p><b>Respond from the heart</b> -God-centered -Faith -Honesty -Repentance -Dependence -Praise</p> <p><b>Seek First the kingdom</b> -Awakening -The lost -The backslidden -Missions -VBS</p> <p><b>Present your requests</b> -Sick -Marriages -Bereaved -Financial -Families</p> <p><b>Close in celebration</b> -Thanksgiving -Proclamation -Praise -Declaration</p>	<p><b>Focusing</b> -Leader's words -Scripture -Music -Testimony -Drama</p> <p><b>Participation activities</b> NUMERICALLY -Ask people to have different roles in leading, testifying, reading Scripture, etc. -Singing -Small groups -Individually praying out loud all at once -Responsive reading -Large group sentence prayer, etc.</p> <p><b>PHYSICALLY</b> -Come to the altar -Kneel -Stand in pairs -Banner rotation -Go to someone else during the prayer meeting -Writing a prayer card note -Prayerwalking</p> <p><b>Ministering Activities</b> -Sincere love for one another -Praying for one another -Bearing each others burdens -Blessing one another -Encouraging unity</p>

# Your Plan For Prayer Meeting

GOD-CENTERED FORMAT	INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES
<p><b>Focus on God</b></p> <p>1. _____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><b>Respond from the heart</b></p> <p>1. _____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><b>Seek first the kingdom</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><b>Present your requests</b></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p>	<p>_____</p>
<p><b>Close in celebration</b></p> <p>1. _____</p>	<p>_____</p>

PARTNERS IN PRAYER

BY

JOHN MAXWELL

## **10 COMMON PRAYER KILLERS**

- 1. Unconfessed Sin**
- 2. Lack of Faith**
- 3. Disobedience**
- 4. Lack of Transparency with God and with Others**
- 5. Unforgiveness**
- 6. Wrong Motives**
- 7. Idols in our Lives**
- 8. Disregard for Others**
- 9. Disregard for God's Sovereignty**
- 10. Unsurrendered Will**