

Prayer Room Practicals - Part 2

I. Foundational Beliefs: Why does corporate prayer even matter?

A. The Kingdom is often not individually based like our culture.

We see in the Word that God often will not act until there is a corporate remnant proportionate to the size of the city or nation needing to be changed (Abraham with Sodom/Gamora; 2 Chron 7; Joel 2:15-18). We are sometimes more used to this in the Old Testament, but the greatest move of God in the New Testament (the early church in Acts) shows its foundation in corporate prayer (Acts 1:14; Acts 2:1,42; Acts 4:24; Acts 12:12; Acts 13:1-3)

B. Humility towards/need of each other

We simply do not all have the same function, so different parts are needed to bring the different parts. Since the most amazing person still only has one part, this keeps us humble towards each other!! In the same turn, it doesn't allow others to discount themselves (Rom 12:4-5; 1Cor 12)

C. Humility towards God

Prayer is the greatest form of humility. It shows that we do not believe that anything that we can accomplish on our own outside of God is worth anything. God has specifically designed it that those who call on Him are saved (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Romans 10:13), but those who insist on doing it on their own and refuse to seek His counsel (pride) are judged (1 Chron 15:13, Zeph 1:3,6, Joshua 9). I would add: Praying for things on God's heart for our own lives shows humility. Praying for things on God's heart outside of our own lives shows friendship.

D. Partnership

Prayer is the most basic partnership between heaven and earth; God and man. In His sovereignty He desired and designed partnership by having us declare on earth what He is declaring in heaven and then allowing it to manifest (Matt 6:10). We cannot do His part, but He also will not do ours.

E. To grow in corporate prayer we must first believe:

1. God hears my voice
2. God moves at the sound of my voice
3. Everything begins with God, not me (Kingdom vs humanism), therefore everything that happens in the Kingdom starts with crying out to God to move, not my own ability or action.

II. The challenge of corporate

A. 1 Corinthians shows us some of the challenges that come when you take different individuals that are different parts and put them all together:

1. Some people come with their own agenda/burden rather than joining corporately (1Cor 14:26-40).
2. Some people think their gift/part is more important than other people's (1Cor 12:21-26)
3. Some people think their gift/part isn't needed at all (1Cor 12:15-20)
4. Some only flow with whatever they feel (1Cor 12:15-20)

B. Therefore in corporate settings, we must look to:

1. Find the corporate burden and support it (One accord is key Acts 2:1)
2. Make sure to not withhold our part and just let others do it
3. Make sure not to take over and not give room for others
4. Seek to edify/work together with the body

III. When I'm joining a prayer meeting

- A. If the Spirit is in it, the heart of God is in it. I am first looking to connect to God's heart and the corporate burden by praying in the Spirit.
- B. As I feel I begin to "catch" something, even a sense, I will begin to see how I can join in and engage by:
 - 1. Seeing if something someone is praying stands out to me, like I feel the Spirit on it where I can come in after them to continue to agree and focus in on that part of their prayer.
 - 2. Seeing if a verse is highlighted to me on this subject by the Holy Spirit and google the reference (ie "not by might verse"; "shake everything that can be shaken verse"; "remember those in prison verse"; "God heard their groaning verse")
 - 3. Sometimes I will just google verses of the main topic being prayed, scroll through the results, and see if the Spirit highlights any of these verses to me! (ie "persecution verses"; "perseverance verses"; "verses on the glory of God")
- C. As I go up to have a turn in prayer, I continue listening to what is being prayed to see if it fits in the flow of the corporate focus.
 - 1. If something else on that topic is currently being covered yet and still seems to need some "work", I will often do that same process under B for what is being prayed to see if I can join in and agree. Tag team prayer has become rare but is extremely powerful! We need to learn when the Spirit is on something, and not just move on to the next thing!
 - 2. Once that part "finishes up" I will then jump in with what I had if it seems to flow
 - 3. Or if it flows now, I will go ahead and jump in
- D. I continue the process of praying in the spirit as others pray throughout the prayer meeting to come into agreement, while also continuing to see if there are more things the Holy Spirit highlights (through the process above) for me to pray something else.
- E. Other possibilities:
 - 1. Prophetic picture, vision, or word: if I get something like this, know the people, and it fits with the topic, I briefly share it and then pray. If I am less familiar with people/environment, I run it by the leader to see if it's ok.
 - 2. If I am strongly sensing something that doesn't seem to be on the same lines as what we are praying on, pray in the Spirit for a while and still really sense it's a corporate thing, I mention it to the leader and then just let them decide if its a corporate burden or not (same as getting something in a service).

IV. Tips when praying

- A. Keep sharing to a minimum/resist preaching.

People who aren't used to praying on a mic can occasionally have a habit of preaching when handed a mic. Resist beginning to teach people something, and try to instead put it into a prayer as much as possible. If a little sharing is needed, please keep it short as it can dampen the flow and the goal is prayer!
- B. Don't make it about us.

Sometimes we simply make prayer too much about ourselves, meaning that we either see it as "our time to shine" and focus on being really "good" and "impressive", or we overfocus on "being terrible". Since prayer is serving others and partnering with Jesus, it's much easier and more effective if we are able to focus on serving rather than being so self-conscious.
- C. If we are interceding for people outside of ourselves, resist bringing the focus back on us.

We are so used to praying for ourselves that it can be challenging to focus on others. Though we always want to see ourselves in what we are praying, we must exercise the muscle of praying for others and refuse to always bring it back to praying for ourselves. We must ask the Lord to help our hearts begin to connect to what's on His heart rather than only connecting because it's about us.

- D. Resist giving a major prophetic words or switching topics before running it by the leader.
- E. If reading a passage of scripture, normally try and narrow it to a few verses that centers around your focus. This helps keep the flow, attention spans, and focus. You can always pray a “second round” after your first prayer and worship team cycle. (Acception can be when we are simply declaring who God is).
- F. Try and have a specific thing you are focused on while praying and resist jumping around to 10 different things in one prayer. This will help with agreement in the room and for the worship team to all center around one thing. Again, you can always pray a “second cycle” if you had a few different things you were wanting to pray. The more you can focus on one thing at a time, the more powerful they can become.