

Prophetic vs Responsive Prayer

I. Intro

- A. We have talked about bits and pieces of building prayer and praying the heart of God. It is now time to tie this together into the framework of prophetic prayer.
- B. Much of our current prayer movement is not prophetic. It is mostly either responsive or only Word-based. Though neither of these is bad and both play a role in prayer, the majority of the prayer movement is missing the Person of the Holy Spirit and needs a major overhaul.
- C. Though foundations of consistency must be laid with people in the place of prayer, I refuse to believe that prayer can only be for every believer if the aspect of the Holy Spirit, fire, and groaning are diminished. I believe the Lord is desiring to bring a “second wave” to the prayer movement that is again marked with “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3) and “groanings that cannot be uttered” (Rom 8:26).

II. The Current State of Corporate Prayer

- A. In general, a good portion (not all) of corporate prayer in America (where it is happening) falls under one of two categories (or both):
 - 1. Responsive Prayer
 - 2. Consistent Word Prayer
- B. Responsive Prayer is praying as a response to something that happens in the natural. It could sometimes be known as “crisis prayer”, where something bad or significant begins to unfold in the natural and we begin to pray as a result of it.
- C. Consistent Word Prayer would be simply praying anything that the Word says week after week.
- D. I want to be clear: both of these are **important** and **foundational** to prayer (I have clearly taught many foundational, practical things, and everything by the Word). However, to *stop* with these things is to stop short of the Holy Spirit’s role in prayer, and simply put: the Holy Spirit wants His prayer meetings back.
- E. I believe the reason we are in this state is similar to the “seeker-friendly” or denominational movement: we don’t want anyone to feel bad about themselves, so we place the bar at a place that is obtainable for everyone in the natural rather than the help of the supernatural needed. I might not be seeing every person I pray for immediately healed, but I am not changing the bar so I can feel better about myself and what I can accomplish in the natural - I simply continue to pursue the supernatural. We can be growing in prayer while not settling and asking the Lord to release the full fire found in His Word.
- F. In often removing the “supernatural element” from our prayer meetings, we have primarily removed the fire, the power, the groaning, and the travailing that the Holy Spirit brings. We can still see this “earth-shaking, bone-rattling” prayer amongst some of a much older generation, but amongst those younger, it has all disappeared. This shows me that it is not a personality type - and an issue of the Person of the Holy Spirit.
- G. Like many of our services, prayer meetings have often become a religious shell (a manmade structure that is missing the power of God, 2Tim 3:5) or a crisis hotline for two weeks of “more energized” special prayer meetings when something bad happens.

H. I believe the Lord is desperately desiring to bring about a new wave in the prayer movement that marries the prophetic to prayer, returns the earthshaking groaning prayer meetings, and sees the power of God in them once again.

III. Prophetic Prayer

- A. Prophetic prayer can mean many things, and even the word “prophetic” can be a daunting word for those who aren’t necessarily “prophetic” in a literal sense themselves.
- B. For this class, we are referring to “prophetic” in a general sense in the following way: that the Person of the Holy Spirit is connecting us to a current burden on the Lord’s heart, and we begin praying about this with His heart, emotions, and power often before it even happens in the natural because we are already connected to Him by the Spirit (1Cor 2:9-12).
- C. Connected by the Spirit: 1Cor 2:9-12 tells us that it’s the Spirit who knows and searches the deep things of God revealing them to us. According to John 16:13, Jesus tells us that the Spirit He sent us would show us about things yet to come. Genesis 1:2-3 shows us that the way that something breaks through or shifts in the natural is by speaking the Word of God *into what the Spirit is hovering over*. Simply put, without the Person of the Holy Spirit, prophetically praying the “now” heart of God is impossible.
- D. Praying for the burden on His heart: the more time we spend with the Lord and the more we grow in friendship, the more we should begin sensing/feeling/hearing His heart and things outside of ourselves. Intimacy and friendship with Him are a part of prophetic prayer.
- E. With His heart, emotions, and power: the more we learn to truly connect to Him, the less we are simply getting something from Him and then praying what we think with our personality. Instead, the more we learn to connect, the more we simply become conduits of His heart, emotions, and power to pray and flow through. Growing in connection should cause us to grow in His emotions and power in prayer.
- F. Before it even happens: prophetic prayer often includes the element of praying for things before they even happen for several reasons:
 - 1. One aspect of the role of the Holy Spirit is to tell us of things yet to come (John 16:13)
 - 2. The burden for it is on God’s heart long before it unfolds, so when we are connected to Him, we often get it “ahead of time”.
 - 3. This also leads to “building prayer” where we will often build something in the spirit before it ever manifests in the natural to not only bring it forth, but to hopefully bring it forth in a “mature” way.
- G. Example of what the Lord said to me about praying what was to come during the Trump era.
- H. Simply put, the Lord is looking to raise up earth-shaking prayer that is found in His Word again like the book of Acts. The foundation of this prayer (along with the Word of God) is the Person of The Holy Spirit. We must pursue this type of prayer again by deeply connecting with the Holy Spirit and allowing Him to bring us deep into the heart and emotions of God along with seeing where He is hovering. It is time for this generation to pick the torch of revival prayer up from the older generation rather than letting it die on the altar of religion as the older generation passes on.