

Prayer and Evangelism

1. During **hard** times the **number** of people who come to Jesus **increases** dramatically.

Revelation 6:7-9 When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come." I looked, and behold, an ashen horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Revelation 7:9-13 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands. .

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Joel 3:13-14 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, tread, for the wine press is full; The vats overflow, for their wickedness is great. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

John 4:34-36 Jesus *said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest

2. The greatest **tool** God has given us to reap the harvest is **prayer**, especially **corporate** prayer by the church.

Acts 1:12-15 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. . . . At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together),

Acts 2:40-41 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.

Matthew 18:19-20 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Acts 4:23-24 And when they had been released, they went to their own companions, and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. And when they heard this, they lifted their voices to God with one accord and said, "O Lord, it is Thou who DIDST MAKE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, AND ALL THAT IS IN THEM,

Acts 6:4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."

Acts 12:5&12 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God. . . . And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

3. The Church is the eternal Bride of Jesus, His eternal **companion**, and God the Father is in the **process** of making her **worthy** of Jesus.

Revelation 19:6-9 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude and as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready." And it was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.'" And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

Ephesians 5:27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

4. The Church is the emphasis of all that God is doing in the New Testament, and the key words describing God's working in and through the Church is "**together**" and "**gathered**".

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:44 And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common;

Acts 2:46–47 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

Hebrews 10:24–25 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit

of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

5. There is a major emphasis made in the Epistles on the corporate nature of the church by the use singular or plural pronouns that is often missed.

1 John 5:10–13 The one who believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself; the one who does not believe God has made Him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has given concerning His Son. And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

Ephesians 6:18 With all prayer and petition (you all) pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, (you all) be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

Matthew 6:9–13 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. ‘Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ‘Give us this day our daily bread. ‘And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’

6. The Church, as the **Bride** of Christ will be given the position in the **Millennial** Kingdom of **ruling** with Christ.

Revelation 3:21–22 ‘He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ‘He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’ ”

Ephesians 1:20-23 which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all

7. When the church **prays** together to the Father we are exercising the **authority** that we have been given by Jesus, and we are **ruling** with Christ in His name on the earth now.

Matthew 16:18–19 “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

John 14:12–14 “Truly, truly, I say to he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater *works* than these he will do; because I go to the Father. “Whatever **you (all)** ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. “If **you (all)** ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

8. God **manifests** His **presence** during times of **corporate** prayer.

Mat 18:19-20 Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in

heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

9. Spending time with your church family praying to God is a great **exercise** to cause our **faith** to grow **stronger**.

Mat 21:22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you.

Matthew 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

10. As a result of **experiencing** God's **presence** during corporate prayer times our **joy** will become very real in spite of circumstances.

Psalms 16:11 Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fulness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

11. A major blessing of corporate prayer for a local church is **growing unity** in the Body.

John 17:20–23 I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them

and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

12. We have more **power** and **influence** with God when we pray **together**, more happens as a result of our time praying.

Mat 18:19-20 "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in their midst."

13. There are some who **object** to using Matthew 18:15-20 to encourage corporate prayer because they say the context of the passage is about church **discipline**.

Matthew 18:15–20 If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen *to you*, take one or two more with you, so that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact may be confirmed. "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst.

14. The context of Matthew 18:15-20 is the **authority** that Jesus gives the church when **gathered** together in His **name**.

15. Prayer, **much** prayer is the power of **evangelism**.

16. As we are **gathered** together in the name of Jesus we pray for our **church** that we all will be **bold** in our witnessing.

Luke 10:2 And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Acts 4:29 “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence,

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness.

17. As we are gathered together in the name of Jesus we pray for the **lost** all around us that God will **convict** them of their sin, **draw** them to Himself, and open their eyes to see and understand the gospel.

John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

2 Corinthians 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Acts 16:14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart’s desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation.

18. A major **requirement** of God to work powerfully in our church and in the lives of the lost is **volume** of prayer.

Luke 18:1–8 Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart, saying, “In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and did not respect man. “There was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me legal protection from my opponent.’ “For a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, otherwise by continually coming she will wear me out.’ ” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said; now, will not God bring about justice for His elect who cry to Him day and night, and will He delay long over them.

Luke 11:5–8 Then He said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and goes to him at midnight and says to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me from a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and from inside he answers and says, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been shut and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up and give you *anything*.’ “I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him *anything* because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

19. Many people in our church don’t pray much during the “Five Days of Prayer” because of **little faith**.

20. Many people in our church don’t pray much during the “Five Days of Prayer” because they don’t **enjoy** it.

Luke 9:23 And He was saying to *them* all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

21. Many people in our church don’t pray much during the “Five Days of Prayer” because they are **too busy**.

22. Many people in our church don't pray much during the "Five Days of Prayer" because they don't care that much if lost people go to hell forever."

23. Many people in our church don't pray much during the "Five Days of Prayer" because the devil has put fear into them concerning prayer.

24. Many people in our church don't pray much during the "Five Days of Prayer" because they in their pride think, "I will do it my way."

25. And there are some who just forget.

