

Introduction:

- I want to continue this evening with the subject of prayer.
 - Praying for children
 - Praying for your spouse
 - Praying for the lost
 - Praying for those in authority.
- Tonight: Building a Praying Church
 - *""I will also bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord, who serve him and love his name, who worship him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast to my covenant. I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations." (Isaiah 56:6-7, NLT)*

1. What is a House of Prayer? Is. 66:1

- a. A house of prayer? A house is a dwelling place and prayer is communicating with God.
 - i. It is a dwelling place for God! The basic Hebrew word refers to a common ordinary dwelling place, a home. Other forms of the word can imply buildings of more elegance. But for our purposes in the verses we will look at, it means dwelling place. The place where one lives.
 - ii. *LORD, remember David and all his afflictions; 2 How he swore to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One: 3 "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; 4 I will not give sleep to my eyes...5 until I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob"...8 Arise, O, Lord, to Your resting place. (Ps. 132:1-8)*
 - iii. *God, I love living with you; your house glows with your glory.* Message Ps 26:8
 - iv. Eph 2:22 says that, *"we are being built together as a dwelling place for God."* NKJV
 - v. So when we talk about a house of prayer we are talking about building God a dwelling place. There are many different expressions of the prayer movement and all of them can be called a House of Prayer. They do not all have to look like IHOP. IHOP is just one expression of a House of Prayer/Dwelling place of God. IHOP exists to be and to create a people in whom God dwells and responds to His promises with glad hearts.
 1. You are to be a House of Prayer!
 2. Your marriage is to be a House of Prayer!
 3. Your business is to be a House of Prayer!
 4. Our city is to be a House of Prayer!
- b. What is a praying church?
 - i. ****Praying Church--It is a body of believers whose love for Jesus results in an upward culture of prayer at its core and a great commission culture in its outward expression.****
 - ii. A church/ecclesia is a body of believers who love Jesus. They have been called by Jesus. Answered that call and came to Him. Jesus said He was going to build this.
 1. This group of people, because of what Jesus has done for them, the love they have entered into and the love they have for him results in two things:

- a. They worship/pray, solely because of who He is! They 'get it' Jesus is worthy! So their love for Him creates a culture of prayer. They want to be with Him. They want to give Him glory. They want to agree with Him in prayer for the things that are upon His heart.
 - b. Secondly, because His heart burns for all humanity, their love for Him creates an outward culture of mission. Because the culture of prayer is at the heart of all they do. The mission that flows outward has heart of justice. Justice being the desire and activity to see wrong things made right in this world.
2. So a praying church is a house of prayer! But it is a house of prayer at the grass roots level- the level where the average working person lives. It is the grass roots level people who are embracing the house of prayer values. They can't fully embrace the IHOP structure because of their calling in life, but they can embrace and work the values.

2. What are the Core Values of a House of Prayer?

- a. Those values are: intimacy, urgency, end-times and mission.
- b. **Intimacy—I must be close to Him.**
 - i. Ps 84:2, 10: One day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I'd rather be a door keeper (door keeper is close to the house!) than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
 - ii. Jesus is worthy
 1. He is worthy so there is no reason to ever stop worshipping Him. Rev 4-5 The creatures around the throne never stop.
 2. David understood this and because of what God showed him he create a new tabernacle of worship that never stopped. And Amos prophesied, *“In that day I will restore the fallen house of David. I will repair its damaged walls. From the ruins I will rebuild it and restore its former glory.”* (Amos 9:11, NLT)
 3. The prayer movement and a praying church reflects this. Those who lead it have had an encounter with God and they desire to give God this kind of worship and adoration. This is what we will do as we shift into the millennium. So God is preparing hearts and places to be His sanctuary now. Every nation and every city will have this or will grow into it in the millennium. Worship is central to prayer movement, the house of prayer and the praying church. We cannot give Him enough.
 - iii. Knowledge of God: the majesty and beauty of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 1. I must know his emotions, character, and ways.
 2. Knowledge of God causes the heart to be fascinated by Him and we stand in awe and seek to behold more of Him. Eph. 1:17,18 *...that the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...*, NKJV Study the emotions of God to learn of God.
 3. Phil 3:10 *“that I may know Him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings...”*

- iv. The end result of these is a heart of a worshipper.
- c. **Urgency—I must not live half heartedly for Him.**
 - i. The core understanding of urgency is that Jesus is returning! That alone, by itself, without all the drama of Daniel and Revelation, should create urgency in us.
 - 1. 1 Jn 3:2,3 *it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* ³ *And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.* NKJV
 - 2. Live holy, live ready, live watching, live working in the fields...
 - ii. Sermon on the Mount lifestyle. Mt 5, 6, 7. Is basically Jesus commentary on the law. He wrote the law, so who better to interpret it for us than the Jesus himself.
 - 1. The message is about getting the heart of God and in so doing we purify ourselves by finding His heart in how we must live. Mt 5:48 "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect." Mt 5:20 righteousness that exceeds the pharisees.
 - iii. This too, leads to a lifestyle of prayer and fasting. Intercession—bringing ourselves into agreement with what is on His heart.
- d. **End times—I must understand my future with Him**
 - i. We cant just read the prophets and Revelation for the drama. It is the unfolding plan of God and the gateway to our eternal future.
 - ii. I must discover and understand the plan. This is what gives expression to the forerunner message. Like Daniel we understand by the words of the prophets. And like John the Baptist we prepare the way for the return of the King.
 - iii. The forerunners have a prophetic spirit about them. They appear to be naturally prophetic in gifting and ministry. In the place of intimacy with God. God speaks to them thereby making them to be a prophetic people. (Notice I did not necessarily say 'making them prophets')
 - iv. Forerunners will Keep the book of Revelation. Rev 1:3 *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.* NKJV Rev 22:7-9 *Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.* NKJV
 - v. They will contend for the dismantling of the anti-christ system in the earth at the end of the age. Rev 18:13 human trafficking "*merchants of the earth deal in the bodies and souls of men.*" They will cry out for justice. Justice is a message of these forerunners.
 - vi. As we study the end of the age we discover the eternal rewards and begin to see that this life really matters. It is not just about getting into heaven but arriving knowing that how we live in this life matters for all eternity.
- e. **Mission/Justice—I must be about my Father business.**
 - i. Compassion on those who have lived without justice. Luke 18 parable of the unjust judge.
 - 1. Lk 13:16 *So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?"* ¹⁷ *And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.* NKJV
 - a. He freed her and brought justice.

- b. He put to shame His adversaries
- c. The people rejoiced/they worshipped.
- ii. Acts of Justice regarding the 7 spheres/mountains of influence: family, education, religion, arts, government, economy, media. They will seek justice or the order of God in all of these areas.
- iii. Israel – forerunners will be looking to the fullness of the gentile and Israel to become one new man.
 - 1. When Jesus returns and set up the millennial reign, He will reign from Jerusalem.
 - 2. He will not let His people be destroyed.

Conclusion:

- We want to be a praying church!
- We want to embrace the values of a house of prayer.
- Everyone is invited to be a part.
- It is why we have:
 - Sunday morning prayer 8:30-9:10am; 9:10-10:00am
 - Tuesday morning prayer. 7-8:30am
 - Monday Night Harp & Bowl 7pm
 - Personal devotions.