

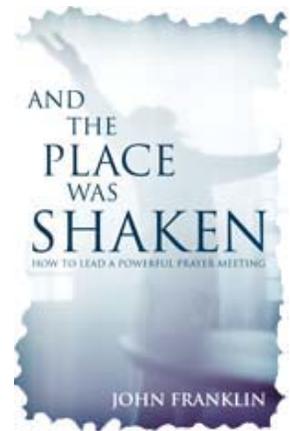
Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide Overview

By John Franklin

Note: The following is an explanation of the 26-week study guide which was written by John Franklin. It is designed to be used in conjunction with his book *And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting* (Broadman and Holman, 2005).

Purpose: I have designed this material with two purposes in mind...

- To teach a group or congregation the basics of praying together in such a way that they experience the presence and power of God.
- To transition a group or congregation over time into a biblical pattern of prayer.



What Is in the Material?

- The material contains teaching points on how to pray.
- The material develops a God-centered format to transition people from “needs-centered” format to a “God-centered” format.
- It encourages participants to pick two consistent prayer requests they will pray for during this time (The reason for this is to generate learning by providing them with a clear way to focus and evaluate how God answers).

How to Use the Material

- You will copy and handout the weekly sheet to participants. They may take it home for review.
- You will teach on prayer for the first part of the prayer meeting, then you will guide the prayer time.
- You will need to decide on the activities you want to use to guide prayer time. For example, will you have them get into small groups, will you change locations one night, will you have people kneel, etc.? The book *And the Place Was Shaken: How to Lead a Powerful Prayer Meeting* (Broadman and Holman, 2005) devotes chapter 6 to giving you practical ideas on how to do that.
- I created teaching points and prayer topics for your use, but feel free to add, delete, or alter what I have done to apply in your local setting.

Visit the following page to get access to the free guides:

http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0,1703,A=161397&M=150035,00.html

Or go to <http://www.lifeway.com> and search for “dynamic prayer meeting guide”

On the next two pages we have provided an overview of the 26 weeks of study followed by twenty-six (26) one-page handouts.

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An Outline for Guiding 26 Weeks of Prayer

The Priority And Purpose Of Prayer

Week 1 - Expectations for the next 26 weeks – Where we're going.

- The target kind of prayer meeting that we want at the end of the time – connecting with God (presence), life transformation (power) in the world around us, edification.
- What we will learn and do.
- Why prayer meeting must change - Because we aren't experiencing the power of God.

Week 2 - Importance of prayer.

- Importance of praying with others
- Prayer is the means by which all things on earth happen.

Week 3 - The purpose of prayer.

- Prayer becomes dynamic when we are centered on the person of God, recognize His activity and respond to Him correctly (the biblical phrase for this is walking with God)
- We must make significant changes in our mentality and practices of prayer meeting. This will require a process of over time.

Week 4 - Persevering in prayer.

- All prayer in the Bible involved waiting.
- Delays, trials, and distractions cause us to cease continuing in prayer.
- Jesus thoroughly encouraged us to persevere.

The Practices of Prayer Meetings from the Bible

When the presence and power of God was manifested in prayer meetings of the Bible, the people practiced the first four, and often the fifth. The secret to power with God lies in these practices. It is not just that you pray, it is how you pray.

1. They focused on God

Week 5 - All the prayer meetings of the Bible began with God, not the need.

- This requires a change of focus. God-centered vs. self-centered. Get out of the valley of self. You will or won't connect with God based on where your focus is.
- Introduce symbol for focus on God.

Week 6 - They heard His heart and saw from His perspective.

- They finally listened. Got past personal desires and agendas.
- Put them in a position to hear.

2. They responded to Him from the heart

Week 7 - Connecting with God begins with the heart – see, hear, find, draw near.
The ability to connect is directly pegged to the quality of the relationship.

Week 8 - Love – God wants a willing heart.

Week 9 - Praise/thanksgiving.

Week 10 - Worship – Yielding in obedience.

Week 11 - Confession and repentance.

Week 12 – Faith.

Week 13 – Fervency/desire/desperation/hunger/passion.

- Intensity does not necessarily require working up emotion, there must be deep conviction about the truth.
- Seek and you will find.

3. They sought first His kingdom

Week 14 - They saw God's power when they sought the kingdom before their own needs.
What seeking first the kingdom means – building believers, evangelizing a lost world, and societal impact.

Week 15 - Need for clear assignment.

- Sense of identity as that of a person on mission.
- Master and prioritize your desires.
- Jesus returning in the power of the Spirit after He had refused bread over the word of God.

Week 16 - Praying for believers.

Week 17 - Praying for the lost and societal impact.

4. They recognized His answers and activity and responded

Week 18 - God-centered prayer requires we recognize God's answers and activity and respond.
This is called walking with God.

Week 19 - Recognizing His answers and activity from His use of Scripture.

Week 20 - Recognizing His answers and activity by His work among His people.

Week 21 - Recognizing His answers and activity in our world.

5. They cast their cares on the Lord

Week 22 - Presenting your personal petitions.

The partnership of prayer with others

Week 23 - Powerful prayer follows powerful relationships.

Week 24 - Dynamic corporate prayer requires the unity of one accord – both an outward purpose and deep love for one another.

Week 25 - How God leads in small group prayer.

The parting statement

Week 26 - Celebrating God's goodness. Summary statement.

Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 1)

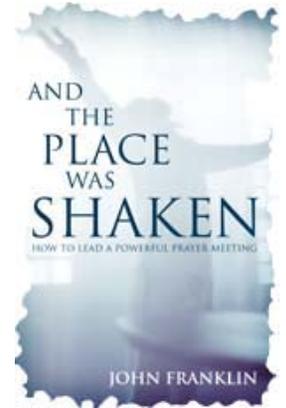
Expectations: Where Will We Be Going The Next 26 Weeks?

What Should a Prayer Meeting Look Like?

What kind of prayer meeting do we want at the end of 26 weeks?

If the prayer meetings of the Bible are our standard, we should see them marked by:

1. **The presence of God** (Acts 4:23-31) There ought to be a connection with His presence. God wants to reveal Himself to us.
2. **The power of God** (Acts 4:23-31) There ought to be transformation in our lives, families, church and the world around us.
3. **Edification in our walk with God and one another**
 - We ought to be strengthened (Col 1:9)
 - Receive power to resist temptation (Matt 6:13, 26:41)
 - Deepen our love for one another (Acts 2:42-44)
 - Have our needs met (Matt 6:11)



Note: The prayer meeting may or may not be emotional. However Scripture records whenever and wherever God was present it resulted in one, two, or all of the things listed above.

What Will You Learn in this study?	What Will You do in this study?
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The importance and purpose of prayer.2. How to have intimacy with God.3. How to enter God's presence.4. What causes God to respond in power.5. How to recognize His answers and activities.6. How to seek God's face with other believers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. You will put into practice what you are learning about prayer.2. You will participate in sharing.3. testimonies, times of prayer, reading Scripture, and activities that edify one another.4. You will track 2 prayer requests (or more if you prefer) to see how God is answering you.

Why is this so Important?

1. Because the lack of the presence and power of God in response to our prayer meetings.
2. The moral fiber of the nation has imploded on our watch, and we have lost a whole generation of our children.
3. If we do not return to God, we will incur more judgment.

What Will You Test in Prayer for the Coming Weeks?

You will write down one request for the next few weeks and consistently ask for it until God answers you. The reason for listing one specific request is that it will generate learning about what, how, when, and why God answers.

My personal prayer request: _____

You will decide as a group what you will pray about next week.

Our church prayer request: _____

Time of Prayer - When you pray.

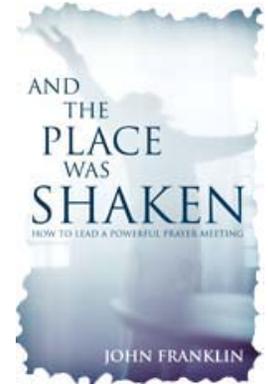
- Thank God for what He will do in your life and life of your church over the next 26 weeks.
- Pray for the requests of your heart.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 2)

The Importance – Why You Must Pray and Why Pray with Others



Review - What were prayer meetings marked by in the Bible?

1. The _____ of God.
2. The _____ of God.
3. _____ in our walk with God and one another.

The Importance of Prayer

1. Just as God has designed the preaching of the gospel to be the means through which people are saved (1 Cor 1:21), prayer is the means He has ordained by which He will work on earth and meet the needs of His people. Consider these verses – Matt 7:7, 21:22, James 4:2. These specific verses are confirmed by the whole pattern of Scripture that God works through prayer. If you don't pray, you will not see the hand of God.
2. God did not complete any of His work in the Bible without doing it through prayer. Whenever God was about to move in a certain direction, He first raised up a person of prayer to do it through, e.g. – Moses, David, Daniel, Jesus, Paul, etc.
3. The only thing ever recorded that the disciples asked Jesus to teach them was to pray. They did not ask for teaching, preaching, or working of miracles, but prayer. They knew the source of His power resulted from His relationship with God through prayer.
4. Jesus is our standard. He modeled the necessity of prayer.

The Importance of Praying with Others

1. Nearly 90% of the time that Jesus commanded us to pray or gave a condition for God to answer; He did it in the plural (for example, Matt 7:7, 18:19). After the confession of Peter, almost all His prayer times involved the disciples.
2. The apostles listed preaching the word and leading the people of God to pray as their two most important ministries (Acts 6:1-4).
3. Before the resurrection the majority of God's mighty acts followed the prayer life of an individual. After the cross the majority followed the prayer life of two or more.
4. God's modern working around the world today reveal the greatest move of God ever. Christianity is rapidly advancing all over the world – China, India, Africa, Central and South America. According to one researcher, if Christianity keeps growing at the same pace that it is today the whole world will be Christian by 2032. One of the common denominators in all these locations is that the people of God pray together. In general there are only a few places in the world where the gospel is declining or not advancing – Australia, Japan, Western Europe, and North America.

Implications

1. You will not see God move in sufficient measure in your life, the life of your church, or the life of your nation if you do not pray with others.
2. There will be no turn around in the moral implosion in America until churches/Christians begin to pray together.

Review the Prayer You Prayed Last Week

- Did you see God do anything?
- Did He answer you from Scripture, in prayer, circumstances, or through another Christian?

My personal prayer request:	Our church prayer request:
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Time of Prayer - Present your requests

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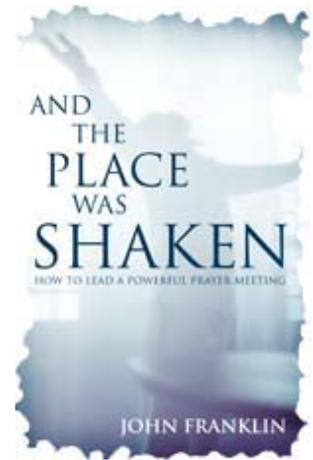
Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 3)

The Purpose: Why God Designed Prayer

Review - What were prayer meetings marked by in the Bible?

1. The _____ of God.
2. The _____ of God.
3. _____ in our walk with God and one another.

Name at least one reason why we must pray _____
Name at least one reason why we must pray with others _____



The Purpose of Prayer is to Walk with God

The Bible often describes a relationship with God as a walk. Enoch and Noah walked with God; David and Hezekiah walked before Him. The word walk implies the manner, habits and lifestyle of how they related to God. The great purpose of prayer is to walk with God in an intimate relationship.

In a walk with God **two characteristics of prayer** surface in particular.

1. The first may be seen during Abraham's encounter with God regarding Sodom and Gomorrah. In verse 19 God states that He has known Abraham, therefore He comes to him so that Abraham may know Him even more deeply. The first characteristic of prayer is to **know God**.
2. Next, God revealed His work and involved Abraham in it. He could not hide from him what He was doing (verse 18). This principle of prayer being connected to the work of God is seen more clearly in John 14:12-14. Notice the promise to fulfill the prayer request of asking anything in Jesus' name (vs. 13-14) assumes that individual is doing the works that Jesus did (vs. 12). Therefore, the second characteristic of prayer is to **work with God** so that His will may be done on earth through us as it is in heaven.

All the great saints of the Bible walked with God in this manner. Their prayers led them to increasingly know Him, understand the purposes of His heart, recognize His activity, and respond by working with Him.

Implications

1. Prayer only becomes dynamic if it primarily focuses on knowing God and working with Him.
2. If we are to know God, prayer meetings must not focus on our need more than Him. It's not wrong to focus on our need, but that cannot become preeminent.
3. If we are to work with God, all churches or small groups must have a clearly defined God-given purpose or assignment to pray about. (This often takes time to discover and will be addressed more how to do that toward the end of our time together.)

Evaluation

1. Is your prayer meeting more focused on knowing God and working with Him than it is on telling one another your needs?
2. On a scale of 1 to 10 what is the level of passion to discover the will and work of God and do it?
3. How much time is spent on seeking His presence?
4. How much time is giving to seeking God's kingdom?

The Prayer You Prayed Last Week

Did you see God do anything? Did He answer you from Scripture, in prayer, circumstances, or another Christian?

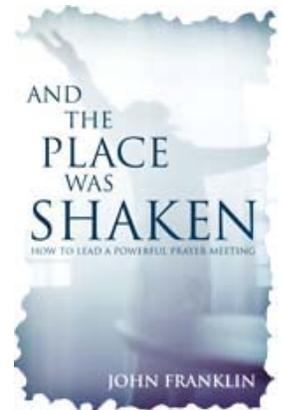
My personal prayer request:	Our church prayer request:

Time of Prayer - Pray as you are led

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 4)

Perseverance: Continuing in Prayer



Expectation - What were prayer meetings marked by in the Bible?

1. The _____ of God.
2. The _____ of God.
3. _____ in our walk with God and one another.

Give at least one reason why we must pray:

Give at least one reason why we must pray together:

What is the purpose of prayer and its two characteristics?

1. Purpose: To _____
2. Two characteristics: To _____ Him, and to _____ with Him

Perseverance Is Needed Next

1. In Luke 11:1-4 after Jesus teaches on the importance of prayer, He follows it with exhortations to perseverance. Other passages bear witness to this as well. (Luke 18:1)
2. Jesus' immediate emphasis on exhortation lets us know prayer is not an easy matter. It is typically beset by disappointments and delays. (Luke 18:7)
3. Natural waiting or delayed hope makes the heart weak. (Prov. 13:12; Luke 18:1; Num 21:4) He wants to teach us the kind of supernatural waiting that makes us stronger. (Isa. 40:28-31; Rom 4:20)

Characteristics of a Fainted Heart	Characteristics of A Renewed Heart
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looks at circumstances. 2. Gives up because it's too painful. 3. Dwells on disappointments. 4. Prays from a standpoint of whining instead of expectation. 5. No longer prays at all. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enjoys the disposition of God's heart toward His people. (Psalm 27:13; 31:19-24) 2. Enjoys the certainty of receiving what God has promised as if it were already a present reality. (Romans 4:20) 3. Rejects looking to circumstances. (1 Sam 30:6) 4. Embraces pain and disappointments as reminders to trust God.

Implications

1. God must become central in all prayer meetings. The natural inclination and current practice of most church meetings is to focus on the needs. We must begin with Him.
2. The practice of beginning with God does not happen overnight. It usually takes time to learn how to focus on Him.
3. The desire for God and the things of God must be strong in order for the heart to endure in prayer. Something that is a desire one week and forgotten the next will rarely be answered.

The Prayer You Prayed Last Week

Did you see God do anything? Evaluate whether or not you focused on God, responded to Him from a pure heart, or were seeking first His kingdom. Do you or did you revise what or how you are praying?

My personal prayer request:	Our church prayer request:

Time of Prayer

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 5)

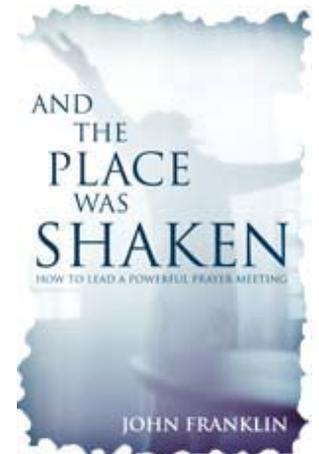
Begin Prayer Meeting with God

- The first four weeks gave a general overview of expectations and direction.
- Weeks 5-22 will lead you to increasingly practice praying together. There are five practices in particular that we will exercise. They are drawn from the prayer meetings of the Bible.

Practice # 1: They Focused on God

The first practice is that they always began prayer by focusing on God. For example,

- In Acts 4:23-31 Peter and John had just been threatened with their life. Instead of beginning the prayer meeting by asking for protection, they quoted from the Psalms about God's sovereignty as ruler over creation, and His omnipotence regarding the crucifixion of His Son.
- In Neh. 9 they are gathered for a solemn assembly. They will eventually ask God to look upon their hardships, but first they read Scripture, praise, and confess for half the day. When they finally do pray, their prayer runs 28 verses before they make their request.
- In 2 Chron. 5-6, Solomon leads a service that focuses on God for some time before he makes a request of God.



Why Did They Begin With God?

Several good reasons exist. Here are three:

- God was more important to them than getting their needs met. Would you like for the only interaction between you and your children to be when they wanted food, money, toys, etc? Similarly, God desires something deeper than being a spiritual Santa Claus.
- It is proper and fitting to honor Him. He is the God of the universe, the Almighty, eternal One, who gives us life and breath and everything else as well. How incredibly improper to do nothing more in His presence than just ask for things. Where are the thanks, the honor, and the praise due Him?
- Beginning with God causes us to see from His viewpoint. Mary and Martha wanted Jesus to keep Lazarus from dying. Jesus wanted to raise him so that He could demonstrate He is the resurrection and the life.

How Should the Prayer Meeting Begin?

- Usually prayer meeting should not start with prayer. If we were to immediately begin praying, most people would ask about their needs. Instead people must first get focused on God.
- You begin with an exercise to set your mind on God. Various activities help us do that such as: reading, hearing, and reflection on Scripture; praising; testifying; singing; and meditating on spiritual things.
- Throughout the remaining 21 weeks, anytime you see the symbol below, it will serve as a prompt to focus on God.

Read Eph 3:20 - As you begin prayer time tonight, take time to share what God did in the Bible that was immeasurably more than they asked or imagined. Take time to share what God has done in your life that was immeasurably more than you asked or imagined.



The Prayer You Prayed Last Week - Does this alter the way you are praying for...?

My personal prayer request:	Our church prayer request:
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Time Of Prayer

Pray about the requests you have tonight in light of the faithfulness of God you have just discussed.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 6)

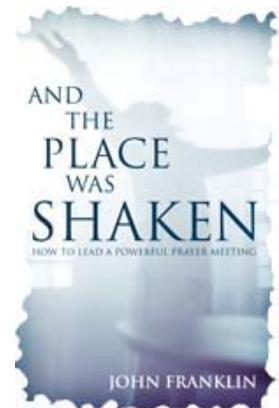
Connecting with God's Presence - Practice # 1 – They Focused on God

Review - How did all the prayer meetings of the Bible begin?

By _____

You Must Connect with God in Prayer Meeting

1. We must be connected when we pray. According to Jesus in John 15:5, without Him we can do nothing. Conversely, verse 7 states that if we remain in Him we can ask whatever we wish and it will be done for us. Nothing versus whatever. Can you imagine any greater difference? That means unconnected prayer will produce nothing. Connected prayer will result in God's glorious answer.
2. Connection with God occurs when we gain or are renewed in His perspective, bring our desires into alignment with His, submit our agenda to His agenda, or really hear the cry of His heart. Matt 20:17-21 reveals this truth. Jesus clearly, explicitly taught His disciples that He would be crucified. James and John responded to this heart wrenching revelation by asking to sit on His right and left. Obviously they weren't connecting. They were stuck on their perspective, desires, and agenda. Because of this, the first thing they bring up in His presence was a misguided request. Luke 12:1-14 reveals another example of mis-connecting, whereas 1 Kings 18:36-37 pictures the powerful prayer of a righteous man who is thoroughly connected to God.



How Do You Connect With God?

1. In order to connect you must move from a self-orientation to a God-orientation. When James and John found out that Jesus was the Messiah, they immediately thought about how that impacted them. They began to filter everything that happened through the lens of self. Their self-centeredness had to be turned; they had to get beyond themselves, before they could connect with Him. In Acts 4:23-31 the same John led a prayer meeting with Peter. What a difference! Even though John has been beaten and threatened with death, his only concern is that the name of Jesus continue to be proclaimed. God was so pleased that He filled them with His Spirit, gave them boldness, and the place was shaken. They had obviously come a long way from their earlier days.
2. Getting God-oriented usually begins with renewing your mind and becomes completed when it sinks down into your heart. In Luke 9:44 they saw the activity of God in casting out a demon, but failed to understand about the cross it because their minds were lacking in understanding. This is why we begin prayer with Scripture, testimony, singing, praise, etc. We seek to fix our minds on God so that we can understand His working and purposes around our lives.

Time of Prayer

Have you examined your heart lately? How much time has your mind been on your dreams, your desires, your finances, etc. versus Him? Spend time right now turning your heart to Him.



1. After focusing on God and examining your heart, pray about your request and the church request.

My personal prayer request:	Our church prayer request:
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2. Pray about other requests you have tonight with this in mind.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 7)

The Importance of the Heart - Practice # 2 – They Responded from the Heart

Review - How did all the prayer meetings of the Bible begin? Or what practice did they exercise in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

They began by _____.

How do you connect with God?

By moving from a _____ orientation to a _____ orientation.

Connection with God occurs when we gain or are renewed in His perspective, bring our desires into alignment with His, submit our agenda to His, or really hear the cry of His heart.

The Importance of Responding with Your Heart

The second practice of great prayer warriors was that they always responded to God from the heart.

1. Read the following verses Jer 29:13, Matt 5:8, 13:15, and Heb 10:22. List the basis for which we find, see, hear, understand, and draw near to God.
2. In the Bible God did not separate the prayer request from the condition of the heart of the one praying. In Gen 4:1-5 God rejected Cain and his offering, but accepted Abel and his offering. God response to them was based on the condition of their heart. We see this same pattern in other Scripture: Ps 66:18, 2 Chr 34:27, Eze 14:7-8. Two people can ask for the exact same thing, but God may grant it to one and not the other as is intimated in the case of Jehoshaphat and Jehoram 2 Kings 3:1-14.
3. We must cultivate the lifestyle practices that keep our heart toward God. We cannot live as we want and then burst into his presence in times of crisis with our requests.
4. Godly prayer (not any kind of prayer) is a necessary practice to keep our heart toward God. Much prayer is nothing more than sanctified worrying, self-centeredness, or asking amiss.

Implication

There needs to be time in a prayer meeting to prepare our hearts, and/or allow our hearts to respond to God. You will see the "heart" symbol to represent the reminder of responding to God from the heart. We need to know how to prepare our hearts.



How Are Our Hearts Prepared? Through three ways in particular

1. The habit of remembering or reviewing. We can have a time of focusing or meditation to remind us of the basic truths. For example, we may deliberately reflect on the blessings of God to us. Or we may have a list of Scripture we review that examines our heart. This intentional exercise is often used by God to remind and renew. (Psa 100)
2. His word, a testimony, a song, or something else that leads to spiritual insight. We may hear a passage, be stirred by a truth, or have the eyes of our hearts opened. The Spirit of God will use these means to point out what we need to hear to be ready to encounter God.
3. Practicing a lifestyle habit of responding to God.

Time of Prayer

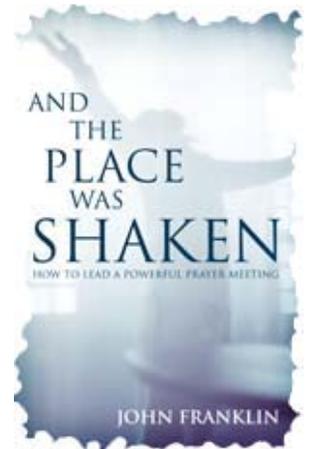
When God renews or directs us in this manner, we will be ready to get off our agenda, deny self, or have a greater desire to serve Him.

1. Have you ever noticed God doing this in your heart before?
 2. What have you sensed Him doing in your life in the last week?
 3. If you can't identify this as a regular occurrence, why not? Is God looking to take you deeper?
-
1. What are the areas in which God has been impacting your heart?
 2. Do you have any motives or desires that need to be confessed and cleansed
 3. Does the thought of confessing sin seem like a burden or a joy?



Pray for the requests you have tonight.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 8)

Love for God

Practice # 2 – They Responded From the Heart

How did all the prayer meetings of the Bible begin?

They began by _____

1. How do you connect with God?
By moving from a _____ orientation to a _____ orientation.
2. What was the second great practice of all the great prayer warriors?
They responded to God from the _____.

The Nature of Love

Jesus never used coercion in Scripture. He draws. Jer 31:3.

Love by nature seeks love back. Love by nature must be free. God works until there is a willing spirit. Although He is in control, He is not a control freak. He seeks first a willing spirit. 2 Cor 8:12; Exodus 35:21, 26, 36:2. He is much more interested in building a love relationship with you than getting some type of behavior from you, or some prayer request filled.

The Building of Love

1. He will set things up in your life over and over again to teach you trust and love.
2. You must “get it” when God is loving you. You must recognize Him at work around your life, you must realize the intimate nature of how He is doing this for you (Gal 2:20), or your love will never grow

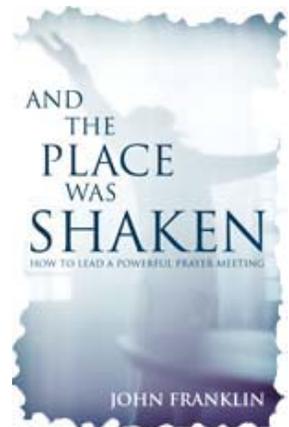
The Testing of Love

1. God constantly comes to you in prayer and will be asking you questions about your love for Him by the circumstances and temptations of your life. Hezekiah 2 Chr 32:31, David, Moses, Deut 8:2, 16,
2. You know the depth of your love for Him by how you follow Him in the difficult times and the trying assignments
3. Those who love God more than the answers will see the hand of God move on their behalf
4. All throughout the Scriptures you can hear the heart cry of God when the heart of His people became wayward. Hosea 2:8, 6:4, 11:1-7, Eze 6:9, Matt 23:37

Time of Prayer

1. Can you say that you have a very real relationship of love with God that is not in your head, but a consistent experience in your life?
 2. What have you sensed Him doing in your life in the last week to show His love to you?
 3. If you can't identify this as a regular occurrence, why not? Is God looking to take you deeper?
-
1. Spend time in prayer meditating on the ways that God has loved you.
 2. Is there is anything you know that hinders your relationship with Him.
 3. Express your love to God right now, or your desire to love Him more.

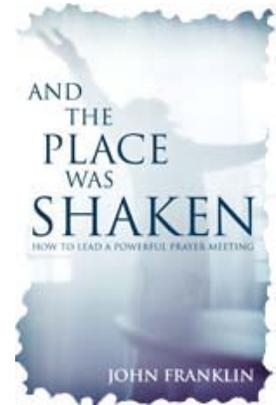
Pray for the requests you have tonight.



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 **LifeWay**
Biblical Solutions for Life

Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 9) Thanksgiving/Praise Practice #2 They Responded from the Heart



Review

- What was the # 1 practice they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible? They began by _____.
- What was the # 2 practice they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible? They responded from the _____.

Start with Thanksgiving and Praise

1. Thanksgiving and praise are usually a scriptural way to begin an extended prayer time. Ps 100:4 encourages us to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise.
2. The commands to praise and thank God are some of the most common connected to prayer. Col 1:12.
3. The difference between thanksgiving and praise:
Thanksgiving is used to express appreciation for a personal benefit. When I recognize what God has done for me, I thank Him.
Praise is used to describe "excellency." It comes from beholding greatness. This applies both to God's person and His deeds.

Reasons for Giving Thanks and Praise

1. God said so.
2. Thanksgiving and praise are one of the indispensable elements that nurtures love. Romans 1:21 reveals the first step in the heart turning from God was failure to glorify (praise) and thank Him.
3. Because it is right and proper to do so.
4. It gets your eyes off of self and circumstances onto God.
5. It sets you free from what besets you.
6. It gives you an anchor in times of storm.
7. We become like what we praise. We imitate what we admire. 2 Cor 3:18.
8. It turns others' attention to God. It causes them to see.
9. It creates trust and willingness to follow God when we remind ourselves of who He is and what He has done for us.

A Biblical Example of Praise

1. Leah and Judah. Genesis 29:31-35. Leah was not focused on God until Judah. Prior to his birth she was locked in on getting her husband to love her based on bearing him sons. The names of the first three children mean: Look a son, God heard and Attached. She correctly attributed their births to God's blessing, but was so self-centered that she interpreted all His activity through the lens of Him trying to get Jacob to love her too. It was not until Judah that she finally became God-centered for a season in her life.
2. How much we praise and thank God reveals how much we are focused on Him. If I am not praising Him, it is only because I am not "seeing" who He is or recognizing His work around my life. If I do not thank Him it is because I do not recognize that everything I have has come down from Him.
3. What have you seen God doing in your life? In the lives of others?



Thanking God for His Blessings

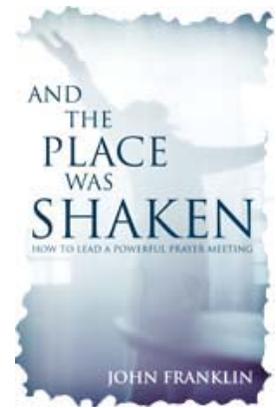
1. Thank God for physical blessings He has already given to you and those you love others – for example food, water, air, management of your bodily systems such as heart, liver, kidneys, etc.
2. Thank God for material provision: for example, finances, cars, homes, clothing, etc.
3. Thank God for spiritual blessings: for example, removing iniquity, shielding you from wrath, granting of His Holy Spirit, giving you forgiveness, developing character, etc.
4. Thank God for the people He has put around your life.



Pray for your requests.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 10) Worship Practice #2 They Responded from the Heart



Review: What was the # 1 and #2 practices they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

1. They began by _____.
2. They responded from the _____.

The Nature of Worship

1. Worship is the expression of a relationship between unequals. Worship by definition cannot be between those of the same power, position, status, skill or ability. We only worship what is we perceive is greater than we are, whether the case be idol worship or the true God. Although worship may take many forms, it fundamentally ascribes "ultimacy." I can praise my wife and praise God, but it's not the same. Only God is ultimate. Only then does praise become worship.
2. In the Bible the primary relational role pictured in worship is that of Master to servant. Not surprisingly, at its core worship inherently recognizes the authority of God over one's life. The root concept of worship in both Hebrew (*shachah*) and Greek (*proskeneo*) is the idea of submission or bowing down. Those same words are sometimes translated worship or bowing down depending on the context. A worshipper willingly grants Him the rights to do whatever He pleases with one's life or possessions. In Genesis 22 Abraham went to worship (vs 5). God said he feared God (vs 12). Worship and fear are linked. Both reflect a recognition of authority.
3. Worship is fundamentally a lifestyle of service to God. The words "worship" and "serve" are often used as synonyms. For example, Deut 11:16, Matthew 4:10. These words occur together in quite a number of verses.

Evaluating True Worship

God seeks those who worship Him in spirit and truth – John 4:20-24

1. Worship is a condition of the heart, not behavior. Unfortunately is it very possible to be involved in the acts of worship while the heart remains very far from God – Jer 7:2
2. There must be reality, not mere ritual – Mark 7:6-9
3. There must be lifestyle change. An adoration of God, or deep feelings for Him are not sufficient without life change.
4. As a lifestyle, worship will be marked by sacrifice, giving, and putting self second.

God Has Designed Prayer as a Means of Worship

1. The Syro-Phoenician woman had an attitude of submission before one greater than her, even when His answer seemed harsh. Her worship of Him as she presented her request resulted in the Lord granting her desire. Matt 15:21-28.
2. The practice of prayer keeps our heart in this type of relationship.



Responding to God

1. How often does your prayer life affect your lifestyle? What changes have you made as a result of being in God's presence?
2. What sacrifices has your worship of God led you to make recently from a willing heart?
3. How often does your heart leap toward God because you understand His greatness?
4. Tonight pray on your knees. Run your mind through the Bible and think if there was ever a time in prayer that anyone ever worshipped God sitting down. Give Him your heart afresh.



Pray for your requests.

Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 11) Confession and Repentance Practice #2 They Responded From the Heart



Review: What were practices #1 & #2 they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

1. They began by _____.
2. They responded from the _____.

The Necessity of Heart Preparation

1. In the Bible, whenever God wanted to move His people, He first had a season of preparing their heart. Luke 1:17, 76, 2:31, 3:4
2. Whenever His priests appeared before Him, they first had to get prepared. Ex 30:20
3. The same is true in prayer. Your heart must be prepared in order to appear before God in prayer.

The Necessity of Confession and Repentance

1. Getting prepared especially has two expressions
2. Confession of the truth – The biblical definition of confession is to say the same thing that God says about something. This can work with sin or the truth. Hebrews 11:13. Stating the truth washes our minds and hearts.
3. Confession of sin – Confession of sin means to agree with God about the nature of your sin. Encourages us to repent in our minds/hearts and our behavior – James 5:16, John 1:9
4. Tonight we will particularly focus on preparing our hearts through confession of sin.

Time of Prayer

1. What is God's intention when He convicts you of sin?
Is it a sign of His disapproval or favor? Heb 11:6.
2. Why is it a sign of God's favor?
What would happen if He left us in the deception of our sin?
3. Ask God to search your heart. Spend time responding to Him.



Pray for the requests that God would want you to pray for.

Here are some categories that you may include:

Praying for one another

Praying for our church

Praying for others

Praying for the world

How has God answered your personal prayer request over this time? How has He answered your request for your church?

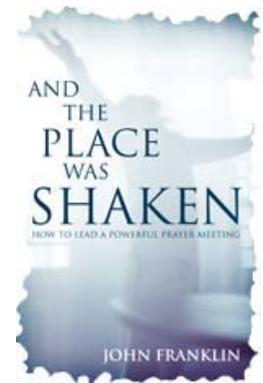
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 12) Faith Practice #2 They Responded from the Heart

Review: What were the #1 and #2 practices they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

1. They began by _____
2. They responded from the _____



The Role of Faith in Prayer

1. Faith is the starting point of our walk with God. In Mark 1:17 (NKJV) Jesus commanded and promised the disciples "Follow Me, and I will make you become (italics mine) fishers of men." Fishers of men was the end result. Become was the process. In effect Jesus was saying, "If you spend the next 3 ½ years of your life with Me, I'll take you through a transformation process so that you'll become the kind of men through whom I will turn the world upside down. In the Gospels the disciples usually missed it. In the book of Acts they turned the world upside down. How did Jesus do it? What did He emphasize? One of those things was faith. He always pointed it out when He saw it. Matthew 8:10, 9:22, 15:28. Four times He rebuked them for their "little faith." Matthew 6:30, 8:26, 14:31, 16:8.
2. With faith all things are possible. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Heb 11:6. God killed more people in the Bible over idolatry, pride, and unbelief than anything else.
3. God's working in our life is connected to faith. God does not respond on the basis of our need but of our faith. Matthew 13:58, 17:20. Matthew 8:13, 9:22, 9:29.
4. Faith is an attitude based on the character, promises, and actions of God.
5. Faith comes from knowing what God said.

Time of Prayer

1. You cannot pray without faith and expect God to answer your prayer. If He does it could be very bad for you. Consider the example the children of Israel receiving quail (Num 11:33), asking for a king (1 Sam 8:9-18), or Zacharias questioning the angel's pronouncement to his prayer for a son (Luke 1:18-20). In each case they asked without faith, received the thing they requested, and suffered a terrible consequence as a result.
2. Faith is not "name it and claim it." It is the height of folly for me to decide what I want, then try to use some verse as a theological pistol to put to the head of God so that He is obligated to do what I come up with. Faith is based on knowing what God has said. Abraham knew he would have a son because God said so, not because He wished it into being. When you know what God has specifically said to you then you may have specific faith that it will come to pass, even if you have to wait for it 25 years.
3. When you face a situation in which you don't know God's mind, faith is expressed as an attitude. You don't know what, when, or how God will answer, but based on His character you know He's going to respond in some manner. This faith comes before the throne of grace boldly until God declares what He will do.



Evaluation

Where is your heart? Are you confident that even now the God of the universe could do anything you ask?

1. Do you expect that He will answer you? In the Bible God never failed to respond to anyone who believed Him. They did not always receive what they asked for, but they always got an answer.
2. Let's meditate on the omnipotence, the omnipresence, omniscience, and omnigoodwill of God before praying so that we will have faith as we pray.



Pray for the requests that you have tonight.

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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 13)

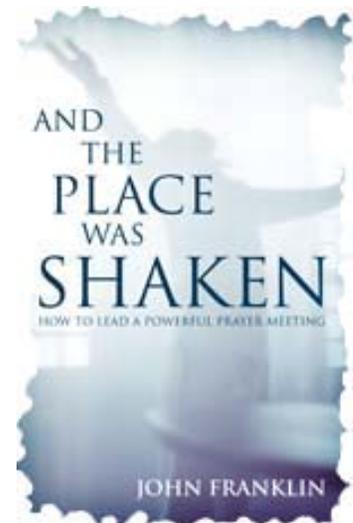
Passion, Fervency, Desire, Desperation
Practice #2 – They Responded From the Heart

Review: What were the #1 & #2 practices they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

1. They began by _____
2. They responded from the _____

The Picture in Scripture

1. Prayers that are the will of God but prayed from a blasé heart don't have much more effect than no prayer at all. There must be a deep hunger for that which you pray. James 5:16, Ex 32:32, 1 Sam 1:15, Rom 10:1 & 9:1-3.
2. Seek and you will find. How many times did God give important things to people immediately in the Bible? Seeking requires a demonstration of heart sincerity. You will not seek over the long haul what you don't really want. Seeking is a dipstick into the passion of your heart.
3. One of the best indications of your level of hunger is to ask yourself "Would I be willing to become the sacrifice in order to see God answer my prayer?" When Jesus "made intercession for the transgressors" (Is 53:12) He became the answer to His prayer.



What the Passion Measures

It measures your desire:

1. Desire for God.
2. Desire for His purpose.
3. Desire for your personal wants.

There comes a wonderful time when your passion for self is exchanged for Him and His purpose

1. He becomes the primary focus of your life. The experience or absence of His presence, the attraction to His person, the fascination with Him, supercedes other desires.
2. His purpose becomes your purpose. You desire to fulfill this more than anything else. He causes you to see that this world in its present form is passing away. He subdues your natural bent toward your own purposes by grasping the magnitude of His.

Time of Prayer

1. Be encouraged. He will do this. What were the desires of Jacob in the early part of his life? What were his desires toward the end of his life? What was Hannah's desire for several years? How did that get transformed? What was the desire of James and John in Mark 10:37? What was it after the resurrection? Over time as they continued seeking God, He turned their inclinations to be conformed to His.
2. With man it is impossible, but not with God. For this very reason He saved you, and He will bring it to pass. Do not say in your heart "It will never change." There has never been a time that God could not transform somebody.



Evaluation

1. Is the primary driver of your prayer life to be in His presence or to receive things from Him? Is your desire, your passion for the gifts or the Giver?
2. What percentage of your desires are set on things that you want versus what He wants? Are your purposes primarily yours or His?
3. How intensely do you pursue what He wants? What of His purpose has so wrapped around your heart that you will not let it go until it comes about for His sake?



Pray for the requests you have

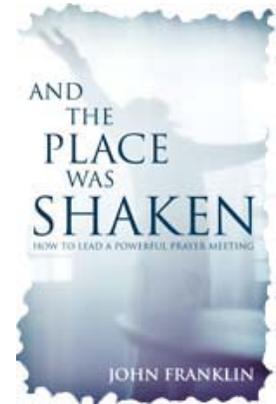
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 14)

Seek First the Kingdom

Practice # 3 - They Sought First the Kingdom

Review: What has most impacted your prayer life over the past six months?



Receiving in Prayer Depends On Seeking First the Kingdom

1. Jesus sought and taught the kingdom as much as anything in the gospels. He began His ministry by saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt 4:17). The rest of it was characterized by preaching the gospel of the kingdom (Matt 4:23, 9:35). Matthew placed the Sermon on the Mount on the front end of his gospel to set the tone for everything that followed in Jesus' ministry. In that sermon Jesus used the word kingdom 9 times. References to God's kingdom occur 51 times in the entire book. Obviously, it was important stuff.
2. In Matthew 6:5-8 Jesus specifically told us how not to pray, and then He told us exactly how to pray (6:9-13). Twice He mentions the kingdom. In fact, all His teaching on prayer, all His promises of God's answers assume that we are seeking first the kingdom. Jesus concluded the chapter 6 by admonishing us to seek first the kingdom in order to receive.
3. Notice that Jesus did not say seek the kingdom and you will have everything else added unto you, but seek first the kingdom. Prayer does not become effective until after we have denied self, taken up a cross and are following. The disciples' spiritual lives demonstrated very little power in the gospels, but they turn the world upside down in Acts. The reason is they finally quit trying to sit on the right and left and sought His kingdom.

What Does it Mean to Seek the Kingdom?

The kingdom is wherever Christ's rule and reign is present.

There are 3 arenas that particularly relate to His rule and reign on earth.

1. Building believers – God's nature is to seek others' interests ahead of His own (Phil 2:4-5). All the gifts of the Spirit are for building others. Therefore, He delights in answering prayers that build His people. He will go to great lengths to do just that.
2. Evangelizing a lost world – Jesus commanded us to go into all the world. He desires to take a people from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Rev 5:9). He delights in answering prayers that create opportunities for Him to draw the lost to Himself.
3. Impacting society – The laws of the land increase or decrease justice. Ps 72:4 reveals one of Jesus' functions as King is to give justice to the poor and oppressed. Additionally, societal standards also greatly influence people's belief system of right and wrong, thereby increasing or decreasing the likelihood of their receptivity to Holy Spirit's conviction of their sin. That's why God links His desires that all men might be saved to praying for those in authority making decisions impacting our lives (1 Tim 2:1-4).

Tonight we will introduce another symbol for seeking the kingdom:



Time of Prayer

How has God been leading you to have a heart for the things of His kingdom?

Would you say that the energy of your prayer life is focused on seeking His kingdom, and seeking it first?

Kingdom Prayer List

Until now you have been praying for whatever has been on your heart. Now we will deliberately seek to make sure the things on our heart come from Him, and are kingdom issues.

1. Pray for at least one thing on His heart that is becoming your heart.
2. Pray for other requests you have.



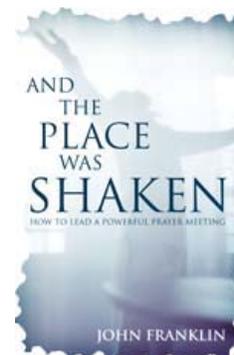
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 15) Desiring the Kingdom Practice #3 - They Sought First the Kingdom

Review: The third practice of the prayer warriors of the Bible was that they sought _____ the kingdom.

Implications of Seeking First the Kingdom

1. Seeking first the kingdom speaks of prioritizing and mastering our desires. The word first implies we have desires for other things simultaneously present. In Luke 4:1-13 the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted. Why? Would God ever lead you into a place of temptation? What was God doing? From this story we can see that Jesus desired God, His will, and His kingdom more than food, fame, and power. Jesus did not try to obliterate His other desires, but He had prioritized and mastered them.
2. Only God can give you that kind of passion, but you must seek it. Did God, as a pattern, give people things easily, or did He first require a season of seeking? Why do you have to seek someone whom you already have a relationship with anyway? Seeking reveals both a) What we desire. b) The measure/degree with which we desire it. Your job is to seek God's face until He gives you an undivided heart. Ps 86:11, James 1:5, 4:8.
3. Your identity becomes that of a servant on mission with God to do His will. Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Peter, James, John, and Paul all called themselves servants. Their lives were characterized by doing God's will.



When We Want God and The Kingdom More Than Anything Else, We Will Experience God's Power
Jesus endured 40 days of temptation in the wilderness. His desire for God and His kingdom proved stronger than that of food, fame, or power. Consequently, Luke 4:14 records that after Jesus withstood the temptations, He returned in the power of the Spirit. In verse 18 in His hometown sermon, He clearly stated that "the Spirit is upon Me." He then described what the power of the Spirit would look like: He would heal the brokenhearted, set the oppressed free, preach the gospel, etc.

Time of Prayer

The Spirit will give clear and specific assignments. You cannot seek the kingdom in general. Jesus knew exactly what He was to do. Paul was not confused. Moses knew what God wanted. The needs are as vast as the world. The Spirit will begin giving you specific things to do, once your heart desires His kingdom first.



1. What are the desires of your heart right now? What are you seeking the most as measured by what you talk about, how you spend your time, and money?
2. Is your heart willing to give to delay meeting your personal desires to meet His? If you need help doing this are you willing for Him to do it? Are you willing to be made willing?



Kingdom Prayer List

1. Here are some things you may pray for tonight
2. One another
3. Needs in the church.
4. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.
5. Revival among God's people



Pray for other requests you have.

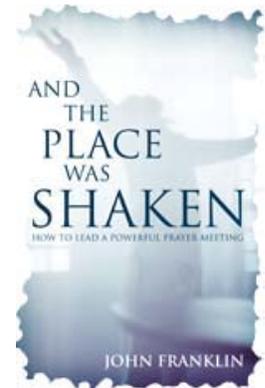
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 16)

Praying For Believers - Practice # 3 - They Sought First the Kingdom

Review: As the disciples progressed in spiritual maturity, they came to seek _____ the kingdom and God's righteousness.

Seeking First the Kingdom Especially Includes Building Believers



1. Jesus is particularly concerned about fidelity to the covenant He has made with His people.
2. The vast majority of the commands in the Bible are for believers. It's not that God fails to speak of the lost, but He designed the redemption of the world to be dependent on the spiritual health of His people. As goes the church, so goes the world. Therefore you never find Paul commanding believers to pray for the lost, but for one another. The only evangelistic strategy that Jesus gave in Scripture is for the world to see love and unity among believers (John 13:33-34, 17:23). We learn to love those we don't know only after we love those we do know. If we can't love those who belong to us, then how can we love those don't belong to us?
3. God gives us a harvest of souls when we love one another because He can trust us to love those He will add to the body. How we relate to one another now will be exactly how we relate to those whom God gives us. And remember, according to Matthew (9:35-38) Jesus wants to shepherd them.
4. Therefore, the seeking first of the kingdom especially includes edifying believers.

What Should We Pray For One Another?

1. That our minds would be touched with understanding of His will in an increasing knowledge of Him (Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:9-11). Over 40% of the intercessory prayers of Paul were for God to impact the mind.
2. That our hearts would always be fervent toward Him (1 Kings 8:58).
3. That our spirits would be strong in faith (Eph 3:16-17).
4. That our love for one another would be fervent (1 Peter 4:8)
5. That we would be faithful to do all He has asked us (1 Corinthians 4:2)
6. That we would glorify Him in all things (Matthew 5:16).

Responding To God

1. Thank God for what He has done for you through people He has placed around you.
2. Who have you heard God speaking to you about in the body?
3. Would you let Him bring somebody in the church to your mind this week so that you may bless them?



Kingdom Prayer List

1. One Another – Spiritual blessings for one another and those in our church. Break into pairs or threes and pray for one another's relationship with the Lord
2. Those Who Lead Ministries in Church – Let the church body surround and pray for them
3. Focus Group in the Church – you could bring in children and pray for them
4. Those in Need
5. A Clear Assignment for Your Community – Opportunities to Witness



Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 17)

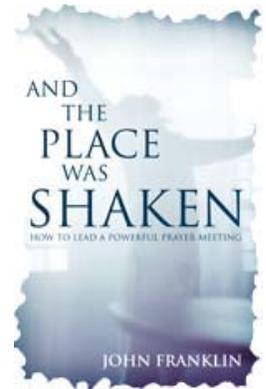
Praying For the Lost and Societal Impact
Practice # 3 - They Sought First the Kingdom

Review: What were practices #1, #2, & #3 they exercised in the prayer meetings of the Bible?

1. They began by _____.
2. They responded from the _____.
3. They sought _____ the _____.

What Did God Intend?

1. In order to follow God, we must not only recognize His activity, but we must understand the purpose behind the activity. Based on this truth, why do you think God went to the trouble to send Jesus instead of immediately destroying the world when Adam sinned? Obviously, the purpose of God is to redeem. We cannot sit on the sidelines while people perish (1 Tim 1:15, 1 Tim 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9).
2. God has determined that our obedience or disobedience will have a great impact on the destiny of many lives (Ezekiel 3:17-21).



The Role of Prayer in Praying For the Lost

1. Pray that doors of opportunity to reach the lost world will be opened to us (Colossians 4:3, 1 Corinthians 16:9, 2 Corinthians 2:12).
2. Prayer sensitizes us to God's voice to know whom He is convicting and drawing (Acts 8:26-27, 16:6-10).
3. A life of prayer expands our heart to be like His (Romans 10:1, 9:1-3).

God Answers Prayers for the Lost When We Are Right with Him and One Another

1. God has always given favor to His church when they are walking in fellowship with Him and one another. That will result in salvation, societal impact, and/or favor with others. Acts 2:47, 5:13, 19:19. It will also result in opposition, but the opposition cannot stand.
2. Historically in the great revivals, when all God's people made things right with Him and one another, there was a massive ingathering of souls.
3. Not only were lost converted, but society was blessed. Ills afflicting people, such as hunger, broken marriages, drinking, etc. were reduced.

Focus On God

1. If all those claiming to be Christians were made right with God, what would be the result in the world? What would happen in our church if all of us were right with God? What would happen if everyone took just one step toward Him this week?
2. Who might God be working in around you?



Responding To God

1. Is there anything in your life that is displeasing to God? Is He fingering an attitude, a habit, a broken relationship or something else that needs to be made right?
2. If you are current in your relationship with God, but sharing your faith scares you, would you at least be willing to do it for His sake? Would you be willing to allow Him to open a door for you this week to share?
3. Pray about this right now. Also include thanking God for your salvation.



Kingdom Prayer List

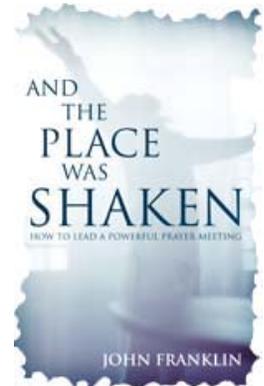
1. One Another – Pray for the spiritual walk of others in your church.
2. Needs of those in the church.
3. Revival among God's people
4. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 18)

God-Centered Prayer Recognizes and Responds to God's Activity and Answers.
Practice #4 - They Recognized and Responded To His Answers And Activity



Questions

1. What do you really want out of the Christian life?
2. What do you expect a walk with God ought to be like?
3. What should you be experiencing in your prayer life?

A Dynamic Prayer Life Recognizes God's Activity and Answers

1. All the spiritual giants of the Bible could recognize God at work. Jesus, Peter in Acts, Solomon at the temple dedication, Paul in the Macedonia call, Abraham in Genesis 22 and a host of others clearly, correctly interpreted God's activity and knew when He was answering them.
2. God intends you to increasingly be able to do the same. If you never knew when God was communicating with you, how intimate could your prayer life ever become? If you never knew when God was guiding you, how much could He use you? How exciting will prayer ever be if you aren't able to interact with God?

What Caused Them to Recognize God?

1. They looked for Him. David only desired one thing and sought it (Ps 27:4). The very first recorded words of Jesus to the disciples were, "What do you seek?" He wanted to know what they were looking for in life.
2. They expected Him to be working around their life, and to answer them. Those in Acts knew God was in the process of using them to turn the world upside down. That expectation set the direction of their heart to look for God's activity and assume He would answer them. We can have the same expectation because how God worked with them is how He works with us.
3. They made the connection. For example, when David fled from Absalom, he asked God to defeat the counsel of his advisor, which God did (2 Sam 15:31-34, 2 Sam 16:20-17:14). Would you have recognized the appearance of Hushai as God's answer? Too many times we pray then never make the connection to God's answer.
4. They responded immediately. Rarely does God give His complete answer by just doing everything for you. When Hushai appeared, that was step one of God's answer, but step two did not occur until after David responded by sending him to Absalom. Abraham's servant had to respond to God's answer by declaring his intent to Rebekah (Gen 24:21-27). You must respond as well. Most of the time, God complete answer does not come until after we have responded.

Focus on God: In leading us, God is always taking us somewhere. Our job is to learn His ways so that we recognize it.

- What have you seen Him doing in inviting us into an intimate relationship with Him?
- What clear assignment has He revealing to us about working with Him in our community?



Responding to God: Thank God for how real He is and the intimacy that He gives and wants to give.



Kingdom Prayer List: Consider some of the things God may want you to pray for.

1. One another – That our personal walk with God would be strengthened.
2. Needs in the church.
3. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.
4. Revival among God's people



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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 19)

Recognizing God through Scripture

Practice #4 - They Recognized and Responded to His Answers and Activity

Last Week's Review

1. All the spiritual giants of the Bible could _____ God at work.
2. Your Christian life becomes intimate when you can recognize God.

The Purpose of Scripture

Scripture is an infallible record of what the character, purposes and ways of God are. It establishes the standard for discerning who God is, what He intends, and how He goes about it. A thorough biblical education orients and sensitizes us to God so that when He does something around our life just like He did in Scripture, we recognize Him.

How God Uses Scripture

1. To impact understanding – Ps 51:6 says God is the one who desires truth within and makes us know wisdom in the secret part. If ever you are praying and your meditation on Scripture results in a deeper spiritual wisdom/understanding, God just spoke to you. This can happen in a group, especially if Scripture precedes or permeates the prayer time.
2. To quicken, stir, revive, or strengthen – All throughout the Bible God did these things, such as in Haggai 1:14, or Eph 3:16. When Scripture is brought to your remembrance (John 14:26) or you hear it in such a way that your heart is moved to action, God is speaking to you. The Shantung Revival in China in which perhaps a million were saved over 10 years resulted when God used Scripture to impact missionaries about their relationship with Him.
3. To reveal His plan – God has revealed his plan expectedly and unexpectedly. At times people were seeking God and He brought Scripture to mind that answered them. At other times they were reading and suddenly a new understanding set their life in a whole new direction. In both cases God used His word to guide.
4. To conform us to Christ's image – Hebrews 4:12 says the word of God discerns the thoughts and intents of the heart. When you are praying and God reveals sin in your heart or your true intentions, He has just taken His word and held it up as a mirror to you. He has just spoken to you.

Focus on God: When you are being impacted by Scripture you should ask the question "God, why are you touching my/our heart in this manner? What are you telling me/us, or how do you want me/us to respond?" Sometimes we may know immediately, sometimes understanding that answer requires that we "pray it through." Has God been impacting you through Scripture when you are praying? Is your heart ready if He should do that even tonight?



Responding to God: What Scriptures has God been bringing to you heart lately? Let's share them, and see what God may be saying to us through them. If no one has anything to share we will ask God to prepare and direct our hearts through the following Scriptures: Ephesians 1:17-19, Phil 1:9-11, Col 1:9-11, 1 John 5:14, 2 Tim 1:7, Matthew 21:22. Be sensitive which verses the Holy Spirit is bringing to our attention and how we should respond.



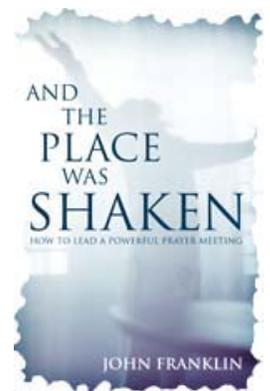
Kingdom Prayer List: Consider some of the things God may want you to pray for.

1. One another – That our personal walk with God would be strengthened.
2. That God would make a way of escape for our brothers and sisters in trial (afflictions, serious sicknesses, family trouble) that they may be able to endure it.
3. Needs in the church.
4. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.
5. Revival among God's people



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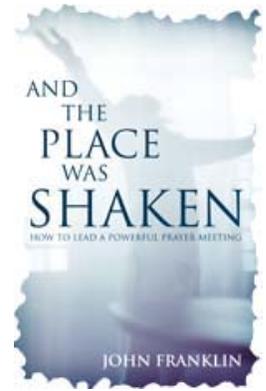
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 20)

Recognizing God in His People

Practice #4 - They Recognized and Responded To His Answers and Activity



Review:

1. All the spiritual giants of the Bible could _____ God at work.
2. One of the keys to recognizing God using Scripture is whether or not your _____ is being impacted.

Introduction: God is always working in His people (Phil 1:6, 2:13). The key is to recognize Him so that you will know how to pray in line with Him. Here's a subtle example of God working in His people in 2 Cor. 9:8-15. Paul concludes "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" What was the gift? Do you see it?

In context it is God stirring up His people to give sacrificially to one another so that thanksgiving and glory go to God. This spirit of the Corinthians resulted from God working in them His grace (vs. 8, 14) for obedience. Would you have recognized this as God, or would you just have assumed the church was getting excited about giving? If you had been praying for God to use your church, would you have recognized the answer? Often God's work is subtle and relates to the spirit of His people.

Some of God's Work in His People

1. Hunger for God and spiritual things. When people want a deeper prayer life, to study the Bible more, to become more like Jesus, etc., that desire is only given by God. Do you see this happening in people in your group?
2. Desire to serve and sacrifice. Satan does not urge people to serve in the things of God, nor to put others first. If you or someone else is having a deepening burden as you are praying, you need to pay attention to that. If you are having a passion for a particular ministry, or really desiring to edify a member of the church, you should ask God what He is saying.
3. Provision to meet the need for which you are praying. Often God provides you with resources, and then puts something on your heart in need, or vice-versa. Too often we ask God to meet a need, when He's already answered our request by giving us the resources to do it.
4. Strength in trial – Whenever someone faces cancer, job loss, death of a loved one, or some other trial with unusual strength, God is the one strengthening them. Usually He ministers to the individual and uses that person and the situation in a broader context to bring glory to Himself.

Focus on God: Can you think of areas in your life or others in which God is doing something like this? When God begins working, He is going somewhere. He didn't build a desire in Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:25-38 for no reason. Spend some time discussing and listing what God is doing in others' lives right now in your church or small group.



Responding to God: How should you respond to God in light of what you have been discussing. How is He working? Is He calling someone to serve the youth? Is there someone in trial that needs strengthening? Have several people been asking about Bible study? Probably your response will have one of two forms:



1. A heart response – Did this discussion cause thanksgiving in you, confession of sin, love for God, a hunger to know Him more deeply?
2. An action response – Do you need to be the answer for which you are praying? Is God leading you to meet a need or go in a new direction?

Kingdom Prayer List

1. One another's spiritual walk
2. Needs in the church.
3. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.
4. Revival among God's people



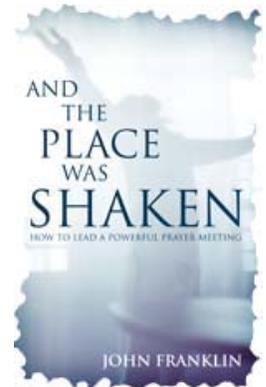
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 21)

Recognizing God in Our World

Practice # 4 - They Recognized and Responded to His Answers and Activity



Review:

1. All the spiritual giants of the Bible could _____ God at work.
2. One of the keys to recognizing God using Scripture is whether or not your _____ is being impacted.
3. One of the keys to recognizing God at work in His people is whether or not they have a _____ for spiritual things.

Ways God Works In the World

God's work in His world most importantly relates to individuals, families, and nations.

Most of the time when He shows you what He is doing, it will be in this arena. Below are some evidences of God at work:

1. **Seeking** – Jesus said no one can come to Me unless the Father draws him. John 6:44. Whenever you see someone asking spiritual questions, or a door of opportunity (2 Cor 2:12) opens up to help people understand things spiritually, that is God.
2. **Judgment** – That God judges sin in the earth is clear from almost any book of the Bible. It is phenomenally important to know some of the signs of judgment to respond correctly. The most prevalent judgment is the removal of wisdom. Job 12:17, 20, 24; Isaiah 3:1-3; Rom 1:18, 28; 2 Th 2:11; 1 Sam 2:25, 2 Sam 17:14, etc. Pervasive breakdown of societal relationships also indicates God's judgment – Rom 1:28-31; Is 3:4-5; Zec 8:10. Two more common judgments upon a land are natural disasters and war – 2 Chr 7:13, Jonah 1:4, Is 29:6; Jer 42:17; Judge 2:11-15; Jer 20:5. Removal of wisdom and breakdown of societal relationships are always the judgment of God; however, not every natural disaster or war is the judgment of God. You know by context of how people in a nation have been moving toward or away from God. Jer 18:7-10
3. **Mercy** – Whenever God moves toward judgment, He simultaneously creates opportunities for repentance through acts of mercy. Three examples are: Ahab being warned one last time through Micaiah (1Ki 22:1-23); preparing a whale to save Jonah (Jonah 1:15-2:9); and John the Baptist warning people before the Messiah came (Mal 4:5-6). Often God creates favorable circumstances or relief as He remembers mercy in wrath. Jesus' ministry proclaimed the favorable year of the Lord (Luke 4:19) so that they would repent before judgment came upon them. Luke 19:41-44. Sometimes a disaster looms and God relents out of compassion or because His people cry out. Am 7:1-6. Jud 3:15. Finally, God often shows mercy by appointing godly leaders to bless a people. Job 34:29-30, 2 Chr 9:8.

Focus On God

In light of the Scriptural pattern of how God causes people to seek Him, is there anyone's life He working in around your life? In light of God's pattern of how He judges and demonstrates mercy, is there anyone whom God is calling to repentance that you know? What about America, the Christians and lost living in this?



Responding to God

1. Spend time praising God for His work in His world and the mercy He extends. Worship Him as Lord.
2. Confess and forsake any known sin in your life.



Kingdom Prayer List

How should you respond to God in light of what you have been discussing?

Some of the things you may want to include in your prayer time are:

1. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.
2. One another's spiritual walk
3. Needs in the church.
4. Revival among God's people



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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 22)

Presenting Your Personal Petitions

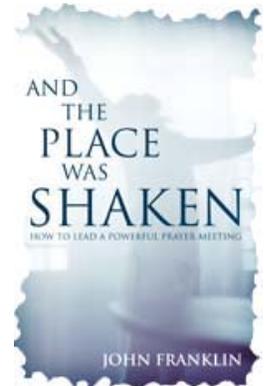
Practice #5 – They Cast Their Cares on the Lord

Review: You've heard a lot of different aspects on prayer over the last 21 weeks. If you could distill it to its basic essence what would it be? Very simply prayer becomes effectual when our relationship with God is passionate, we clearly recognize His activity around us, and we obey.

They Cast Their Cares on the Lord

There will come times in your life when you are personally in need. You will not be able to discern any kingdom reason God ought to respond to your prayer, yet your heart will still want to cry out. In times like those the Scripture encourages us to cast all our cares upon the Lord "because He cares for you." The great saints of the Bible knew how to do this. Three characteristics marked their lives:

1. They really believed God cared about them personally. When Mary and Martha sent for Jesus, they said "Lord, behold, the one you love is sick." John 11:3. When they had a need they turned to Him because they knew He really did love them and care about them. David knew of the personal love of God for Him. Read Ps 18:3-19. Notice the last line "He delivered me because He delighted in me."
2. They looked to Him as the source to meet their needs. Mary and Martha looked to Jesus when Lazarus was sick. David constantly turned to God for deliverance, whether from enemies, judgment, or sin. Ps 7:1, 51:14, 65:3. In Ps 22:10 a prophecy of Jesus records, "I was cast upon You from my mother's womb." God wants us to turn to Him. He cares about us.
3. They trusted God to handle it according to His wisdom. For example, in John 2 when they ran out of wine at the wedding, Mary simply says "They have no more wine." She makes no demands on Him, she doesn't tell Him how He ought to meet this need. As long as He was aware of the problem, that was enough. Mary and Martha don't give Jesus a detailed account of how He ought to heal their brother. They knew if He took note of them, if He heard them, He would do handle it in the best way possible.



Focus on God

God wants us to trust Him. Too often our prayers for our own personal needs are like children whining to their parents. Although the children are asking, their whining indicates they don't really expect to be answered. Perhaps this is the reason God commanded us in Philippians 4:6-7 "Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ." God encourages an attitude of thanksgiving to protect our heart. Gratitude reminds us that God's heart is really toward us and that we can trust Him. We need not badger Him, or explain to Him what He ought to do. We only need the assurance that He has taken note of our request.



Responding to God

1. Write down on a piece of paper a personal request you wish God to meet. In just a moment you will pray for this need 
2. Spend the next five minutes giving thanks to God by writing down as many things as you can that He has done for you. Don't forget the times He has answered your prayer in a way that exceeded your expectations.
3. Pray with another person for your personal request with gratitude.

Kingdom Prayer List

Pray for these requests and others

1. One another's spiritual walk
2. Needs in the church.
3. Revival among God's people
4. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



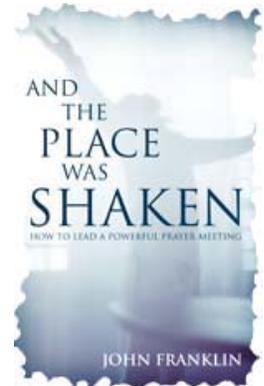
Present Your Requests

This symbol will represent praying for personal requests. Pray for any others you may have now.



Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 23)

Powerful Prayer Follows Powerful Relationships
Praying With Other People



Review: We have now established five principles for dynamic prayer meetings:

1. They _____ on God
2. They _____ to Him from the heart
3. They sought _____ His kingdom
4. They _____ His answers and activity and responded
5. They cast their _____ on the Lord

The next three weeks we will turn our attention to praying with other people.

Focus on God

1. God particularly moves in power when we love one another.
Read Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35, and 5:12-16, 41-42. Underline what the disciples were doing. Circle what God did. Notice that they shared possessions with each other, met daily in one another's homes, in the temple, were together, in one accord, and brought out the sick and demon oppressed. The result was: the Lord added daily, with great power, great grace was upon them all, and they were all healed. God worked in their lives in proportion to the degree of the *koinonia*. Their favor with God flowed largely from His pleasure of their depth of *koinonia*. 
2. We pray best with those we love most.
Prayer rides the rails of relationship. If relational conflict exists you cannot pray with another, but the lesser degree is also true. If you don't know someone very well, you can't pray deeply with them. However, among those who have spent time together, eaten meals together, and sacrificed for one another, prayer is a natural thing. If you haven't built deep relationships with those you pray with, then prayer will always be surface.
3. You must do what builds relationships.
Your prayer meetings will only be dynamic if you eat meals in one another's homes, call regular socials, work on projects together, give to one another, etc. Ask yourself these questions: How much do people get together outside of church? How much time is spent in one another's homes? Do people bear one another's burdens? etc. Activities that encourage relationship building set the stage for dynamic prayer meetings. There will be an inverse proportion between the depth of your relationships and the depth of your prayers.

Responding to God

1. Find at least two people in prayer meeting and go to them and tell them why you thank God for them.
2. Who can you particularly pray for tonight to show your love for them? What do they especially need from God?
3. Ask God to bring anyone to mind this week that you can be a blessing to.



Kingdom Prayer List - Pray for these requests and others

1. One another's spiritual walk
2. Needs in the church.
3. Revival among God's people
4. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



Present Your Requests: Pray in small groups for any person needs you have.



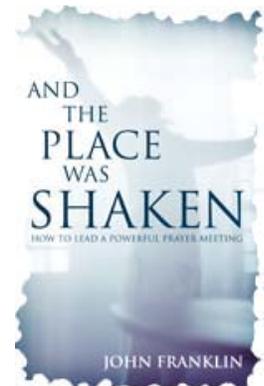
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 24)

Powerful Prayer Requires Being In One Accord - Praying With Other People

Review: The depth of your praying together will depend on the depth of your _____ with one another

Focus on God: This week we will look at another requirement for praying together powerfully.



1. **Believers must pray in one accord.**

In Acts the Scripture records on several occasions that the disciples were in one accord. Acts 1:14, 2:1, 2:46, 4:24, 5:12, 15:25. Being in one accord means, "united in desire, purpose, mission, and love." Twice it mentions being in one accord when praying. Acts 1:14, and 4:24. Both times God moved powerfully following these prayer meetings. TW Hunt, an author on prayer, made the statement "the higher the unity, the more powerful the prayer." God so loves it when His people come into one accord that He seems to especially delight in moving powerfully.

2. **Being in one accord requires a deep love for one another.**

Typically, God builds a heart for one another before He gives a significant assignment. He unites us at the deepest level. He knits our heart, our desires, our purposes, and our experiences together so that love for and *koinonia* with one another becomes profound. For example, God joined the hearts of David and his men together during the persecution of Saul, then came the throne. The hearts of the disciples were knit together as they walked with Jesus, then came Pentecost. What an indescribable joy, known only to those who have experienced this, arises from doing the will of God with someone to whom your soul is knit!

3. **Coming together in one accord requires an outward purpose and assignment.**

A powerful church prayer life requires having the same purpose in life and knowing a clear assignment from God. For example, the 120 knew the Holy Spirit was coming, and everyone dedicated himself to praying toward that end until He came. Acts 1:14-2:1. Later when threatened by the Sanhedrin the church clearly knew the Lord's assignment to continue proclaiming Jesus. They so passionately had the same heart to fulfill God's will that they only asked for boldness. Acts 4:24-31. The disciples experienced a particular unity when they were joined at the core of their being on mission together. Too often in churches, people do not have as their primary purpose in life seeking God's kingdom, and a clear specific assignment from God in how He's guiding them to do that. Our prayers do not reflect that we are going somewhere together with God.

Responding to God

1. Do you have at least one specific assignment God has given your group? If not, ask God to make that clear. This clarity may require time to discern
2. How many other people at church would you say your heart is knit to? Do you have the joy of serving with someone?
3. Spend time right now responding to God. Praise and thank Him for what He has done in the past, then pray regarding these two matters.



Kingdom Prayer List – Pray for these requests or others

1. One another's spiritual walk and needs
2. Needs in the church.
3. A specific assignment
4. Revival among God's people
5. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



Present Your Requests - Pray in small groups for any personal needs you have.



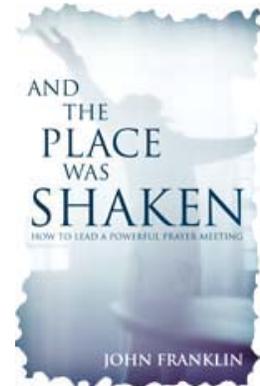
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 25)

Ways God Works In Small Group Prayer – Praying With Other People

Review: Praying in one accord requires a deep _____ for one another and a clear outward _____.

Focus on God: This week we will examine praying in small groups



1. Why pray in small groups.

Five advantages of praying in small groups are as follows:

- Intimacy with others is more easily achieved. People usually feel more connected, they more easily express their heart, and they know one another more deeply.
- It is more flexible. It requires little structure. You can more easily change directions. You can even stop to discuss what God is saying and then start praying again.
- It's easier for most people to participate in a small group than a large group.
- People come into one accord more quickly with a small group of friends than with 100 people. (Probably this is reflected in Acts 13:1-3).
- Learning to recognize the Holy Spirit's leading is easier in a small group.

2. Recognizing the Holy Spirit guiding a prayer group.

Two of the Holy Spirit's functions are to guide us into all truth (John 16:13-15), and to build unity in the body (Eph 4:3-6). How does He do that?

a. Watch how the understanding of others is being affected.

Start listening for what's coming out of people's mouths. Are they praying an insight from the Scripture that was shared? Is there something that one member prayed that triggered a thought or insight in another? Members should always pray an insight or verse that comes to mind out loud. God often uses them to guide or impact the group. This means the group may need to pray more in short prayers rather than monologues. Often you will be guided in God's perspective on a certain situation by doing so. When the group comes to a consensus of thought through Scripture or spiritual truths, usually that is the Spirit guiding.

b. Watch how the heart is being affected.

What desires are being stirred? What burdens do people have? What people are coming to your heart as you pray? Are tears being shed over sin? The Holy Spirit often begins with our understanding, but will end with touching our heart to pray fervently for someone that He brings to mind. True, some people pray for show, but don't throw out the baby with the bath water. In Zech 12:10 God poured out the spirit of prayer and they mourned. When God does something like this watch to see where He is going. He particularly builds unity in the body through ministering to and praying for one another.

3. Meeting in a small group over the next several weeks.

Consider praying in a small group with the same people the next 8-12 weeks. After that you may change up. Agree on at least one outward purpose for the group. By being with the same group, and having a clear assignment it should more easily facilitate learning.



Responding to God: In a moment you will pray in small groups. You will all agree upon at least one prayer request you will focus on to see if God leads you in this manner. To prepare your hearts, spend time praising and thanking God from Ps 145. Think about how God has done some of these things in your life over the last few months.

Kingdom Prayer List: Pray for these requests and others

- One another's spiritual walk and needs
- Needs in the church.
- A specific outward assignment
- Revival among God's people
- Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



Present Your Requests: Pray in small groups for any personal needs you have.

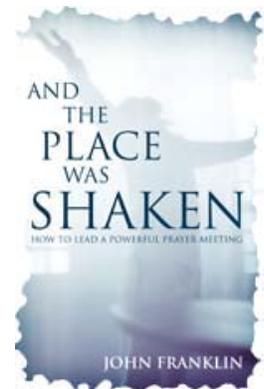
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Dynamic Prayer Meeting Study Guide (Week 26)

Closing the Prayer Meeting - The Spirit of Celebration

Discussion: You have now finished the 26 weeks. This last session is putting a bow on things, but from now on the primary purpose of your prayer life should be to walk with God. You will especially seek to know Him and do His will. What was one thing you learned last week about how the Holy Spirit guides prayer meetings?

Focus on God:



1. The Bible urges us to have a spirit of celebration. In the Psalms alone the word rejoice occurs in 46 verses, the word glad in 22 verses, and the word joy in 20 verses, delight in 19 verses, and the other words rejoices, rejoicing, joyful, gladness, and celebrate account for 30 more verses.
2. Celebration or rejoicing stems from joy over the person of God or the things of God, not because circumstances are pleasurable. For example, read Psalms 70:4, and 71:23. What causes David and the other Psalmist to rejoice? After you answer this question, read both of these Psalms in their entirety. What were the circumstances like for these men? The book of Habakkuk is a record of his prayer to God and God's answer. After he receives an answer from God, how does Habakkuk vow to live in 3:17-19?
3. It is appropriate to end prayer in a spirit of celebration at having been in God's presence. Focusing on God, connecting with His presence, remembering the privilege we have in a relationship with Him, renewing the desire to deny self to see His kingdom come, and casting our cares on Him most often results in joy. The majority of prayers times will result in rejoicing in God. It is appropriate to end prayer time in some way that expresses this. The ways you can do that vary. It may be singing a song, having someone vocalize a prayer out loud, having a time of thanksgiving in small group, clapping, or a unified declaration of God's goodness.

Responding to God: As you get ready to pray tonight, think about the causes you have for rejoicing.



1. What has God done for you eternally? Here's a list of a few things: canceled sin, escaping the wrath of God and eternity in hell, regeneration, the presence of the Holy Spirit, being seated with Christ in heavenly places, our mortal bodies resurrected, we will see God as He is, spend eternity with Him, and receive an eternal, incorruptible inheritance. Add to the list other things that you can think of.
2. What has God done for you or someone you love recently? Get into your small groups and spend time thanking God for His eternal and recent provisions.
3. Are you willing to deny self afresh to do His will? Has God led you to any clarity this week regarding your external assignment? Is there anyone in the group that He wants to use you to build up?

Kingdom Prayer List: Pray for these requests or others

1. One another's spiritual walk
2. Your specific external assignment
3. Needs in the church.
4. Revival among God's people
5. Doors of opportunity to open with those who are lost.



Present Your Requests: Pray in small groups for any personal needs you have.

Close in Celebration: Close this evening by singing a song of thanksgiving or celebration, such as God Is So Good.



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