

# Proven methods to help people enjoy praying together

Thursday, Workshop — 1:30pm -2:45pm

Prayer should be as natural as breathing for the Christian. Yet so many young and old Christians struggle with prayer. They need to be taught how to pray. They need to be helped along. Encouraged. Remember one of the few things the disciples asked Jesus was “Teach us to pray”.

The following items have been successfully used at the church where I help lead the prayer ministry. I pray these will be an encouragement to you, and help give you some ideas on how to stimulate and encourage your people to pray in a corporate setting.

## The challenge.

- **Many Christians would rather have a root canal than pray outloud**
- **Many Christians do not pray alone much less with others**
- **Many struggle with their personal prayer life**
- **Many are afraid to pray out loud in a group**
  - > They are afraid others will think they are immature Christians
  - > They think others will believe they do not know God’s Word
  - > They believe they do not know the “correct formulas” to prayer
- **Many believe they need to have a seminary degree to pray in a group**
- **Many have never experienced the joy and freedom found in prayer**
- **Prayer meetings can grow stale without a little variety.**

## A solution

- > **Pray for your group**
- > **Teach them what scripture says about prayer**
- > **Teach them what scripture says about joy and peace in prayer**
- > **Make praying in a group ‘safe’**
- > **Teach them about corporate prayer**
- > **Make prayer natural for them**

## I. The joy of praying

If we can show people the joy of prayer they will step out in faith and begin drawing closer to God in prayer.

I use the following thoughts and verses to encourage and teach others about the joy, purpose, peace and power found in prayer. I occasionally use these verses at our corporate meeting time to encourage the body. (These verses are also part of a more in-depth 10-week course we call *Intimacy With God* that helps give people a strong foundation in prayer.)

### **1. Prayer is where we fall in love with God. Prayer helps us have intimacy with God.**

Psalm 116:1-2 <sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because He hears My voice and my supplications. <sup>2</sup> Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.

**2. We can all probably agree that heaven will be wonderful place — with streets of gold, no tears, singing and prayer. Did you say prayer? Absolutely. Praising, talking and listening to God. In Revelation we see a glimpse of heaven and prayer.**

Revelation 4:1 <sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. <sup>2</sup> And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. <sup>4</sup> And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. <sup>5</sup> And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. <sup>6</sup> And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. <sup>7</sup> And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. <sup>9</sup> And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, <sup>10</sup> **The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,** <sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 5:5-14 <sup>5</sup> And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. <sup>6</sup> And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and **four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.** <sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; <sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. <sup>11</sup> And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; <sup>12</sup> Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. <sup>13</sup> And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. <sup>14</sup> And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

### 3. The church was “birthed” in a prayer meeting.

Acts 1:12-16 <sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together **constantly in prayer**, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. <sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, “Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus —

### 4. Jesus says He is with us when two or three gather in His name.

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

### 5. Before Jesus was baptized by John what did He do? He prayed.

Luke 3:21,22 <sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was **praying**, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

### 6. What did Jesus do when He was in the wilderness for forty days? He fasted.

Matthew 4:1,2 <sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After **fasting** forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

### 7. What other spiritual discipline is usually associated with fasting? Prayer.

Psalms 35:13 Yet when they were ill, I put on sackcloth and **humbled myself with fasting. When my prayers** returned to me unanswered,

Daniel 9:3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in **prayer and petition, in fasting**, and in sackcloth and ashes.

Joel 1:14 Declare a **holy fast**; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and **cry out to the LORD.**

Luke 5:33 They said to him, “John’s disciples often **fast and pray**, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking.”

### 8. Do you think it is safe to assume that Jesus was communing with His Father — through prayer and fasting? I believe so..

**9. What happened after Jesus came out of the wilderness?** He met opposition from the evil one, and He was able to resist the temptations presented to Him by Satan.

**10. The night before He chose His disciples, what was Jesus doing?**

Luke 6:12,13<sup>12</sup> One of those days Jesus went out **to a mountainside** to **pray**, and spent the night praying to God.<sup>13</sup> When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

**11. Of all the things the disciples could have asked Jesus to teach them, what did they ask Him to teach them?** They asked Him to teach them to pray.

Luke 11:1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, **“Lord, teach us to pray,** just as John taught his disciples.”

**12. Why?** Because I believe they knew that was where Jesus received the power to do things like: calming the wind and the sea. Healing the sick. Speaking and teaching with great wisdom. Casting out demons. And most importantly knowing the Father's will.

**13. In Luke 10, when Jesus sent the seventy out in twos on an evangelistic mission, what did he ask them to do first?** He asked them to pray. To pray that God would send out the laborers into His harvest.

Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: **pray** ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

**14. Throughout His ministry, how often do we see Jesus in prayer?** Almost always.

Matthew 14:23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to **pray**. When evening came, he was there alone,

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and **pray**.”

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and **pray** so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Mark 6:46 After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to **pray**.

Luke 6:12 One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to **pray**, and **spent the night praying** to God.

Luke 9:28 About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to **pray**.

Luke 22:45 When he rose from **prayer** and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow.

John 17:15 My **prayer** is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

John 17:20 “My **prayer** is not for them alone. I **pray** also for those who will believe in me through their message,

**15. What did Jesus say His house would be?** A house of prayer.

Matthew 21:13 “It is written,” he said to them, “ ‘My house will be called a **house of prayer,**’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers.’ ”

Mark 11:17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: “‘**My house will be called a house of prayer** for all nations’ ? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Luke 19:46 “It is written,” he said to them, “‘**My house will be a house of prayer**’ ; but you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Isaiah 56:7 these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my **house of prayer**. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a **house of prayer** for all nations.”

**16. What was Jesus doing in the garden of Gethsemane when he submitted His will to go to the cross?** Praying to God. Three times.

Matthew 26:37-44<sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.<sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, **he fell with his face to the ground and prayed,** “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter.<sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”<sup>42</sup> **He**

went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." <sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and **prayed the third time**, saying the same thing.

**17. What did Jesus do when Satan asked Him permission to sift Peter like wheat? He prayed.**

Luke 22:31 "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

**18. In ACTS 1: 12-16, what did the disciples do in the upper room? They joined with others, about 120, and prayed for ten days.**

Acts 1:12-16 <sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city. <sup>13</sup> When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> They all joined together **constantly in prayer**, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. <sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) <sup>16</sup> and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus —

**19. In Acts 2: 41, what happened after the 120 prayed? The day of Pentecost arrived and about 3,000 Jews became Christians. (The church was birthed in a prayer room).**

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**20. In Acts 2: 42, besides devoting themselves to learning the Word, fellowship, and the breaking of bread, what other thing did the new believers devote themselves too? Prayer.**

Acts 2: 41, 42 <sup>41</sup> So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. <sup>42</sup> And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

**21. In Acts 6: verse 4, what two things were the disciples (elders) to give attention to?**  
Prayer and ministry of the word.

Acts 6:1-7 <sup>1</sup> In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. <sup>2</sup> So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. <sup>3</sup> Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. **We will turn this responsibility over to them <sup>4</sup> and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word."** <sup>5</sup> This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. <sup>6</sup> They presented these men to the apostles, who **prayed** and laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup> So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

**22. What evidence did the Lord give Ananias that he would be safe when He asked Ananias to go and pray for Saul of Tarsus. Remember Saul was the man who was killing Christians?**  
He told Ananias that Saul prayed and that he was a chosen vessel by God.

Acts 9:8-18 <sup>8</sup> And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. <sup>10</sup> And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, **he prayeth**, <sup>12</sup> And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. <sup>13</sup> Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: <sup>14</sup> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: <sup>16</sup> For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. <sup>17</sup> And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. <sup>18</sup> And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

**23. In Acts 12 what were the Christians doing while Peter was in prison awaiting execution? Many were gathered in the house of Mary praying.**

Acts 12:4-24 <sup>4</sup> And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. <sup>5</sup> Peter therefore was kept in prison: **but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.** <sup>6</sup> And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. <sup>7</sup> And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. <sup>8</sup> And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. <sup>9</sup> And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel;

but thought he saw a vision. <sup>10</sup> When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. <sup>11</sup> And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. <sup>12</sup> And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; **where many were gathered together praying.** <sup>13</sup> And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda. <sup>14</sup> And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate. <sup>15</sup> And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel. <sup>16</sup> But Peter continued knocking; and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place. <sup>18</sup> Now as soon as it was day, there was no small stir among the soldiers, what was become of Peter. <sup>19</sup> And when Herod had sought for him, and found him not, he examined the keepers, and commanded that they should be put to death. And he went down from Judaea to Caesarea, and there abode. <sup>20</sup> And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's country. <sup>21</sup> And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. <sup>22</sup> And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. <sup>23</sup> And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost. <sup>24</sup> **But the word of God grew and multiplied.**

**24. In Revelation chapters 5, where are the prayers of the saints kept?** in golden vials (bowls).

### **25. Where is Jesus right now?**

At the right hand of the Father. Living inside of us.

Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he **sat at the right hand of God.**

Luke 20:42 David himself declares in the Book of Psalms: "The Lord said to my Lord: "**Sit at my right hand**

Luke 22:69 But from now on, the Son of Man will be **seated at the right hand** of the mighty God."

Acts 2:32-35 <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> **Exalted to the right hand of God,** he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. <sup>34</sup> For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said, "The Lord said to my Lord: "**Sit at my right hand** <sup>35</sup> until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

Hebrews 1:8-13 <sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. <sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." <sup>10</sup> He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. <sup>11</sup> They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. <sup>12</sup> You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end." <sup>13</sup> To which of the angels did God ever say, "**Sit at my right hand** until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet" ?

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me.** The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Romans 8:11 And if **the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,** he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

2 Corinthians 4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

1 John 4:15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, **God lives in him** and he in God.

### **26. What is Jesus doing at the right hand of the Father?** Interceding for us.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died —more than that, who was raised to life —is at the right hand of God and is also **interceding** for us.

1John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense --Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

**27. Why do you think prayer was important?** Prayer is where we hear the Father's instructions. We become intimate with God. We build our friendship with our heavenly Father.

## 28. What can prayer do for you?

### > *Supernatural Power*

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye **pray**, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

### > *Supernatural Position*

Luke 21:36 Watch ye therefore, and **pray** always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

### > *Supernatural Provision*

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask what ye will**, and it shall be done unto you.

### > *Supernatural Protection*

Luke 22:40 And when he was at the place, he said unto them, **Pray** that ye enter not into temptation.

### > *Supernatural Peace*

Philippians 4:6,7 <sup>6</sup> Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by **prayer and supplication** with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**29. What is the very best thing prayer do for you?** Draw you into a deep personal relationship with your heavenly Father.

## II. Making prayer 'safe'

Whenever I am with a new group of people gathered for prayer, if I know there are those who are there for the first time, and are a little nervous about praying in a group, I do the following.

> I open in a very short prayer. Asking God to bless our time. (I do not use puffed-up words that make me sound great, but try to make a simple, almost child-like prayer. I pray like I talk. No Thees and Thous). This helps put them at ease.

> I share, very briefly, my "prayer testimony". It goes a little like this...When I was learning to pray in a early Sunday-morning-prayer-group. There were only four or five people there. Everyone prayed much better than I. At first, I was afraid to speak, so I just came and listened to the prayers. I did this for four weeks straight. Then, slowly but surely, I begin to join in with short little prayers. It was like riding a bicycle for the first time.

So I tell folks, it is ok to sit back and listen to the prayers. Pray silently if you want to. Or if you sense God placing something on your heart pray.

> I remind people that God is not impressed with puffed up words but with a sincere heart.

> I encourage people to pray like little children. Depending on their father for everything they need.

Matthew 6:7,8 <sup>7</sup> "And when you are praying, do not use meaningless repetition, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> "Therefore do not be like them; for your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.

> I tell everyone that the prayer room prayers are confidential.

Matthew 18:1-4 <sup>1</sup> At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup> And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, <sup>3</sup> and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> "Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:13-16 <sup>15</sup> And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. <sup>14</sup> But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>15</sup> "Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it at all." <sup>16</sup> And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands upon them.

### III. Prayer is not a formula. It is a heart issue.

Prayer is not “eye of newt and bat wings”. It is the issue of your heart. Many people share that they are afraid they will pray wrong and mess everything up. God says He knows our needs before we ask. He warns us about using vain repetitions.

Matthew 6:7,8 <sup>7</sup> “And when you are praying, **do not use meaningless repetition**, as the Gentiles do, for they suppose that they will be heard for their many words. <sup>8</sup> “Therefore do not be like them; for your **Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.**

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and **a contrite heart**, O God, Thou wilt not despise.  
contrite \KON-tryt; kuhn-TRYT\, adjective: 1. Deeply affected with grief and regret for having done wrong; penitent; as, “a contrite sinner.”

Psalm 119:2 How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.

Proverbs 4:23 Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Jeremiah 17:10 “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

Acts 13:22 “And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, **‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart,** who will do all My will.’

### IV. God stories

Throughout scripture the children of God are encouraged to tell stories of God’s greatness. His power. His faithfulness. His promises. His mercy.

It helps us remember God and to always give Him thanks.

When we gather for our weekly corporate prayer meetings, I often start our time with this question “Does anyone have any “God Stories” to share? Something that has happened in the last two weeks as a result of your prayers?”

This question does a number of things; it helps our people reflect on what God is doing in their lives through prayer. Reminds them to be praying everyday. For all things.

It gives them a time-frame to consider (the last two weeks).

When shared, it helps them gain confidence sharing in the group . It helps them in giving God glory. (Sharing a “God story” is sometimes easier for people than praying in a group. Although in reality it prepare them to “talk to God in prayer.)

When “God stories” are shared, the entire group is encouraged and God is glorified.

It is a faith-builder.

Exodus 10:1,2 <sup>1</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh, for I have hardened his heart and the heart of his servants, that I may perform these signs of Mine among them, <sup>2</sup> and that you may tell in the hearing of your son, and of your grandson, how I made a mockery of the Egyptians, and how I performed My signs among them; that you may know that I am the LORD.”

Deuteronomy 32:7 <sup>7</sup> “Remember the days of old, Consider the years of all generations. Ask your father, and he will inform you, Your elders, and they will tell you. <sup>8</sup> “When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, When He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the sons of Israel.

1 Chronicles 16:23,24 <sup>23</sup> Sing to the LORD, all the earth; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. <sup>24</sup> Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. <sup>25</sup> For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He also is to be feared above all gods.

Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with all my heart; I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Psalm 66:16 Come and hear, all who fear God, And I will tell of what He has done for my soul.

Psalm. 78:4 We will not conceal them from their children, But tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

### V. Praying the prayers of Scripture for one another

Praying prayers found in the Bible is powerful. Supernatural.

We have used a number of Paul’s prayers to pray over each other. Even though we meet for a corporate time of praying for our church, our people are always blessed when they can pray for another and have another person pray for them.

I remind the people that all scripture is inspired by God...so we know it is great. I give them the freedom to just read the prayer and add the person’s name they are praying for or to use it as a blueprint. The

results are amazing.

Praying prayers from the Word does the following.

- > It gives people inspired words to use
- > It helps teach us how to pray like the saints
- > It helps train us in righteousness
- > It helps people pray in alignment with God's Word
- > It helps prayers pray wonderful things they may not have thought of to pray for others
- > It gives people confidence in praying
- > It blesses those who pray and are prayed for
- > It helps bring unity to the prayer time
- > Praying the word is powerful

#### Scripture references:

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

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

#### Prayers to consider using:

Colossians 1:9-12 <sup>9</sup> For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Ephesians 1:15-21 <sup>15</sup> For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, <sup>16</sup> do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might <sup>20</sup> which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-4 <sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; <sup>3</sup> constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, <sup>4</sup> knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you;

#### VI. Praising the alphabet

This is a very child-like exercise that works well with adults. We do this every other month. It helps people relax and enjoy praying together. I sometimes use this to help me in my time alone with God.

Here's how it works: Start with the letter A. And praise God. Then go to B. The leader can control the time by calling out the next letter. You will need to know your alphabet to pull this off.

Here is how it might sound.



*First Person:* God you are the **A**lmighty One  
*Second person:* Father you are the **A**lpha and the Omega  
*Third Person:* Father I thank You, that You are **A**ll I need  
*Fourth person:* Jesus thank You that You are **A**lways near  
*Fifth person:* Father You are **A**wesome

*Leader:* B

*First Person:* God you are **B**eautiful.  
*Second person:* Father you are the **B**est.  
*Third Person:* Father You are the **B**eginning and the end  
*Fourth person:* Jesus thank you for all Your **b**lessings  
*Fifth person:* Jesus You are the **B**right morning star

and so on....

## VII. Praying ACTS

A good guide to use in corporate prayer (and personal prayer) is praying ACTS. Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

This is a simple way to pray. When closely observed, many prayers in scripture follow this format. We often use this structure in our weekly prayer time. Try praying in the order listed below. It helps keep our focus on Him.

### 1. Adoration (Praise)

God loves for us to praise Him. Jesus taught us to pray to God say “Our Father who art in heaven Hallowed be the name”. Hallowed means praise.

The Word is full of verses that tell of how men of God, loved to praise their Father. Use scripture when you praise him. Look at Psalms.

I have listed too many praise verses to look at today. But I just cannot seem to remove the verses. These would make a great time of praising just these verses.

Psalms 59:17 O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.

Psalms 103:1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Psalms 119:164 Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.

Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Exodus 15:2 The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Exodus 18:10 He said, “Praise be to the LORD, who rescued you from the hand of the Egyptians and of Pharaoh, and who rescued the people from the hand of the Egyptians.

Deuteronomy 8:10 When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you.

Deuteronomy 10:21 He is your praise; he is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.

Deuteronomy 32:3 I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

2 Samuel 22:4 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

2 Samuel 22:47 "The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock, my Savior!

2 Samuel 22:50 Therefore I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing praises to your name.

1 Kings 8:56 "Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses.

1 Chronicles 16:4 He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, to make petition, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel:

1 Chronicles 16:9 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

1 Chronicles 16:25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

1 Chronicles 16:35 Cry out, "Save us, O God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, that we may glory in your praise."

1 Chronicles 16:36 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Then all the people said "Amen" and "Praise the LORD."

1 Chronicles 23:5 Four thousand are to be gatekeepers and four thousand are to praise the LORD with the musical instruments I have provided for that purpose."

1 Chronicles 23:30 They were also to stand every morning to thank and praise the LORD. They were to do the same in the evening

1 Chronicles 29:10 David praised the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly, saying, "Praise be to you, O LORD, God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.

1 Chronicles 29:13 Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:20 Then David said to the whole assembly, "Praise the LORD your God." So they all praised the LORD, the God of their fathers; they bowed low and fell prostrate before the LORD and the king.

2 Chronicles 2:12 And Hiram added: "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who made heaven and earth! He has given King David a wise son, endowed with intelligence and discernment, who will build a temple for the LORD and a palace for himself.

2 Chronicles 5:13 The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever." Then the temple of the LORD was filled with a cloud,

2 Chronicles 8:14 In keeping with the ordinance of his father David, he appointed the divisions of the priests for their duties, and the Levites to lead the praise and to assist the priests according to each day's requirement. He also appointed the gatekeepers by divisions for the various gates, because this was what David the man of God had ordered.

2 Chronicles 20:21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."

2 Chronicles 20:22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

2 Chronicles 29:30 King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped.

2 Chronicles 30:21 The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great rejoicing, while the Levites and priests sang to the LORD every day, accompanied by the LORD's instruments of praise.

Ezra 3:10 When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel.

Ezra 3:11 With praise and thanksgiving they sang to the LORD: "He is good; his love to Israel endures forever." And all the people gave a great shout of praise to the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

Nehemiah 9:5 And the Levites --Jeshua, Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabneiah, Sherebiah, Hodiah, Shebaniah and Pethahiah --said: "Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. " "Blessed be your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise.

Nehemiah 12:46 For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and

thanksgiving to God.

Psalm 7:17 I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness and will sing praise to the name of the LORD Most High.

Psalm 8:2 From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

Psalm 9:1 I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonders.

Psalm 9:2 I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Psalm 16:7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.

Psalm 18:3 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 18:46 The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be God my Savior!

Psalm 18:49 Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O LORD; I will sing praises to your name.

Psalm 21:13 Be exalted, O LORD, in your strength; we will sing and praise your might.

Psalm 22:3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

Psalm 22:22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

Psalm 22:23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

Psalm 22:26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him-- may your hearts live forever!

Psalm 26:7 proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 26:12 My feet stand on level ground; in the great assembly I will praise the LORD.

Psalm 28:6 Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

Psalm 30:4 Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name.

Psalm 30:9 "What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?"

Psalm 31:21 Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.

Psalm 33:1 Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Psalm 33:2 Praise the LORD with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Psalm 34:1 I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.

Psalm 35:18 I will give you thanks in the great assembly; among throngs of people I will praise you.

Psalm 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

Psalm 41:13 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.

Psalm 42:5 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and

Psalm 42:11 Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Psalm 43:4 Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

Psalm 44:8 In God we make our boast all day long, and we will praise your name forever. Selah

Psalm 45:17 I will perpetuate your memory through all generations; therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

Psalm 47:7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Psalm 48:1 Great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

Psalm 48:10 Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness.

Psalm 49:18 Though while he lived he counted himself blessed-- and men praise you when you prosper--

Psalm 51:15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 52:9 I will praise you forever for what you have done; in your name I will hope, for your name is good. I will praise you in the presence of your saints.

Psalm 54:6 I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, O LORD, for it is good.

Psalm 56:4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

Psalm 56:10 In God, whose word I praise, in the LORD, whose word I praise--

Psalm 57:9 I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

Psalm 59:17 O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.

Psalm 61:8 Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

Psalm 63:4 I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalm 63:5 My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.

Psalm 64:10 Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him; let all the upright in heart praise him!

Psalm 66:2 Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!

Psalm 66:4 All the earth bows down to you; they sing praise to you, they sing praise to your name." Selah

Psalm 66:8 Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

Psalm 66:20 Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Psalm 67:3 May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you.

Psalm 68:4 Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds-- his name is the LORD-- and rejoice before him.

Psalm 68:19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens. Selah

Psalm 68:26 Praise God in the great congregation; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel.

Psalm 68:32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, Selah

Psalm 68:35 You are awesome, O God, in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people. Praise be to God!

Psalm 69:30 I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Psalm 69:34 Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them,

Psalm 71:6 From birth I have relied on you; you brought me forth from my mother's womb. I will ever praise you.

Psalm 71:8 My mouth is filled with your praise, declaring your splendor all day long.

Psalm 71:14 But as for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.

Psalm 71:22 I will praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praise to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.

Psalm 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you-- I, whom you have redeemed.

Psalm 72:18 Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Psalm 72:19 Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen.

Psalm 74:21 Do not let the oppressed retreat in disgrace; may the poor and needy praise your name.

Psalm 75:9 As for me, I will declare this forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob.

Psalm 79:13 Then we your people, the sheep of your pasture, will praise you forever; from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

Psalm 86:12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Psalm 88:10 Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do those who are dead rise up and praise you? Selah

Psalm 89:5 The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Psalm 89:52 Praise be to the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

Psalm 92:1 It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High,

Psalm 96:2 Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.

Psalm 96:4 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Psalm 97:12 Rejoice in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

Psalm 99:3 Let them praise your great and awesome name-- he is holy.

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

Psalm 101:1 I will sing of your love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will sing praise.

Psalm 102:18 Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

Psalm 103:1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Psalm 103:2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--

Psalm 103:20 Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.

Psalm 103:21 Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.

Psalm 103:22 Praise the LORD, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Psalm 104:1 Praise the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendor and majesty.

Psalm 104:33 I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Psalm 104:35 But may sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked be no more. Praise the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 105:2 Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts.

Psalm 105:45 that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 106:1 Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 106:2 Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise?

Psalm 106:5 that I may enjoy the prosperity of your chosen ones, that I may share in the joy of your nation and join your inheritance in giving praise.

Psalm 106:12 Then they believed his promises and sang his praise.

Psalm 106:47 Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise.

Psalm 106:48 Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Let all the people say, "Amen!" Praise the LORD.

Psalm 107:32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.

Psalm 108:3 I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

Psalm 109:1 O God, whom I praise, do not remain silent,

Psalm 111:1 Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

Psalm 112:1 Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands.

Psalm 113:1 Praise the LORD. Praise, O servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.

Psalm 113:9 He settles the barren woman in her home as a happy mother of children. Praise **the LORD**.

Psalm 117:1 Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.

Psalm 119:12 Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees.

Psalm 119:164 Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.

Psalm 119:171 May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees.

Psalm 119:175 Let me live that I may praise you, and may your laws sustain me.

Psalm 134:1 Praise the LORD, all you servants of the LORD who minister by night in the house of the LORD.

Psalm 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the LORD.

Psalm 135:3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant.

Psalm 135:21 Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 138:1 I will praise you, O LORD, with all my heart; before the "gods" I will sing your **praise**.

Psalm 138:2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalm 144:1 Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.

Psalm 145:1 I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145:2 Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145:3 Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

Psalm 146:1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul.

Psalm 146:10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 147:1 Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

Psalm 147:20 He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws. Praise the LORD.

Psalm 148:1 Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.

Psalm 148:2 Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Psalm 148:3 Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.

Psalm 148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.

Psalm 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.

Psalm 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

Psalm 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

Psalm 149:1 Praise the LORD. Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the saints.

Psalm 149:3 Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp.

Psalm 150:2 Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness.

Psalms 150:3 Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre,

Psalms 150:4 praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute,

Psalms 150:5 praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Psalms 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

Isaiah 25:1 O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.

Isaiah 38:19 The living, the living --they praise you, as I am doing today; fathers tell their children about your faithfulness.

Isaiah 42:10 Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

Isaiah 42:12 Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim his praise in the islands.

Isaiah 60:6 Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Jeremiah 20:13 Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

Daniel 2:20 and said: "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.

Daniel 2:23 I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

Daniel 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Daniel 4:37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Joel 2:26 You will have plenty to eat, until you are full, and you will praise the name of the LORD your God, who has worked wonders for you; never again will my people be shamed.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Matt. 11:25 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

Matt. 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise' ?"

Luke 1:68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people.

Luke 5:26 Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

Luke 10:21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

Luke 19:37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

Romans 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

Romans 15:11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples."

2 Corinthians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise --the fruit of lips that confess his name.

1 Peter 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 4:16 However, if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name.

Revelation 5:12 In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

Revelation 5:13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Revelation 7:12 saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Revelation 19:5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying: "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, both small and great!"

## 2. Confession

Before we can come before a righteous God we need to be clean. He is just and faithful to forgive our sins when we confess them to Him. We serve an awesome and loving God who forgives when we ask for forgiveness. Ask.

In James, the healing section in chapter 5, we are instructed to confess our sins to one another. Doing this in a corporate setting yields amazing results. I try to always have men confess to men and women confess to women. Pairing men and women up for confession is not a great idea. Praying and confessing sin together can be very intimate.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Psalms 103:2,3 <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Isaiah 59:1,2 <sup>1</sup> Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short That it cannot save; Neither is His ear so dull That it cannot hear. <sup>2</sup> But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear.

Psalms 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"-- and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

James 5:16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Psalms 103:8-12 <sup>8</sup> The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; <sup>10</sup> he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

## 3. Thanksgiving

Just like us, God loves to be thanked. Remembering all the blessings and answered prayers that God has given you — then thanking Him for them — draws us closer to Him and keeps our heart and mind fixed on Him.

Luke 17:12-15 <sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him -- and he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Hebrews 12:28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably



with reverence and awe,

#### 4. Supplication

Many times we want to start here with our prayers. Our prayer list. Our shopping cart of needs. Remember to *praise* God. *Confess your sins*. And *thank Him* first. These help align us with God's heart and His will..

God has good gifts for His children. Because He loves us. He wants us to simply ask Him in faith. In asking — we depend on Him— allowing Him to provide. As He answers our requests, we are drawn closer and closer to Him. Can you say intimacy?

Remember, He shows us how to ask in His word. Make sure you are asking according to the things that he has taught us.

Matthew 7:7-12 <sup>7</sup> "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>9</sup> "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? <sup>11</sup> If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! <sup>12</sup> So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

James 1:5-7 <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord;

John 14:12-14 <sup>12</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

#### VIII. Small groups vs. large groups.

When we have 10 or more people at prayer. We spend our opening time as a large group, but will break into smaller groups for most of the prayer time. Smaller groups of 5-8 people seem to pray more effectively than one big group of 15 or more people.

#### IX. Praise music on a cd helps.

Worship and praise music soothes people's souls. I like to start every 2 hour prayer meeting with 2-3 worship songs.

#### X Three things we pray

We pray three things each week as "givens". If I had about five hours I could tell you some incredible "God Stories".

Here are what we pray

1. We pray that our church would be a House of Prayer
2. We pray blessings and protection for our senior pastor and his family
3. We pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send the workers out

#### Final thoughts

Be encouraged. Helping others to pray is a great calling. Let Jesus be your guide and your strength.

The great moves of God begin with men and women on their knees in prayer.

I hope you have found this material helpful. I will post this lesson on my prayer web site

PrayBig.com so you can download and use it if you wish. If I can be of any help, please do not hesitate to call me. I live in Atlanta, GA with my trophy wife of 35 years Pam. And *Abby the wonder dog* my five-year old English Setter.

I attend Perimeter church in Atlanta, where I serve as an elder. I am active in the prayer ministry there. Pam and I teach a class twice a year called *Intimacy with God*. The class deals mostly with equipping people in prayer.

I have three adult children who live in Atlanta - Allison, Denver and his wife Kayla and Finn and his wife Jennifer. Two grandchildren, Austin, LC, and another on the way.

I have recently left the advertising agency where I was president and creative director for 25 years and have begun oil painting. My wife Pam and I travel around the country doing art festivals. You can see my art work at [artistlarrysmith.com](http://artistlarrysmith.com).

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