

# WHY CORPORATE PRAYER

*31 Reasons for the American Church to Make Corporate Prayer Her Practical Priority.*

1. Corporate prayer was the God-ordained pattern and priority of the early Church. ***These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*** (Acts 1:14 and Acts 2:42)
2. Massive united corporate prayer is the pattern of every revival in history. When we don't want to pray much, we are telling God we don't want His reign much. Unity in the priestly activity of prayer is where the Lord promises "life". (Psalm 133:1-3)
3. Jesus loves the harvest, and knows the great difficulties that are associated with gathering in the harvest. He will only release the harvest to a Church that's asking, and crying out for it. (Psalm 2:8) The truth of the matter is, nothing will help prepare laborers for the harvest like massive intercession. (Luke 10:2)
4. Prayer is the one strategy the wealthy, resource-rich American Church can't buy or produce in her own strength. Only the weak pray. Only the needy ask. Jesus wants to cultivate daily dependence within His bride. (Matthew 7:7)
5. Much prayer actually promotes and perpetuates much zeal for doing powerful Kingdom ministry. (Romans 15:30)
6. A household of prayer is God's chosen identity for His Church, and His people. (Isaiah 56:7 and Matthew 21:13)
7. Operating within our identity as a "household of prayer" and giving ourselves to the ministry of prayer and worship is where and how God establishes eternal joy and supernatural exhilaration within individuals and communities. If we don't find our exhilaration in Him, we *will* find it somewhere else. (Isaiah 56:7)
8. Prayer helps spare our ministry activities from the futility of human thought & action. Apart from relying on Jesus through prayer, all of our ministry activities are mere acts of humanitarianism. It's where we learn to trust, ***not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord.*** (Zechariah 4:6)
9. There is a complete absence of scriptural support for *prayerless* ministry, or *prayerless* fellowship in Christ. Regardless of culture, language, generation or denomination, wherever the Church engages in much corporate prayer, the purposes of God thrives. (2 Corinthians 1:11)
10. The dialogue of prayer; God with us, and us with each other, is where and how the Word becomes flesh in our lives. ***When.. the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak o His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak and He will tell you things to come. he will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*** (John 16:13-15)
11. Prayer sets us free from obsessive ministry, that is driven by the demands and expectations of man. Prayer trains a community that we are not primarily called to serve the needs of men and women, but God. (Philippians 4:6)
12. Prayer beautifies and reminds us that what is ultimately on the Father's heart for all of human history, is the preparation of a Bride who reigns alongside of, administrating and reigning under the authority of His Son; our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ. (Song of Songs 2:14)
13. Prayer trains us to function in agreement with the manner in which Jesus governs His own Kingdom - through the agency of the Father's will. A million years from now, Jesus will still be administering His Kingdom as an intercessor, through the will of the Father. (Hebrews 7:25; Ephesians 6:18)
14. Prayer is where we cultivate our Spirit-empowered voice. A shared voice, is a united voice, is a powerful witness. ***And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*** (Acts 4:30)

15. Prayer and corporate dialogue is where and how we cultivate intimacy and first-commandment love for Jesus. (John 17:26; Philippians 1:9-11)
16. Corporate prayer stimulates shared corporate faith in God, and corporately magnifies God, Himself. (Romans 15:5,6)
17. Corporate prayer puts God in the center of community's priorities and values, in a way that nothing else can, or does. ***The Lord is near to all who call upon Him; to all who call upon Him in truth.*** (Psalm 145:8 and 1 Chronicles 16:11)
18. Corporate prayer manifests God's eyes and ears and heart within a community of believers. (Colossians 4:2)
19. Corporate prayer forges, builds and establishes unity between individual believers. (Acts 4:32 and 1 Timothy 2:8)
20. Corporate prayer is where the Lord cultivates prophetic vision and prophetic voices. He desires to bring forth a prophetic people; not just prophetic personalities. (1 Corinthians 14:14,15 & 24, 25)
21. Corporate prayer establishes the dynamic, reigning presence of Jesus Christ on the earth. ***Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.*** (Matthew 18:18-20)
22. Corporate prayer is how God establishes (Ephesians 4:15) maturity in the Bride. Prayer-fueled dialogue that ***speaks the truth in love*** is how we mature, and ***grow up in all aspects into Him***. It's also the essential dynamic to making disciples.
23. Corporate prayer is the Church engaging in the dynamic of the Godhead: Edifying dialogue. (Mark 1:11 & 9:7)
24. Prayer guards believers from glorifying ourselves, restraining us with humility, so that God alone is glorified in all that we do. (Romans 1:21) God gives grace to the humble. Corporate prayer is where we humble ourselves and intentionally and perpetually yield our perpetually rebellious, autonomous, selfish soul to God. (Romans 12:12)
25. Corporate prayer is how we accumulate shared Ephesians 5:16-17 wisdom. (James 1:5) ***See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.***
26. Corporate prayer & worship is a chief way we collectively clothe ourselves with the transformational glory of Jesus. ***But we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*** (2 Corinthians 3:18)
27. Corporate prayer releases the ***great grace*** of God within a community. (Acts 4:29-31 & 33)
28. Corporate prayer is how and where communities intentionally give themselves to ***let(ting) 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.*** (Colossians 3:16)
29. The Lord shakes communities and opens prison doors for those who pray and worship together. (Acts 4:30; 12:5; 16:25; Colossians 4:3)
30. Corporate fasting & prayer is God's prescription for people facing cultural crisis. (Joel 2:15-17 & Jeremiah 29:12)
31. The Word exhorts us to corporate prayer ***all the more as we see the day (of the Lord) approaching.*** (Matthew 26:41; Hebrews 10:24,25; 1 Peter 4:7)

#### BONUS EXHORTATION:

Whether we're separate, or gathered the church is commanded to ***pray without ceasing.*** (1 Thessalonians 5:17 and Luke 18:1; and Ephesians 6:18)

*Are there other reasons you can think of?*