

WHAT IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER?

J.S. Boegl • House of Prayer Series #01

- A. The House of Prayer is Jesus' primary identity for His Church. (Isaiah 56:7; John 2)
- B. The House of Prayer was the primary identity for the New Testament Church.
(*Listing of the number of places the New Testament Church was in prayer.*)
- C. A House of Prayer need not maintain a 24/7 prayer calendar. It simply needs to maintain enough "prayer" to maintain a life-giving convergence of four key elements:

1. A House of Prayer Must Be Corporate

There are dynamics that happen when women and men agree in prayer that will not happen in the best of our private prayers. We need our disciplined, private times with the Lord. The House of Prayer is not about replacing our private times. It's about supplementing these encounters by creating ways for a family of believes to focus on Jesus and His purposes for His Bride, and the earth.

2. A House of Prayer Engages in Intercession and Fasting.

Our corporate prayers enable us to *stand in the gap* (Ezekiel 22:30) for the purpose of administrating Jesus' Kingdom in our world. More than merely making our own private lives work, intercession is concerned with bringing the glory and power of Jesus' reign to bear in all dimensions of individual, communal and regional life.

3. A House of Prayer Creates Space for the Meditation on the Word of God.

Through pray/reading the Word of God we are letting the Word *dwell within us richly* (Colossians 3:16). We literally *sit at the feet of Jesus* (Luke 10:39) while we mine the gold veins of God's Word in focused dialogue with the Holy Spirit. Through this dialogue we are *implanting the Word in hearts* (James 1:21) that have been tilled, and tenderized to be responsive to the living, dwelling presence of God.

4. A House of Prayer is Established within an Atmosphere of Worship & Exaltation of Jesus.

The prevailing atmosphere of a House of Prayer is worship. The plain fact of the matter is, Jesus is worthy of all of our worship - just because of Who He is. At the same time, this worship also engenders a humble, joyfully obedient, wholehearted response to the movement of the Holy Spirit within us. In worship our hearts learn to revel in His insights, His wonder, His majesty, His power and His purposes.

- D. All four of these elements are vital ingredients for a House of Prayer. They are also vital to the health of every individual believer.
 - 1. Believers need to gather together. (Hebrews 10:25)
 - 2. Believers need to give ourselves to the New Testament priority of corporate prayer. (Acts 1:13; 2:1; 4:24; 13:1-2)
 - 3. Believers need to give ourselves to the instruction of the Word and dialogue about it together. (Colossians 3:16-17)
 - 4. Believers need to exalt Jesus together in worship and corporate adoration. (Ephesians 5:19)
- E. There are many other ministries and services that the Lord may invite us into, but these dynamics are base-line essentials for the well-being of every believer, in every generation, in every culture. Period. These dynamics are the foundational building blocks of a mature life in Christ. Neglect these foundational elements and the vitality of your relationship with God *will* be deficient, impaired and open to the *shipwreck of faith* (1 Timothy 1:19). Incorporate these Kingdom dynamics into your lifestyle and watch your spirit and your community flourish under the reign of the love of Jesus Christ.
- F. The House of Prayer is God's end-time vehicle.
(Note how many times Jesus exhorts His disciples to "watch and pray" with regard to end-time prophecies.)

GOD'S HOUSE OF PRAYER IS A HOUSE OF INTIMACY

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- A. By establishing Houses of Prayer within various communities God means to cultivate *Intimacy with God* as the vital priority of a believer's heart. He means for all worship, all teaching and training, all fellowship, and all ministry to be geared to encouraging and empowering every believer into first-commandment love for Jesus Christ. (Matthew 22:37-38)
- B. Beyond everything else, the House of Prayer is about offering individuals intentional, first-person encounters with the living God. Through these encounters, we cultivate a worship-filled dialogue with the Spirit that brilliantly goes with us and empowers every other aspect of our life: the marketplace, vocation, missions, church-life, family-life, community-life, economics etc... These encounters with His heart forge an inspirational heart-passion that revels in Jesus everywhere we go.
- C. This is the wisdom Jesus exhorted His disciples into when He said: "**Abide in My love.**" (John 15:9)
- D. Jesus calls the bridesmaids of Matthew 25:1-3 **wise**. Encountering God in a lifestyle of corporate prayer, is how wise bridesmaids **buy oil** (Matthew 25:6) and prepares their own hearts to more fully engage the Bridegroom with joy and celebration.
- E. There are a few realities that may not be immediately apparent to most of us as we begin to think about intimacy with God:
1. Most of believe we can cultivate intimacy with God on the run.
 2. Most of us believe we can have intimacy with God at little cost.
 3. Most of us believe that intimacy with God is optional in the Kingdom.
 4. Most of us believe we'll have all the intimacy we need when we want it most.
 5. Most of us undervalue how deeply the enemy prizes stealing our intimacy with God.
 6. None of us know just how much God wants us to enjoy intimacy with Him.
 7. All of us value intimacy with God less than He does.
- F. Beloved, we're about to go through the most tumultuous era in human history in order to receive the greatest promise in human history. Today the Holy Spirit is preparing the Bride for our Bridegroom's physical return and a transition into a new age when we live under His glorious, earthly leadership.
- G. Knowing that when He returns, He will declare: "**Depart from Me. I never knew you..**" (Matthew 7:21) to many who were engaged in all types of religious activities, it's supremely wise to cultivate close, intimate familiarity with Him today, so that we're among those "**who love His appearing.**" (2 Timothy 4:8)
- H. One day soon, billions of people will hear the cry: "**Behold the Bridegroom! Let's go OUT to meet Him!**" (Matthew 25:6)
Today, it's so vital that those who have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church, prioritize our many activities in order to heed the cry: "**Behold the Bridegroom! Let's go IN to meet with Him!**" (Exodus 33:11)