

Ignite Prayer - The Power of Praying Together

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Today we are examining what it means for a congregation to be “Prayer-Saturated” and the value of corporate prayer. This has to do with how we do ministry... Jesus was so filled with prayer that it is well nigh impossible to say that he merely “had a _____”. Rather, it would be far more correct to indicate that “Jesus’ life _____”

John 5:19, 30 NASB

How did Jesus do ministry? His life was a _____ with his Father. Jesus’ life was “prayer-_____”. Jesus kept his every word and deed before God and was “God-conscious” in every season. And God’s call on our lives as people, families, and congregations is to saturate our ministries with the Presence of God as well. Acts 13:1-4a NASB

The early church knew about _____ to God and _____. We can see the link between prayer and being “led by the Holy Spirit.”

It is also clear that the early church didn’t just listen to the Spirit in _____ times. There was an ongoing walk of dependence upon the Spirit to do their ministry. In fact they listened alone and together in order to understand what God was saying to them, for them to obey: Acts 16:6-10 NASB

These men walked just under ____ kilometers as the crow flies (closer to ____ km); they had to seek the Lord to do their ministry. There was a “try, try again” approach. When they reached an end, God spoke by a dream—and they took that as God’s leading.

THE PRAYER-SATURATED PARADIGM:

Jesus approach to ministry differs from ours. Picture a series of concentric circles expanding out from a small circle. Most of Jesus’ time was spent working with less than a dozen people. And all of it revolved around his prayer ministry. It went like this.

Jesus and _____.

Jesus to _____.

Jesus to _____.

Jesus to _____.

Jesus to _____.

Jesus to _____.

All of it revolved around Jesus and God together communicating at all times and being led by the Holy Spirit. We have to learn how to do ministry like Jesus did.

BUILDING A HOUSE FOR MINISTRY:

Picture a house with three steps leading in. The first step is “Bible-based/Spirit-led”. The second is “Christ-Centered”. The third is “Prayer-saturated”. We need all three to get into our house; the house is called “ministry—being and doing the works of God”.

From the Word, we receive God’s _____ for a life of godliness.

From the Holy Spirit, we receive _____ into the spiritual gifts we need to do what God is calling us to be.

We are guided _____.

From a life of prayerful dependence and prayer-seeking, we are given the leading of God’s Spirit into our ministries.

THE PRAYER GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS:

There is a prayer that God always answers in the affirmative.

John 12:23-24, 27-28, 30-33 NASB

Here is what the prayer meant for Jesus:

- a) that Jesus’ life be so aligned with the Father’s that the devil be cast out,
- b) that Jesus die physically to be brought to a place of deeper prayer,
- c) that Jesus’ death on the cross was to be proclaimed as the way of salvation, and
- d) that souls who were under Satan’s dominion be brought under God’s rule through Christ.

What does it mean for us to pray this prayer?

- a) that our lives be so aligned with God’s that evil be pushed back and defeated by our living,
- b) that anything contrary to the way of Christ be rendered dead and over,
- c) that our lives be given over to Him totally and completely, up to and including the manner in which we live and die,
- d) that through our lives, Jesus’ death on the cross be proclaimed in word and deed through us, so that
- e) souls under the dominion of darkness hear of and embrace Christ and so be saved.

Fully Orbed Discipleship—Praying Together:

Forms and methods of prayer in sacramental, evangelical and charismatic expressions of faith:

