

Seven Vital Truths about a Culture of Prayer
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“Prayer cannot be retired as a secondary force in this world. To do so is to retire God from the movement. It is to make God secondary. The prayer-ministry is an all-engaging force. It must be so, to be a force at all...The estimate and place of prayer is the estimate and place of God. To give prayer the secondary place is to make God secondary in life’s affairs. To substitute other forces for prayer, retires God and materializes the whole movement.”

“It is better to let the work go by default than to let the praying go by neglect. Whatever affects the intensity of our praying affects the value of our work. “Too busy to pray” is not only the keynote to backsliding, but it mars even the work done. Nothing is well done without prayer for the simple reason that it leaves God out of the account. It is so easy to be seduced by the good to the neglect of the best, until both the good and the best perish. How easy to neglect prayer or abbreviate our praying simply by the plea that we have church work on our hands. Satan has effectively disarmed us when he can keep us too busy doing things to stop and pray.”

E.M. Bounds - The Weapon of Prayer

1. A prayer culture is not a prayer _____.

- Creating additional prayer “programs” will tend to attract the same small group of prayer-motivated participants. A prayer culture becomes the environment of the entire ministry. Prayer is not a “department” of the church but rather the supernatural, catalytic life-line for every effort.

2. A prayer culture always emanates from the _____ of church _____.

- How much time do the leaders spend together in prayer? What kind of prayer experience is it? (Simply “praying about things” or seeking the Lord together?).
- The prayer level of a church never rises any higher than the personal example and passion of the leaders.

3. A prayer culture is fueled by _____ not explanation.

- A passion to seek the Lord in prayer is more caught than taught.
- It is best to “build the sidewalks where the footpaths already exist.” We hope to train leaders in every ministry to lead life-giving prayer experiences in the context of their own areas.
- A spiritual appetite for prayer grows as participants “taste and see that the Lord is good” via prayer experiences that are Scripture-fed, Spirit-led and worship-based.

4. A prayer culture is rooted in clarity and conviction about _____.

- People ask, “Which is more important – private prayer or corporate prayer?” The answer: “Yes.” This is like asking, “Which is more important for walking – your right leg or your left leg?”

- In our Western civilization, marked by “rugged individualism” we have essentially amputated our corporate prayer leg and are pretty lame on the private prayer leg.
- Gene Getz: “ The hallmark of Western civilization has been rugged individualism. Because of our philosophy of life, we are used to the personal pronouns ‘I’ and ‘my’ and ‘me.’ We have not been taught to think in terms of ‘we’ and ‘our’ and ‘us’. Consequently, we individualize many references to corporate experience in the New Testament, thus often emphasizing personal prayer. The facts are that more is said in the Book of Acts and the Epistles about corporate prayer, corporate learning of biblical truth, corporate evangelism, and corporate Christian maturity and growth than about the personal aspects of these Christian disciplines . . . Don't misunderstand. Both are intricately related. But the personal dimensions of Christianity are difficult to maintain and practice consistently unless they grow out of a proper corporate experience on a regular basis.” Dr. Gene Getz, *Praying for One Another*
- We have misunderstood Jesus’ teaching from Matthew 6, where he references the “closet.” (KJV only). For more information see *Fresh Encounters – Experiencing Transformation Through United Worship-Based Prayer – Pages 97-113* (Henderson; NavPress)

5. A prayer culture is sustained by the right _____.

- We can easily be motivated by guilt, approval, church growth-- even revival.
- Ultimately, the enduring motive for prayer is that God is worthy to be sought.

6. A prayer culture is a key to supernatural _____ accomplishment.

- The book of Acts (best titled, “The Acts of the Holy Spirit”) presents the reality of life, community and global transformation as the Spirit works through a passionately praying church.
- Prayer is not the only thing we do but must be the first thing we do. It must be our first resolve not our last resort, if our works is to be marked by the unmistakable power of the Holy Spirit.
- In our efforts to see Acts 2 results, we must remember that these are always preceded by Acts 1 focus and passion.

7. A prayer culture is more a _____ than a _____.

- A.W. Tozer used to say, “Don’t expect a big crowd if God is the only attraction.” In our entertainment-oriented Christian culture, prayer is not always popular or easy. Yet, it is essential and, in time, will facilitate the transformation of countless lives, the church, the society and the world.
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