

**JUSTIN THOMAS**  
The Priesthood of Humanity

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. Where are we going? Tonight, we want to lay a framework for this month’s series on prayer as well as a basic framework for our lives in prayer.
1. Highlighted sections from HOTFM’s vision packet
  2. Broad overview of the series on prayer
  3. Tonight, we will not be focused on what we are to pray, or even how we pray, but rather focus on the why of prayer.
  4. Prayer is not reserved for “super saints” (which doesn’t exist!) or for “ministers” only.
  5. Not everyone is called to occupational ministry, but WE ALL are called to pray.
  6. Praying as priests is what we are all called to do but living as priests before God is who we are called to be.
  7. Our goal tonight is to walk away with a deep visceral knowing of the holiness of our purpose as human beings – to be holy priests unto God for His glory and His good pleasure.
  8. I have felt the Lord asking two questions while preparing for this teaching, “*do you know who you are? Do you know who I’ve made you to be before Me?*”
  9. God created Adam and Eve to be the first and archetypical priests in the beginning. This has HUGE implications for the rest of humanity!
  10. People typically relate to our priesthood according to the context of the current evil fallen age we live in. Most believe that being a priest is primarily about sin sacrifice, atonement, and reconciliation unto God. While this is accurate of the current age we live in, we will soon discover that there was a holy priesthood found within Eden before the fall, and that the restoration of God’s Kingdom on the earth in the age to come is also a holy priesthood that has no need to reconcile anything or to make atonement for sins.
  11. We will soon see that priestliness was our **Design** in the beginning and that it is also our **Destiny** in the end.

## II. GOD – THE ETERNAL LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP OF THE TRINITY

- A. The Godhead had eternal fellowship with one another before creation began. They were eternally each other's deepest and truest delight. Mike Bickle refers to this pre-creation relationship within the Godhead as *"the Fellowship of the Burning Heart."* The eternal vastness of God's great love for Himself is unfathomable to our fallen comprehension, yet it is the very work of the Holy Spirit to make this love known to us on the inside (Jn 15:9, 17:26, Rom 5:5, Eph 1:17-19, 3:14-19).
- B. Prayer is simply God's invitation to humanity to be a part of the divine conversation and the eternal fellowship and enjoyment the Trinity has been having with one another for all eternity. Prayer is often relegated in people's minds as just the task of asking God for things. While we do make our requests known to the Lord, the heart of prayer is about relationship to Him.
- C. We were made for fellowship with God to give Him glory
- D. The very act of creation was from an overflow of desire from that Divine fellowship. We're not birds and we're not rocks. We're the only creatures in God's created order with the faculties and capabilities of relating to God in such direct and intimate ways as what we have. God desired to make mankind in His image in order to bring us into His eternal fellowship as children.

**"... for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" – Matthew 12:34 ESV**

**"... for the mouth speaks from the overflow of the heart." Matthew 12:34 CSB**

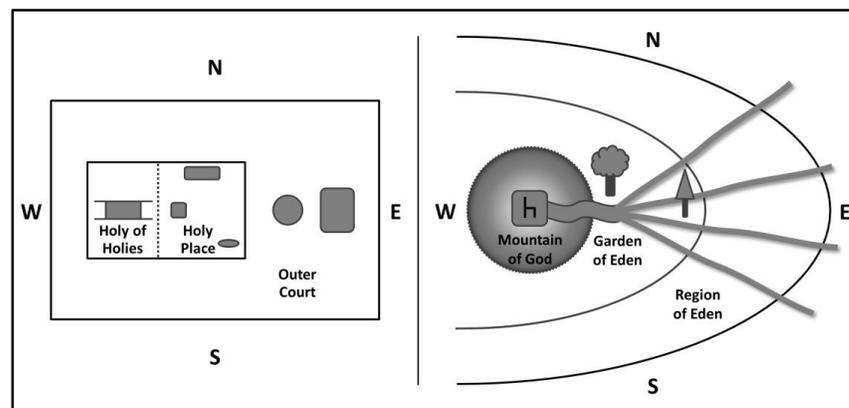
- E. (Question: When God breathed into Adam His very breath and Adam came to life, what was the look on God's face? Much can be seen about our theology based on this question...)

## III. EDEN: EARTH'S FIRST TEMPLE

- A. God not only created human beings in His own image and likeness, but He also placed Adam and Eve in a context quite like His. Eden as a reflection of heaven / *paradise* (Lk 23:43, 2 Cor 12:4, Rev 2:7) can therefore be thought of as God creating Eden in the image of His Heavenly Sanctuary (*"Paradise" can also be translated as "garden"*). Scripture reveals that God does not dwell in the "great beyond" in a "spiritualized" *immaterial* place. The Bible reveals that the chambers of God's dwelling in the hight of the heavens are beautiful and adorned with plants and trees, sights and sounds, halls and chambers, walls and rivers.
- B. The Bible later describes that all of the various forms of tabernacles, and temples find their origin and inspiration from God's dwelling in the heavens and its' mirrored reality found in Eden as well as again in the restored heavens and earth.

C. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. <sup>9</sup> And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the middle of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. <sup>10</sup> A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden (which was on the East side of Eden), and there it divided and became four rivers...  
<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work (serve) and keep (Guard) it. – Genesis 2:8-15

D. Dr. John H. Walton articulates, "We must first recognize that the garden of Eden was not, strictly speaking, a garden for man, but was the garden of God (Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 28:13). 'The garden of Eden is not viewed by the author of Genesis simply as a piece of Mesopotamian farmland, but as an archetypical sanctuary, that is, **a place where God dwells and where man should worship him**. Many of the features of the garden may also be found in later sanctuaries, particularly the tabernacle or Jerusalem temple. These parallels suggest that the garden itself is understood as a sort of sanctuary."



E. Many scholars have listed the various similarities between the garden of Eden and the tabernacle and/or Jerusalem Temple. A partial list follows:

1. • God "walked" (Heb. *hālak*) in both, representing his unique presence in each (Gen. 3:8; Lev. 26:12; Deut. 23:14; 2 Sam. 7:6–7).
2. • Human beings are commanded to "work/serve" (Heb. *ābad*) and "keep/guard it" (Heb. *šāmar*) both, representing their priestly role and function (Gen. 2:15; Num. 3:7–8; 8:25–26; 18:5–6; 1 Chron. 23:32).
  - a. In the rest of the O.T. whenever those two words are used ("serve" & "guard") within a 15 word range, it is ALWAYS in reference to Levites or Priests.
  - b. Hebrew reading Jews would immediately recognize this as priestly language.

- c. This is also confirmed by the Cherubim (plural) as they are stationed at the entry of the garden to *replac*e Adam and Eve's post after they failed to guard (Heb. *šāmar*) the sanctuary from any unclean thing from entering.
3. • The structure of both is threefold, with an entrance facing east (Gen. 2:8; 3:24; Ezek. 8:16; 40:6). (See figure for comparison)
  4. • Both are situated on a mountain (Gen. 2:10; 2 Chron. 3:1; Isa. 2:2; Ezek. 28:13–16).
  5. • Both are guarded by cherubim (plural) (Gen. 3:24; Ex. 25:18–22; 26:31; 1 Kings 6:23–35; Ezek. 28:14).
  6. • Rivers flow out of both Eden (Gen. 2:10) and the eschatological temple in Jerusalem (Ezek. 47:1–12; Rev. 22:1–2).
  7. • Precious metals and stones are used in and adorn both (Gen. 2:11–12; Ex. 25:7–31; Ezek. 28:13).
  8. • There's great similarities between the trees that filled the garden (Gen. 2:9), and the Edenic inspired decorations that adorned the temple (1 Kings 6:18–35; 7:18–20).
  9. Moreover, the tree of life and the tree of knowledge (Gen. 2:9) seem to be represented and symbolized, respectively, in the sanctuary lampstand and law (the lampstand representing the tree of life and the law as representing the tutor to lead us to Christ in light of Adam choosing the tree of knowledge in the beginning).
- F. *"Earlier stories (in the Bible) are designed with little "easter eggs" so to speak, and gives language and imagery that comes to have great significance once you've read through the whole Bible and you come back and see, "aaahh... Eden **is** 'the real thing' (we should long for) and all these other little Tabernacles and Temples were just made to look like the place (Eden) where heaven and earth were one." – Tim Mackie (Bible Project)*
- G. The perspective that the Garden is the first sanctuary makes far more sense when we realize that gardens in the ancient Near East were very different than we understand them today. When we picture a garden, we may picture several rows of flowers adorned by a row of shrubs with a few trees dotting the scenery. Or we may picture several rows of vegetables neatly tucked in our backyard. Our modern understanding of a garden is a fairly small plot of land that holds minimal vegetation. This is not what ancient Near Eastern gardens were like.
- H. Gardens in the ancient world were associated with royalty. They were adjacent to kings' palaces. They were walled and landscaped with pathways and regions. In other words, it had structures and dimension to it.

- I. While we would normally imagine the Garden of Eden as a place of remarkable fruitfulness and beauty, and it is, we should also picture it as including structural features such as walls, paths, gates, and chambers.
- J. God appointed Cherubim at the entrance of it in order to guard it like "gatekeepers" so to speak. As a sanctuary, there was an actual entrance and gate or doorway. If it was simply an open field with no structures, it would be impossible to guard the way of entrance.
- K. "Next we need to understand the designation "garden." The word generally refers to a park like setting featuring trees and what we could call landscaping. This is in contrast to the American usage of garden, which, more often than not, refers to a small rectangular plot of ground with rows of vegetables or flowers...In the same way that a garden of the palace would be adjoining the palace, Eden would then be the source of the waters and the residence of God, and the garden would adjoin God's residence. Gardens of this variety were a common feature in palace complexes in the ancient world...They were planted with fruit trees and shade trees and generally contained watercourses, pools and paths..." (IVP Dictionary on the Pentateuch under the entry on Eden, p 203.)
- L. "Ezekiel 28:18 is probably the most explicit place anywhere in canonical literature where the Garden of Eden is called a sanctuary. We are not left, however, with a collection of similarities that show how comparable Eden is to a temple. Indeed, Ezekiel 28 explicitly calls Eden the first sanctuary, which substantiates that Eden is described as a temple because it is the first temple, albeit a 'garden-temple'" G.K. Beale, *The Temple and the Church's Mission*
- M. "You were the signet of perfection (LXX – "a seal of resemblance"), full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> YOU WERE IN EDEN, THE GARDEN OF GOD; every precious (priestly) stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. <sup>14</sup> You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF GOD; (LXX – "From the day you were created, I placed you *with* the Cherub in *the Holy Mountain of God*") in the midst of the stones of fire you walked.<sup>15</sup> You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you. <sup>16</sup> In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. (LXX – "Because of the abundance of your merchandise, you filled your treasuries with lawlessness, and you sinned and were wounded from THE MOUNTAIN OF GOD, and THE CHERUB LED YOU OUT of the middle of the fiery stones.") <sup>17</sup> Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you. <sup>18</sup> By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your SANCTUARIES (3-fold holy designated spaces found in the Temple (ie. outer courts, Holy place, Holy of Holies)); so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you. <sup>19</sup> All who know you among the peoples are appalled at you; you have come to a dreadful end and shall be no more forever." – Ezekiel 28:12-19

- N. NOTE - There is some debate on whether Eze 28 is in reference to Lucifer or Adam as the first priest. Most all Jewish scholarship until the time of later Christendom understood this as referencing Adam. Understanding this person as Lucifer is a later development for believers. Many modern scholars are trending back towards the original interpretation held that this passage is an explicit reference to Adam.
- O. **Regardless** of if Eze 28 depicts Adam or Lucifer as the first priest, you have a Biblical text that describes the beginning as having the "**holy mountain of God**" (vs. 14), that is present along with "**the garden of God, called Eden**" (vs 13.), with a specific **priest**, who is **adorned** with the same priestly stones (v. 13) that later priests wore in service to the Lord, who was **residing IN Eden** (vs. 13), and that this priesthood **started off holy** and **became corrupt** (vs. 11, 15-17), profaning **an existing sanctuary** (vs.18). (The plural usage of sanctuary in Ezekiel 28:18 is found elsewhere in reference to the tabernacle (Lev. 21:23) and temple (Jer. 51:51; Ezek. 7:24), as Beale explains: "The plural reference to the one temple probably arose because of the multiple sacred spaces or 'sanctuaries' within the temple complex (e.g., courtyard, Holy Place, Holy of Holies)" ("Eden, the Temple, and the Church's Mission," 10).

#### IV. PRIESTLY DESIGN – HUMANITY'S ORIGINAL PURPOSE

##### A. Adam & the Priesthood of Man

###### Adam's Identity

*Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. Gen 2:15*

1. As we've seen, Adam is best understood as the *first & archetypical priest* since he is placed into a Garden-Sanctuary environment and commissioned with the same language that later is used only for priestly services and duties. Adam was called to serve the Lord and keep guard over His earthly sanctuary because God desired a place to dwell among His people and His creation.
2. Implications
  - a. "It would be difficult to exaggerate the significance of this understanding as it relates to understanding the purpose of humanity. The original and archetypical man was fashioned first and foremost to minister to the LORD. Adam and His progeny were created to be a priestly people who magnified the greatness of Yahweh. In short, we exist for Him." – Stephen Venable

- b. In the most primal, fundamental sense, humanity was created to identify, and live as priests and from that *very overt purpose*, identity, and action *then* move outward. From the biblical standpoint, the **priestly activities are the assumed starting point for humanity**, and the other tasks given are to be seen as the **secondary elements or purposes for our existence**.
- c. In our day, this is nearly the exact opposite of how this is approached. Of all of the billions of things that people choose to be their starting points of purpose and what is most important, we have the difficult challenge of convincing people why they should shut down these things for a moment in order to engage in the priestly activities of worship and prayer that they were actually designed chiefly for by God.
- d. When God formed Adam and breathed His breath inside of him to bring him to life, He then PUT Adam in this His Garden-Sanctuary (Gen 2:15) to serve Him as a priest.

## V. CONTINUED PRIESTLY ACTIVITIES PRE-TABERNACLE OF MOSES

- A. The priestly witness of early humanity (*Why would the patriarchs perform priestly functions before Moses established the tabernacle, if not for Adam and Eve, the first priests, who passed it's early beginnings onward?*)
  - 1. Cain & Abel – *Genesis 4:1-7*
  - 2. Noah – *Genesis 8:20-22*
  - 3. Abraham – *Genesis 12:7-8, 13:3-4*
- B. The Witness of Israel as a Nation

Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and **keep My covenant**, then you shall be **a special treasure to Me above all people**; for all the earth is Mine. And you **shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. Ex 19:5-7

*To be in covenant with God is the call to be a priest before Him. Although the tribe of Levi and the house of Aaron were called to minister to the LORD vocationally, **the entire nation of Israel was called to be priests before God in their identity**. This is because covenant is about returning to right relationship with God (*reconciliation*) and we were made to relate to Him in this capacity. This is the "Original Order" which the sin of idolatry disrupted.*

## VI. THE RESTORED KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

- A. Not only were we **Designed** to be priests in the beginning, but we are also **Destined** to be a restored Kingdom of Priests in the end. Jesus is not going to make all new things, but rather He's going to make all things new through *restoration*.

<sup>28</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matt 19:28*

<sup>21</sup> *Heaven must receive him until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning. Acts 3:21*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. Rev 20:6*

<sup>3</sup> *Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling ("tabernacle") is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. Rev 21:3*

- B. This dual **kingly** and **priestly** function is the broad theme of the book of Revelation from beginning (1:6) to end (22:5). Why is this? It's because our calling and positioning as "kings and priests to God" in the end is simply a restoration of what our original calling and purpose was in the beginning before the fall.
- C. It is important to consider what "being a priest" looks like and means if the bookends of redemptive history have priests in contexts where NO needs exist!
- D. No revival was needed. No injustice existent. No incentive to change the spiritual atmosphere. Adam had no experience of a financial breakthrough and sickness healed. What was the basis of his worship?! Simply God's greatness in power and beauty and glory!
- E. "In the age to come, when the long-awaited reign of righteousness has finally dawned upon the earth and all injustice has been eradicated, *He will still be worthy of unrelenting worship*. Our worship *must be* mingled with fervent intercession for the Church and the lost (*now in this age*), but at the center of night and day devotion (*as priests*) stands a breathtaking Beauty that knows no rivals, and His splendor alone is more than sufficient to warrant 24/7 devotion in Heaven and on earth." – Stephen Venable

## VII. PAUL'S PRIESTLY MINISTRY (AN EXAMPLE FOR US)

Nevertheless, I have written to remind you more boldly on some points because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of the gospel of God. God's purpose is that the Gentiles may be an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. - Romans 15:15-16

- A. This is a shocking revelation about our beloved brother, Paul, the apostle. While we are quick to highlight his missionary exploits, signs and wonders, turning of cities upside down, recognizing him for his glorious epistles, and birthing New Testament churches, we must stop and ask ourselves, "why does Paul summarize his entire ministry as being 'priestly service'?"
- B. He describes himself as
  - 1. A minister of Christ Jesus
  - 2. To the lost (those outside of covenant with God)
  - 3. Serving as a Priest in light of God's gospel
  - 4. That the Lost may become his priestly offering to the Lord.
- C. In light of the gospel, there is a priestly responsibility that requires priestly activities. And what Paul is saying is that he is doing them.
- D. Part of Paul's method of discipleship, as well as his strategy to prepare people to stand before the Lord on the last day as a prepared people, was to first **BE A PRIEST** before God and then to get others **CONNECTED** to Jesus' heart in prayer **AS PRIESTS** themselves and to then faithfully **PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL** to the lost so that he could then offer them to the Lord.
- E. Paul's conviction of the importance of prayer and worship are easily seen throughout the pages of the New Testament. We will see this in a moment.
- F. A priesthood that "only prays" is completely foreign to the Bible in both Old and New Testament. There is no such thing as being a priest and not having a dynamic and expressive ministry to the body of Christ with a clear and anointed witness to the lost.

"... My covenant with him (*Levi*) was one of life and peace, and I gave these to him; it called for reverence, and he revered me and stood in awe of my name. <sup>6</sup>True instruction was in his mouth, and nothing wrong was found on his lips. He walked with me in peace and integrity and turned many from iniquity. <sup>7</sup>For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge (*the knowledge of God*), and people should desire instruction from his mouth, because he is the messenger of the LORD of Armies." – Malachi 2:5-7

- G. From this passage, we see that we as priests, are ALL called to revere the Lord, to stand in awe of Him, to walk with God in peace and integrity, to be full of His word, able to instruct others, and turn people away from sin as God's messengers.
1. We are to be **full** of the knowledge of God because we are to live as His **Priests** before Him.
  2. We are also to be **full** of the knowledge of God because as **Priests** we are to be **God's messengers**.

## VIII. OUR CALL AS PRIESTS IN THIS AGE

**Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious... But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light... I Peter 2:7, 9 (NJKV/NASB)**

- A. Our calling as priests in this age can best be understood in three broad categories:
1. **Worship** – our relationship to God
  2. **Discipleship** – our relationship to His Body
  3. **Evangelism** – our relationship to the Lost
- B. "Missions is not the ultimate goal of the church. Worship is. Missions exists because worship doesn't. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man... Worship is therefore the fuel and goal of missions." – John Piper
- C. It must be stressed clearly that "only praying" is NOT true "priesting". The Bible has no example of this anywhere.
- D. However, there is also no Biblical example of Discipleship and Evangelism that is initiated apart from Worship/Prayer being the starting point (ie. ministering to God as priests).
- E. So what does this look like more practically? A more detailed list of practical function as priests is outlined below.
1. **To be with Him** (*close in proximity / near*)
  2. **To behold Him** (*see Him as He is*)
  3. **To minister to Him** (*speak to Him / worship / fellowship / thank / enjoy /delight in*)
  4. **To minister to the Lord individually** (*personal, private, and in secret*)

5. To minister to the Lord **corporately** (as a holy people/nation for His own possession)
6. To be ministers of His covenant
  - a. Through *intercession* (Conversation with God)
  - b. Through *proclamation* (Conversation with people – both saved and lost)
    - (1) To make His *Heart, Words, Ways, and Deeds* known *to His People*
    - (2) To make His *Heart, Words, Ways, and Deeds* known *to the Lost*
7. To offer the lost as an offering to the Lord
8. To offer the Lord His people as a pure spotless Bride (fully mature and complete in their love and obedience to His leadership)

#### IX. NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAYER

<sup>23</sup> After dismissing the crowds, he (Jesus) **went up on the mountain by himself to pray.** Well into the night, he was there alone. – Matt 14:23

<sup>35</sup> **Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying.** - Mark 1:35

<sup>18</sup> While he was **praying in private** and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" – Luke 9:18

<sup>39</sup> He went out and made his way **as usual** to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> When he reached the place, he told them, "**Pray that you may not fall into temptation.**" <sup>41</sup> Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and began to **pray,** - Luke 22:39-41

They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, **and to prayer.** – Acts 2:42

As they were **worshiping (ministering to the Lord)** the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off – Acts 13:2-3

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you...** 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 -Colossians 1:3, 9

We give thanks to God always for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers -I Thessalonians 1:2

For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account, <sup>10</sup> as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith? -I Thess 3:9-10

Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God. -Colossians 4:12

Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church. -Acts 12:5

Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. <sup>3</sup> At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains... Col 4:2

Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. <sup>11</sup> Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; be persistent in prayer. Romans 12:10-12

“Be on your guard, so that your minds are not dulled from carousing, drunkenness, and worries of life, or that day will come on you unexpectedly <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come on all who live on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.” Luke 21:34-36

Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. -I Thessalonians 5:16-18

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints...-Ephesians 6:18

**MARIE JENKINS**

The Secret Place

## I. We Are the Garden

Song of Solomon 4:11-15 (The Bridegroom, Jesus, Speaking to the Bride, the Church.)

Your loving words are like the honeycomb to Me; your tongue releases milk and honey,...The fragrance of your worshiping love surrounds you with scented robes of white.

My darling Bride, My private paradise, fastened to My heart. A secret spring are you that no one else can have; My bubbling fountain hidden from public view. What a perfect partner to Me now that I have you.

Your inward life is now sprouting, bringing forth fruit. What a beautiful paradise unfolds within you. When I am near, I smell aromas of the finest spice, for many clusters of My exquisite fruit now grow within your inner garden. Here are the nine:

**Pomegranates of passion**----(taken from a word meaning exalted)

**Henna from heaven**----(ransom price or redemption)

**Spikenard so sweet**----(light; walking in the light as He is in the Light)

**Saffron shining**----(the lover(s perfume')

**Fragrant calamus from the cross**----(purchased or redeemed)

**Sacred cinnamon**----(a fragrance of holiness to the Lord)

**Branches of scented woods**----(incense burned on altar of Holy Place)

**Myrrh like tears from a tree**----(resin spice from cutting a tree, the suffering love of Christ dripping down from Calvary's tree)

**Aloe as eagles ascending**----(healing balm, like eagles we fly free from our past)

Your life flows into Mine, pure as a garden spring. A well of living water springs up from within you, like a mountain brook flowing into My heart.

S.S.2:13-14

Arise My love, My fair one and come away. My beloved Shepherd said to me, O My dove in the seclusion of the clefts of the rock, in the sheltered and secret place of the cliff, let Me see your face, let Me hear your voice--

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## II. The Secret Place

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your closet, (most private room, inner room, innermost chamber ) and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly

Deut. 10:20 You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him and cling to Him and you shall swear by His name.

Hebrew for CLING has various meanings of holding fast and hanging on. Devekut is actually an expression of love, an embrace, a hug.

We could read the verse – we are to hug God!

Prov. 3: 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

Isa.30:15 For thus the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, has said, In repentance and rest you shall be saved, In quietness and confidence is your strength, But you were not willing.

Psalms 99:5 Exalt the Lord our God, And worship at His footstool, Holy is He.

Psalms 62:1 My soul waits in silence for God only, From Him is my salvation. (I stand silently to listen for the One I love. Passion Translation)

Ecc.3:7 There is a time to be silent and a time to speak.

Job 6:24 Teach me and I will be silent, And show me how I have erred.

Hab.2:20 But the Lord is in His holy temple, Let all the earth be silent before Him.

### III. What Does the Secret Place Look Like?

- Jesus gave us a location to have intimate time with the Father.
- Jesus often slipped away to be alone with Father.
- Prayer is born out of our relationship with the Lord in the secret place.
- We are to hug God.
  - **Prayer room** – greet Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. Acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:6
  - **Bible reading** – ask Holy Spirit to teach you, direct you, fill you with wisdom and understanding in the Word. Journal what you learn.
  - **Prayer time** – ask Holy Spirit to lead your prayers, to reveal Father’s heart for that day. Pray in tongues, listen to Holy Spirit, pray what He tells you. Spirit led prayers not self led. Blessings not curses.
  - **Silence** – sitting at His footstool in quiet awe and adoration. Be still.
    - Be silent. Let your heart melt in His presence. He can fill our hearts with compassion to pray for the lost and suffering. Prayer is birthed in us as we wait in silence.
  - **Minister His Word to Him** – Prayer is birthed in us as we turn the verses we read into a prayer. We go deeper into Father’s heart.

**LISA BATES**  
*Adoration Prayer*

## ADORATION PRAYER - Lisa Bates

Song 4:9.TPT (The Bridegroom says) You reach into My heart. With one flash of your eyes I am undone by your love, my beloved, my equal, my bride. You leave Me breathless- I am overcome by merely a glance from your worshiping eyes, for you have stolen My heart.

Recap from last week: Marie taught us about prayer in the secret place.

We learned that prayer is born out of our relationship with the Lord in the secret place. She taught us to go into the secret place as a regular practice, to greet Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit. To ask Holy Spirit to teach us, fill us with wisdom and understanding as we read the Word and as we pray; for Him to lead our prayers. To pray blessings and not curses. To sit in silence before Him in quiet awe and adoration. Prayer is birthed in us as we wait in silence. Then we turn the Scriptures He gives us into prayers.

We are so glad you are hungry to grow in the place of prayer. We want to create a culture of prayer at HOTFM where EVERYONE feels like they are equipped and ready to engage with the Lord in prayer, both in the secret place, during everyday life, and in a corporate (that means group) setting like this. Every voice matters to God. Every voice matters to us.

What is prayer?

**Prayer** (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

In worship, a solemn address to the Supreme Being, **consisting of adoration**, or an expression of our sense of God's glorious perfections, confession of our sins, supplication for mercy and forgiveness, intercession for blessing on others, and thanksgiving, or an expression of gratitude to God for His mercies and benefits. A prayer however, may consist of a single petition and it may be extemporaneous (spontaneously spoken or sung), written, or printed.

**Adoration** (Webster's 1828 Dictionary)

The act of paying homage (reverential worship) to a divine being; the worship paid to God; the act of *addressing* God. Adoration consists in external homage, accompanied

with the highest reverence. It is used for the act of praying, or proffering thanks or requests to the Supreme Being.

Adoration is generally considered the most noble form of prayer, **a kind of prostration of the whole being before God.**

The secret place is a wonderful place to pray adoration prayers, but it is right and it is powerful when we also do that corporately.

In our Heart of the Father vision packet it says this:

*I have a dream that our worship will continue to grow deeper and more focused on the person of Jesus Christ, deeply exalting Him. That we would be less concerned about being personally blessed and increasingly more passionate about giving Him “the honor that is due His holy name.” That our (corporate) times of worship would be less about our own times of personal devotions, and more about an expression of one united Bride’s heart pouring out undistracted love and **adoration** to our God!*

Adoration prayers address God with love, awe, worship, admiration and devotion. We repeat back to God His attributes, acknowledge His worthiness, and reverence Him for Who He is and what He has done. When we do this TOGETHER, think of what that does to our Father’s heart!

Remember too, that it shakes the powers of darkness!

**Ps. 29:1-4, 10-11 (TPT)**

**Proclaim His majesty, all you mighty champions, you sons of Almighty God, giving all the glory and strength back to Him!**

**Be in awe before His majesty. Be in awe before such power and might!**

**Come worship wonderful Yahweh, arrayed in all His splendor, bowing in worship as He appears in the beauty of holiness.**

**Give Him the honor due His name. Worship Him wearing the glory-garments of your holy, priestly calling!**

**The voice of the Lord echoes through the skies and seas. The Glory-God reigns as He thunders in the clouds. So powerful is His voice, so brilliant and bright, how majestic as He thunders over the great waters!**

Throughout these teachings you may hear us talk about beholding God, because what we behold, we will become. When we become like Jesus, it shakes the power structures of darkness and pulls down strongholds that have been built here on earth. Jesus is advancing His kingdom and we are partnering with Him in that work. Prayer is a critical piece of that process.

Samuel Whitfield, in his book *Discipleship Begins with Beholding* says this,

Behold Jesus and become like Him. To behold Him leads us to adore Him.

Beholding Him affects every area of your life:

**\*We should teach people to behold Jesus.**

**\*We should sing so that people behold Jesus.**

**\*We should pray from a place of beholding Jesus.**

Biblical examples of corporate adoration and prayer.

**Ps. 8** (to the Chief Musician - so this was prayed in song to/with the congregation)

**O Lord, our Lord, how excellent, majestic and glorious is your name in all the earth!**

**You have set Your glory on [or above] the heavens.**

**Out of the mouths of babes and unweaned infants You have established strength because of Your foes, that You might silence the enemy and the avenger.**

**When I view and consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained and established,**

**What is man that You are mindful of him and the son of earthborn man that You care for him?**

**Yet You have made him but a little lower than God [or heavenly beings], and You have crowned him with glory and honor.**

**You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet:**

**All sheep and oxen, yes, and the beasts of the field,**

**The birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how excellent, majestic and glorious is your name in all the earth!**

## **The Bible is our prayer book.**

### SCRIPTURES FOR ADORATION PRAYER:

Neh. 9:5b-6. Blessed be Your glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise. You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, even the highest heavens, with all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You.

Ps. 108:4-5. Your love is so extravagant, it reaches higher than the heavens! Your faithfulness is so astonishing, it stretches to the skies! Lord God, be exalted as You soar throughout the heavens. May Your shining glory be seen high above the earth!

Ps. 89:7-8 In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; He is more awesome than all who surround Him. Who is like You, Lord God Almighty? You, Lord, are mighty, and Your faithfulness surrounds You.

Ps 17:15 As for me, I will continue beholding Your face in righteousness; I shall be fully satisfied, when I awake to find myself beholding Your form and having sweet communion with You.

2 Chron. 6:41 So now arise, O Lord God, and come into Your resting-place, You and the ark of Your strength and power. Let Your priests, O Lord God, be clothed with salvation, and let Your saints rejoice in good and in Your goodness.

Psalm 99:5 Exalt the Lord our God  
And worship at His footstool;  
Holy is He.

Rev. 19:6-7. Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the All-Powerful, reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give Him glory, because the wedding celebration of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.

Deut. 32:3-4 For I will proclaim the name and presence of the Lord. Concede and ascribe greatness to our God. He is the Rock, His work is perfect, for all His ways are law and justice. A God of faithfulness without breach or deviation, just and right is He.

1 Chron. 16: 27-28 Honor and majesty are found in His presence; strength and joy are found in His sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ps. 105: 2 Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; meditate on and talk of all His marvelous deeds and devoutly praise them.

Rev. 19:1-2 Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, because His judgments are true and just.

Is. 11:2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him - the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord.

Rev. 4:10-11 The twenty-four elders fall prostrate before Him Who is sitting on the throne, and they worship Him Who lives forever and ever; and they throw down their crowns before the throne, crying out, "Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and dominion, for You created all things; by Your will they were brought into being and were created."

Jn. 10:10 ... I have come to give you everything in abundance, more than you expect - life in it's fullness until you overflow! I am the good, beautiful, virtuous, excellent, genuine Shepherd Who lays down My life for the sheep.

Jn 4:34-24. (Jesus to the woman at the well) From here on, worshiping the Father will not be a matter of the right place but with the right heart. For God is a Spirit and He longs to have sincere worshipers who worship **and adore Him** in the realm of the Spirit and in truth.

Rev. 5:9. They were singing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because You were killed, and at the cost of Your own blood You have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people and nation."

**LUKE & GOSPEL WITTE**  
Corporate Prayer & Intercession

## Corporate Prayer and Intercession

### A. **Why** do we pray and intercede?

- Prayer and Intercession is part of our calling as priests.
- Prayer and intercession keeps us awake and sober.

### B. **Why** do we need corporate prayer and intercession?

- When we pray corporately, it allows us to see things in the spirit that we may otherwise miss because we are drawing on the supply of the Holy Spirit in others.
- When we ask the Lord as a corporate body then the Lord will receive corporate glory when He answers our prayers.

### C. The Prayer and Intercession Journey

#### 1. Lay down your **spiritual backpack**

- We need to lay aside our own expectations and agendas and must submit ourselves fully to the Holy Spirit's leading.
- If we limit God to the box of our experiences and understanding, it becomes difficult for us to hear God clearly and respond to His leading.
- Release the spiritual backpack to the Lord and be completely yielded to His leading.

#### 2. **Inquire** the Holy Spirit

- We must acknowledge the Holy Spirit and yield to His leadership. When we inquire the Holy Spirit, we are acknowledging that we are weak and that we cannot pray without Him. We cannot pray according to God's will unless we have the help of the Holy Spirit who knows the will of God (Romans 8: 26-27).
- When we begin speaking words before the Lord is finished speaking to our hearts, we can actually quench the Holy Spirit.
- Do not fall into the trap of "performing" prayer to make something happen. Embrace the awkward.

3. Follow the Holy Spirit's **Direction** and pray in **Agreement**

- Catch the wave of intercession that the Holy Spirit is already praying. When we are coming into agreement, our prayers come into “alignment” with His prayers.
- In corporate prayer, we are coming into agreement with what we hear the Holy Spirit is saying and then what the Holy Spirit is saying through others in the room.
- Treasure the things that the Lord reveals to you in times of prayer.
- Be persistent in prayer and intercession. Do not give up but continue to press in until the burden lifts and you feel the His peace.

4. Believe in **Faith** and offer **Thanksgiving**.

- Once we pray and declare the Lord's will over the situation, believe in faith that the Lord will carry out His will. Give thanks to the Lord and give Him glory for who He is and the work that He will do.
- Do not limit how the Lord will answer to our human understanding and imagination. Release everything to the Lord.

**RACHAEL THOMAS**

Praying Biblical Prayers

**I. OVERVIEW**

- A. Week 1: The *WHY* behind our need to pray and our priestly calling.
- B. Week 2: The *NECESSITY* of starting prayer in the secret place.
- C. Week 3: The *IMPORTANCE* of prayer in the place of corporate adoration.
- D. Week 4: The *PRAXIS* of prayer in the place of corporate Intercession.
- E. Week 5: The *VALUE* of praying biblical prayers recorded in the Bible.

**II. THE PRIVILEGE OF PRAYER**

- A. Our goal in these 5 weeks has been to cast a hope filled vision of *WHY* all believers are called to pray. This truth leads us to the spiritual discipline of *HOW* we are called to grow in the place of prayer which ultimately leads us to unceasing *COMMUNION* with our Heavenly Father throughout our day.
- B. We are often told TO pray but not always equipped with the basics of HOW TO pray. This reality of being a priestly people who minister to the Lord and behold His beauty is not just for the few church intercessors but for every single believer. It's all about relationship.
- C. We have desired to demystify this invitation of connection to the heart of God and make prayer something that is both desirable and enjoyable in our journey to maturity (SOS 8:5)
  - 1. Our journey into prayer is a journey of delight and fellowship. It's a journey of desire and intimate connection. Prayer is often relegated in people's minds as just asking God for things but it's more about deepening our relationship to Him.
  - 2. He made us for Himself and for His pleasure. John Piper famously quoted the phrase "*God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him*".
  - 3. Our human makeup and design was for the purpose of bringing us into the fellowship of the burning heart of the Trinity
- D. We see 3 basic structures for prayer in the Bible:
  - 1. Devotional prayer, Intercession and personal petitions.
  - 2. I have noticed the difference as I grow in the discipline of praying the prayers that Jesus, Paul and Peter prayed which are those that we have recorded in the scriptures

for our benefit and guidance. Little by little my heart has become tender and my emotions become more positive with mercy and kindness towards others.

- a) It's not that I don't pray other scriptures or for other things. I DO. But ultimately I want to reach for His Words to become my words. I want His language to become my language. I want His heart to become my heart!

E. We use the term "Apostolic Prayer" because they are the prayers that Jesus, our chief apostle (Heb 3:1) and the Holy Spirit gave to the apostles.

1. These prayers are guaranteed. They are canonized in the Living Word of God like checks already signed in heaven just waiting for a co-signer on earth to be cashed. They are as relevant to us today as they were in the early church!
2. Including doxologies, there are about 30 apostolic prayers in the Bible.

- a) You could pray 1 apostolic prayer PER DAY during a month. Just like reading a Proverb a day fills us with Wisdom, so too taking the challenge of praying 1 biblical prayer a day would get His method and language of prayer written on your heart! He's the greatest teacher we have.

F. Here's a sampling of some of the key themes from the apostolic prayers:

- For wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God (Eph. 1:17)
- For strengthening with might in the inner being (Eph. 3:16, Col. 1:11)
- For love to abound... in the knowledge of God (Phil. 1:9, 1 Thes. 3:12)
- For the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and understanding (Col. 1:9)
- That the Word of the Lord would run swiftly and be glorified (2 Thes. 3:1)
- To glorify God in unity, with joy, peace, and hope (Rom. 15:5-6, 13)
- To preach with boldness and power with signs, wonders and miracles (Acts 4:29-30)

### III. APOSTOLIC PRAYERS ARE GOD CENTERED PRAYERS

A. All the prayers recorded in the New Testament are God-centered prayers. Every single one is addressed TO GOD. Not one apostolic prayer is addressed to the devil.

1. God-centered prayer DOES include spiritual warfare prayer given as one of the models in the New Testament. The early church used this type of prayer in resisting and dislodging demonic forces and cultural strongholds. (Look at

Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Cor. 10:3-5)

B. All the prayers of Jesus that are recorded in the Bible were directed to the FATHER. (Jn. 14:16, 17:5, 11, 15, 25).

1. Jesus taught His disciples to pray to the FATHER. (Mt. 18:19; Lk. 11:2, 13).

2. The apostles also teach us to address the FATHER (Eph. 1:16-17; 3:14; 16-20).

C. Therefore when we pray, we pray to the Father. It's so simple it's easy to do! It's also so simple it is easy NOT to do. We just have to talk to Him. With His living and loving Word. Let His language wash over us with truth and shift and transform our hearts to be like His.

#### IV. APOSTOLIC PRAYERS ARE POSITIVE PRAYERS

A. The apostolic prayers are *positive prayers asking God for **impartation** of positive things.*

This is in contrast to asking Him for removal of negative things. Tiny tweak, big impact.

B. Paul prayed for love to abound instead of asking for the removal of hatred (Phil 1:9).

1. He prayed for the impartation of unity vs. praying against division (Rom. 15:5)

2. He asked for peace to increase instead of fear to be removed (Rom. 15:13)

3. He did not pray against sin but rather asked the Father for an increase of holiness, purity, and love (1 Thes. 3:12-13)

4. Even Paul's request to be delivered from evil men are positive in focusing on the deliverance of God's people rather than on exposing or bringing down the evil men persecuting them (2 Thes. 3:2)

C. One of the reasons God established "positive prayers" as the norm seen in the New Testament is to enhance our focus on *unity and love in the church.*

D. The Lord set an example that by praying for the impartation of positive virtues, (instead of focusing on removing negative characteristics), this would unify His people and heal some of the negative emotions against the church in the very people praying FOR the church.

1. Principal of *we become what we behold.* If we speak positive, life giving prayers, we stay positive and filled with a hope that does not disappoint.

2. If we speak and focus on what's negative or going wrong, we become weary and heavy under a burden God didn't give us.

E. Little by little, praying these positive prayers impact our emotions and develop more mercy

and kindness in our hearts towards the weaknesses of the church at large.

- F. Positive prayers facilitate unity, they impact our emotions, and build our faith. The Father designed these prayers to help our human hearts flow well and work together.
- G. Therefore: 1) we pray positive prayers 2) to the Father 3) asking Him for impartation of positive virtues 4) that lead to an overflow of unity and love for the church!

## V. APOSTOLIC PRAYERS ARE FOR THE CHURCH

- A. The vast majority of the 30 prayers recorded in the new testament are focused on strengthening the church, not focused on saving the lost or the transformation of society.
  - 1. This does NOT mean that God is ambivalent about the lost or society or that we are not to pray for those things. The only prayer that the New Testament focuses on the salvation of the lost is Romans 10:1 where Paul prays that Israel might be saved.  
***“Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God is that they may be saved”***
- B. WHY then are most of the apostolic prayers for the strengthening of the church!? Because God’s primary plan to seek and save the lost or to impact a city is by anointing His church with POWER & LOVE!
- C. When we pray for the whole church in a city to be revived in love and power, the answer to these prayers will have an immense impact on the lost. When the church is on fire with the love of God, the overflow is that the lost will hear the good news of Jesus! (*John 13:35*) (*Matt. 22:37-39 First commandment in first place*)
- D. We see this principle at work in the city of Ephesus. The preaching of the Word of God was so powerfully anointed that its influence “grew mightily and prevailed” across Ephesus (*Acts 19:20*). God’s strategy was to raise up a large, anointed church with congregations across the entire city that would win a great harvest in all Asia. What happened in Ephesus was so powerful that everyone who lived in Asia “heard the word of the Lord” from Paul and others in the church. (*Acts 19:10.20*)
- E. When preachers are anointed and the church is revived, the saints will speak the Word of God effortlessly and with great joy! It will be easy to do the works of the kingdom, resulting in a great multitude of believers who will come to know and love Jesus.
- F. We will love those we pray for consistently. God knows that we will love the church more

as we pray for it regularly. He has a divine strategy for the hearts of His people to connect and grow in love towards the church in the city for which they pray for.

- G. The Lord calls us to pray for the church so that we will love her while we are working to bring the lost to Jesus and impact society. He doesn't want us to despise the different churches in our city because of their weaknesses; He wants us to be unified in love for both the church and the lost.

## VI. WHY GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE APOSTOLIC PRAYERS

- A. These prayers express the LANGUAGE of God's heart. The confidence that comes from praying His prayers according to His perfect will give us an assurance unlike anything else.
1. Apostolic prayers reveal **God's nature and character.**
  2. Apostolic prayers reveal **God's desires.**
  3. Apostolic prayers reveal **God's intended outcomes.**
  4. Apostolic prayers reveal **God's means to those outcomes.**
- B. These prayers are God inspired, Biblical prayers that are according to His heart, desires, intended outcomes and means. He intends to answer these prayers.
- C. These are the OUTCOMES from what the Apostolic Prayers reveal:
1. His nature and character reveal to us what He is like.
  2. His desires reveal to us what He wants
  3. His intended outcomes impart vision for where He is leading the church.
  4. His means to these outcomes give us understanding and a roadmap for how He will accomplish these things in partnership with our prayers.
- D. When we pray biblical prayers we have confidence that they reflect the will of God. The scriptures inform us that whatever we ask according to His will, we will have it
1. Matt. 18:19-20 "Again, I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in My name, I am there in their midst."
  2. John 14:14 "Whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it."
  3. 1 John 5:14 "And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask

anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him”

- E. When we pray according to our limited understanding, personal desires or mood, our prayer lives will be inconsistent and with our many emotional highs and lows.
- F. By praying apostolic prayers and submitting our hearts and emotions to His Word, our hearts and prayers will be in alignment with His heart and desires. We will have a growing biblical confidence when we then pray and petition Him for things.
- G. The fruit of consistently praying biblical prayers is that it cultivates God’s heart language inside of us until it becomes our own heart language. (Ex: Noah)
  - 1. It’s okay to start off simply by repeating biblical prayers without fully understanding them. This is how we surrender our hearts continually to the Word of God. We don’t ONLY read the parts we understand or the parts that make us feel good, but we read ALL of His grand story. We come to grow in the knowledge of God in His fullness, from Genesis to Revelation. We read the parts that seem difficult or don’t yet move us.
  - 2. The way these biblical prayers become “ours’ and our hearts come to “own” these truths of scripture is through continual reading, praying and meditating on them.

## VII. RECAP: THE VALUE OF PRAYING BIBLICAL PRAYERS

- A. Every single believer has been **given the privilege of prayer** and connection to the Father..
- B. Apostolic prayers are **God centered prayers** directed to God the Father.
- C. Apostolic prayers are **positive prayers** asking for the impartation of positive virtues
- D. Apostolic prayers are **given for strengthening the church**
- E. God gave us these prayers to **establish confidence** in praying His perfect will

## ***ADDENDUM: PRACTICAL WAYS TO PRAY AN APOSTOLIC PRAYER***

Each prayer is so rich with multiple key phrases that can be used as launchpads for devotion, intercession and personal petition! When I pray with one of these verses, I usually choose one phrase at a time to focus on. Here's an example of praying for my family using my favorite apostolic prayer, Ephesians 1:17-19. (Most of the time, I end up using other cross-references that come to mind as well.):

***Ephesians 1:17-18 “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened”***

Father of glory, I ask that You would give my family the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You. Would you come to them today and open their eyes to know You more. Let them see You for who You are, as beautiful and glorious (Isaiah 4:2). Let the knowledge of who You are permeate their hearts, affecting every situation and bringing hope and life into every area. Would their eyes be enlightened to the beauty of Your Son Jesus.

***(Ephesians 1:18) “that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you”***

God, I ask that my family would know the hope to which You have called them. Even in hard times, give them a clear vision of the hope You have in store for them (Colossians 1:5). Let them know that You see them and You have a purpose for them.

***(Ephesians 1:18) “what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,”***

Jesus, my family is Your inheritance. You died to win their hearts forever as Your bride. I ask that You would reveal to them how much You love them and how You desire them as Your glorious inheritance.

***(Ephesians 1:19) “and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.”***

God, reveal Your immeasurably great power to my family! I ask that You would encourage them that nothing is impossible for You (Luke 1:37) and that You would work powerfully on their behalf in every situation they need breakthrough in.

## **SOME KEY APOSTOLIC PRAYERS AND PROPHETIC PROMISES TO PRAY**

**1. Prayer for revelation of Jesus' beauty that we might fully live and be empowered to walk according to His calling.** 17 That the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may KNOW (experience) what is the hope of His calling (assurance/ clarity of God's call for our life) what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints (our destiny as Jesus' inheritance), 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power... (Eph. 1:17-19)

**2. Prayer for God's fullness in His church through experiential revelation of His love, empowered by His Spirit.** 16 THAT He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 THAT Christ may dwell (manifest His presence) in your hearts through faith; THAT you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend (experience) with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height- 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; THAT you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16-19)

**3. Prayer for God's love to abound in us by the knowledge of God resulting in righteousness in our life.** That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge (of God) and all discernment, 10 that you may approve (rejoice in) the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere (no compromise) and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness... (Phil. 1:9-11)

**4. Prayer to know God's will, to be fruitful in ministry and strengthened by intimacy with God.** That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. (Col. 1:9- 11)

**5. Prayer for unity in the church and to be filled with God's joy, peace, and hope (confidence).** 5 May the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another...6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the...Father...13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 15:5-6, 13)

**6. To be enriched by all the gifts of the Spirit including powerful preaching and prophetic revelation.** 5 That you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance (anointed preaching/singing) and all knowledge (prophetic revelation), 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you (by miracles), 7 so that you come short in no gift,

eagerly waiting for the revelation of...Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 1:5-8)

**7. For the release of grace to bring the church to maturity especially to abound in love and holiness.** 10 Praying exceedingly that... (God will release His Spirit and grace to) perfect what is lacking in your faith...12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all... 13 that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father. (1 Thes. 3:10-13)

**8. Pray to be worthy (prepared or made spiritually mature) to walk in the fulness of our destiny in God.** 11 We pray always for you that God would count you worthy of (prepare us for) this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness (plans for us) and the work of faith with power, 12 that the name of...Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God. (2 Thes. 1:11-12)

**9. That the Word will increase its influence (effectiveness in the city as God releases His power on it.** 1 Pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may run swiftly (rapidly increase its influence) and be glorified (confirmed with apostolic power and miracles), just as it is with you...3 The Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one...5 May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience (perseverance or endurance) of Christ. (2 Thes. 3:1-5)

**10. For impartation of boldness (singing and speaking the Word) by releasing healing, signs and wonders.** 29 Lord...grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus. 31 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 4:29-31)

**11. Release of God's promise to be endued with power for all who tarry (labor in prayer) for breakthrough.** 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. (Lk. 24:49). 8 You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem...and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

**12. For the Lord to release His zeal for His people and for His manifest presence to shake all that resists Him.** 15 Look down...and see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are (the manifestations of) Your zeal and Your strength, the yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? 16...You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name. 64:1 Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down (manifest Your power)! That the mountains (obstacles) might shake at Your presence-- 2 as fire burns brushwood, as fire causes water to boil-- to make Your name known to Your adversaries (sin, sickness, Satan), that the nations may tremble at Your

presence! 3 When You did awesome things for which we did not look (expect)... 4 Since the beginning of the world men have not heard...nor has the eye seen any God besides You, who acts for the one who waits for Him. 5 You meet him who rejoices and does righteousness, who remembers You in Your ways. (Isa. 63:15-16; 64:1-7)

**13. For the release of God's promise to pour out His Spirit and release dreams, visions, and prophecy.** 17 In the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 On My menservants and Maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood, fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, BEFORE the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. 21 Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. (Acts 2:17-21)

**14. Prayers for Israel to be saved and the release of the prophetic anointing, miracles, and righteousness.** 1 My heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. (Rom. 10:1)

All Israel will be saved...The Deliverer (Jesus) will come out of Zion. He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins. (Rom. 11:26-27)

For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace (or be silent: release a prophetic spirit), and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest (or I will not be inactive: release power), UNTIL her righteousness (in all heart issues) goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns (ministry to others). (Isa. 62:1)