

Prayer Team Training

First of all let me thank you for serving your church through prayer and intercession.

God has given us His Holy Spirit and has placed within us one of the highest callings of the Christian faith — praying for the needs of the body and others.

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ called to serve the body — in unity. God has called us to unity in the body and no where is agreement more needed than in our prayers.

The following information is intended to give us guidelines to bring us into one accord. In unity. That we would have one mind — the mind of Christ.

Strength for you to lead

Thank you for being obedient to God's call on your life; for being a prayer leader in your church. A House of Prayer is what Jesus said His House would be.

Who are you called to be? A leader? A teacher? A pastor? A servant? An intercessor? An evangelist? A priest? A king? Or perhaps all of these?

Remember Jesus is the head of the prayer ministry in your church. Diligently seek His face. Depend on Him. This is key in all that you will be, do or teach.

As a prayer leader in your church, you will be responsible for encouraging, building up, and bringing your group into unity. You will need to feed your people with the pure honey of God's Word and point them to Jesus. You will need to model prayer for them. Sounds impossible? It will be, without your total dependence upon Jesus.

The greatest thing you can do for those you are called to lead in your church is for you to personally draw close to God. Know Him intimately. Diligently seek after the things of God. Abiding in His Word. Spending time alone (in your secret place) on your knees. Come to him empty, with faith that He will fill you. He will be your strength. Ask Him and He will direct you.

•¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: — Ephesians 4:11-13

- God calls some to teach, to pastor.
- The goal is to help perfect the saints
- The goal is to edify and build up the body
- The goal is unity in the faith
- The goal is the knowledge of Jesus

3:1 • Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. — James

- Take teaching seriously.
- God judges teachers more strictly

Make me know Thy ways, O LORD; Teach me Thy paths. 5 Lead me in Thy truth and teach me, For Thou art the God of my salvation; For Thee I wait all the day. — Psalm 25:4

Teach me Thy way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path, Because of my foes. — Psalm 27:11

I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. — Psalm 32:8

Who? What? When? Where? Why?

I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to teach. — J.H. Jowett

The disciples came to Jesus and asked Him to teach them how to pray. Many people today need to be taught how to pray. We teach them how to play musical instruments, how to sing praise songs, how to read the word, how to teach and preach. We need to teach them guidelines for personal prayer.

Some believe prayer is taught. Others prayer is caught. I believe both are true.

As the prayer leader of your church, God is calling you to humble yourself and lead others by serving them.

Teach “Prayer team training” as often as needed. Perhaps once a month. Once a quarter. Twice a year. Teach in your prayer room. your prayer room.

Teaching on prayer helps your prayer team grow and stay in unity.

****[Prayer Team Training 101]****

Encourage

- Encourage your prayer team members. Let them know how important they are.
- In Ezekial 22:30. Isaiah 59:16 God was looking for prayers to save them.
- Focus on the lives of the men and women of prayer in the Bible. Anna. Simeon. David Daniel. Moses. Jabez. Nehemiah. Hanna. Paul. Jesus.
- Let them know that the disciples asked to be taught prayer.
- The disciples asked for more faith
- Faith can move mountains.
- Make prayer time a safe time.
- Encourage them to just listen if they are not yet ready to pray out loud.
- Encourage them to be in the Word.
- Be sensitive to their needs. Pray with and for them.

Day by day — three things we pray.

1. Pray for your pastor .
 - > Pray for his family.
 - > Pray blessings for him.
 - > Pray that his time alone with God will be incredible.
 - > Pray that he would share the gospel message clearly
 - > Pray that he would speak boldly.
 - Ephesians 6:19,20 ¹⁹ and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.
 - > Pray protection for him and his family from the evil one.
2. Pray that your church would become a House of Prayer.
 - Mark 11:17 And He began to teach and say to them, “Is it not written, My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations? But you have made it a robbers’ den.”
3. Pray that God would send out the workers form your church
 - Matthew 9:37,38 ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. ³⁸ “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Teach them.

- As a leader you need to pour over the scriptures — learning about prayer.
- Teach them how men and women in the Bible prayed.
- Be willing to encourage in public and correct in private if needed.

Teach them ACTS

Adoration. (Praise God)

Confess sins. (Get clean before me)

Thank Him.

Ask. (Intercede for others)

Teach them JOY

Jesus

Others

Yield

Develop Leaders

Jesus poured His life into 12 men who changed the world. Point others to Christ. Look for leaders to help grow the prayer ministry. Learn to delegate. When people “belong” to a ministry they will enjoy it more.

****[Prayer Team Training 102]****

1. Pray at home first. Put in “prayer closet” time before corporate prayer.

Make sure you are spending quality time alone with God daily in your own personal time of worship, prayer and fasting. Do not allow the Perimeter Prayer Meeting times to be your only time of prayer throughout the week. Jesus warned us many times about those who would love to stand before men and let their prayers be heard. Jesus called them hypocrites.

For our “corporate” prayer time to be effective, we need to make sure we are spending time alone with God everyday. So God will not look at us and say — who are you?

Matthew 6:1-8 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. 5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. 7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

2. Enter the prayer room with good thoughts.

Our conversation before the prayer meeting starts, can set the stage for the tone of the prayer meeting. Words of encouragement. Hope. Faith. Build up each other.

Grumbling, murmuring and complaining can set a bad tone for the entire evening.

3. Ask the leader permission to hand out any material.

If you bring a handout you wish to distribute to the group, ask the leader’s permission to do so. We want to be careful to keep the corporate prayer time a time of corporate prayer and not a platform for social or political issues, or personal agendas.

4. More praying — less talking.

A prayer gathering is just that — a time to join together and pray. We make introductions, a brief teaching on a prayer subject and a few God stories (filled with thanksgiving and praise), but most importantly we have come together in a group to pray.

5. Worship is key.

We enter into God’s presence with worship. Thanksgiving and praise. We cannot rush into the throne room of God waving our list of requests. Worship sets the tone for our prayers. Prayer is worship. Worship is prayer. Use CDs or better yet, have a worship leader join you.

• Psalm 100:0 A Psalm of praise. 1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

6. Listening and being still is ok.

Many times prayer is caught, not taught. Do not be anxious about praying. Learn by listening to others. You may find yourself waiting an hour, a week, a month, before you are comfortable praying aloud with others. You will know when it is time for you to begin praying.

7. Allow the Holy Spirit to lead.

Be careful to listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Learn to listen. Ask God to show you what to pray for.

• Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

• John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are

burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

8. Do not be a prayer hog.

Just about everyone who comes to the prayer meetings wants to pray. We need to keep our prayers short and to the point. Echo what others are praying as the spirit leads. This helps keep unity and allows other to pray in agreement with you.

9. Pray short and sweet.

Most recorded prayers of Jesus were very short. If you pray ten topics it makes it difficult for others to echo your prayers. Try to limit yourself to one or two points. And no more than one or two minutes. That way everyone has a chance to pray along with you.

10. Simple childlike prayers work just fine.

Jesus taught us to come to God as little children. God knows our hearts and is not impressed with flowery-long-petitions. He wants us to talk to Him as a child would speak to his father.

- Matthew 19:13-15 ¹³ Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. ¹⁵ And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

- Matthew 18:1-4 ¹ At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? ² And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, ³ And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- Matthew 6: 5-8 ⁵ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶ But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷ But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. ⁸ Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

11. Pray from your heart.

Pray as if you were speaking to your Father. Your heavenly Father. With reverence.

Matthew 6:7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

12. Pray scripture.

Many times as we are in prayer God will bring a verse or verses to mind that would be beneficial for the group to hear. Open the word and pray scripture to God.

- 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
- Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

13. Keep prayers in confidence.

Many deep things are shared in the prayer room. Pray-ers and the people and ministries come to the Perimeter Prayer Team for prayer. People need to feel “safe” in sharing their heartfelt needs. They trust that we will not share with others. We are free to share with others only if those we have prayed for give us permission to do so.

- Psalm 141:2 May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. ³ Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.

- Psalm 39:1 I said, “I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.”

- James 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

- 1 Peter 3:10 For, “Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

14. Prayer with others or counseling?

We are to pray for others. We have been called to pray for others. Be careful about going into a full-blown counseling session. Some counseling is closely connected to prayer as we see the needs of the people we pray for. We are to pray and give words of encouragement. We are to point others to Christ and God’s Word. When appropriate we should

point those we have prayed for who we feel need counseling, or are unrepentant of obvious sin, or are living in sin to the elders, pastors or those in authority at your church.

- Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.
- Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
- Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

15. Pray with love.

Do all things in love. Make sure your heart motivation is pure as you pray.

- John 15:17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.
- Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
- 1 John 4:8 The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 1 Corinthians 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

• 1 John 4:20 If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.

16. Pray blessings not curses.

Jesus taught us to bless others. Not to curse. Be careful to bless not curse others when you pray. Encourage. Don't discourage.

• Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

- Luke 6:28 Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.
- Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.
- Romans 12:14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.
- Luke 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, 52

And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. 53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? 55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. 56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.

17. Pray without judgment.

Do not judge others.

• Matthew 7:1 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

- Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- Galatians 6:1 Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.

18. Pray in submission to church authority.

God has placed our senior pastor, other pastors, and church elders in authority over us. We are to be in submission to them.

- Hebrews 13:17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.
- James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- 1 Peter 5:5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

19. Pray big.

Man's ways are not God's ways. Do not limit yourself. Remember all things are possible when we yield to God. (pray Big is our prayer team's battle cry).

- Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.
- Luke 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

20. Pray in faith.

We must pray with faith. Faith is believing God for things we have not seen. Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith. If you lack faith — ask God to provide you faith.

- Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.
- Luke 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.
- Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.
- Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.
- Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.
- Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
- Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the

shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

21. Pray for God's will to be done.

Pray for God's will — not your will. How can we know God's will? Stay in His word. Spend time daily in prayer.

- Matthew 6:9 "This, then, is how you should pray: "'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.
- John 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.
- Matthew 26:39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.
- Matthew 26:42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

22. Pray prayers that are edifying to the body.

Prayer team members are to encourage and lift up the church. Edify the church.

- 1Corinthians 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.
- Hebrews 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- Romans 14:19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.
- 1Thesalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

22. Pray loud enough for others to hear you

Please pray loud enough for others to hear you. If you are laying on the floor, remember to lift your head up so others can hear you. Don't be a "prayer-whisperer".

23. Give out verse addresses

When possible, give verse addresses, so others can use again or make notes in their Bibles. Share the Word.

24. Pray in unity/in one accord.

Prayer team members are to encourage and lift up the church. Edify the church.

- Romans 15:5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,
- Ephesians 4:3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
- Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
- Philippians 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:
- Colosians 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

25. Praying in tongues

Many have been given the gift of tongues. The word speaks to us about how this special prayer language is to be used. Consider the following then examine the following verses.

- > Many, but not all have the gift of tongues. Some have words of wisdom; some a words of knowledge, some faith; some the gifts of healing; some the working of miracles; to others prophecy; to others discerning of spirits; to others the interpretation of tongues.
- > All gifts are to work together to help, edify, build up the body.
- > When you speak in tongues you are speaking to God — not men.
- > Speaking in a tongue edifies yourself — not others.
- > Speaking in tongues is appropriate in personal and corporate worship.
- > Speaking in tongues in a group is to be done in an orderly manner.
- > In corporate worship, speaking in tongues should be partnered with someone to interpret.
- > If you speak aloud in tongues and no one is there to interpret, some may think all are mad. Use good judgment with your gift and consider the effect on the body.
- > The Holy Spirit reveals truth to us.
- > Many times a word of knowledge comes from seeking discernment and truth from God through the spirit.
- > If you have the gift of tongues, be discrete about how and when you use it.
- > But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

• Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

• Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. 26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

• 1Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

• 1Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

• 1 Corinthians 14:1 Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. 2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. 6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? 7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped? 8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? 9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air. 10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification. 11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me. 12 Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church. 13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. 14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 16 Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. 18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: 19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue. 20 Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men. 21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. 23 If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? 24 But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: 25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. 26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God. 29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge. 30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace. 31 For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. 34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. 35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. 36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? 37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of

the Lord. 38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. 39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. 40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

• Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

• Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. 15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

• John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

• 1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

26. Expect warfare

As you begin to intercede for others. As God calls you to a deeper prayer life expect to see spiritual battles. Be on guard for the things of the enemy. Know that prayer is one of God's greatest spiritual weapons. Pray lest you fall into temptation.

• Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

• 1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

• 2 Corinthians 2:10,11 ¹⁰ If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven --if there was anything to forgive --I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

• Daniel 10:12,13 ¹² Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them. ¹³ But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

27. It is always God. Never us.

As we pray we need to always be mindful that we are asking God to do the work. That He would be glorified. Not us. We are to point others to Christ and His power. We are to be invisible so He can be lifted up. He is our Lord and Savior. Guard against pride.

• Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

• John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

• Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

• 1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

• 1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

• Mark 3:14,15 ¹⁴ And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, ¹⁵ And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:

28. The importance of unity.

In His priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus prayed five times for unity among his followers.

• John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the

work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. 6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. 7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. 9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. 20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. 24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

- John 13:35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
- Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

29. Men pray with men. Women pray with women.

In a large group it is fine to have men and women mixed together praising and crying out to God. I would strongly recommend that when you pair people up, one-on-one, for personal prayer needs that you pair men with men and women with women. Personal prayer needs can be very intimate. I once prayed with a woman one-on-one, who shared the failures of her husband (he was a non-Christian). She shared about her lack of sexual intimacy and fulfillment. Her longing for her husband to be her spiritual leader and to pray with her. It put me in an awkward position. I had more information about her than I needed. I would have preferred another Christian woman had prayed with her.

30. Large group. Small group. Pairs.

Over the years, I have discovered the following about group sizes and prayer. The size of the group can have an impact on the dynamics of the group.

Large groups of 10 to 30 people, are good for times of praise, and sharing “God stories.”

Small groups of 3 to 8 people, is a great size to give everyone a chance to pray often. (If you keep everyone in a large group, people do not have a chance to pray as often.)

One-on-one. Is a good size for personal prayer needs. I pray for you. You pray for me.