

The Power of Corporate Prayer

By: Karen Martell

“As a people we have received great light. This light the Lord has entrusted to us for the benefit and blessing of the world. To us has been given the ministry of reconciliation. With power from on high we are to beseech men to be reconciled to God. We are encouraged to pray for success, and we are given the divine assurance that our prayers will be heard and "if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." "Ask of Me, and I will answer your requests."

“The promise is made on condition that the united prayers of God's people are offered, and in answer to these prayers there may be expected a power greater than that which comes in answer to private prayer. The power given will be proportionate to the unity of the members and their love for God and for one another.

“No one lives to himself. In God's work each one is assigned a post of duty. The union of all strengthens the work of each. As the faith and unity and love of the church grow stronger, their circle of influence enlarges, and ever they are to reach to the farthest limit of this influence constantly extending the triumphs of the cross.

“God calls upon us to break the bands of our precise, indoor service. The message of the gospel is to be borne to the world. We are to call upon all to rally around the banner of the cross. When this work is done as it should be, when with divine zeal we labor to add converts to the truth, God will greatly bless our efforts. The unity of the believers will bear testimony to the power of the truth that can bring into perfect harmony men of different dispositions, making their interests one.

“The prayers and offerings of God's people will be combined with earnest, self-sacrificing effort, Men will be converted anew. The hand that once grasped for recompense in higher wages will become the helping hand of God. The believers will be united by one interest,-the desire to make centers of truth where God shall be exalted. Christ will join them together with holy bonds of union and love-bonds which have irresistible power.

“It was for this unity that Jesus prayed just before His trial, standing but a step from the throne. "That they all may be one." He said, "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."

“God calls upon His people, many of whom are but half awake, to arouse, and engage in earnest labor, praying for strength for service. Workers are needed. Receive the Holy Spirit, and your efforts will be successful. Christ's presence is what gives power. Let all strife and dissension cease. Let love and unity prevail. Let God's people move under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If they will give themselves wholly to Him, he will restore to them the strength they have lost by division. (Central Advance, Feb. 25, 1903)

“If several should meet together with one accord with hearts burdened for perishing souls, and should offer earnest fervent prayer, they would be effectual” (Review and Herald, August 23, 1892)

“You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts: 1:8). If all were willing, all would be filled with the Holy Spirit... Since this is the means by which we are to receive power, why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, and preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who serve Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the daily baptism of the Spirit every worker should offer his petition to God. Companies of Christian workers should gather to ask for special help ... the presence of the Spirit with God's workers will give the proclamation of truth a power that not all the honor or glory of the world could give” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 60)

Reflection

1. Consider united prayer how many people does it take to make a united group? (Matt. 18:19:20)
2. What happens when we pray together with others, as a church body that is united in purpose, desire, and request, one prayer focus? “If you agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you” (Matthew 18:19). “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:12).
3. "Five of you shall chase a 100, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword" (Leviticus 26:8). What does this mean to you?
4. Think of times in the Bible when God through His Leaders called the people together to pray corporately for repentance, revival, victory, release from prison, to seek wisdom. (Joel 2 and Acts 2 are examples).
5. What will corporate prayer do for your church?
 - Grow members relationships with each other and with God
 - Develop faith
 - Seed new ministries
 - Create a desire for the people to put aside all differences give new understanding
 - Create focus
 - Un-limit God
 - Give a vision of the work that He wants to do and how He wants to do it
 - Unleash the power of the Holy Spirit
 - Activate the gifts of the Spirit

- The church that prays together moves under the direction of Holy Spirit
- Allow God to be the Leader
- The Church that prays together will discover, know, and do the will of God. They will cooperate with Him and become enthusiastic about doing His work as they use the gifts He has given Him.
- Empower the pastor

6. What is one idea that would demonstrate a praying church?

- Different ministry teams in the church praying for each other and for the members of the teams
- Interest groups praying together (for example: young mothers praying together for their children).
- Regular corporate prayer events inviting the congregation to come together and pray for the community, unsaved, families, leadership, revival, those with special needs, for more than a prayer list.
- Times of praise and worship and thanksgiving are reasons to come together.

The Church is the Property of God

"The Church is the property of God, and God constantly remembers her as she stands in the world, subject to the temptations of Satan. Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation. In passing from the scenes of His humiliation, Jesus has lost none of His humanity. He has the same tender, pitying love, and is ever touched with human woe. He ever bears in mind that He was a Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief. He forgets not His representative people who are striving to uphold His downtrodden law. He knows that the world that hated Him, hates them. Although Jesus Christ has passed into the heavens, there is still a living chain binding His believing ones to His own heart of infinite love. The most lowly and weak are bound by a chain of sympathy closely to His heart. He never forgets that He is our representative, that He bears our nature.

"Jesus sees His true church on the earth, whose greatest ambition is to cooperate with Him in the grand work of saving souls. He hears their prayers, presented in contrition and power, and Omnipotence cannot resist their plea for the salvation of any tried, tempted member of Christ's body. 'Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. Jesus ever liveth to make intercession for us. Through our Redeemer what blessings may not the true believer receive? The church, soon to enter upon her most severe conflict, will be the object most dear to God upon earth. The confederacy of evil will be stirred with power from beneath, and Satan will cast all the reproach possible upon the chosen ones whom he cannot deceive and delude with his satanic inventions and falsehoods. But exalted "to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins," will Christ, our representative and head,

close His heart or withdraw His Hand or falsify His promise? No: never, never”
(Testimonies to Ministers, p. 19).

He hears our prayers for the Church, presented in contrition and power, and
Omnipotence cannot resist our plea. These are prayers that God will answer.

Get Started

If your Church is not praying together, start a group of 2-3 and begin now to pray for it
and for the people in it. Ask God for directions, for His Will, and be obedient as you
commit to mobilizing prayers in your church. You will not be disappointed. Work with
your Pastor and church leaders to start a prayer team. Ask God to give you a prayer
partner.