
SOLA FIDE

Volume 5 No.2

Importance of Corporate Prayer

One of the evidence of a faithful Christian life is marked by ongoing prayer life. Prayer is important in Christian life because it is a way of personal communication with God, where in which we can bring exhortation before God, confess our sins, make requests, express our thankfulness, all through which we conform to Christ-likeness. In Christian prayer life, there are two aspects: personal prayer life and corporate prayer life. And in this writing, I would like to talk about the latter part, the corporate prayer life of a Christian.

“Oh, yes, this is the place to meet with the Holy Spirit and this is the way to get His mighty power! If we would have Him, we must meet in greater numbers! We must pray with greater fervency, we must watch with greater earnestness and believe with firmer steadfastness! The prayer meeting, then, has this second use—that it is the appointed place for the reception of power!”

-C. H. Spurgeon
.....

To put it short, we learn from the Scripture that the early church (Christians of the first-century, Christians who had known Jesus Christ in person) consistently devoted their time to pray together (Acts 2:42). So it is important that we (Christians of today) pray together corporately as well; it's because through the corporate prayer, God unifies the believers, challenges the believers to be focused on God, and spiritually disciplines the believers.

Corporate prayer life unifies the church. Usually when corporate prayer meetings take place, Christians pray for specific unified topics, through which, Christians become unified. Aside from praying for our personal requests (not that personal requests are not important), corporate prayer meetings are designed for the Christians to pray for bigger and more important issues such as salvation of men, maturity of the believers, missions, local church, will of God and etc. So the unity comes from

Christians corporately praying for the same topic that is larger than personal wants. In addition, when each topic is closed by a public prayer of a person, all people who are present express their concurrence by saying “Amen,” and this also unifies the believers because it brings everyone together. God's people are unified by lifting up their voices together to God (Acts 4:24). So one surest way for Christians to be unified is to actively participate in the corporate prayer life.

Corporate prayer reminds and challenges believers to be focused on God and the things of God. Participating in the corporate prayer meeting redirects our distracted heart and mind back to God, and to the things of God. This is because participating in the corporate prayer meetings constantly reminds us of God and His ways. We are put in an environment where we are reminded of God and the things of God by praying for them. In addition, in many occasions, people pray out loud in corporate prayer meetings. And when we pray out loud, it causes us to grow out of our comfort zone of being passive audience (heart and mind wondering and merely listening to other people's prayer) and challenges us to actively engage in the prayer topic at hand. Overall, corporate prayer meeting reminds and challenges believers to be focused on God and the things of God!



Corporate prayer life disciplines

God's people. Usually at any given corporate prayer meetings, including my church, a topic is given for everyone to pray together for a certain period of time (few minutes or so), and then a new topic is given, totaling the entire prayer meeting time to certain length (in my church, the total length of prayer meeting time is anywhere from an hour and a half to two hours, while the time spent for each topic may last only for few minutes). In this kind of environment, people praying are challenged to focus on the topic at hand for a short period of time, and this lessens the possibility of becoming distracted. This may not be the case when we are praying for one topic for a long duration of time by ourselves. In corporate praying environment, our thoughts and focus are being trained because there is a short period of time given to pray for a specific topic.. Ultimately, corporate prayer environment causes people to be spiritually disciplined.

Praying to God is very important aspect of a Christian life. It is normal that Christians are devoted in prayer life whether we are alone or in a group setting. Yet, as much as personal and private time with God is important, I hope you see the importance of corporate prayers and you will commit yourself to corporate prayer life. Encourage others to participate as well! It is a true joy and privilege to pray for the church and for others together. I promise that you will come out blessed and encouraged. If your church doesn't have a corporate prayer meeting, get it started and I hope that joy may be added on to your church as well. Let us be faithful in praying with one another by actively engage ourselves to the corporate prayer meetings! - MK

“Christians who neglect corporate prayer are like soldiers who leave their front-line comrades in the lurch.” -Derek Prime