



PRAYER MEETING GUIDELINES

The **Holy Spirit is the Spirit of prayer**, and the priority of all prayer, especially **corporate prayer**, is to be **anointed and led by the Spirit** in ways that carry the corporate body into the **flow of the Spirit**. With that said, there are some practical helps we have learned that facilitate an **effective corporate prayer meeting**. These helps are not intended to "control" the Holy Spirit, or to be a legalistic straight jacket, but, over the years, we have learned that when they are followed they actually **enable a greater flow of the Spirit** in a prayer meeting.

1. Start out for the first few minutes of a prayer meeting with prayers of thanksgiving and worship, building faith and stirring confidence in God.
2. Everyone present should take part, as the Holy Spirit leads. This is a "corporate" prayer meeting. The more people who pray, the easier it will be to sustain a spirit of prayer and expectancy. Silent prayer can be done in private.
3. For the most part keep prayers short. Long prayers make it difficult for those present to stay in agreement. Being in spiritual agreement is key to the power of a "corporate" prayer meeting.
4. Pray for one object at a time, following the theme expressed in preceding prayers and staying under that prayer burden...avoid pin-ball praying, which makes it hard for others present to stay in spiritual agreement.
5. Try not to radically change the direction of prayer when it is your turn to pray. This throws everyone off as they have to adjust the focus of their prayer burden to accommodate a 180-degree shift in focus. Changes in direction should be gradual and/or directed by leadership. It is a spiritual discipline to listen to the heart and focus of the person who prayed ahead of you and start your prayer off with something in their prayer that stirred your spirit.
6. Do not use your time of prayer for a testimony, story, exhortation, long Scripture reading or song. Those all have their place but distract the spirit of prayer because they pull those present into a different stream of thought and processing than prayer.
7. Don't allow long periods of silence. They kill the spirit of prayer.
8. Pray with a warmth of spirit (Charles Finney) in keeping with the urgency of our need for God to act and the reality that God has invited redeemed humanity into prayer in order to enforce His plans and purposes for humanity.
9. Pray at a volume everyone present can easily hear so they can be in spiritual agreement with you. If more than fifty people are in attendance it is impossible for those on the periphery of the crowd to hear a prayer offered in a conversational volume... defeating the purpose of a corporate prayer meeting.

