

Crossroads Nazarene Church **2020 VISION**

Our Father...Your Kingdom Come

A Call to Corporate Prayer

"Corporate Prayer and Demonstrating the Gospel"

"Gospel": a compound Greek word euangelion: ["eu: good"; "angelion:messenger] Good News"

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 6:23

- see Matthew 28:19-20

Three Truths about the Inseparable Link between Corporate Prayer and Effectively Demonstrating the Gospel

Message in a Sentence:

"Prayer is the means by which we depend upon and trust in God. He answers our prayer to give us what He knows we need to bring Him glory."

- Daniel Henderson *21 days of Breakthrough Prayer* (42)

Why Corporate Prayer is so Challenging

1. We tend to _____
2. We tend to _____
3. We pray to _____ rather than embrace _____
4. We find it easy to _____
5. It is difficult to be _____
6. Unity in prayer requires _____ to the guidance/timing of the Spirit.
7. _____ from applying the armor of God effectively

"Prayer is our most formidable weapon, but the one in which we are the least skilled, the most adverse to its' use."

- E.M. Bounds *21 days of Breakthrough Prayer* (52)

- see Ephesians 6:13-18

Praying for What Jesus Prayed For

1. Jesus' prayers were directly related to receiving/providing fresh empowerment for _____.

"When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven." - Luke 24:50-51

2. Jesus prayed for the glory of the Father and to be in _____ to His will. His prayers focused on His mission and the mission of His followers/disciples. - see John 17
3. Jesus prayed that He, and we, would be _____ for the sake of the Gospel.

How does the content of our personal and corporate prayers differ from the prayers Jesus prayed and taught us to pray?

"We spend more prayer energy trying to keep sick Christians out of heaven than trying to keep lost people out of hell."

- James Walker *21 Days of Breakthrough Prayer*" (42)

How Corporate Prayer Empowers us to Demonstrate the Gospel

"Nothing can make up for a lack of prayer." - E.M Bounds

Three Prayers we are to Pray as we Demonstrate the Gospel

1. Demonstrate _____
"And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."
- Colossians 4:3-4
2. Demonstrate _____ - see Ephesians 6:18-20

Could it be that the hesitation and fear that many Christ followers have about sharing our faith can be attributed to our lack of faithful, intense prayers for each of us to step into those wonderful opportunities with confidence?
3. Demonstrate _____
"Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."
- Ephesians 6:13
"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."
- Matthew 5:14-16

Often, when we are praying personally, it may seem as if our prayers are small, insignificant, minimal in effect. Yet as we join together with other believers, our combined prayers are like tributaries that empty into a mighty river. Our corporate prayers come together before God and the results are more powerful than they would have been otherwise.

Scripture Promise for the Week

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."