

Power in Prayer

Corporate and Public Prayer

I. Introduction

- So far, we have focused our attention on private prayer. In this lesson we will look at two aspects of prayer beyond private prayer.
- Almost all of the principles we have discussed are still applicable in these situations.
- Note – this does not violate the principles of Matthew 6:5-6
 - These commands are against “showy” prayers and not against prayers that may be seen or heard by others.

II. Corporate Prayer

- Corporate Prayer is when individual Christians join together in prayer.
- Examples from Scripture:
 - Israel’s prayer of confession and consecration – Nehemiah 9
 - The prayer meeting when Peter was imprisoned – Acts 12:5-18
- Note – Corporate prayer is not a “blank check” – is that really what Matthew 18:19-20 is teaching?
- The importance of corporate prayer in a church service
 - Too often we treat a times of prayer as an *entr’acte* between elements of the service.
 - Instead, we should pray also, or at least listen and “amen” the prayer.
 - This is a part of the service that ALL may take part in and not create confusion. – I Corinthians 14:33
 - Speaking practically, corporate prayer also disciplines (as others listen and learn) and unites (as we focus on the act of prayer)
- Corporate prayer is also important in the Christian home.

III. Public Prayer

- Public Prayer typically occurs when leading a time of corporate prayer our praying on behalf of something/someone present.
- Examples from Scripture:
 - Solomon at Temple dedication – I Kings 8:22-54
 - Elijah on Mt. Carmel – I Kings 18:36-37
 - Ezra regarding intermarriage of people with pagans – Ezra 9:1-10:1
- Though it is done *in* the sight of men, it must not be done *for* the sight of men – Matthew 6:5
- Public prayer can instruct others how to pray – Luke 11:1-13
- A convicting thought I’ve had – could anyone catch me praying? – Daniel 6:13