

## 1.1 How is it different from a *regular* time of prayer?

To the average person in the pew, prayer is asking God for something or to do something. Most of the praying that takes place in the typical time of prayer has much to do with what we think needs to be changed around us.

I am advocating that, in addition to these regular times of prayer, we also have prayer times when *our* needs are not our primary focus. I am encouraging us to consider prayer that would be more concerned about seeking God's face than seeking His hand. Where the primary focus is on *Him* more than what He might do for *us*. Where we would seek to draw near to Him simply for who He is. Where we would behold *Him* rather than just behold our *circumstances*. And where we would be more interested in His presence than His presents. I am suggesting that there should be times when we follow the pattern of Matthew 6:33. That we seek Him first and anticipate that all the other things we really need would be added to us because we have sought Him first.

Generally speaking there seems to be no difference in our individual prayers and when we are praying with others. I am advocating for a kind of prayer that is more dependent upon *listening* than it is upon *lists*. A kind of prayer that cannot really be prayed by myself because my prayers are dependent upon the prayers of the others in the group. I am suggesting that dynamic corporate prayer has more to do with a group of people catching what is on God's heart than telling Him what is on their heart.

I did not grow up being exposed to this kind of prayer. In fact, I had been a pastor for many years before I had a chance to participate in this type of prayer experience at a Prayer Summit. That is not the only place this type of prayer can be components of dynamic corporate class or fellowship group, applied to They can be utilized in spontaneous service. But this Prayer Summit is exposed to it.

What was different about that question by sharing what Phil in the Chicago Prayer Summit, wrote approach.

*Even for pastors and prayer leaders, the Prayer Summit is probably different than any meeting they have previously attended.*

*We worship, but this is not a praise and worship service. We read Scripture, but very differently than on a typical Sunday morning. We pray, but with a unique flow; this is not your Wednesday night prayer meeting. Nor is it merely a prayer retreat, designed for you to spend personal time with the Lord. Certainly not a Prayer Conference, do not expect any sermons, workshops, or study outlines.*

*The Prayer Summit utilizes all-of-the above but in such a unique way that it becomes wonderful to experience but difficult to describe.*

*Think of it as a place where all of God's children, red and yellow, black and white, can come together in a humility that produces Scriptural unity. It's an environment, which welcomes the expression of every person, culture and tradition. It's a prayer meeting where all have both the freedom to be themselves and the responsibility to serve others.*

**Our Facilitators:** *Our facilitator is the Holy Spirit. He is the leader. He sets the agenda. A team of men and women are assigned to discern the voice of the Spirit as we journey in prayer together.*

*I am advocating for a kind of prayer that is more dependent upon listening than it is upon lists.*

experienced. As you will see, the prayer can be integrated into a study a family or large prayer meeting, praying or in a Sunday worship where I and many others were first time of prayer? I will answer this Miglioratti, who has been involved to help others catch this new

**Our Foundation:** *Our foundation is the Word of God; it is our authority. Our prayers are both based upon and bound by the teaching and truths of Holy Scripture.*

**Our Focus:** *Our focus is Jesus Christ. We come to the Prayer Summit to seek Him, see Him, meet Him, hear Him, and obey Him.*

**Our Format:** *Our format is simple: psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. We gather in large groups, small groups, and individually.*

**Our Freedom:** *Since we have varied traditions, all are encouraged to be mindful of others, deferring, if necessary, for the sake of unity and harmony. At times, this means those who pray with exuberance may need to "tone it down." At other times, this may also mean those who are uncomfortable with the volume or emotional display need to give freedom and not take offense.*

*The issue is not what is comfortable for or preferred from your experience. What matters is:*

- *Has this been prompted and led by the Holy Spirit?*
- *Is it under the authority (in the name) of Christ?*
- *Does it bring glory (pleasure) to God?*
- *Is it contributing to what the Lord is doing in this meeting?*

*While we all anticipate the blessing of personal time in the presence of Christ, the Prayer Summit is a rare opportunity for leaders to meet corporately with their Lord, like a staff meeting. It's like when Jesus walked and talked with His disciples.*

*Listen: to God, of course, but also to His voice expressed through others very different than yourself. So listen... To the Holy Spirit, To the facilitators, and To the prayers of one another.*

*Let your prayers be a result of our listening. Listen and you will be blessed by the fresh wind of the Holy Spirit and the body of Christ will receive a fresh word from our Lord and Leader.*

*Whatever you do, do unto the Lord...*

Another way dynamic corporate prayer is different from most times of prayer is that it gives the group an opportunity to *do* Scripture rather than just *read* it. I remember a time when we were focusing on Jesus in worship and someone read from Revelation 5. In verse 12 it says the large crowd proclaimed its message with a *loud* voice. As the man read those verses, his voice remained the same volume but I sensed he wanted to shout it out! So, after he finished reading, I invited him to go back and re-read that portion of Scripture and to shout it out. He did and we did and it was a very appropriate time of powerful praise.

There have been times when a passage of Scripture is read about kneeling, so we have paused and invited people to kneel. Or to "take a position you would take if a king entered the room." Other times we have all raised our hands in praise or sat in silence. In our regular times of prayer, we don't normally take the opportunity to *do* just what the Scriptures say. As we take the time, it adds a more real and personal dimension to our prayers.

- **Blessed by Doing** – Look for an appropriate opportunity to *do* Scripture as you pray. When you are reading a passage of Scripture that mentions a specific action such as crying out, raising hands, standing, or being silent, don't just read it, do it.