

UNITED PRAYER KINGDOM COME SERIES

Dr. Ché Ahn

Sunday, February 17, 2019

TEXT: Acts 2:42 “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

INTRO: I want to talk to you about united prayer. We come to the text in Acts 2:42 and we see the early church devoting themselves to prayers. In January we had a month of prayer and fasting. This past week was the National Day of Prayer, the first Thursday of February of each year. As we approach our 25th anniversary and our Legacy Sunday in April, I thank God for our rich history in prayer. Lou Engle, our pastor overseeing prayer at that time, helped us to establish the value of prayer. Jesus said, my House will be a House of prayer for all the nations. (Mark 11:17)

Lou Engle inaugurated twenty-four hours of prayer in 1996 which lasted until 1999. All the pastors and leaders were assigned a three-hour slot to pray once a week, around the clock for revival. We truly thank God and give Him praise for the spirit of prayer that was upon our church. But God wants us to revive our corporate prayer life as we are approaching our 25th anniversary.

A.T. Pierson, “Before God does anything, He begins to mobilize His people in prayer.” Arthur T. Pierson was an American pastor who was invited by the Sr. Pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle after Charles Spurgeon passed away.

Walter Wink says, “History belongs to the intercessors.”

Theologian and author of *Engaging The Powers*

I. UNITED PRAYER AND REVIVAL IN ACTS

A. Acts 1:14 “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.”

1. Peter Wagner said that this was the greatest prayer meeting in history. This prayer meeting birthed Pentecost.
2. One accord, *homothumadon*, is a very important word. Unity.
3. Results: Acts 2:1-4 Revival breaks out in the upper room.

B. Acts 2:46 “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple...”

1. Acts 2:47 “And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”

2. Result is that the lame man is healed in Acts 3:7 and 5,000 get saved in Acts 4:4

C. Acts 4:24 “So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord...”

1. Results- Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

II. UNITED PRAYER IN CHURCH HISTORY

A. MORAVIANS AND THE GREAT AWAKENING

1. Moravian Church - There was initially much division at Herrnhut due to many different cultures, languages, churches and economic stress. Everything changed in 1727. Zinzendorf established small groups of 2,3, or more would gather regularly to pray. Aug. 12, 1727, had an all night prayer meeting. The next day on Aug. 13, they had a love feast, and they covenanted together to walk in unity and love. On Aug. 27, 1727, 24 men and 24 women covenanted to pray around the clock. It was the beginning of 100 years of continuous prayer. Five years later they sent out their first missionaries. And in 1738, The Great Awakening officially begun.

2. **Jonathan Edward** said, if you want revival, there must be: “**Visible union, explicit agreement, extraordinary prayer**”

3. **Charles Finney** in the Second Great Awakening said the two keys to revival is “**Unity and Prayer**”

4. **Dr. A.T. Pierson** said, “**There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.**”

5. Modern History- Argentina 1991 Going to Resistencia. A city of 300,000. 65 Evangelical pastors met for weekly prayer. After three years of praying they invited Carlos Anacondia and 60,000 came to Christ in a forty day period. Churches went from 300 to 3,000 over night. I had such an encounter there. Lou and I stayed up until 2:30 in the morning of repenting of our sins of sectarianism and separatism. I came home and repented before my church and we took up a prophetic offering for the churches in Pasadena. We started a weekly pastors prayer meeting that birthed the nightly revival services of 1995.

6. TheCall Prayer movement- On September 2, 2000, over 500,000 young people gathered to pray for revival and reformation. It is too early in church history to be able to see the immediate fruit of TheCall, but one thing we have seen based on Gallup Polls is that more people are pro-life than ever before. 48% of Americans are pro-life, 48% are pro-choice, and 4% are undecided.

III. PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER

A. PRAY TO THE FATHER IN JESUS NAME

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1. **Matthew 6:9 “Our Father”. John 14:14 “If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”**

B. CONFESS AND REPENT OF YOUR SINS

1. **Matthew 6:9 “Holy is your name...”**

2. **Matthew 6:12 “Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us...”**

C. BEGIN WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

1. **Psalm 100:4 “Enter His gates with Thanksgiving and into His courts with praise...”**

D. DECLARE GOD’S KINGDOM COME, AND HIS WILL BE DONE IN YOUR LIFE, FAMILY, CHURCH, CITY, AND YOUR NATION

1. **Matthew 6:10 “Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”**

E. PRAY FOR YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS

1. **Matthew 6:11 “Give us this day our daily bread.”**

F. PRAY FOR PROTECTION FROM THE ENEMY AND TEMPTATION

1. **Matthew 6:13 “Do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.”**

G. END WITH PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

1. **Matthew 6:13 “Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”**

IV. THREE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR UNITED PRAYER

A. PRAY WITH YOUR FAMILY

1. **Matthew 18:19-20 “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”**

2. Matthew 18:19 Agree in the Greek is *symphaneo* - symphony. God gave us a word if we go out in unity and harmony, He would give us great success.

3. My wife and I pray every day (I would say 95% of the time) no matter where I am in the world.

4. We had a family altar and family devotion daily when the kids were young.

5. Pray with your roommates.

6. Smith sisters were in the 80’s and made a covenant to pray for revival from 12am to 4am every Tuesday and Thursday. They did this for years. Then in 1948, The Hebrides revival broke out.

B. PRAY WITH YOUR LIFE GROUP AND YOUR FAMILY GROUP

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1. Life groups are fairly large with men and women. Family groups will be a group of six men or women.
2. We are launching family groups, which are closed covenant groups of the leader and five others. I will be sharing more about this in the days ahead.
3. We are just saying, hang out and get personal updates, and then pray at the end. Pray for each other and pray for revival.

C. PRAY WHENEVER THE CHURCH PRAYS

1. Prayer based church. Early mornings, before Sunday morning service, and special solemn assemblies. We had one at the end of January.
2. We also want to take a few minutes of time at each service to pray. Sometimes it will be lead up front, other times we will break down into small groups of two and three.
3. Deuteronomy 32:30, One will put a thousand to flight two ten thousand
4. One horse can pull six tons of weight. Two horses harnessed together can pull not 12, but 32 tons of weight!

CONCLUSION: Break down in small groups and pray. We will have prayer at the end.