

The Importance of the Prayer Meetings



“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and **pray and seek My face**, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chron. 7:14)

"For where two or three are **gathered together in My name**, I am there in the midst of them." (Matt. 18:20)

“I desire therefore that the men **pray everywhere**, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting." (1 Tim. 2:8)

We want to encourage every one of you to attend the Prayer Meetings, not out of duty, or grudgingly, or out of necessity, but willingly. A prayerless church is a dead church. Don't you have any needs, burdens, or loved ones who need to be saved? Then come to the Prayer Meetings.

Examples of Prayer Meetings in the Bible:

"And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication**, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." (Acts 1:13-14)

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in **prayers**." (Acts 2:42)

"And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, **where prayer was customarily made**; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there." (Acts 16:13)

"When we had come to the end of those days, we departed and went on our way; and they all accompanied us, with wives and children, till we were out of the city. **And we knelt down on the shore and prayed.**" (Acts 21:5)

An Example of Answered Prayer during a Prayer Meeting:

"Now about that time Herod the king stretched out his hand to harass some from the church. Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was during the Days of Unleavened Bread. So when he had arrested him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter was therefore kept in prison, **but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church.** And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison. Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off his hands. Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me." So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people." So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, **where many were gathered together praying.** And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. But motioning to them with his hand to keep silent, he declared to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, "Go, tell these things to James and to the brethren." And he departed and went to another place." (Acts 12:1-17)

MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER!

Even them I will bring to My holy mountain,
And make them joyful in My **house of prayer**.
Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
Will be accepted on My altar;
For My house shall be called a **house of prayer** for all nations." (Isaiah 56:7)

JESUS SAID HIS HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER!

"And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a **house of prayer**,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" (Matt. 21:13)

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God;
Will you pray with all your power, while we try to preach the Word?
All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down;
Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Brethren, see poor sinners round you slumbering on the brink of woe;
Death is coming, hell is moving, can you bear to let them go?
See our fathers and our mothers, and our children sinking down;
Brethren, pray and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him;
Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin?
Tell them all about the Savior, tell them that He will be found;
Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there a trembling jailer, seeking grace, and filled with tears?
Is there here a weeping Mary, pouring forth a flood of tears?
Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound;
Pray, Oh pray that holy manna may be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely, let us love each other, too;
Let us love and pray for sinners, till our God makes all things new.
Then He'll call us home to heaven, at His table we'll sit down;
Christ will gird Himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

Peter Sarkis

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