

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR A PRAYER CULTURE

16. Praying for God-blessed building programs like Ezra.

Pray for:

- Stirring of God's spirit (1:1-5)
- Presence of God (1:3)
- Supplies as needed (3:7)
- Sufficiency in all things (3:11)
- Unity among all (3:9; 4:3-6; 5:2-3)
- Wisdom re: delays (4:22-24)
- Govnmt./community favor (6:7-8)
- Purity in heart/purpose (6:20-21)
- Generous giving (7:18-20)
- God's will to be done (7:18)

17. Creating a platform of praying & evangelism at funeral services

- 3 Keys: **Honor** the deceased; **Comfort** the family; **Share** the gospel
- Provide cards for guests to complete. Front & Back:

Name: _____
Cell: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I was saved at/on: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I want to know more about salvation

My prayer for the family is:

My message to the family is:

18. Inspiring young "Timothys" through your prayers with them

- Dr. T.W. Hunt (authored "Mind of Christ") was one of my top mentors
- Had a list: "Things I am praying for Hayes." ; One was to be noble in Christ
- Be intentional in praying for, and with, those you mentor.
- Bill Bright's answer to Hayes' re: his best advice for a young pastor:
"Humble yourself before God & devote yourself to prayer."

19. Praying for the sick more effectively on Sundays

- Visit and call the sick in hospitals (and at home) to pray for them
- Pray for sick during Lord's Supper; Take Lord's Supper to shut-ins and pray
- Beware focusing on the sickness rather than the Lord
- Create/train prayer teams to pray for the sick; **No name it/claim it prayers!**
- For prayer time on Sunday mornings, evenings, or Wed. nights:
Ask: "How many of you are facing surgery?" "Marriage or family issues?"
Invite: "May we invite you to the altar for our teams to pray over you?"
Options: Private or personal Laying on of hands; Anointing with oil
"Has God revealed something to you?" "What do you want Him to do?"

20. Praying for special needs (Be devoted in praying ; Colossians 4:3-4)

- The lost; Elections; Natural disasters; Recovery; Wars; Barren; Marriages
- Pray carefully when hiring staff.
Ask yourself: *Are they reflexively negative, critical, or defensive, or humble?*
Ask them: *Most impactful books, authors, pastors, churches, influences?*

AUGUST 17, 2022 * PASTORS' GATHERING

CULTIVATING A CULTURE OF PRAYER IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

WITH DR. HAYES WICKER

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRAYER CULTURE

1. **8 Key Prayer Factors**:
 - Pastor is primary model
 - Staff also models it
 - Prayer is a Lifestyle
 - Prayer is Reflexive
 - Vital in Worship services
 - It is multi-faceted
 - Private & Daily
 - Supernatural, not emotional
2. **6 Roadblocks to Prayer**: (James)
 - Unbelieving heart** (1:6)
 - Unconfessed sin** (1:14. 5:16)
 - Unbridled tongue** (1:26; 4:11)
 - Unloving spirit** (1:20-21; 2:)
 - Unclean motives** (4:3)
 - Unbroken pride** (4:6, 10) * (see insert for more)

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR A PRAYER CULTURE

1. **Giving Thanks as transformational prayer** (I Thess. 5:18; Eph. 5:20)
 - Love Jesus & Be Grateful.*
 - Especially in times of anguish
 - Every morning, thank God for:
 1. Happy things
 2. New things
 3. God things
 4. Hard things
2. **Starting a new year/era through prayer & Scripture** (Nehemiah 8:1-8)
 - Organize a week of Prayer & Bible Reading at the church
 - Enlist people to read through one Big Bible out loud in one-hour slots
 - Readers enlist a prayer partner to pray silently while they read
 - Readers bookmark their stopping point for the next reader to carry on
3. **Dedicating new facilities with foundation of prayer** (II Chron. 7:14-16)
 - Schedule a season of prayer at the building during construction
 - Give people black Sharpies to write Bible verses on concrete slab in rooms
 - Dedicate the building and its use unto the Lord as a church family
4. **Discerning God's ways & works with prayer** (Psalm 95:10; 111:6)
 - Moses saw God's ways; The people just saw God's acts
 - Great focus on God's ways: *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby.
Find out what God is doing, and get in on it. ; God sightings! (John 5:17)
 - Go slow. Let's grow.* (Psalm 109:27; 85:13; 20:9; Daniel 9:23)



PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR A PRAYER CULTURE

5. Making public prayers personal & pastoral (Psalm 95)

- Pastor should pray in Worship regularly
- Use seasons of prayer in Worship service
- Eyes closed, palms-up to "receive" blessing
- Lift up palms-up hands to lift up burdens
- Gather in groups of 3 or 4 to pray together
(offer option to pray alone; 2 min. warning to wind down; Pastor closes)
- Pray for specific lost people
- Pray for folks seated by you
- Gentle hand on shoulder
- Pray Scripture

6. Offering to pray for people as a lifestyle

- Like servers in restaurants; "PrayEvangelism"
- "Hey, (name), we're about to pray so is there anything in particular we Can pray about for you... like family, finances, work, or health issues?"
- You might ask them to get back with you with any update, or call them.

7. Responding to prayer requests with immediate prayer

- After praying for them, ask: "How do you think God will answer this?"
- "How will you know when God answers?" "Will you get back with me?"

8. Recruiting a team of intercessors for Sunday services & hospitality

- Powerful ministry to pray for the service during the services! Mark 6:39-40
- Offering to pray for people and guests is a very hospitable ministry!

9. Enabling people to actually praise God in Worship services

- Ephesians 5:18-20; Psalm 48:1; 31:3
- God is listening! Psalm 101:6 * Use the names of God in your prayers
- Dim the worship center lights during prayer time
- If using soft music in background, chord progressions, not melodies are best.

10. Discerning doctrinal imbalance with diagnostic tools and prayer

- Watch for a balance of Grace & Truth
- We tend to drift "left" (liberal)
 - Stage 1: **Essence of Truth** (good start and place)
 - Stage 2: **Emphasis of Truth** (okay, but be careful of drifting)
 - Stage 3: **Exaggeration of Truth** (drifting begins here)
 - Stage 4: **Error, not Truth** (losing the balance; one dimensional; legalism)
 - Stage 5: **Evangelizing the Error** (Recruiting others to support us)



PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR A PRAYER CULTURE

11. Transforming Quiet Times & Bible reading into meditative prayer

- Close encounters of the Divine kind. Start with the basics of prayer
- Pray through Scripture/Watch for:
 - Sin** to confess
 - Promise** to claim
 - Error** to avoid
 - Command** to obey
 - Insights** about God
 - Examples** to follow
 - Souls** to pray for
- 4 Questions to ask yourself:
 - 1. Have I really connected?
 - 2. Have I dealt with my sin?
 - 3. Have I asked His specifics?
 - 4. Have I truly worshipped?

12. Creating a run-way for the Holy Spirit & revival through prayer

- Schedule a season in church calendar for "seeking the Lord."
- Preach a series on the general topic of "seeking the Lord."
- Create a prayer guide/booklet for the church family for this emphasis
- Find a like-minded prayer partner with a yearning for revival
- Recruit/encourage "people of prayer" to pray for the pastor regularly!
- Stifle: Prayer gossip; Addressing Satan or demons in prayer groups
- Only address demons if a manifestation of some kind has occurred

13. Transforming group praying through "conversational prayer"

- Dialogue, not monologue prayer; Informal, not formal; Fluid, not rigid
- Simple, short, heart-felt prayers around the room
- No preaching or announcements in the prayers

14. Making Pastor/Deacon/Elder prayer times more meaningful

- Be intentional in deepening these prayer times; No ritual or formula prayers
- May include intercessory "prayer walking" with them; Pray for the lost
- Beware: Excessive chatter at the expense of time in prayer
- Beware: Trivializing prayer request; Dominating people; Verbose prayers
- Beware: Personal agendas; Partisan politics; Spreading gossip in prayer

15. Fostering great unity in business meetings through prayer

- When a motion is made, ask: "Have you prayed about this motion?"
- Place an empty chair for Jesus up front as a reminder that He is there!
- Give thanks and praise for conversions, baptisms, good news, etc.)
- Call the gathering a "Church Family Update," rather than Business Meeting