

House of Prayer Lifestyle

These notes were taken from a message by David Macmillan and notes from Dr Chris Steyn (HCFI) at a Global Prayer Summit for Health Care in South Africa in 2007

We need to cultivate a house of prayer environment. We hear more clearly what He is saying from a place of rest. Our prayer will be more accurate and will produce more fruit. Our orientation should be to focus on the worthy One.

A House of Prayer Lifestyle is a Word-based response to the presence of the Living God in the garden of our lives – all of life is a garden planted by God for Him to walk in

Our strongest motivation should be to stir His heart with pleasure

The presence of God is the most unexplored miracle in Christianity

Holy Spirit help us to really embrace your presence.

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." Jn 15: 7-8 NIV

"I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples." Jn 15: 5-8 Message

Biblical Mega-themes

- Imagers of God – our lives are our response to the Creator in the garden of our life
- We are all priests of the Presence – our response to the presence of the Living Word
- We are all a part of the Bride – our lives should be a response to the love of the Bridegroom

Word-Based Life Style

- **Inner Room** life – personal love relationship - lays the foundation for the Upper Room
- **Upper Room** life – corporate love relationship

The throne is the place of eternal agreement

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Heb 4: 16 NIV

Remember that God is always bigger than the need, crisis or circumstance – find rest, peace and order at the throne

In corporate prayer embrace servanthood – listen to what one another is praying and serve them – build unity and agreement

“So that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom 15:6 NIV

Using the Word to Pray

“Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.” Eph 6:17-18 Message

This tool will help us to build accuracy with God and agreement on earth.

- Pray by **Topic** – a truth from God's Word eg Unity, Righteousness
- Pray from a **Picture** – eg a Parable John 6 – Jesus walking on the water – not necessarily praying the scripture but applying it to other situations eg storm=trouble or distress – the storms of life – seeing Jesus coming towards us – stilling the storm
- Pray from a **Text**

Responding to the Living Word

1. **Soaking in Scripture** – Brings us into the throne room
Musing – means 'wonder' or 'ponder'
Muttering – **the voice of a contemplating heart!** - reading the verse, soaking in it, praying our response in awe and worship
2. **Scripting Our Response to the Word**
 - helps us to focus and overcomes distractions
 - gives the Spirit space to enrich our response expressions
 - increases our agreement
 - stores Word-truth resources
3. **Praying the Word back to God**

Scripting a Portion of Scripture -a text

- Frames – divide portion into statements
- Write brief statements about each frame – what is God saying to me/us about Himself?
- What is my response to what He is saying?
- Worship the Living Word – Adoration, thanksgiving, delighting in Him, romancing Him

Repentance
Intercession

- Always short 2 or 3 sentence prayers if praying in the Upper Room – can be longer for the Inner room

Scripting from a Picture, Graphically

- Setting
- Actions
- Important words
- Theme
- Is it suited to praise?
- Write brief prayers

Praying the Word Back to Him

- Focused & accurate corporate prayer
- First respond to the Living Word – take your time
- Prayers focusing on one issue
- Short prayers
- One element per prayer
- Next person connects with the previous prayer - repetition
rephrasing
expanding
- one frame at a time – keeps us all focused on the one page
- consensus about moving to the next frame
- Rev 5:8 harp and bowl principle – include worship leaders and musicians in the prayer – they can contribute greatly to the prayer and move into the prophetic

For our contemplation

Deut 6: 4-9 declares that we have 2 life dependencies food
Word of God
(Which one does scripture say that we can fast from?).

We need to learn to respond to heaven more than reacting to things on earth. Don't fall into the trap of making the latest crisis the focus of our prayer. When a crisis comes, deliberately turn away from it back to the throne.

Spend time admiring His beauty.

We desire to see more of "as it is in heaven"!! We desire to see more of the Kingdom.

We join Him in His ministry of intercession – we have the privilege of flowing in with Him.

We need to live in agreement with the Lord!

We have been called to live at 1st commandment level – loving Him with all our heart and mind and influence. This increases our fruitfulness. We all too easily slip into 2nd

commandment level living at the detriment to our call as priests of His presence, His wonder – worshipping Him.

Hope is always reaching for something from heaven that is better. Fasting=hope!
We are groaning for more of Him. John Piper says that fasting is the physical exclamation at the end of the sentence – **this God is how much I need you!!**

As we pray corporately we need to understand and discern the hunger for Him in one another and feed that!

Corporate prayer should be a baton relay – not a hurdle race or sprint. Pray short prayers so that we can all join in – forming a prayer of agreement.

Encourage one another for more hunger for the Father and increased zeal for the house of God.

Lord give us young people – take them to a level that we have never been to.
Father help us to pass the baton to the next generation so that they can run further and faster than we have done!

3 truths

- Kingdom of God is increasing on earth
- Darkness is also growing stronger
- With every level of increased darkness – God opens up a new level of rest and trust in the nature, faithfulness, unfailing love of God and mercy, justice and goodness

‘Holy Spirit help us to embrace your presence!’