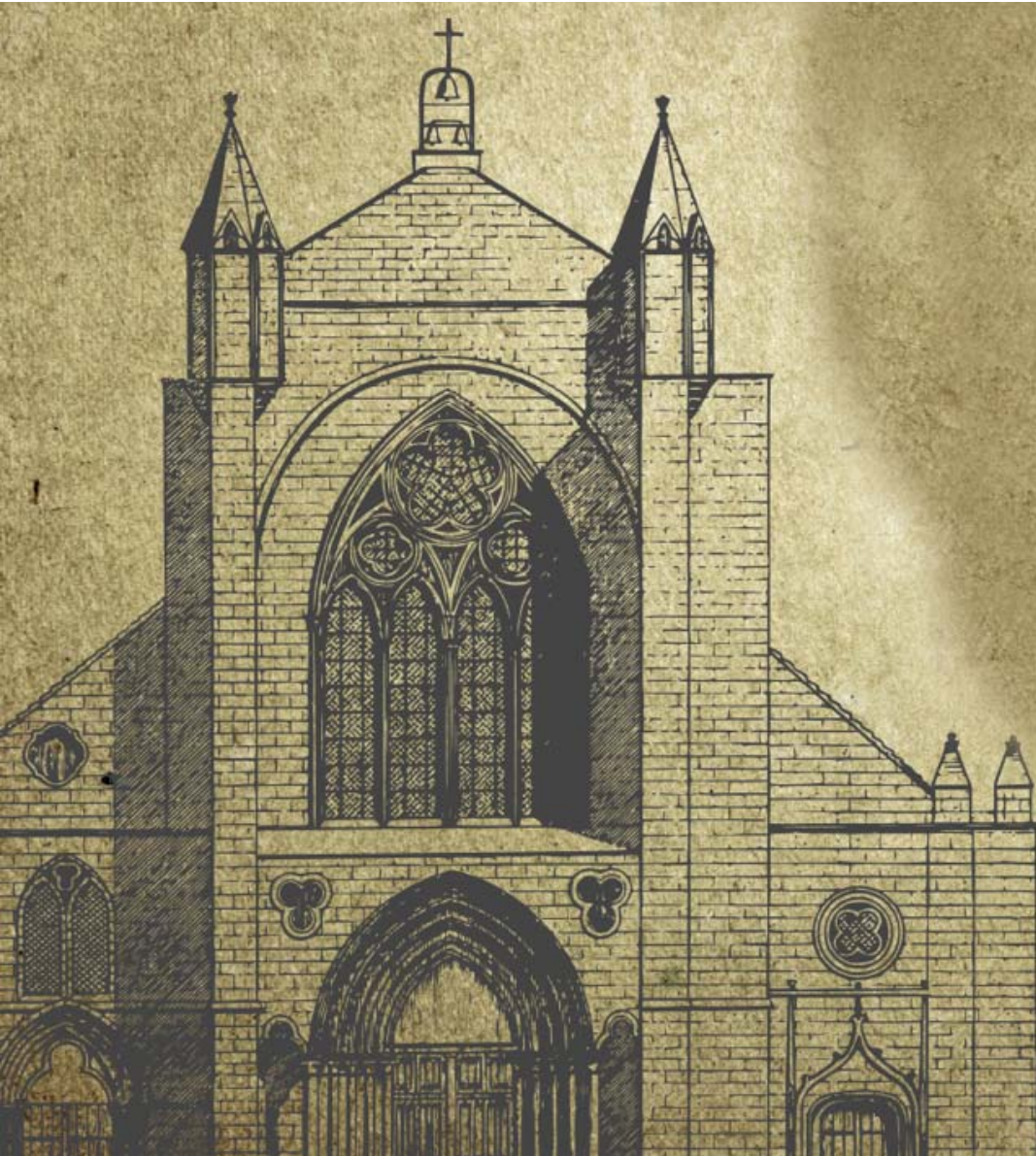


# Prayer

Session 3 – Corporate Prayer & More

Calvary Chapel Northwest – San Antonio  
Pastor Todd Bales



# Learning Objectives

- Members will be able to develop and implement personal and communal prayer practices
- Members will be able to explain the Biblical basis for prayer, referencing key Biblical references
- Members will be able to integrate prayer more fully into their daily lives to support ongoing spiritual growth.
- Get out of the Prayer Rut



## *Follow Up on Rebuking Satan*

- Christians have different understanding of what Scripture teaches on Satan in our prayer lives
- Phrases like
  - I'm going to bind Satan
  - The Lord rebuke you Satan"
  - "I resist you Satan."
  - "In Jesus name Satan, you have no authority here."
  - "In the name of Jesus, I command you to leave."

IS IT BIBLICAL?



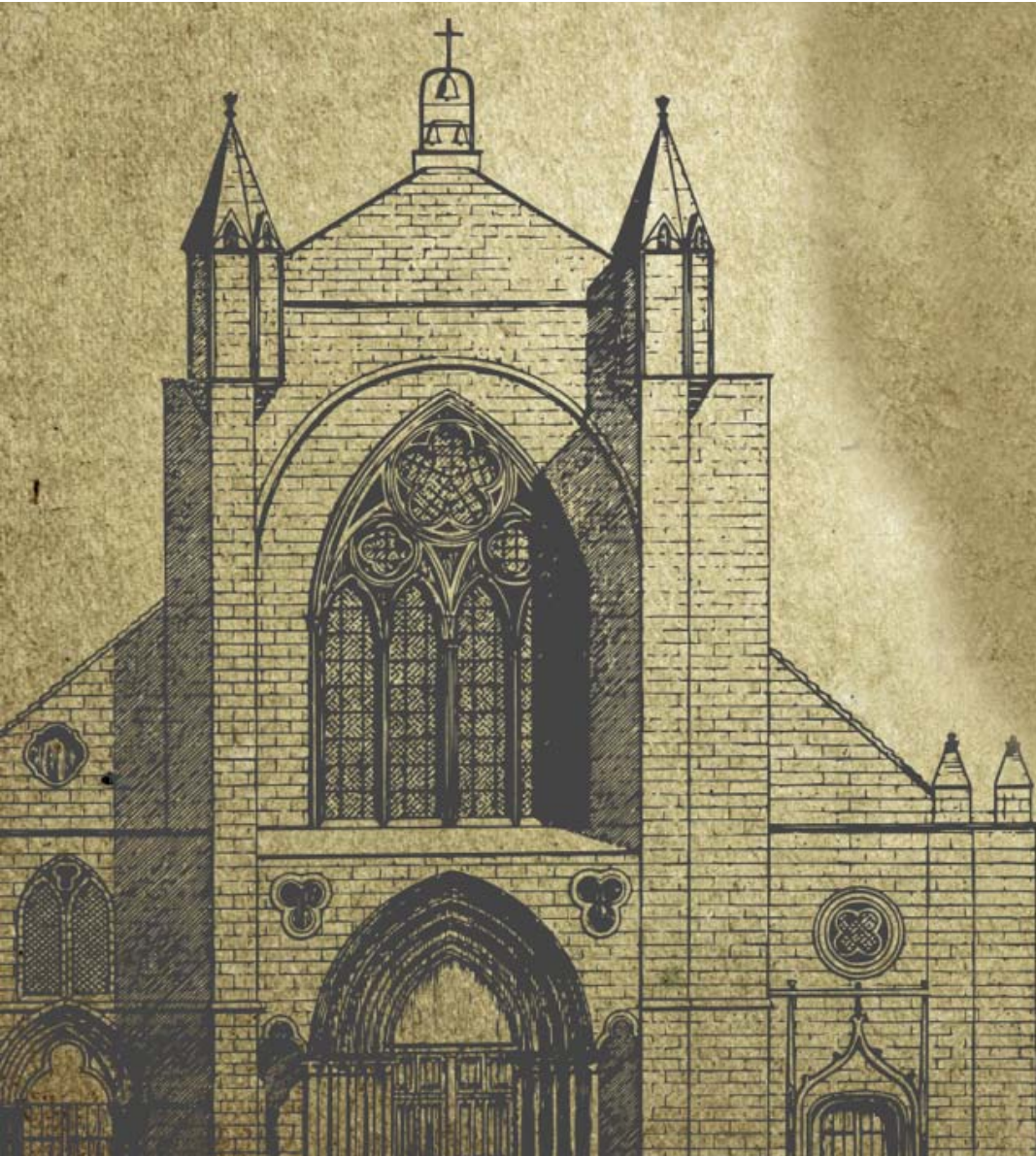
# Prayer Basic and Satan

- We are in a spiritual battle
  - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (Ephesians 6:12) NIV
- Prayer is a spiritual tool
  - "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)
- Only Jesus rebuked the Devil in Scripture
  - 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.'" (Matthew 16:23 (NKJV)
- Even the archangel Michael did not rebuke Satan
  - Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'" (Jude 1:9)
  - Resisting the devil is different than rebuking Satan
    - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)



# Who is doing the Work Against Satan?

- Jesus talking about prayer and Satan
  - "And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Mathew 16:19
- "No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house." Mark 3:27



## Check it Out

- Do Christians have the authority to rebuke the devil?  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/authority-rebuke-devil.html>
- Can Christians rebuke the devil?  
<https://www.compellingtruth.org/authority-rebuke-devil.html>



# Corporate Prayer

- Definition
  - **Corporate prayer** is the act of praying together with other people as a group, typically within a religious or faith-based setting. It involves a collective expression of worship, thanksgiving, confession, or petition directed towards God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.



## Key Points

- Multiple people
- Praying together
- Utilizes the key components of prayer (as discussed in Session 2)
- Praying to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit
- It's Biblical!
  - “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them”. Matthew 18:20



# Purpose of Corporate Prayer

- God's people seeking God's will for God's people and God's creation to come into agreement with His will.
- *Corporate prayer is the church's alignment with God's will through unified prayer is essential for corporate direction, revival, and breakthrough.  
(Chuck Smith)*



# Biblical Corporate Prayer

- Not exactly as we do it today
- **Solomon's Prayer at the Temple Dedication** (2 Chronicles 6:13-14) ""for Solomon had made a bronze platform five cubits long, five cubits wide, and three cubits high, and had set it in the midst of the court; and he stood on it, knelt down on his knees before all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands toward heaven; and he said: 'LORD God of Israel, there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.'""



# Biblical Corporate Prayer

- **Jehoshaphat leads Judah in Prayer** (2 Chronicles 20:4-6) "So Judah gathered together to ask help from the LORD; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD. Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem in the house of the LORD before the new court, and said: 'O LORD God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?'"



# Biblical Corporate Prayer

- **Ezra and the Exiles Fast and Pray Together (Ezra 8:21-23)** "Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, 'The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.' So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer."



# Biblical Corporate Prayer

- **The Church Prays Together After Persecution (Acts 4:24,31)** "So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: 'Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them...'"

*Verse 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."



# Elements for Corporate Prayer

- Luke 7:1-10 [Luk 7:1-10 NKJV] 1 Now when He concluded all His sayings in the hearing of the people, He entered Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear to him, was sick and ready to die. 3 So when he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to Him, pleading with Him to come and heal his servant. 4 And when they came to Jesus, they begged Him earnestly, saying that the one for whom He should do this was deserving, 5 "for he loves our nation, and has built us a synagogue." 6 Then Jesus went with them. And when He was already not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to Him, saying to Him, "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. 7 "Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. 8 "For I also am a man placed under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does [it]." 9 When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turned around and said to the crowd that followed Him, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!" 10 And those who were sent, returning to the house, found the servant well who had been sick.



# Key Elements

- There was a group of believers who were seeking God's will.
- Group is in agreement
- The group seeks Jesus
- The group has a specific focus: the healing of the slave
- There were no long stories told...just the prayer request
- The group petitioned Jesus
- The group recognizes the power of God to heal
- Jesus heard the request
- Jesus acted on the request
- The group returned home in faith



# Similarities Between Individual and Corporate Prayer

- Can be spoken or silent
- Can use any of the formats discussed last session
  - ACTS
  - 10 Step
  - Lord's Prayer
  - Free Format



# Similarities Between Individual and Corporate Prayer

- Utilizes the areas covered last session
  - Petition (James 1:5)
  - Thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6)
  - Intercession (1 Timothy 2:1)
  - Worship (Psalm 95:6)



# Similarities Between Individual and Corporate Prayer

- Differences

- Individuals are alone while corporate prayer happens together
- Individual speak to Jesus while in corporate prayer a leader may put up the prayer
  - Tongues should only be used with interpretation
    - "If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God." (1 Corinthians 14:27-28)
    - For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." (1 Corinthians 14:2



# Similarities Between Individual and Corporate Prayer

- Differences

- Corporate prayer addresses either 1) requests which are common to all praying or 2) immediate/pressing needs that impact the prayer community
- Solitary vs public or group settings.
- Focus on private spiritual life vs community and spiritual strength

*““When God intends great mercy for His people, the first thing He does is to set them a-praying.”  
(Matthew Henry)*



# Order in Corporate Prayer

- God requires order
  - For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)
  - Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40)



# CCNW Guidelines for Corporate Prayer

- Source: Pastor Ellis

- Speak up! Others cannot agree with what they cannot hear.
- Avoid preachy praying and ministerial tones. Pray simply and conversationally.
- Keep prayers concise, clear and to the point
- Don't read long passages of Scripture



# CCNW Guidelines for Corporate Prayer

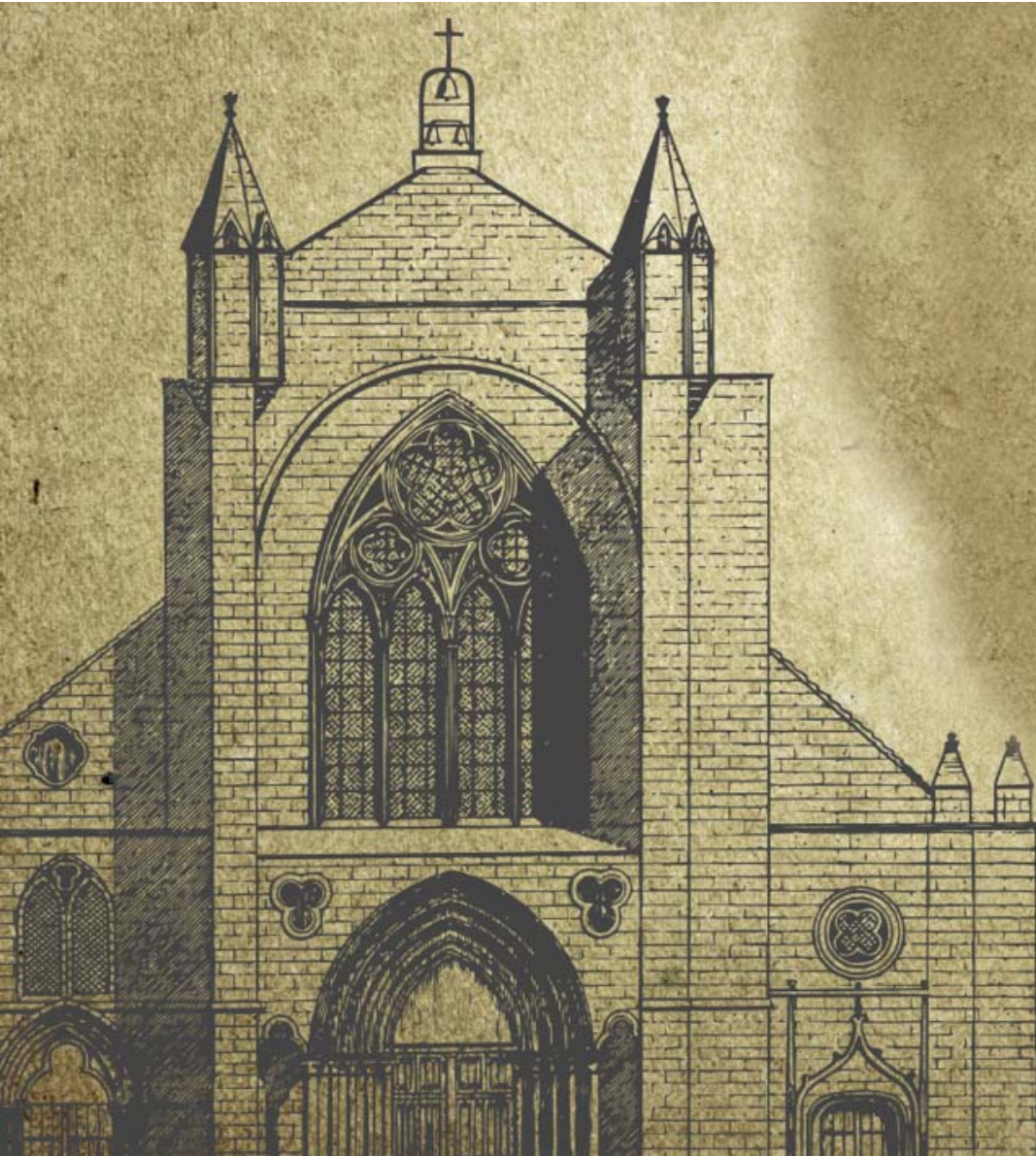
- Source: Pastor Ellis

- Don't pray as you would in your private devotionals
- Don't explain things to Him.
- Avoid addressing others in the room under the pretense of prayer.
- Once you have prayed, wait for other people to pray before praying again. When in doubt about what to pray, ask for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for your church and city. All other requests are fulfilled when that occurs.
- Listen to, agree with, and affirm each prayer.



# Additional Corporate Prayer Thoughts

- Avoid story telling
- Present requests that impact more than the individual praying
- Utilize the various types of prayers as covered in Session 2 during corporate prayer
- Keep prayers “fresh” by avoiding repetitive or rote phrases.
- Be as specific as you can be
  - Lord give NWCC a facility in Alamo Ranch so that many can come to Jesus.
  - Avoid prayers that are so broad they mean nothing.
  - Lord bless all the people of the world.
- Avoid prayers that are so narrow that they only impact that one individual in the general sense.
  - Lord, keep my child Ruth safe on the bus today as she arrives at Goodwin Elementary.



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- Get out of the Prayer Rut

# Questions and Comments





# Let's Pray

- *“When God has something very great to accomplish for His Church, it is His will that there should precede it the extraordinary prayers of His people.” Jonathan Edwards*