



THE COMPELLING COMMUNITY  
PRAYING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY | FEBRUARY 22, 2026

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## INTRODUCTION

Prayer is an ordinary means to accomplish supernatural ends. But can you think of anything that's as important, yet less prayed for, than the local \_\_\_\_\_?

The supernatural community of the local church is the focal point of God's redemptive plan to make the nations His inheritance, and that supernatural work is entirely outside of our \_\_\_\_\_. But how much time do we actually spend praying for our church?

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CORPORATE PRAYER FOR CHURCH LIFE

There are very few examples of corporate prayer in the Old Testament. But when Jesus teaches His disciples to pray in Matthew 6:11-12, His prayer is \_\_\_\_\_. With the arrival of the church in the book of Acts, corporate prayer explodes onto the scene.

- The \_\_\_\_\_ pray together to find Judas' replacement in Acts 1.
- The new \_\_\_\_\_ devotes itself to prayer in Acts 2.
- They gather in Acts 4 to \_\_\_\_\_ God for Peter and John's release.
- In Acts 8, the disciples pray together for the Spirit to fall on the Samaritans.
- In Acts 12, the church prays together for Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ from Herod.
- In Acts 13, the church at Antioch prays together to commission Saul and Barnabas.
- When Paul writes to the Corinthians, he assumes corporate prayer is included in their regular \_\_\_\_\_ together (1 Corinthians 11:4; 14:15).

Here are three reasons to spend time in corporate prayer:

### 1. Corporate prayer is how we publicly ask God to \_\_\_\_\_.

God loves to defend His reputation. When we pray together, our needs become public. When He answers, His \_\_\_\_\_ becomes public.

### 2. Corporate prayer \_\_\_\_\_ the congregation how to pray.

If biblical community is to take shape in our church, then we must be praying people. But, if left to ourselves, we pray most fervently about relatively trivial things. By praying corporately, we emphasize \_\_\_\_\_ priorities over physical circumstances. And we emphasize our life together corporately over our needs as individuals.

### 3. Corporate prayer is a \_\_\_\_\_ experience.

As we pray to our heavenly Father "from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named" (Ephesians 3:15), we remember where true unity comes from. Corporate prayer fosters \_\_\_\_\_.

## WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY ABOUT CORPORATELY?

The acronym \_\_\_\_\_ is a good model for personal and corporate prayer.

### 1. Prayers of \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving, certainly important, is about God's treatment of *us*. Praise is pure response to the magnificence of \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2. Prayers of \_\_\_\_\_

Our prayers of confession often turn into part confession, part petition for God's forgiveness, and part thanksgiving for our forgiveness in Christ. But it is beneficial to consider the heinousness of our \_\_\_\_\_ before God. Only after holding ourselves "under the water" for a few minutes will the good news of the gospel ring with the joy that it should.

### 3. Prayers of \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving advertises that there is nothing we have that we did not receive from above (1 Corinthians 4:7). It roots our concern for the future in God's \_\_\_\_\_ in the past.

### 4. Prayers of \_\_\_\_\_

We don't ask God for things because we deserve them, but because He tells us to do so. We want Him to get all the \_\_\_\_\_ when He answers our prayers.

We can pray for physical needs, specific individuals, other Bible-preaching churches, those in \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 2:2), issues facing our city or region, missionaries we support, the persecuted church, gospel advancement, and our own application of the sermons we hear.

We can pray for our witness of \_\_\_\_\_ in our community, that we would see relationships in the local church as part of what it means to be a Christian, our need for spiritual transparency/vulnerability with one another, an abundance of Word-fueled conversations between members, that we would see it as important to encourage each other with Scripture, and that we would see it as part of being a Christian to be a provider and not just a consumer.

## HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR THE CHURCH IN PRIVATE?

Despite the importance of corporate prayer, Jesus was clear that we should also pray in \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 6:6). The centrality of the local church to God's redemptive plan should lead the congregation to spend time in prayer interceding for their local church.

If we've carefully structured times of corporate prayer, then we're already building a compelling model for \_\_\_\_\_ in times of private prayer.

Beyond that, we can encourage people to pray for those they \_\_\_\_\_ in the church (Mondays=Men in the Church, Wednesdays=Women in Church, Fridays=Friends in Church).

We can encourage people to pray for those they don't know in the church. Use the church \_\_\_\_\_ to pray through all the families of the church on a regular basis, to pray for their response to the preaching, and to pray for a biblical church culture.