

FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ SUNDAY, September 28th, 2025



“HOUSE OF PRAYER”

Mark 11:15-16; Isaiah 56:7

1. My _____ Identity: I am a follower of Jesus Christ, a living temple of the living God, a House of Prayer. This is not only who I am, but also how I function as a follower of Christ – 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; Eph. 2:21-22; 1 Thess. 5:17.
2. Our _____ Identity: We are followers of Jesus Christ, a living temple of the living God, a House of Prayer. This is not only who we are, but also how we function together – 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Thess. 5:17; Acts 1:14; 2:24; 4:24; 4:31; 6:4,6; 7:59; 9:11, 40; 10:9; 12:5, 12; 13:2; 14:23; 16:16, 25; 20:36; 21:5; 28:8

REASONS WHY BELIEVERS SHOULD PRAY TOGETHER

1. Christ commanded us to pray corporately – Matt. 6:9-13
2. The apostles consistently practiced corporate prayer – Acts 3:1
3. The early church was saturated with corporate prayer – Acts 1:14, 24, 2:42
4. Corporate prayer honors Christ by submitting to Him as Head of the Church – Acts 1:24
5. Corporate prayer nurtures the manifest presence of God among His people – Acts 4:31
6. Corporate prayer builds unity within the Church – Acts 1:14
7. Corporate prayer fosters accountability and purifies motives
8. Corporate prayer strengthens faith – Acts 4:24
9. Corporate prayer exposes vain repetitions
10. Corporate prayer enhances the ministry of intercession
11. Corporate prayer broadens and deepens our prayers
12. Corporate prayer encourages praise for answered prayer
13. Corporate prayer reinforces mutual intercession
14. Corporate prayer is the source of unique spiritual power
15. Corporate prayer empowers ministry
16. Corporate prayer nurtures a spirit of prayer within the local congregation
17. Corporate prayer provides opportunity for corporate repentance
18. Corporate prayer brings victory in spiritual battle
19. Corporate prayer reinforces hope amidst adversity and struggles – Acts 4:23-31
20. Corporate prayer enables us to rejoice with those who rejoice and to weep with those who weep – Romans 12:15

Growth Groups and Personal Study Guide for Sept. 29th – Oct. 5th

40 Days of Unceasing Prayer: “ENTERING IN”

Reminders:

- For this week, read (days 15-21) in your 40 Day devotionals.
- Our annual Fall Vision Dessert will be on Sunday, October 5th at 6:00 p.m. This is an important time for the whole church family to come together and renew our commitment to our God- given vision, catch a glimpse of the upcoming ministry year, hear a financial report, and enjoy lots of great fellowship and dessert. Our leadership requests that all members and attenders of Fellowship be in attendance. Childcare thru age 5 will be provided. SIGN UP BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE only, on the App, or by calling the church office.
- Our 9th Annual Fellowship Summit is coming up on Thursday, October 30th – Saturday, November 1st at Hidden Acres. Registration is OPEN NOW.
- DON'T FORGET TO TAKE A GROUP PICTURE! (If you haven't already)

Opening Discussion:

- Fears (or phobias) have different names. Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders. Aviophobia is the fear of flying in planes. Coulrophobia...the fear of clowns. What are some similar fears (or phobias) you have?
- Sometimes, we can be afraid of certain aspects of prayer. For example, praying out loud in front of people or saying the wrong thing might keep us from a more fruitful and fulfilling prayer life. What are some fears you have about prayer?

Today, we will face our insecurities of prayer by learning how to enter into the presence of God the right way. Many times, when we feel like our prayers are bouncing off the ceiling or we aren't sure what to pray, it's simply because we haven't really entered in to God's presence.

Play Week 2 Video:

How to enter into the Presence of God:

1. Come in _____. (Matt.6:5)
2. Come in _____. (Matt.6:6)
3. Come in _____. (Matt.6:7)
4. Come in _____. (Matt.6:8)
5. Come as _____. (Matt.6:9)

Group Discussion:

- What was one takeaway for you from Bill's message? _____

READ Matthew 6:5-13 together.

What are some things that stand out to you immediately in this passage? What does it tell us about the nature of God? _____

Bill mentioned several words that shape the way we enter God's presence:

1. **SINCERITY** - What keeps us from approaching God in prayer sincerely? _____

2. **SECLUSION** - What are ways we can better focus our attention on God so that our prayers engage our heart with His heart? What is one thing you would like to include in your prayer time with the Lord that would help you to focus your attention better on Him? _____

3. **SIMPLICITY** - Name one way that you can simplify your prayer life this week. *(Some ideas for this could be praying on your drive to work without any distractions, choosing to write just three sentences of prayer so that your words remain few, or making the decision to pray for one thing during mealtimes (that doesn't involve the food)).* _____

4. Sons and Daughters - How does seeing yourself as a son or daughter change the way you approach God in prayer? _____

5. What is one encouragement or challenge you received from the Lord in your devotional reading this week that you would like to share with the group? What action step do you feel God is prompting you to take? _____

Worship-Based Prayer Time:

Read & Pray - Psalm 56

Reverence:

- Father, I thank you that you proved yourself trustworthy when...

Response:

- Father, I confess that I am struggling with fear over...
- Father, I admit that I need to trust Your Word and not my own emotions when...

Requests:

- Father, when I'm afraid about _____, I will trust you because _____ (name a promise of God that will help you overcome that fear).

Readiness:

- Father, remind me that you are for me when I am fearful about...