

Session 6

CELEBRATING: How Can We Develop Corporate Praise?

Theme:

Thanksgiving and praise inspire faith in God and accelerate a prayer movement.

Biblical Foundation:

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Hebrews 13:15 NKJV™

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.”

1 Timothy 2:1 NKJV™

The Purpose of This Session

is to increase prayer by learning to practice corporate praise.

Introduction:

Praise centers our attention on the goodness of God.

“Oh, that men would give thanks to the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men!”

Psalm 107:8 NKJV™

1. Israel celebrated the works of God in feasts, festivals, and memorials.
2. Praise magnifies our understanding of God.

“Whoever offers praise glorifies Me;
and to him who orders his conduct aright
I will show the salvation of God.”

Psalm 50:23 NKJV™

3. Praise filled the life of Jesus.

“Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.’”

John 11:41 NKJV™

4. Praise and faith have a close relationship.

“Now one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan...And He said to him, ‘Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.’”

Luke 17:15,16,19 NKJV™

Four Celebrations Can Energize a Prayer Movement

1. Celebrate [victories]!

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”

2 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV™

a. Saturate all of your praying with thanksgiving.

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

Hebrews 13:15 NKJV™

b. Exalt the greatness of God in your prayer.

“Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
Praise Him in the heights!
Praise Him, all His angels;
Praise Him, all His hosts!”

Psalm 148:1,2 NKJV™

c. Thank Him for the blessings you do have.

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”

Psalm 103:2 NKJV™

(See Psalm 103:3-18 also.)

2. Celebrate the enlistment of [new] praying people! Praise the Lord for this growing spiritual army.

“You also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.”

2 Corinthians 1:11 NKJV™

3. Celebrate the [**completion**] of a prayer campaign!

a. Rejoice in the gracious working of the Lord.

“When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, the Lord has done great things for them. The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad.”

Psalm 126:1-3 NKJV™

b. Praise Him for His unfailing promises.

“Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses.”

1 Kings 8:56 NKJV™

4. Celebrate each new season in Christ!

“You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance.”

Psalm 65:11 NKJV™

a. Praise God for His [faithfulness] and sufficiency.

“Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22,23 NKJV™

- b. Consider observing the first week of January as a special week of prayer.
- c. Consult with your directors about a “Spiritual Strategy Room.”

SCRIPTURE PRECEDENTS FOR SPIRITUAL BATTLE STRATEGY:

Gilgal: Israel's base camp for planning and prayer during their conquest of the Promised Land (Book of Joshua)

Jerusalem: Guidance center for the Early Church

“And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord.”

Acts 4:23,24a NKJV™

Antioch: Launching place of missionary movement

“Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said...

‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

Acts 13:1-4 NKJV™

PURPOSES:

1. Discern “what the Holy Spirit is saying” to your organization.
2. Guide leaders’ interaction, intercession, and action.
3. Plan objectives, strategy, mobilization, and policy.
4. Prepare scheduling and action steps.
5. Display progress.

USES:

1. Identify spiritual targets.
2. Pray corporately or individually.
3. Map territory for spiritual responsibility.
4. Visualize problems that need prayer and progress that calls for praise.
5. Keep intercessors informed of developing prayer results.
6. Train staff, trainers, coordinators, and intercessors.
7. Prepare and store resource materials.

FACILITY:

A room or an area set apart for visualizing prayer action that contains the following:

- Maps of entire areas to be served by the organization;
- Charts and information depicting goals, progress, problems, and praises for prayer answers;
- Listing of prayer volunteers, adopted targets, and schedules;
- Pictures of staff, partners, missionaries, public leaders, etc.

ACTIVITIES:

1. Strategy meetings
2. Individual and corporate prayer
3. Research
4. Data tabulation
5. Visualization: maps, globes, graphs, charts, etc.
6. Prayer communication center
7. Personnel enlistment and deployment

Conclusion:

Celebrating God's answers can help ignite a spiritual movement in your ministry.

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