

# DYNAMIC PRAYER - PRAYER AND WORSHIP MODEL

## Something happens when we worship

Takes us into the presence of God, where we open ourselves up to God's prompting and heart

## Something happens when we pray

Jesus said – when we pray – something that God expects from us, he wants conversation with his family, he wants to have an intimate relationship and to do that you need communication!

*“Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of omnipotence”* - Charles Spurgeon

*“Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, it is laying hold of God's willingness”* - Richard Trench

## This is a terrific combination – very powerful!

When we put these two things together we get a combination that is greater than the sum of the two parts – like iron/carbon makes steel

The bible refers to this combination in Rev 5:8 - *“Each one had a **harp** and they were holding golden **bowls** full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints”*

The model we are going to demonstrate is sometimes referred to as **Harp and Bowl**. Bring these two together and it seems to create a dynamic, a synergy demonstrated in Acts 16:25 -

*“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the others were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open and every one's chains came loose.”*

Don't know what your experience is of corporate prayer—in the past I have had some pretty dire experiences where the sense of coming together as a body of believers and getting a sense of the power of prayer has frankly been missing. My experiences of joining prayer with worship have been different. I find myself surprised to find an hour has gone by, I feel more connected with those around me; my understanding of the power of prayer has been dynamically changed. I enjoy and look forward to the prayer sessions! What is more, I have seen how prayer can change things. Once in a prayer meeting I actually saw the moment when God spoke to a friend of mine and he heard God's voice for the first time! It was like watching at the moment of birth!! We have seen prayer meetings grow in a most extraordinary way and seen some of the techniques brought into the church itself and added dynamism to the service.

So what is this marvellous innovative model of prayer? Some of you might already use the techniques – brilliant, but if you don't, I think you will understand more if I outline it and then we actually get down and do it!

The idea is to create **an hour** of dynamic prayer, underpinned and encouraged through worship. The bible seems to suggest many different styles of prayer, so in this hour the use of different styles seems to keep people focused. It seems best if the hour is divided into **two halves both led by seven to 10 mins of worship**. In that worship time the worship leader takes people on the journey of worship Andy described so they have already been drawn into the presence of God. The prayer leader then has already prepared topics for prayer and decided which method of prayer he is going to use for each topic. So preparation is vital, although sometimes if God breaks in, we should be willing to throw all that to the wind, **except the timetable!!**

## Prayer style variations:

One at a time is the standard way of praying but consider these:

- **Small groups** – Matt 18:20 This model works either as pairs, or as threes. Work out in advance which model you want to use and prepare the prayer topics in items of twos or threes to suit.

Ask the people to divide themselves into twos or threes as decided. Each person takes a number – 1, 2 or 3. Choose a topic and give each number an angle of the topic. If needed, explain the idea is to pray out loud, taking turns. Give each number a time limit of about one minute or so and be ready to prompt them if they need to move on to the next person. Do this for at least two related topics while organised into these small groups. You can get more focused on topic-related subjects in second and third times.

- **100% - Acts 4:24**  
Give a topic and all pray out loud at the same time!
- **50/50** – Paul and Silas in prison  
Divide the room in half—give a different angle of the same topic to each half of the room. As one half prays out loud together, the other half worships. Need a worship song with a good chorus as they can come together to sing the chorus before swapping over.
- **North/South/East/West**  
Four corners of the world, or angles of a topic. People can choose which angle they want to pray for and go to that corner. Again, praying out loud adds an urgency to the peoples' prayers.
- **Interview – Gen. 25:21**  
Laying on of hands after subject had been explained. Could pray for people, who are going out on a mission, or have had an illness, or starting something new.
- **Silent prayer – Acts 1:14**  
Can have some worship music going on in the background.
- **Report back**  
Ask someone to report back when prayers have been answered—such an encouragement. Prayers of thanks can follow.

Changing the prayer model/type seems to add energy to the prayer session as well as keeping people focused and on task.

You, I am sure, can think of other ways, as these are just suggestions, but all of which we have found work very well.

**Normally you can get a minimum of two varieties of prayer styles in each half-hour session. But the leader has to constantly move people on or will run out of time!**

## Helpful hints

- Have a bible verse or very quick story to tell or news quote or complementary statistics to focus people at the beginning of each topic, especially if something is going on at the time.
- Moving people around helps them concentrate enormously and is a really important part of a successful event.
- Don't choose complicated topics that people will struggle to find something to pray for.
- Choose a song with a good rousing chorus in the 50/50 and a short verse. Sometimes it's better to do the chorus only rather than find people running out of things to say.
- Be willing to give space for a word or a picture but it needs to be vetted and under the control of those leading the session (i.e., don't open the floor up to anyone!).
- Have a **prearranged** report or interview on answered prayers from previous meetings.
- Sometimes a song at the end works well but must be within the time frame.
- **Begin and end on time!!**

## Advantages of this system

- Can get a lot more prayer in an hour—do the math!! More than one person praying at same time!
- Teaches people to pray in public without feeling pressured
- Time goes incredibly quickly!
- Everyone in the meeting feels involved
- Allows you to go deeper in worship and prayer
- Avoids individuals dominating prayer session
- Teaches praying out loud without embarrassment
- Builds community
- Sustainable
- Effective!