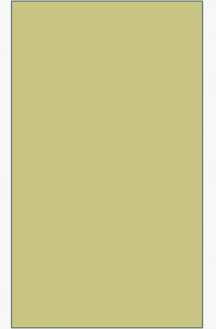


THE POWER OF PRAYER

RECAPTURING HIS
PRESENCE AND GLORY



THE FOCUS

- Exodus 33:15-18
- “We have many methods and plans about how to make people feel welcome in our church. Many of those methods are successful in drawing people, but are they drawing the presence of God?”

The presence of Jesus always has been and always will be what is most attractive for hungry people. For long-term success we must build something that attracts His presence." ~Rhonda Hughey

Reach up and bring Him down then He will reach out and pull them in.

CORPORATE PRAYER

“ While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites—men, women and children—gathered around him. They too wept bitterly.” (Ezra 10:1)

“PRESSING IN”

“When she had heard of Jesus, came in the *press* behind, and touched his garment.” (Mark 5:27)

People who are hungry “press” in!

MOVING PRAYER TO THE CENTER

- Joel 1:14
- Matthew 21:13
- Acts 1:14
- “What does it say about our churches today that God birthed the church in a prayer meeting and pray meetings today are almost extinct.” ~Jim Cymbala

TO MAKE SOMETHING CENTRAL

- What is done before anything else (firstly)
- What is done more than anything else (constantly)
- What is considered the answer to every “how” (practically)
- What you can't do without (necessity)

THERE HAS TO BE DESPERATION

A Cry brings God

- Isaiah 58:9 (see Isaiah 64:7)
- Psalm 142:6
- Exodus 2:23,25

COUPLE THOUGHTS

1. If we don't feel desperate for god, we don't tend to cry out to him. This leads to spiritual death: when we think we have enough of God, when we think our cup is appropriately filled.

- *“Desperate hunger is the currency of heaven. Hunger is what causes us to empty ourselves of compromise and creates a holy dissatisfaction that drives us to our knees and makes us depend on God.”~ Rhonda Hughey*

2. If we call upon the Lord in prayer, he has promised in his Word to answer...If we don't call upon the Lord, he has promised nothing. Prayer is the key that unlocks all the storehouses of God's infinite grace and power. All that God is, and all that God has, is at the disposal of prayer. But we must use the key.

2 CHRONICLES 20:3

4 Things are accomplished as we pray together:

- Refocuses us on God's power and might
- Reminds us of God's mighty acts in the past
- Reaffirms to us God's covenant promise to hear and answer prayer
- Reinforces our desperate need for God