

Cedar Grove BIC Church Discipleship Training
March 2, 2014
6:30 PM

“Rules of Engagement in a Supernatural Enterprise”

An Authentic Prayer Life:

The ministry of any church rises and falls on the spiritual life of its members and those who lead the church

The quality of the spiritual life of a church rises and falls on the maintenance of spiritual authority, which is based in **I**_____ and **C**_____

Integrity and character are developed in the hearts and minds of God’s people through the people’s engagement in the personal **S**_____ **D**_____

Reviewing What We have Studied:

We’re studying what it means to have a meaningful personal prayer life. In session one, we studied the prayer life of Jesus and what He taught us about having a more meaningful prayer life with God. We looked at the three levels of prayer: **A**_____ prayer, **S**_____ prayer, and **K**_____ prayer.

We studied the essentials of prayer, the issues of the **H**_____ as we pray, and choosing to **A**_____ before God if we expect Him to minister with us as we pray. A deep and meaningful prayer life is a primary expression of walking in **I**_____ with God. Our personal prayer life is the primary expression of a deepening relationship with God.

The level at which we enjoy two way communication with the Father in prayer is the primary measuring stick we have regarding intimacy with God. Jesus promised us:

John 14:18 – 21

The **M**_____ of intercession is something every child of God in Christ Jesus is called to engage in. The word “intercede” comes from the Latin words - “inter” meaning between and “cede” meaning “to go.” The concept of intercession therefore is, “the act of going between two parties which presently stand apart.” People who engage in the ministry of intercession know what it is to bear a **P**_____ **B**_____.

--The Biblical concept of “bearing one another’s burdens in love.” Galatians 6:2

--The Biblical concept of “standing in the gap.” Ezekiel 22:30

Praying in the Spirit

Engaging in the ministry of intercession is the primary expression of the Biblical command to “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions.” It is to **P**_____ with God’s presence in us and **P**_____ into existence what He has in His heart to accomplish on the earth!

--Ephesians 6:18, I Corinthians 14:15, Jude 20

Praying in the Spirit in intercession means that we are praying in keeping with what the Holy Spirit desires and has communicated to us. The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to **P**_____, **S**_____ our hearts, and **I**_____ our minds to pray in keeping with the will and purposes of the Father.

--John 16:8 – 15

Praying in the Spirit in intercession is also to pray in **C**_____ with Him as He actually prays **T**_____ **U**_____. The Holy Spirit makes up for our inabilities and lack and He prays through us at times:

Romans 8:26 – 27

Praying in the Spirit – Our Motivation

We intercede before Him because we are so needy, and we know that He is the only one who can meet those needs. We intercede because we are so **H**_____ and **T**_____ for what He alone can provide to us.

We intercede primarily to accomplish the purposes of God: Scripture teaches us that we God’s workmanship, the **B**_____ and the **B**_____ of Christ Jesus, the second Adam. In the same way Eve was a one with Adam, you and are one with Christ Jesus. In the same way Eve was helper to Adam, we are the helpers of Jesus, flowing out of our relational love to Him.

Our Father and Friend will pour His desires and purposes into our hearts as we invest quality time with Him in intercession. We will get to do the incredible adventure of the faith of actually **W**_____ with Him to **D**_____ what He wants to do before it happens!

Psalms 25:12, 14

The Existence of a Praying Church, the Vehicle of Revealing His Will:

Ephesians 3:10 – 12

The central reason we must be a praying church is the **S**_____ nature of the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, that is we have been called to do something with the Lord we cannot do in human **S**_____ or **D**_____. We are hated and opposed by the kingdom of darkness in this world and we cannot win the spiritual battles we face in our own!

Ephesians 6:10 – 12 *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty strength. Put on the full armor of God so that you may be able to take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”*

In developing a deeper understanding of the spiritual nature of the conflict we are engaged in, we must understand the vital issue of living a life under spiritual **A**_____ to be endued with spiritual **P**_____ to be enabled to do spiritual **W**_____ of ministry in the kingdom of God.

Matthew 8:9 – 11

Philippians 2:6 – 11 and Matthew 28:18 – 20 we are shown a powerful truth that it was after Jesus voluntarily died bearing away our sin that He was given all authority in heaven and earth.

The Spirit of God works to pour out spiritual power in our lives and it is an issue of coming under authority. He only empowers people who are learning what it means to live **D**_____ to **S**_____ and **S**_____ but alive unto Christ Jesus.

Luke 9:23. *“If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.”*

Let’s begin with the issue of God’s plan to do world evangelism. This has been in God’s heart from the first encounters between God and me as found in the pages of Scripture, to change the world one heart at a time. The fact is that the **P**_____ of God focuses on the **P**_____ of God. The reason God has always had a people is that He may have a **V**_____ to dwell in and to work through in this world.

So many people have bought into the world system’s lie that God is angry at them, waiting to punish them. But from the beginning of salvation history found in Scripture, we are shown a theology of blessing. God wanted a people whom He could live among and bless so that the nations of the world would get hungry to know Him too!

There is a desperate need that we all have to experience the renewing and restoring works of the Holy Spirit in our **S**_____ **P**_____ to know God personally.

There are two separate and competing kingdoms in this world, in a **B**_____ to the death for the **A**_____ and **W**_____ of human beings.

The kingdom of darkness

- The names of Satan -- “Prince of this world,” John 12:31, 14:30 16:11; “god of this age” II Corinthians 4:4; “the ruler of the kingdom of the air,” Ephesians 2:2.
- The world system is a composite of the depravity of humanity and the wiles of the enemy and his minions.

- Human beings, people captured by sin and rebellion, are ensnared in this kingdom of darkness and most of them do not even realize it.

The kingdom of God

- The redeemed of the Lord, His church
- The presence of His angels
- Redeemed human beings who are placed behind enemy lines
- The existence of a praying church

The presence of M_____ and S_____ S_____ of defensiveness, anger, unbelief, sin, or rebellion against the will and ways of the Lord, which dwell in the minds and systems created by human beings. II Corinthians 10:3 – 5

A spiritual stronghold is a defense mechanism, meant to keep pain or being hurt again out, but which actually holds pain and heartache in:

- A place of hopelessness to change something that is clearly known to be contrary to the will of God for our lives. A place of confusion or mind fog over something we of which had previously been convinced through faith.
- A carefully developed mindset, a way to think or mental framework that results in choice of unbelief that is always based on something that is not true.
- Developed very often in the shadows of our places where we have been hurt deeply.
- Have their origin in the thoughts of human beings, are inspired by Satan but received as “truth” by human beings, the intersection of the spiritual and the earthly, in issues of human will

Spiritual strongholds V_____ the M_____ of people in order to keep them from hearing, receiving, and thus believing the truth about God. II Corinthians 4:3, 4 and Acts 26:17b, 18

S_____ S_____ are created spiritually in the human arena, even though they may appear to be humanly inspired ideas. They cannot be removed by merely human means. They must be:

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Spiritual Atmospheres: Faith or Unbelief:

We must understand the atmosphere of faith in individuals and in churches is never constant. It ebbs and flows, raises and lowers. We must also understand that there is a battle fought between the expressions of faith and unbelief, which sets up S_____ A_____. This

atmosphere either embraces and longs for God's work on the earth or it rejects and rebels against His work on the earth.

The unrepentant cities Matthew 11:20 – 24

The story of Bethsaida found in Mark 8:22 – 26

- The presence of unbelief forced Jesus to take the man outside the city in order to be able to heal him.
- Would Jesus be able to heal someone in our church family on Sunday morning or would have to take the person out into the parking lot to heal them to get a better atmosphere?

It is high time we asked some critical questions:

- Why does the renewal and revival power of God fall at some geographic places and yet tarry it's coming at others?
- What are the conditions, which humans must participate with the Holy Spirit in meeting, that promote and foster the manifest presence of God poured out on the earth?
- Why does the darkness seem to be so palpable at some places on the earth, where people participate in wicked and sinful ways?
- Is there an intersection between the spiritual realms and patterns of human behaviors? Is there such a thing as corporate righteousness welcoming God and corporate sin, breaking God's heart and welcoming the enemy to work more powerfully there?

The omnipresence of God permits the spiritual atmosphere to basically stay the same as it has always been. Sin goes on unchallenged, selfishness and wickedness abound, and revival in the people of God's gatherings is nearly nonexistent:

II Kings 21:1 – 17, Revelation 2:13, Psalm 74:12 – 23 (verse 20)

When the church settles for omnipresence we are settling for far less than God's deep longing to be among us in power!

But the manifest presence of God impacts the human arena and the spiritual atmosphere of a community in powerful ways:

- The human behaviors we see change dramatically because sin and rebellion cannot go unchallenged
- The spiritual atmosphere radically changes from unbelief to faith
- The enemy's ability to work is dramatically curtailed because the enemy cannot stand the glory of God

I Kings 18 and II Chronicles 7:1 – 10

Many Biblical pictures of manifest presence and the salvation of hundreds, here are just two:
Acts 2:1 – 4 and 4:23 – 31

Becoming a House of Prayer for All the Nations:

Isaiah 56:6, 7 and Matthew 21:13

This is the **C**_____ and the **P**_____ for the church of the Living Lord Jesus Christ!
Anything less than being a house of prayer for all the nations is a humanly inspired agenda for His work.

- Programs and Committees versus Callings and Ministries
- Getting bigger is better – growth in numbers of people is what matters
- The fleshliness of being known as the best _____ church in our city!

Since Pastors and leaders cannot pray sufficiently to create this kind of prayer atmosphere in the house of the Lord, it is integral to the process that leadership people **T**_____ with **I**_____ in creating an atmosphere of faith, spiritual longing for His presence and evangelism and discipleship!

The spiritual **P**_____ and **A**_____ in which the church functions is directly proportionate to its prayer life!

The primary measuring stick of our intimacy with God is our personal prayer life. This principle is powerful: being with Jesus in prayer and surrender is the prerequisite to receiving His anointing to be His vehicle for His glory in the world!

In a house of prayer for all the nations heartfelt, passionate intercessory **P**_____ is a top level **P**_____!

The central focus of it all is that the lost may be saved, which entails removing people who have been bound and blinded by sin from the enemy's kingdom one heart and soul at a time!

Our enemy Satan will not take this lightly, but will find a way to attack and retaliate against a praying church. In the book of Acts there is a pattern that repeats over and over: **B**_____, **B**_____, and **B**_____! This underscores our need to be a praying and surrendered people, being made holy in His presence daily!

Concluding Thoughts You Want to Share: