

“LORD,
GIVE US THE NATIONS!”

“Ask of me, and I will give you the nations...” Psalm 2:8

THE FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS OF
THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER

“Lord, Give Us the Nations!”

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OUR MANDATE

“LORD, GIVE US THE NATIONS” includes the foundational teachings of the College of Prayer in a single volume. Essentially, it takes the foundational lessons from our three years of College of Prayer curriculum and puts them into a field-tested, easy-to-use, transferable booklet that you can use to equip the church in any nation. Once you teach these foundational lessons, we encourage you to establish a campus of the College of Prayer where you will use the full three-year curriculum.

Year 1 – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 – Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 – Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray

Jesus took three years to teach his disciples how to pray, and for this reason, we encourage you to take three years to build a praying church.

The College of Prayer began in 1997 with 120 pastors and leaders from around the world. Today, we have trained over 16 million church leaders, established 332,000 College of Prayer campuses, and launched more than 1 million Revival Prayer Groups. This is only the beginning.

“To mentor pastors and leaders to reach a lost world through a revived church.” - Mission of the College of Prayer

We are convinced that Christ will finish his work on earth the same way he started—from the upper room to the nations. When Christ ascended to his upper room in heaven, the only thing he left on earth was a Christ-encountering upper room prayer meeting (Acts 2). Today, Jesus is rebuilding Christ-encountering upper room prayer meetings all around the world.

- » Into this Christ-encountering upper room prayer gathering, Christ gathers his people.
- » Into this Christ-encountering upper room prayer gathering, Christ pours out his manifest presence.
- » From this Christ-encountering upper room prayer gathering, Christ thrusts forth his empowered people.
- » From this Christ-encountering upper room prayer gathering, Christ reaches the final unreached people on earth.

We are your servants. We have learned that the kingdom of God travels

along relational lines, and we would love to hear from you. If there is any way that we can better serve you, please contact us.

Visit our website, www.revivalnow.media, for many life-giving video and audio resources, all available for free. You can also download our Revival Now Media app and access even more free content to help you grow in intimacy with Christ through prayer. Christ told us, “freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8), so it is our honor to provide tools that will grow your relationship with God.

FIVE ELEMENTS TO AN ENCOUNTER WITH CHRIST

Every encounter with God normally contains these five elements. Every College of Prayer Module should experience these same elements.

1. High worship
2. Deep repentance
3. Forgiveness of sins and freedom from strongholds
4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. Being empowered for ministry

THREE STRATEGIC PRAYERS

Because Christ will rapidly gain so much ground during the College of Prayer Module and because the enemy will rapidly lose so much ground, it is important for you to begin each session by praying these three strategic prayers of protection, direction, and revelation.

1. Protection – *“God is our refuge and strength, an very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea.” Psalms 46:1-2*
2. Direction – *“When the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13*
3. Revelation – *“that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him...” Ephesians 1:17*

NOTE TO PASTORS AND LEADERS

We want to bless you and your people. This curriculum was written by pastors for pastors and their people. The College of Prayer serves the local church. We want to serve you. You are probably already too busy

with too many demands. We promise you—the College of Prayer will give back to you much more than you invest in it. The College of Prayer is not a prayer seminar or simply a prayer meeting; it is a two day extended God-encountering gathering patterned after the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This curriculum is a resource for you to use to join Christ in building a praying church. This same curriculum has been field tested all over the world to lead the church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. It is essential for you, as the Pastor-Leader, to encounter the manifest presence of Christ in your own daily prayer time, in order for you to lead others to encounter His manifest presence. God can only do through you what He has done in you. As you gather your people for two to three days (approximately 15-18 hours) for the College of Prayer Module, these guidelines will help you as you lead your people to a fresh encounter with Christ. You will engage in three activities: (1) intercession (prayer & worship), (2) instruction, and (3) interaction with each other. While you will spend equal time in each of these elements, prayer and worship are unquestionably the most important parts because through them you encounter the manifest presence of Christ. The manifest presence of Christ is the power cell of the praying church.

- » You pray toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You teach toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You share and process about your encounter with Christ.

Immediately following strategic times of encountering God, take time for your people to talk to each other. Have them get into groups of two to three people and discuss these two questions:

1. What did Christ just do in you?
2. What did Christ just teach you that you can take with you from this College of Prayer Module?

Do NOT allow your Module to become just another teaching seminar or just another prayer meeting. The goal is not to teach through every lesson in the exact order at one single Module. The goal is to teach the right lessons under the direction of the Holy Spirit that will most effectively lead your particular group to an encounter with Christ. The College of Prayer is a place where you and your local church will spend extended time together encountering and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ. The Module will help you become a powerful praying church.

SECTION 1
FULLNESS
THE WORK OF CHRIST **IN** US

LESSON ONE

“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’” Luke 11:1

“LORD, teach us to pray.” This sounds like a harmless little prayer—only five words—but don’t be fooled! This might be the most dangerous little prayer you ever pray to God. It has the potential to radically transform your life. Once you learn to pray, there is nothing that God wants you to have that you can’t receive from Him. This little prayer set in motion a whole new way of life for the disciples, and it may change your life, as well.

The disciples had seen many people pray, but they had never seen anyone pray the way Jesus prayed. His prayer life was alive, vigorous, and relevant. From this verse we learn several things.

Jesus’ prayer was categorically at a higher level than anyone the disciples had ever seen.

John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray.

The disciples were hungry for God and eager to learn to pray.

Jesus responded to the disciples’ request by giving them many useful prayer tools.

A. Jesus gives a prayer pattern.

“And he said to them, ‘When you pray, say, “Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.”’” Luke 11:2-4

B. Jesus gives a prayer picture.

“And he said to them, ‘Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, “Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him”; and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs.’” Luke 11:5-8

C. Jesus gives prayer promises.

“And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock,

and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?" Luke 11:9-12

D. Jesus gives prayer power.

"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Luke 11:13

Jesus waits until verse thirteen to fully answer the disciples' request, "Lord teach us to pray." In a sense, He is saying, "OK, you want to learn the way to pray the way I do; you need to learn how to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit. That's how I pray." Learning to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit is the only way you will be able to pray effectively.

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26

HUNGER FOR GOD

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." Matthew 5:6

When the disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray," they demonstrated a sincere hunger for God. Hunger for God is a foundational kingdom reality. Hunger for God is the first work of God. To hunger for God is not to hunger for something from God, but to hunger for God Himself. All God's great men and women have demonstrated a hunger for God.

David: "O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for you..." Psalm 63:1

Peter: "...long for the pure spiritual milk..." 1 Peter 2:2

Isaiah: "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters..." Isaiah 55:1

ACTION STEPS

Get in groups of 2-3 people. Ask people to pray, "Lord, teach us to pray." Then, as a large group, invite everyone to pray their hunger for God.

NOTES

LESSON TWO

THE LORD'S PRAYER PATTERN

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV 1984; also see Luke 11:2-4)

The Lord's prayer pattern is the most foundational prayer ever given.

- » It is given by Christ Himself.
- » It is a pattern we can consistently use.
- » It contains all prayer.

You want to learn to use this model of prayer as a template to consistently use in both your private prayer life and your corporate prayer life. There are seven key parts to the model Jesus gives us:

1. Relationship – *"Our Father in heaven,"*

All true prayer begins by receiving God's love and recognizing the relationship you have with Father God through Christ.

2. Worship – *"hallowed be your name,"*

All true prayer responds to the revelation of the glory of God's Name. It is appropriate to declare the value of His Name, emphasizing names of God particular to your situation.

3. Lordship – *"your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."*

Once you declare the glory of His Name, you call for the advancement of His Kingdom reign. Praying the Kingdom includes praying for the Holy Spirit.

4. Sonship – *"Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts,"*

There are two basic needs a child has: food and forgiveness. Your God brings in the groceries (food) and He takes out the garbage (forgiveness).

5. Fellowship – *"as we also have forgiven our debtors."*

With the forgiveness you have received from Christ, you are able to extend forgiveness to others.

6. Leadership – *"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."*

LESSON THREE

RECEIVE THE FATHER'S LOVE

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord...to declare your steadfast love in the morning..." Psalm 92:1-2

"...keep yourselves in the love of God..." Jude 21

*"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love."
John 15:9*

"For the love of Christ controls us..." 2 Corinthians 5:14

"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:15

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

We all need the love of God.

We need the Father to heal our love receptors, to heal our ability to receive His love.

Understanding the love of the Father will revolutionize your prayer life. There is nothing more important every day than to receive a fresh infilling of the love of God. It is like a vitamin to boost your immune system, or like an antibiotic to fight off disease.

Because we are in Christ, we are loved as Christ.

"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3

We are hidden in Christ. This means that every time that God looks at us, He first sees His Son. All the love, favor, and blessing that He has for Christ, He has for you.

All true prayer rises out of your love relationship with God in Christ; everything else is nothing but hollow religious words. Encountering the love of God in Christ everyday is the headwaters from which you will learn to hear the voice of God.

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10

BREAKING THE ORPHAN SPIRIT

In order for God to heal our love receptors, He needs to break off from us

the orphan spirit. Too many Christians live under an orphan spirit that keeps them from enjoying the blessings that Christ has for them.

THE FATHER'S BLESSING	THE ORPHAN'S SPIRIT
Freedom	Fear
Acceptance	Rejection
Abundance	Poverty
Healing	Hurts, Wounds, Pain
Respect	Abuse
Honor	Dishonor
Blessing	Curse
Assurance of salvation	Insecurity/Fear of death

To any extent that the orphan spirit has been active in your life, today God wants to deliver you from that evil spirit.

- » If you have listened to the lies of the orphan spirit.
- » If you feel as though God has been unkind to you or that you deserve better.
- » If you are angry or resentful toward God.
- » If you feel as though you have to work for everything you get, including your answers to prayer.
- » If you are uncertain that when you die you will go to heaven.

Now is the time for you to break off the orphan spirit and for you to receive the Spirit of adoption!

God loves you, and He wants to heal your love receptors today.

ACTION STEPS

It's time to break off the orphan spirit. As a group, read through these declarations and then stand to your feet and prepare to make these declarations aloud.

1. Submit yourself to God.

Father God, I submit myself, spirit, soul, and body, wholly to You. I declare the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ over my life and over all things.

2. Renounce the enemy.

Satan, I bind you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. You spirit of orphan, I break you off of me right now, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and loose myself from your influence now and forever. You be gone from me. You go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, never to return to me again. I am free from you, now and forever.

LESSON FOUR

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

*"Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
Matthew 6:12 (NIV 1984)*

The enemy says the greatest power on earth is retaliation.

The Lord says the greatest power on earth is forgiveness.

"...as we also have forgiven our debtors" is the only portion of the Lord's prayer pattern that Jesus reemphasizes immediately following the prayer. "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins." Matthew 6:14-15 (NIV 1984)

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS NOT

- » Not minimizing the offense.
- » Not excusing the offense.
- » Not denying the hurt.
- » Not subjecting yourself to continued abuse.
- » Not merely an emotional response.

WHAT FORGIVENESS IS

- » Giving up my right to get even.
- » Saying, "I will not hurt you for hurting me."
- » A decision of the will.
- » An act that makes us like Christ.
- » Voluntarily putting down my weapons of anger, vengeance, and retaliation.

Jesus forgave: *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* Luke 23:34

Stephen, the first martyr, forgave: *"Lord, do not hold this sin against them. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."* Acts 7:60

WHY WE FORGIVE

- » God forgives us (Psalms 103:3).
- » Jesus tells us to forgive (Matthew 6:12).
- » It will assist us in getting answered prayer (Mark 11:24-25).
- » It makes us like Jesus (Philippians 3:10; Luke 23:34).

- » It validates God’s forgiveness for us (Matthew 6:14-15).
- » It releases others from their bondage. *“If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.” John 20:23*

HOW TO FORGIVE

1. Admit your pain to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Make a decision to obey Christ and forgive the offense. Forgiveness is not based upon whether the person deserves forgiveness; it is based on what Christ has done to forgive us.
3. Give up your right to God to be angry or to get even.
4. Ask God to forgive others.
5. Pray for and bless those who have sinned against us.
6. Go one step further...ask God to bless them.
7. Receive the healing, grace and deliverance of Jesus for the wounds in your own heart. *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32*

ACTION STEPS

As a group, everyone take a full sheet of paper. On one side, write all your sins against God that He brings to mind. Take your time. Keep thinking. Keep writing specific sins. Then draw a large cross over the entire page, from top to bottom and side to side; this represents the forgiveness of Christ for all your sins.

Now, turn the paper over. Write down the names of those who have sinned against you. Be specific. Take your time. When you feel as though your list is complete, take your paper to a safe place and throw it away, or even set it on fire. Renounce it completely as a declaration that your sins against God have all been forgiven and forgotten as an act of God’s will, and all those who have sinned against you have also been forgiven by an act of your will.

NOTES

LESSON FIVE
THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF
CHRIST

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands." Revelation 1:12

"...and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Revelation 1:20

The greatest need in the church today is a fresh encounter with the manifest presence of Christ. Perhaps the greatest tragedy of the church today is that we have blurred the distinction between the omnipresence (or everywhere presence) of God and the manifest presence of God.

In Revelation 1 we gain perhaps that most accurate view of the ascended Christ in His manifest presence.

- » The ascended Christ is on fire from head to toe. His feet are glowing like metal in a furnace, His right hand is holding seven stars (balls of fire), His eyes are like flames of fire, and His face looks like the sun at midday.
- » The triumphant church is on fire—it looks like a flame holder.

What does this fire represent?

Throughout the Bible fire is often used to represent the manifest presence of Christ.

- » Abraham met God in the fire (Genesis 15:17).
- » Moses met God in the fire (Exodus 3).
- » All Israel met God in the fire (Exodus 13, 19).
- » David met God in the fire (1 Chronicles 21:26).
- » Solomon met God in the fire (2 Chronicles 7).
- » Isaiah met God in the fire (Isaiah 6).
- » Elijah met God in the fire (1 Kings 18).
- » The early church met God in the fire (Acts 2:1-5).

In every one of these examples, fire represented the manifest presence of God in Christ.

The reason the church is represented by a flame holder is because the single characteristic that distinguishes the church from every other institution on earth is the manifest presence of God. Every institution has access to the omnipresence of God; only the church has continuous access to the manifest

presence of God.

OMNIPRESENCE	MANIFEST PRESENCE
Real	Real
True to God's Nature	True to God's Nature
God-Everywhere	God- Tangibly Perceived
Normally unknown	Always known
Theoretical	Transformational
Pride	Contrition
Impersonal	Personal
Obedience optional	Obedience required
No prayer required	Prayer Required

Christ is the manifest presence of God!

"The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His presence." (A.W. Tozer, *Pursuit of God*)

As we have seen, God often chooses to encounter His people in the fire of His manifest presence; more often, however, God chooses to encounter His people in His manifest presence without the appearance of fire. The issue is not fire; the issue is God's presence.

WELCOME CHRIST'S MANIFEST PRESENCE IN YOUR LIFE, YOUR HOME, AND YOUR CHURCH

1. Consistently invite God's manifest presence.

God loves to come where He is invited.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on him while he is near." Isaiah 55:6

We do not seek an experience with God.; we seek an encounter with God. We do not seek God's manifestations; we seek His manifest presence.

2. Look for God's manifest presence in your daily life.

The Holy Spirit is constantly making Christ known to you and through you.

"Do not quench the Spirit." 1 Thessalonians 5:19

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." John 15:26

"He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you." John 16:14

3. Be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The most basic anointing we need is the empowerment to lead others to a fresh encounter with God's manifest presence. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit you are filled with prayer, with His presence, and with power.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Matthew 3:11

"I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." Isaiah 61:1-3

4. Always give preference to God's manifest presence.

Learn to hear His voice.

"If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit." Galatians 5:25

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God." Romans 8:14

5. Declare God's manifest presence in prayer.

Learn to minister to the presence of Christ. Embrace your identity as a local church as a flame holder—that you exist for one ultimate purpose, which is to receive, sustain, and hold out the manifest presence of Christ (see Numbers 6:24-26).

ACTION STEPS

Pray together as a group. Ask God to manifest His presence. Repent of neglecting the manifest presence of God. Break into groups of 2-3 people and discuss what you have just learned about the manifest presence of Christ. What is the difference between the omnipresence and the manifest presence? How have you personally encountered the manifest presence of Christ? What difference will it make in your life and family as you learn to attract and sustain the manifest presence of Christ?

SECTION 2
FULFILLMENT
THE WORK OF CHRIST **THROUGH** US

LESSON SIX

THE UPPER ROOM

"On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" Acts 1:4-5 (NIV 1984)

The upper room is the crown jewel of Jesus' discipleship ministry. When He ascended into heaven, the only thing Christ left behind on earth was the God-encountering upper room prayer gathering.

Jesus established His upper room by giving His disciples a command and a promise.

Command: *"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait..."*

Promise: *"...for the gift my Father promised...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

The disciples obviously understood the command and the promise. *"Then they returned to Jerusalem...And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, [Greek: Huperon] where they were staying..." Acts 1:12-13*

"Upper room" is the Greek word Huperon. It is an open-air space on a flat-top roof where friends and family would gather at the end of the day to share stories, welcome guests, tell jokes, sip tea, and relax. Jesus and His disciples took advantage of this social space as their private prayer gathering place. Prior to the crucifixion, the disciples met in the upper room for the Passover meal, the Lord's Supper, foot-washing, and fellowship (Mark 14:15). Following the resurrection, the disciples met in the upper room again (John 20:19). Now they are meeting again in their upper room immediately following the ascension (Acts 1:12-13).

For the early church it was called an upper room because it was literally on the rooftop. For the church today, however, the upper room can be on the back porch, in your office, living room, basement...anywhere!

DEFINITION: An Upper Room (or House of Prayer) is a gathering of praying Christians who encounter the manifest presence of Christ. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

When Christ sent His disciples to their upper room on earth, He went to His upper room in heaven. His upper room, the throne room, is command central for the entire universe.

The axis of power in the universe today is not Wall Street, nor Washington D.C., nor Silicon Valley. It is not the Kremlin in Moscow, nor the Ayatollah, nor the European Union. The axis of greatest power and influence on earth is the upper room in heaven. It is from the upper room in heaven **through** the upper room on earth that Christ fulfills His purposes. There is no higher honor than to accept God's invitation to join Him in the upper room. Re-building upper rooms on earth is the greatest activity we can be involved in to fulfill Christ's purposes in our world today.

THE FIVE UPPER ROOM MIRACLES

These are five distinct miracles associated with the upper room. We do not use the word "miracle" casually; each of the five miracles listed below are only accomplished by God's intervention in the lives of His people. These five miracles are being reproduced all over the world today. Christ will finish His mission on earth the same way He started—through the upper room!

1. The Miracle of Gathering

"And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James." Acts 1:13

The fact that the early disciples gathered back in the upper room in Jerusalem is nothing short of a miracle. Every instinct within the disciples would have been to leave Jerusalem. Most of their families and children were elsewhere. Their jobs were elsewhere. The same people who killed Jesus were still in power in Jerusalem, so it was not safe to stay there. The Scripture even says in Mark 14:27, *"I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."* But they did not scatter; instead, they gathered. The early church gathered in the upper room because they were given a command and a promise. Christians gather today in their upper room all around the world because they too have a command and a promise. It requires a miracle for us to gather in the upper room, just as it did for the early Church.

2. The Miracle of Praying

"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." Acts 1:14

The fact that these early disciples gathered for ten days of prayer is definitely a miracle. Keep in mind that only forty days prior, in the Garden of Gethsemane, they were incapable of praying one hour. Without pre-Pentecost prayer, there would be no Pentecost power. It takes just as much of a miracle to empower the church today to pray.

3. The Miracle of Receiving

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2:4a

This third miracle, receiving, is the central miracle of the upper room. When the early church received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they received the manifest presence of Christ. When Jesus ascended into His upper room in heaven, He received from the Father the Holy Spirit. When the disciples arrived in their upper room on earth, they received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." Acts 2:32-33*

4. The Miracle of Ministering

"...we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." Acts 2:11b

Once the upper room disciples received the manifest presence of Christ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they immediately began ministering to the presence of Christ among them. In Acts 2:11 "mighty works" is the Greek word "megaleious" (used only 1 time in the entire New Testament). It means "magnificent, splendid, wonderful, perfection." The early believers were using words they had never used before to describe things they had never seen before. These early disciples were so blown away by the visitation of God's manifest presence among them, they stood in wide-eyed wonder and proclaimed the mighty works of God. Once we receive God's manifest presence, we want to linger in His presence and declare His praise in high worship.

5. The Miracle of Harvesting

"So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls." Acts 2:41

"And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved." Acts 2:47b

Once they were filled with God's manifest presence and responded by ministering to His presence, it was as if God changed the spiritual

atmosphere. People who had cried out for Christ's crucifixion only forty days earlier are now eagerly listening to the gospel and asking, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Immediately, at least 3,000 repented and were baptized (Acts 2:41). Others continued to be saved daily (Acts 2:47).

Today Christ is rebuilding upper rooms all over the world. He is inviting each of us into upper room encounters continuously.

Private upper rooms (just you and Jesus).

Family upper rooms.

Small group upper rooms.

Entire church family upper rooms.

Remember: While the upper room in the early church was physically on the rooftop, today it can be any place where believers gather for the express purpose of receiving Christ's manifest presence, ministering to His presence, and carrying His presence into our daily lives.

ACTION STEPS

Let's get in small groups of 2-3 people and answer these questions, "What did you just learn about the upper room? What is the difference between the upper room and other prayer meetings?"

After talking with each other for 3-5 minutes, pray together. Ask God where He is inviting you to join Him in building an upper room – a private upper room just for you and Jesus, a family upper room, a small group upper room?

When you think the prayer time is completed, ask someone to lead in public prayer on behalf of the entire group.

Following the prayer, ask the group, "Who has learned something from this session about the strategic nature of upper room prayer? How many of you have a fresh desire to start an upper room of some sort?"

OTHER UPPER ROOMS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Spontaneous upper room (Acts 3:6-8).

Crisis upper room (Acts 4:23-31).

Leadership upper room (Acts 6:4).

Private upper room (Acts 9:10-18).

Special assignment upper room (Acts 10).

Small group upper room (Acts 13:1-3).

Unlikely upper room (Acts 16:25-34).

Family upper room (Acts 16:27-34).

LESSON SEVEN

THE PRAYING FAMILY

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." Revelation 3:20

"...and make them joyful in my house of prayer...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7

Christ stands at the front door of your family life and knocks. He wants you to open the door and welcome Him in. It does not matter how much junk is on the floor, or how much garbage needs to be removed, Christ wants you to just open the door and welcome His manifest presence. If you give Him space, He will do the rest.

- » Christ will heal your emotional wounds.
- » Christ will reconcile your marriage and family relationships, as far as is biblically possible.
- » Christ will forgive your sins.
- » Christ will tear down demonic strongholds and break generational curses.
- » Christ will restore love, joy, hope, peace and blessing to your family relationships.

CALLING HUSBANDS & WIVES TO PRAY TOGETHER

"Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered." 1 Peter 3:7

For many reasons, husbands and wives do not pray together.

Pride	Wounds	Fear of Intimacy
Fear of Losing Control	Superiority	Inferiority
Anger	Bitterness	Unworthiness
Lack of Desire	Lack of know-how	Hopelessness

Most husbands do not pray with their wives, even though the Bible says the husband is the head of the wife (Ephesians 5:23) and as such he is to be the spiritual leader. Even though they want to be the spiritual leader in the home, men often don't know where to start.

God wants husbands and wives to pray together. Here is how to get started.

1. Humble yourself.

The root of prayerlessness is pride. There are many reasons why men don't want to pray with their wives; the number one reason is pride. For this reason, God invites us to go to our wives and humble ourselves. Repent of prayerlessness.

"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

2. Invite your spouse to join you in prayer.

Make the commitment to each other to pray together each day as far as possible.

3. Get started.

Pick the best time (first thing in the morning; before bedtime). Be brief. Alternate who begins in prayer, sometimes the husband sometimes the wife.

4. When you pray, be specific, joyful, biblical.

5. Be a blessing.

Pray blessings on each other.

If you are a single parent, make a commitment to the Lord to begin praying consistently with your children. If you are a single person, recruit a prayer partner with whom you can consistently pray.

A FAMILY UPPER ROOM

Once husbands and wives build their prayer life, it's time to build your family upper room. A family upper room is a designated time each day or week when you meet together, as a family, to encounter Christ – to read the Bible, sing and pray together.

1. Establish a set time daily or weekly when you will meet with your children for prayer, worship, Bible reading, and blessing.
2. Sing together. This brings joy to the family.
3. Read God's Word. This brings God's perspective into every situation in life. *"Train a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."* Proverbs 22:6
4. Take time to pray for each person in your family. Pray around the circle with each person praying for the one on their right-hand side. This is a great way to also take time to pray for other needs outside the family.
5. Bless each other. This is a great way to end each Family Upper Room.

LESSON EIGHT

THE MISSIONAL CHURCH

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Christ is readying his church to reach the final unreached people on earth. The world will never be reached through a half-hearted, prayerless, lukewarm church; the final unreached people will only be reached through a revived church.

The reason God is rebuilding upper rooms all over the world today is because He is systematically finishing His mission on earth the way He started—through the upper room.

Every local church is intended by God to be a world-impact congregation. This is the Acts 1:8 promise!

THE FULLNESS-FULFILLMENT PRINCIPLE

Everything in the Kingdom of God flows from fullness to fulfillment.

*“Follow Me [fullness], and I will make you become fishers of men [fulfillment].”
Mark 1:17*

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you [fullness], and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth [fulfillment].” Acts 1:8

“...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit [fullness] and continued to speak the word of God with boldness [fulfillment].” Acts 4:31

God expects us to live out of the fullness-fulfillment principle.

God expects all pastors and leaders to lead their people in the fullness fulfillment principle.

Emphasizing only fullness to the exclusion of fulfillment will never fulfill our mission.

Emphasizing fulfillment to the exclusion of fullness will leave people exhausted and barren.

Experiencing both fullness and fulfillment is the key to a healthy Christian life and a vibrant church community.

CONCENTRIC CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE

Notice the ever-expanding concentric circles of Kingdom expansion in Acts 1:8:

Jerusalem - Those who live near you who are like you.

Judea - Those in your country who are like you.

Samaria - Those near you from a different culture or language.

Ends of the earth - Other nations.

The promise contained in Acts 1:8 is for every one of us and for our local church. This means that every Christian and every local church is intended to have a nation-impact ministry.

God wants to birth in you and in your church an ever-increasing love for lost people. He wants to use you to communicate the gospel of Christ, beginning with your unsaved family members, neighbors, and even the nations of the world. He wants to use us as a church family to impact the nations, and that always begins in prayer.

The missional church advances **under** the authority of Christ and **in** the authority of Christ. In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, *"...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* Christ wants to embolden you to exercise your authority.

DAILY WARFARE PROCEDURE

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7

1. Submit to the supremacy of Christ.

Loving Father, I submit my life to you—spirit, soul, and body—under the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ. I present myself holy to you now.

2. Put on the whole armor of God.

I put on the belt of truth—Jesus is the Truth.

I put on the breastplate of righteousness—Jesus is my Righteousness.

I put on the shoes of the gospel—Jesus is the Good News.

I take up the shield of faith—Jesus is the Faithful One.

I put on the helmet of salvation—Jesus is my Savior.

I take up the sword of the Spirit—Jesus is the Word of God.

I take up all prayer—Jesus is my Intercessor.

I stand complete in Christ, and the evil one cannot touch me!

LESSON NINE

READY THE CHURCH

"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John." Revelation 1:1

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands." Revelation 1:12

"As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches." Revelation 1:20

The hope of the world is the church of Jesus Christ.

The hope of the church is the manifest presence of Christ.

"...the seven lampstands [Greek: luxnos] are the seven churches." Revelation 1:20
"Lampstands" is the Greek word "luxnos" – a lamp; a free-standing piece of furniture designed to hold oil.

Revelation 1 defines the essential elements of God's mission on earth today.

- » The revelation of Christ ascended in all his power.
- » The revelation of the Church as the flame holder of Christ's manifest presence on earth, reaching the nations.

THE READY CHURCH

A. Ready to pray.

1. To minister to Christ's presence among the nations (Revelation 4-5).

- » The 24 elders are ministering to His presence (Revelation 4:4-6).
- » The four living creatures are ministering to His presence (Revelation 4:7-11).
- » The angels are ministering to His presence (Revelation 5:11-12)
- » All creation is ministering to His presence (Revelation 5:13).

There is, however, a crisis that rises in the middle of worship. *"And I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it." Revelation 5:4* In this verse, "the scroll" contains the final events of world history. Ministering to the manifest presence of Christ plays a strategic and irreplaceable role in maintaining an accurate view of reality and receiving divine strategies on earth.

2. To intercede in His presence on behalf of the nations.

In Revelation 8 while Christ is opening the seals, He stops. There is a dramatic pause—silence in heaven for about half an hour. *“Then I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given to them.”* Revelation 8:2

Before they blow their trumpets, which continues to unfold the final events in world history, something significant takes place: the prayers of the saints are brought before God. *“And another angel came and stood at the altar with a golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne, and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, rose before God from the hand of the angel.”* Revelation 8:3-4

Now watch closely!

“Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.” Revelation 8:5

Two things happened:

- » The prayers are mingled with the fire of God’s presence.
- » The prayers are thrown back to earth.

This dramatically illustrates the power of prayer to impact the flow of world history.

B. Ready to preach and reach the final unreached people on earth.

John is recalled to preach. *“And I was told, ‘You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings.’”* Revelation 10:11

The church, represented by the two witnesses, is called to preach. *“And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.”* Revelation 11:3 The word “witness” (martyr) means “truth teller, one who speaks the truth.” These two witnesses are described as fruitful trees and lampstands. *“These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth.”* Revelation 11:4

Many scholars believe these two witnesses are the law and the prophets, represented by Moses and Elijah (both of whose graves are unknown).

Christ is calling you to be His faithful witness. Antipas, who is called “my faithful witness,” is your role-model.

"I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." Revelation 2:13

"Antipas" means "against all; one who stands alone." He was a truth teller even when it cost him his life.

Christ has called us to ready the church to tell the truth, no matter what the cost. We are called to ready the church in every nation to reach the final unreached people on earth. *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses [martyrs] in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8*

The most dangerous person on earth is someone who walks in the truth. When people are being deceived, the most powerful person on earth is the one who knows who they are and dares to tell the truth.

ACTION STEPS

Stand and pray in unison. Tell Christ you accept your last-days calling—to pray and to preach. Receive Holy Spirit empowerment to fulfill this dual calling in the last days.

RESPONSE

The first work of the church is to pray.

- » To minister to His presence among the nations. Revelation 4-5
- » To intercede in His presence on behalf of the nations. Revelation 8

I devote myself to my highest calling—to minister to the presence of Christ.

I receive fresh anointing to fulfill my calling as a watchman to intercede for the nations.

LESSON TEN

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

The Book of Revelation

Most Christians believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ, but Christ wants you to be eager for His coming and He wants you to be ready.

If you are not second coming eager, you are not second coming ready.

CHRIST IS COMING SOON

- » *"He is coming with the clouds." Revelation 1:7*
- » *"Hold fast until I come." Revelation 2:25*
- » *"I am coming soon." Revelation 3:11*
- » *"Behold I am coming." Revelation 16:15*
- » *"Behold I am coming soon." Revelation 22:7*
- » *"Behold I am coming soon." Revelation 22:12*
- » *"Surely I am coming soon." Revelation 22:20*

BIBLE PROPHECY - THE SECOND COMING

- » Twenty-five percent of the Bible is prophesy.
- » For every Bible prophesy about the first coming of Christ, there are eight prophesies regarding His second coming.
- » Over 1,800 Old Testament references refer to the second coming of Christ.
- » One out of thirty verses in the New Testament refer to the second coming.
- » There are 260 chapters in the New Testament, and there are 300 references to Christ's return.
- » Of the twenty-seven books in the New Testament, twenty-three talk directly about the second coming. (The only four that don't, are Galatians which implies the second coming and the books with only one chapter.)
"And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come." Matthew 24:14

Christians who are second coming ready are overcomers.

OVERCOMERS

- » *"And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." Revelation 12:11*
- » The people Christ uses to ready the church are all overcomers.
- » They overcome the devil. "They overcame him..."
- » They overcome sin. *"By the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their*

testimony..."

» They overcome the world. *"They love not their lives even unto death."*

To each of the seven churches in The Book of Revelation, Christ imparts an overcomers identity and empowerment.

Every church is unique, and every church faces its own unique challenges. These distinct challenges are calls by Christ to overcome.

The word "conquer" is the Greek word "nikeo," which means "to win, defeat, overcome, conquer." A distinct reward is promised to every church, but that reward is contingent on overcoming.

Ephesus: *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers [nikeo] I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."* Revelation 2:7

Smyrna: *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death."* Revelation 2:11

Pergamum: *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it."* Revelation 2:17

Thyatira: *"The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations."* Revelation 2:26

Sardis: *"The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."* Revelation 3:5

Philadelphia: *"The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name."* Revelation 3:12

Laodicea: *"The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne."* Revelation 3:21

The purpose of the College of Prayer is to make every church in every nation victory-ready. Everyone who will meet Christ in the air when he returns will be an overcomer. Overcomers are ready for Christ's return!

As God works in your life through this curriculum, please share your story with us.



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