

House of Prayer, Part 3

February 1, 2015

Current practice of prayer in the church

- the church tames biblical truth because they are scared of excesses
- the church tames things from own lack of experience
- our level of spiritual experience becomes the standard — instead of stretching our experience to match scripture

**Any time we manipulate scripture
to fit our ways, our opinions, and our desires,
we're on a slippery slope leading to dangerous places!**

What has happened with prayer in many of God's people

- we've allowed it to become, heartless, and boring
 - our own lack of experience, and our own fear of excess
- 1 Samuel 1: 9-19 — we've become like Eli the priest — unfamiliar with heartfelt, intimate, desperate prayer
 - he condemned and rebuked Hannah for being drunk.
 - actual words are passion and energy.
 - we have become tamed by church culture.
 - afraid in paralyzed asking.

Of the primary words used for prayer in the New Testament

- a) pray earnestly 87 times — *proseúchomai* (pros-yoo-khom-ahee)
- b) beg and crave 71 times — *aiteō* (ahee-teho)
- c) beg as binding self to another 22 times — *deomai* (de-hom-ahee)
- d) effective fervent prayer 1 time — "pray with energy" *energeo* (energ-eho)

**If we are going to become a House of Prayer,
we must pray as the scripture instructs us
and not as church culture has tamed us!**

Last week — first prayer meeting in the Bible set heart standard

- a) Genesis 4:26 — after birth of Enosh, men began to call on the name of the LORD
- b) "call"— (*qārā*) to accost someone you've met, boldly, fervently (kaw-raw)

**This heartfelt, passionate, desperate standard for prayer
must be recaptured!**

Examining the Hebrew words for "crying out"

- observing biblical circumstances, instruction — and permission to do the same
- “Lord, teach us to pray”

When do we (*qārā*), accost God with boldness and fervor?

- Deuteronomy 24:15 — when cheated from pay
- Psalm 56:9 — when pursued by enemy
- Psalm 57:2 — when facing impossible
- Psalm 119:146 — when I need saving from something
- Psalm 141:1 — when I need God quickly
- Proverbs 2:3 — when I need discernment
- Joel 1:19 — when there’s calamity, disasters

**We accost God with boldness and fervor
when a-g is happening!**

Next word for crying out in prayer

— to cry out with a shriek together (*sā’aq*) (tsa-wwak or za-wak)

- Exodus 5:8 — delivered, revived from bondage
- 1 Samuel 7:8 — saved from enemies
- 2 Chronicles 20:6-9 — times of national judgment
- Psalm 34:17 — delivered from troubles, whatever they may be
- Joel 1:14 — national repentance

**We cry out to God
when a-e are happening!**

Next word for crying out in prayer

— to cry out with a shout (*rānan*) (raw-nan)

- Psalm 84:2 — hungering for God’s presence
- Lamentations 2:19 — for the condition of the youth — the next generation

**We cry out with a shout
when a or b are happening!**

Next word for crying out in prayer

— to cry for freedom (*šāwa*) (shaw-vah)

- Psalm 119:147 — personal weakness and struggle
- Habakkuk 1:2 — societal injustice

**We cry out for freedom
when a-b are happening!**

Final word for crying out in prayer

— a cry that is clear, definitive, and shrill (*sārah*) (*tša wrak*)

- a) Zephaniah 1:14 — when mighty men and women cry out in a definitive, clarion call

**As the great day of the LORD gets nearer and times get tougher,
that's when mighty men and women offer
a clear, definitive cry to God for the souls of lost humanity!**

We become a House of Prayer

- mighty men and women answer the call to pray
- cry out to God for all manner of situations

Prayer for us from Pastor Steve

**I pray
this gives you both instruction and permission
to cry out to God like never before!
That boldness, fervency, and passion
would fill your prayer life!**

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever been part of a church that had a “Sing to the Lord” mentality? Did it feel normal to you, or did you yearn for more?
2. When you have heard someone (anywhere) praying desperately, what has been your reaction? (Don't include television.)
3. In the section on accosting God with boldness and fervor — which situation (A-G) applies to you most?
4. What are some times that we as a church body would need to “cry out with a shriek” together?
5. Read Psalm 84:2. Describe how this looks in our everyday lives.
6. Read Psalm 119:147. Do you have a personal prayer time set aside in your day? Does it make a difference in your life if you skip a day?
7. Is it worth your time and energy to pray for societal justice?
8. Pastor Steve is challenging Grace Chapel to become a House of Prayer. How will you answer that call?