

# House of Prayer 2016

Pastor Steve Berger    December 27th, 2015

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## Today

We are going to cast some fresh vision for the House of Prayer meetings in 2016.

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## Scriptural Vision

- **Matthew 21:13**

“And He said to them, 'It is written, 'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER,'”

Prayer should be one of the defining characteristics of God's House, His church.

- **Acts 2:42-43**

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”

Without question, prayer was one of the miracle producing catalysts of the early church, like Jesus, they went from one place of prayer to the next and miracles happened in between - it must be same for us, especially in our day!

**Our goal is to see Grace Chapel increasingly become a *House of Prayer* as we continue to emphasize and build upon the prayer foundation we started laying in 2014 with Sacred Assembly and 2015 with House of Prayer gatherings.**

- **Ezekiel 22:23-29**

And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, say to her: 'You *are* a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.' The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known *the difference* between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her princes in her midst *are* like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain. Her prophets plastered them with untempered *mortar*, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord GOD,' when the LORD had not spoken. The people of the land have

used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger.

When the **spiritual** (prophets/priests), **political** (princes) and **cultural** (people) atmosphere is **devouring, devilish** and **dangerous... God looks for His people to pray!**

• **Ezekiel 22:30-31**

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

God looks for people to seriously pray when society looks like ours today! The cost of not answering the call is more than we want to pay, as a nation, as a church, as a person.

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### **Practical Vision**

House of Prayer will go from meeting weekly to meeting **monthly**, so more people can attend. With so many in Life Groups, various Equipping Classes, studies and volunteering... we recognize the need to spread the House of Prayer meetings out.

#### **House of Prayer Dates for 2016:**

**January 6th, February 9th, March 8th, April 6th, May 10th, June 14, July 12, August 9th, September 13th, October 12th, November 8th**

• **Matthew 18:19-20**

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Let's agree to making a symphony of prayer, playing your part in 2016, beholding Him, and seeking Him!

**The full sermon is available to view under the Media tab on [gracechapel.net](http://gracechapel.net).**

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### **Discussion Questions**

1. How can we begin praying now for House of Prayer nights in 2016?
2. How do you behold Jesus in your own life?
3. What challenges you about prayer? How can you overcome this? What does the Bible say about this?