

Why Pray with the Church?

“Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians.” ~Charles Spurgeon

The church prayer meeting, if churches still have one, tends to be the least attended gathering of the body. Why might that be the case?

One of the ways we carry one another’s burdens (Gal 6:2) is through prayer. What has been your experience in praying for your burden alone versus hearing someone else pray for your burden?

How might the American independent spirit have influenced practical Christianity, especially with regard to corporate prayer, or the lack thereof?

Dr. Whitney gives the following reasons **it’s important & beneficial to pray with the church:**

- Prayer with the church is a mark of New Testament Christianity.
- Prayer with the church brings the power of united prayer.
- United prayer is linked with the effectiveness of the gospel and the church.
- You need others to pray for you.

What can be inferred from noticing the instances God’s people prayed together in the New Testament? (e.g., Acts 2:42; 4:18, 24, 29, 31)

What’s the primary thrust of Matthew 18:19-20? How is it applicable to prayer?

Why is it relevant that the Apostle Paul asked for prayer? For what did he ask? (Rom 15:30-32; Eph 6:18-20; Col 4:3-4; 2 Thess 3:1).

How is a church’s corporate prayer an evidence of answer to Christ’s prayer? (John 17:20-21)

What are the implications for T. W. Hunt’s following statement? “The closer the bond, the more powerful the prayer; the higher the unity, the greater the authority in prayer.”

Does church unity lead to corporate prayer or does corporate prayer lead to church unity?

For what sort of things ought the church pray when praying together?

How are the following related to prayer, especially corporate prayer: Preaching, teaching, evangelism, missions, revival, reformation?

Dr. Whitney writes, “But our work and our money can never do for the church what only the power of God can do.” What’s his implied application? What is it not?

Why are both private & corporate prayer necessary for both the individual & the church?

Explain the following statement from Dr. Whitney: “There is potential for power and authority in corporate prayer that we forsake—*while at the same time longing for answered prayer*—when we forsake united prayer with the people of God.”

How might we grow together in our dependence on God via praying with the church?