



## The **REAL** Purpose and Spirit of United Prayer

There is power when God's people come together to pray. In fact, a part of the Christian experience is coming together as believers to seek after God thru His word and prayer. This was the main reason why the early believers were filled with Holy Spirit power to reach the world with the gospel in literally one generation.

Unity was the prayer of Jesus' heart. It was what He wanted most in His people (*John 17:20-21*). True unity is not possible without the power and love of God flowing thru His people. Thus when God's people stand together by His Spirit, His power is revealed to the world.

Prayer brings unity like nothing else will. And when we unite our prayers together, Satan truly trembles for he cannot stand when God's people pray. What does it mean to have "united prayer"? A simple definition would be: Two or more people who seek to agree together in prayer under the active leadership of Christ. This means that united prayer is a principle, not a method. Matthew 18:20 says, "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." God is calling His people to seek Him together. To unite to Him in heart and mind so that He can work in them as a whole. This is not about a specific method or style of prayer that makes it united. It's about the heart.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching." We need the prayers of others to stand strong thru the trials of life. This is why it's important to come together and pray because we sustain a loss when we neglect the privilege of associating together to strengthen and encourage one another to walk with God. We need each other now more than ever before.

So, what is the purpose and heart behind united prayer?

1. **True united prayer brings God's people together as one** - "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me." - **John 17:20-21**

The disciples at Pentecost experienced this. For 10 days, they met as a people in the upper room as Jesus instructed. They prayed and broke bread together and the end result was a unity of heart and mind that brought the mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

2. **Confession brings humility and breaks down prejudice and pride barriers as we become real with God and each other** - "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." - **James 5:16**

"Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God." - **Neh. 9:2-3**

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The children of Israel stood together to commit themselves to obedience to God. A great revival happened as a result of their time of confession and repentance. The same holds true today when together we acknowledge our need for God and become real with Him and each other.

- 3. We need to learn how to pray as Jesus did in order to receive the results that Jesus did. We need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to know what to pray.** - "Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples." – **Luke 11:1**

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."- **Romans 8:26-27**

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures." – **James 4:3**

As we come together to study God's word and to pray, we begin to learn how to apply the principle of prayer into our lives to grow closer to Jesus. We begin to understand how to experience the power of Jesus in our own lives each day.

- 4. We are to stand together for each other in prayer. Less of me, more of others.** - "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." – **Matthew 18:19-20**

"If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death." – 1 John 5:16

Praying together gives us an opportunity to pray for each other and grow with each other. Unity builds as we begin to think more of others than we do of ourselves. It's harder to be angry and bitter with someone that you are praying for. Prayer begins to break down those barriers to facilitate unity among God's people as God's Spirit begins to move.

- 5. Move us from small prayers to God-sized prayers** - "But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." – **1 Cor. 2:9**

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." – **Ephes. 3:20**

God wants to do amazing things for His people. He is calling us to come together so that He can fulfill His purpose for our lives. Consider what you can do to join a prayer group or perhaps start your own in your home if there is not one where you live. Seek God's guidance as you stand shoulder to shoulder with other believers in seeking God thru prayer and His word.

