



HOPE

Houses Of Prayer Everywhere

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"My house shall be a house of prayer." Luke 19:46

In seven years of preparing monthly kingdom leadership mentoring podcasts, for the first time, this is more of a vision than a teaching. While you will hopefully find this podcast instructive and practical, I believe it will do something bigger than simply giving you a few tools; by the grace of Christ, I submit to you a vision of a divine strategy for these last days and I invite you into it.

Vision: For every Christian home on earth to become a house of prayer.

Definition: A house of prayer is a consistent gathering of praying Christians who encounter the manifest presence of Christ. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone. Parents, single people, and children all thrive when they consistently encounter Christ in meaningful prayer and worship. Living rooms, office buildings, or a back porch all qualify as venues for a house of prayer. HOPE is an acronym for Houses Of Prayer Everywhere.

The New Testament is full of house churches, or houses of prayer. Both toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry (see John 2:13-17) and at the end of Jesus' ministry (see Mark 11:15-19), He cleansed the temple, because He insisted His house needed to be a house of prayer. The reason for this is simple: Jesus spent three years building His disciples into a house of prayer. When Jesus ascended into heaven, all He left behind on earth was an upper room, Christ-encountering house of prayer.

Two thousand years later Christ followers are still making the same declaration, *"My house shall be a house of prayer" Luke 19:46.*

Today I call you to make this declaration. In fact, as a kingdom leader, I call you to not only make this declaration for yourself but incorporate in your ministry the necessity of building houses of prayer everywhere.

Christ builds a house of prayer, because that house of prayer is designed to be the house where Christ lives on earth. He gathers his followers into His house, He then pours out His Holy Spirit into the house, and then, He sends out His disciples from the house on mission to reach the final unreached people on earth. Church history will end the same way it began, in the house of prayer.

God's people are waking up to the life-giving, hope-filled, Christ-encountering house of prayer. Just as Jesus said, *"My house shall be a house of prayer" (Luke 19:46),* you can make the same declaration. It's simple. It's immediate. It gives hope to the family.

Where Do I Start?

I have good news! Building a house of prayer is simple. Always keep in mind that this is God's house of prayer, and He is inviting you into it. He is already out in front of you. In fact, He has designed your house of prayer, and He is inviting you to enjoy it. Just open the door, invite Him in, and get started.

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

[The following guidelines are for you, assuming you will be building this house of prayer in your own home, for your immediate family. There are many other resources provided for you that will help if you are building your house of prayer in the workplace, classroom, or church small group.]

1. Pray. Humble yourself and ask your loving Father for help and guidance. You can expect God to meet with you because He has already promised, *"Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you" James 4:8 (ESV)*. If you are meeting with a small group, He has further promised you, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them" Matthew 18:20*.

2. If you are married to a believer and you intend to have a house of prayer, it is essential for you as spouses to begin praying together. Be yourself, start small, keep it real, but make a commitment to each other to begin praying daily together. *1 Peter 3:7 "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."*

3. Pick a time, date, and frequency. Most houses of prayer will meet once each week, some a couple of days each week, or even every weekday.

4. Start small. It is more important that you start and gather in your house of prayer consistently, than you try to pray long. As you begin, you may want to start with 10-15 minutes of prayer. If you desire to go longer, God will certainly fill your time with increased joy and increased blessing.

Helpful Suggestions

1. Be brief. Particularly when you get started, don't try to pray for an hour when five minutes is enough.

2. Be bold. God wants you to know that He loves you just the way you are. You are fully accepted in Christ and He wants you to approach Him every day with childlike wide-eyed wonder and faith.

3. Be biblical. The easiest and best way to structure your prayer time is to pray Scripture. You will find below the primary structure God has given us, the Lord's Prayer Pattern. In addition, every Psalm in the Book of Psalms is a prayer. Feel free to use them! Throughout the Bible there are great and precious promises that you can pray at any time.

4. Be a blessing. God is brimming over with blessing and every day He wants to pour out blessing into your house of prayer.

5. Be creative. Our God is a creative God with unlimited options. Not only is every person on earth unique, every house of prayer is unique, and to some extent every single time we meet in our house of prayer will be unique as well. Variety is vital to insure the longevity of your house of prayer.

6. Be consistent. Bottom line, the key to an effective house of prayer is to gather consistently. If God is calling you to meet once a week, then be consistent. If you sense that He is asking for you to meet more frequently, again, be consistent.

Many Shapes and Sizes

While each house of prayer has similarities, no two houses of prayer are identical. You will certainly learn from other models, but your house of prayer will be unique. Different stages of home life require different opportunities for HOPE.

- Single adults. If you have a roommate, you've got a core to start with. If not, you can gather your house of prayer by phone, freeconferencecall.com, Zoom, or some other platform.
- Newly married. Most couples never learn to pray together before they are married. This is a perfect time to begin.
- Families with small children. This is perhaps the most challenging season of life to build a house of prayer. Smile. Relax. Keep it fluid. Keep it short. Keep it real. But be consistent at least one day a week, if not three to five days each week.
- Families with school-age children. For some families, this becomes even more complex. Smile. Again, keep it short. Keep it real. And do your best to keep it relevant. Activate older children to teach the younger children.
- Families with high school students. Every family needs to find their own cadence. You can't fight the complexity of your schedules, but you want to be consistent, even if you are consistently inconsistent. You will soon discover that regardless of how much effort is required, the rewards are worth it!
- Single parents. For those who are raising children alone, it can feel overwhelming at times. Don't make your house of prayer more complicated than it needs to be. Learn to activate your children to lead.
- Empty-nesters. This is unquestionably the easiest time of life to not only establish your house of prayer, but to develop and mature it.
- Older adults. While you are physically unable to do some of the things you used to do, prayer is not one of them. Do not allow the enemy to tell you that you are past your prime. This is when your prayer life can thrive. If you live alone, schedule a time with at least one friend with whom you will pray consistently each week either in person or on the phone.

[Call for Help: We have dozens of short examples available on YouTube and on our website www.collegeofprayer.org. Yes, we want to coach you in every way we can. Write to us today at fred@collegeofprayer.org or call our office at (770) 829-0122 and we will schedule a time where we can talk with you. You may also be interested in a monthly mentoring call. Check our website for more details.]

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