

Leading God-Encountering Prayer Gatherings

by Fred A. Hartley, III

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“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20

“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” Hebrews 11:6

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near.” Isaiah 55:6

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.” Luke 11:9-10

The reality of God-encountering prayer is based on three irrefutable facts.

- God is self-revealing and loves to manifest His presence to His people.
“The Presence and the manifestation of the Presence are not the same. There can be one without the other. God is here when we are wholly unaware of it. He is manifest only when and as we are aware of His Presence.” A.W. Tozer, *The Pursuit of God*
“If we cooperate with Him in loving obedience, God will manifest Himself to us, and that manifestation will be the difference between a nominal Christian life and life radiant with the light of His face.” A.W. Tozer
“Our pursuit of God is successful just because He is forever seeking to manifest Himself to us. The revelation of God to any man is not God coming from a distance once upon a time to pay a brief and momentous visit to the man’s soul. Thus to think of it is to misunderstand it all. The approach of God to the soul or of the soul to God is not to be thought of in spatial terms at all. There is no idea of physical distance involved in the concept. It is not a matter of miles but of experience.” A.W. Tozer
- All people are created in the image of God with the capacity to know God, but that capacity is dead and needs resurrection and activation.
“No one seeks God.” Romans 3:11
“For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” 1 Cor. 2:11
“This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.” 1 Corinthians 2:13
- Every time people encounter God three miracles take place.
 1. God sovereignly chooses to make Himself known.
 2. God raises from the dead and activates our capacity to know Him.
 3. God gives us the desire to pursue Him.

Notice that God always goes first.

Facilitating God-encountering Prayer - Practical Action Steps

1. Arrange chairs in a circle whenever possible.
"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20
2. Extend hands to receive
"I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing." 1 Tim 2:8
3. Lead with joy and praise
"I will give them joy in my house of prayer." Isaiah 56:7
4. Declare His name
5. Follow the Lord's Prayer Pattern *Matthew 6:9-13*
 - Encounter His love
 - Connect people to the Father love of God
"Our Father in heaven"
 - Worship His name
 - Build a big tent and clear the atmosphere
"Hallowed be your name"
 - Activate His Kingdom
 - Notice the names of God that arise and what Kingdom focus God assigns
"Your kingdom come, your will be done"
 - Download God's blessing on felt needs
 - "Give us. Forgive us."*
 - Create a safe place for repentance
 - "Forgive us as we forgive others."*
 - Follow His leadership. Stand against the enemy.
 - "Lead us ... deliver us."*
 - Give all the glory back to Him
 - "Yours is the kingdom, power and glory"*
6. Activate others
"What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church." 1 Corinthians 14:26
7. Give the reins to God at work in the group
8. Alternate prayer format to engage the people - unison prayer, songs, silence, clusters of two and three.
9. Release the revelatory and prophetic gifting *1 Corinthians 12, 14; Acts 13:1-3*
10. Call people to respond demonstratively, engage all the senses
11. Move in proximity to where God is working

12. Set up prayer stations

- repentance stations
- healing stations
- empowerment stations

13. Declare the word of God *Hebrews 4:12*

14. Give a running commentary

- Point to what God is saying
- Give clear instruction to linger where God is working

15. Debrief the gathering. The most pregnant teachable moments for imparting Kingdom truth and Holy Spirit revelation is in a God-filled environment.

The God-encountering prayer environment is the upper room.

Building the upper room was Jesus' greatest discipleship accomplishment. *Acts 1:4, 14*
Building the upper room is our highest calling!

Resources

Fred Hartley *Prayer on Fire* (NavPress, 2006)

Fred Hartley *God on Fire* (Christian Literature Crusade, January 2013)