

“LORD,
TEACH US TO PRAY”

“Lord, Teach Us to Pray!”

Adapted from College of Prayer Year 1, 2, & 3 Notebooks and Encountering God
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WELCOME TO THE COLLEGE OF PRAYER LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY!

The vision of the College of Prayer International is to mentor, train, and equip Christian pastors and leaders who will reach a lost world through a revived church. Many groups talk about revival in abstract terms; the College of Prayer, however, is seeing revival happen one life, one family, one church, one region at a time. Our training is patterned after Jesus' model of the Lord's Prayer Pattern. You will follow three years of training because Jesus trained His disciples for three years.

You will join Christ as He rebuilds His praying church. When Jesus ascended into heaven, all He left behind on earth was a prayer meeting Jesus said, *"My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."* (Mark 11:17). Our three year curriculum focuses on what Christ wants to do in us, our families, and our churches to build a life-giving, Christ-encountering upper rooms of prayer.

Year 1 – Lord, Teach Us to Pray

Year 2 – Lord, as Families, Teach Us to Pray

Year 3 – Lord, as Churches, Teach Us to Pray

The College of Prayer vision goes beyond prayer; we want to reach the final unreached people on earth. This happens all over the world where regional churches are building Christ-encountering prayer environments in which worship, prayer, teaching, and mentoring take place. Unlike conferences, seminars or even prayer summits, the College of Prayer offers a continuity of three years of training in which relationships can be fostered and life-changing kingdom-advancing principles embraced.

» We are a Christ-exalting ministry.

"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29

» We are a Christ-encountering ministry.

"I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." Isaiah 6:1

» We are a kingdom-advancing ministry.

"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." Matthew 11:12

Since our beginning in 1997, the College of Prayer International has seen significant growth throughout the world. Requests are constantly coming in from all over the world to launch new campuses. To find a location near you and to learn how to establish a campus in your area, visit our website www.CollegeofPrayer.org.

Five Elements of an Encounter with Christ

Every encounter with God normally contains these 5 elements. Every College of Prayer Module should experience these same elements.

1. High worship
2. Deep repentance
3. Forgiveness of sins and freedom from strongholds
4. Being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. Being empowered for ministry

Three Strategic Prayers

Because Christ will rapidly gain so much ground during the College of Prayer Module and because the enemy will rapidly lose so much ground, it is important for you to begin each session by praying these three strategic prayers of protection, direction, and revelation.

1. Protection – *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.” Psalms 46:1-2*
2. Direction – *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13*
3. Revelation – *“I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Him better.” Ephesians 1:17*

Note to Pastors

We want to bless you and your people. This curriculum was written by pastors for pastors and their people. The College of Prayer serves the local church. We want to serve you. You are probably already too busy with too many demands. We promise you—the College of Prayer will give back to you much more than you invest in it. The College of Prayer is not a prayer seminar or simply a prayer meeting; it is a 2-3 day extended God-encountering gathering patterned after the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray. This curriculum is a resource for you to use to join Christ in building a praying church. This same curriculum has been field tested all over the world to lead the church to encounter the manifest presence of Christ. It is essential for you, as the Pastor-Leader, to encounter the manifest presence of Christ in your own daily prayer time, in order for you to lead others to encounter His manifest presence. God can only do through you what He has done in you. As you gather your people for 2-3 days (approximately 15-18 hours) for the College of Prayer Module, these guidelines will help you as you lead your people to a fresh encounter with Christ. You will engage in 3 activities: (1) intercession (prayer & worship), (2) instruction, and (3) interaction with each

other. While you will spend equal time in each of these elements, prayer and worship are unquestionably the most important parts because this is where you encounter the manifest presence of Christ. The manifest presence of Christ is the power cell of the praying church.

- » You pray toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You teach toward an encounter with Christ.
- » You share and process about your encounter with Christ.

Immediately following strategic times of encountering God, take time for your people to talk to each other. Have them get into groups of 2-3 people and discuss these 2 questions:

1. What did Christ just do in you?
2. What did Christ just teach you that you can take with you from this College of Prayer Module?

Do NOT allow your Module to become just another teaching seminar or just another prayer meeting. The goal is not to teach through every lesson in the exact order at one single Module. The goal is to teach the right lessons under the direction of the Holy Spirit that will most effectively lead your particular group to an encounter with Christ. The College of Prayer is a place where you and your local church will spend extended time together encountering and ministering to the manifest presence of Christ. The Module will help you become a powerful praying church.

LESSON ONE

“LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY”

“One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’” Luke 11:1

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

“LORD, teach us to pray.” This sounds like a harmless little prayer—only five words—but don’t be fooled! This might be the most dangerous little prayer you ever say to God. It has the potential to radically transform your life. Once you learn to pray, there is nothing that God wants you to have that you can’t receive from Him. This little prayer set in motion a whole new way of life for the disciples, and it may change your life, as well.

The disciples had seen many people pray, but they had never seen anyone pray the way Jesus prayed. His prayer life was alive, vigorous, and relevant. From this verse we learn several things.

Jesus’ prayer was categorically at a higher level than anyone the disciples had ever seen.

John the Baptist taught his disciples to pray.

The disciples were hungry for God and eager to learn to pray.

Jesus responded to the disciples’ request by giving them many useful prayer tools.

A. Jesus gives a prayer pattern.

“He said to them, ‘When you pray, say, “Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.”’” Luke 11:2-4

B. Jesus gives a prayer picture.

“Then he said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, “Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.” Then the one inside answers, “Don’t bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.” I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man’s boldness he will get up and give him as much

as he needs.” Luke 11:5-8

C. Jesus gives prayer promises.

“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. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?” Luke 11:9-12

D. Jesus gives prayer power.

“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:13

Jesus waits until verse 13 to fully answer the disciples' request, “Lord teach us to pray.” In a sense, He is saying, “OK, you want to learn the way to pray the way I do; you need to learn how to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit. That's how I pray.” Learning to pray under the influence of the Holy Spirit is the only way you will be able to pray effectively.

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.” Romans 8:26

HUNGER FOR GOD

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6

When the disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray,” they demonstrated a sincere hunger for God. Hunger for God is a foundational kingdom reality. Hunger for God is the first work of God. To hunger for God is not to hunger for something from God, but to hunger for God Himself. All God's great men and women have demonstrated a hunger for God.

*David: “O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You.”
Psalm 63:1*

Peter: “Crave the pure spiritual milk.” 1 Peter 2:2

Isaiah: “Come all you who are thirsty” Isaiah 55:1

ACTION STEPS

Get in groups of 2-3 people. Ask people to pray, “Lord, teach us to pray.”

Then, as a large group, invite everyone to pray their hunger for God.

LESSON TWO

THE LORD'S PRAYER PATTERN

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. Matthew 6:9-13 (Also see Luke 11:2-4)

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

The Lord's prayer pattern is the most foundational prayer ever given.

- » It is given by Christ Himself.
- » It is a pattern we can consistently use.
- » It contains all prayer.

You want to learn to use this model of prayer as a template to consistently use in both your private prayer life and your corporate prayer life. There are 7 key parts to the model Jesus gives us:

1. Relationship – "Our Father in heaven,"

All true prayer begins by receiving God's love and recognizing the relationship you have with Father God through Christ.

*"He who loves little, prays little, and he who loves much prays much."
- St. Augustine*

2. Worship – "Hallowed be your name,"

All true prayer responds to the revelation of the glory of God's Name. It is appropriate to declare the value of His Name, emphasizing names of God particular to your situation.

3. Lordship – "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Once you declare the glory of His Name, you call for the advancement of His Kingdom reign. Praying the Kingdom includes praying for the Holy Spirit.

4. Sonship – "Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts."

There are two basic needs a child has: food and forgiveness. Your God brings in the groceries (food) and He takes out the garbage (forgiveness).

"I find myself frequently returning to the Lord's prayer through the day as a child returns to its mothers breast."

- Martin Luther

5. Fellowship – "As we forgive our debtors."

With the forgiveness you have received from Christ, you are able to extend forgiveness to others.

6. Leadership – "Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

Your two greatest enemies are sin and Satan. This portion of the Lord's prayer pattern confronts both these enemies.

7. Ownership – "*For yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*"*

All true prayer moves towards Christ's ownership over all things.

*While it is likely the words were not originally included in the Bible, they were probably used by Jesus and they have certainly been useful to followers of Christ through the ages.

ACTION STEPS

Break into groups of 2-3 people and discuss the following two questions.

1. What have you just learned from the Lord's prayer pattern? Which of the seven parts of the pattern have you been spending the most time utilizing? Which of the seven parts of the pattern have you been spending the least time utilizing?

2. Into which parts of the seven parts of the Lord's prayer pattern is God inviting you to spend more time?

Take one hour during this module to pray through the Lord's prayer pattern as a large group.

NOTES

LESSON THREE

RECEIVING THE FATHER'S LOVE

"It is good...to declare your steadfast love in the morning."

Psalm 92:1

"Keep yourselves in the love of God." Jude 21

"As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love." John 15:9

"The love of Christ controls us." 2 Corinthians 5:14 (ESV)

"For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, 'Abba! Father!'" Romans 8:15

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

We all need the love of God.

We need the Father to heal our love receptors, to heal our ability to receive His love.

Understanding the love of the Father will revolutionize your prayer life. There is nothing more important every day than to receive a fresh infilling of the love of God. It is like a vitamin to boost your immune system, or like an antibiotic to fight off disease.

Because we are in Christ, we are loved as Christ.

"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3

We are hidden in Christ. This means that every time that God looks at us, He first sees His Son. All the love, favor, and blessing that He has for Christ, He has for you.

All true prayer rises out of your love relationship with God in Christ; everything else is nothing but hollow religious words. Encountering the love of God in Christ everyday is the headwaters from which you will learn to hear the voice of God.

"In this is love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to the be propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:10

5 WAYS TO LIVE IN GOD'S LOVE

1. Receive His love every morning.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies are new every morning." Lamentations 3:22-23

2. Receive His love at the beginning of every personal prayer time and corporate prayer gathering. When we begin the Lord's Prayer with *"Our Father,"* it orients us to the relationship we have with the Father.

3. Declare and receive His love particularly during hardship and spiritual attack.

"Neither death or life, angels or demons, present or future, power, height or depth can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 8:38-39

4. Declare and receive His love when you face life's battles.

"Give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love endures forever." 2 Chronicles 20:21

5. Declare His love following life's victories.

"Victory belongs to the Lord." Proverbs 21:31

BREAKING THE ORPHAN SPIRIT

In order for God to heal our love receptors, He needs to break off from us the orphan spirit. Too many Christians live under an orphan spirit that keeps them from enjoying the blessings that Christ has for them.

THE FATHER'S BLESSING

Freedom
Acceptance
Abundance
Healing
Respect
Honor
Blessing

Assurance of salvation

THE ORPHAN'S SPIRIT

Fear
Rejection
Poverty
Hurts, Wounds, Pain
Abuse
Dishonor
Curse
Insecurity/Fear of death

To any extent that the orphan spirit has been active in your life, today God wants to deliver you from that evil spirit.

- » If you have listened to the lies of the orphan spirit.
- » If you feel as though God has been unkind to you or that you deserve better.
- » If you are angry or resentful toward God.

- » If you feel as though you have to work for everything you get, including your answers to prayer.
- » If you are uncertain that when you die you will go to heaven.

Now is the time for you to break off the orphan spirit and for you to receive the Spirit of adoption!

God loves you and He wants to heal your love receptors today.

ACTION STEPS

It's time to break off the orphan spirit. As a group, read through these declarations and then stand to your feet and prepare to make these declarations aloud.

1. Submit yourself to God. *Father God, I submit myself, spirit, soul, and body, wholly to You. I declare the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ over my life and over all things.*
2. Renounce the enemy. *Satan, I bind you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. You spirit of orphan, I break you off of me right now, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and loose myself from your influence now and forever. You be gone from me. You go to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, never to return to me again. I am free from you, now and forever.*
3. Receive from Christ the spirit of adoption. *Loving Father, right now I receive Your Holy Spirit of adoption, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I claim my inheritance as a child of God. I receive not only the fullness of your salvation, I also receive the assurance of my salvation, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am a child of God. I am loved. I am blessed. I am forgiven. I am adopted with all rights and privileges. Hallelujah. Amen.*

"I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:13

NOTES

LESSON FOUR

THE POWER OF AGREEMENT

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

One of your most powerful weapons as family members is the power of agreement. The Lord Jesus Christ only refers to the Church twice (Matthew 16:18 and Matthew 18:17), and both times He refers to the keys of the Kingdom and the authority that He is giving His disciples to bind and to loose. The power of agreement is one of the most effective ways of advancing Christ's Kingdom and fulfilling His mission on earth.

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:19

"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:18-20

God intends family members to utilize the power of agreement. If it is not possible for you to agree together in prayer with your spouse, ask God to give you a prayer partner (your same gender) with whom you can agree together in prayer. Never underestimate the power that comes from praying in agreement as a family. God can use our children to unify and focus our prayers.

The power to bind and loose flows from coming into agreement with others through prayer. Some people think binding and loosing is complicated. Not at all. You simply bind what is evil and loose what is good.

LESSON FIVE

THE POWER OF BLESSING

"I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ." Romans 15:29

[Pray and worship Christ as a group before you teach this session. Pray for protection, direction and revelation. Always teach the Word of God into a God-filled environment of prayer and worship.]

BLESSINGS

Our God is a God of blessing. He wants us to build a culture of blessing in our homes. From the beginning of the Bible to the end, God is one big blessing waiting to happen!

Creation *Genesis 1:21*

Abraham *Genesis 12:2-3*

Priests *Numbers 6:24-26*

Psalms *Psalms 1*

Proverbs *Proverbs 31*

Jesus *Matthew 5*

Paul's Letters

Book of the Revelation – Seven blessings

Blessing is empowerment for success. Blessing is communicated by appropriate touch, spoken words, gestures, gifts and facial expressions.

CURSES

The source of every curse is sin—sin committed by us or against us.

"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him." Deuteronomy 30:19-20

Christ became a curse for us in order to take our curses from us.

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'"

Galatians 3:13

Christ was raised and ascended to reverse the curse and impart every blessing.

The family is where God wants to give His blessing.

Abraham *Genesis 12*

Jacob *Genesis 48-49*

IMPARTING THE FATHER'S BLESSING

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:11

Every father and every mother has the privilege of imparting this blessing from the Heavenly Father to their children. There is nothing that every child longs for more than for their father's blessing of acceptance, affection, and affirmation. When Father God spoke to His Son, He included all three facets of the father's blessing.

- » Acceptance - *"You are my Son"*
- » Affection - *"whom I love"*
- » Affirmation - *"with you I am well-pleased"*

These three – acceptance, affection and affirmation – are the deepest needs in each of your children. It is an honor for fathers and mothers to communicate this blessing to each of their children in very specific and tangible ways. These three needs must always be met in our children regardless of age and it is helpful to recognize that their primary needs change as they grow.

- » Infants – 5 year-olds primarily need acceptance.
- » 5 – 12 years-old primarily need affection.
- » 12 – 21 year-olds and older primarily need affirmation.

While the father's blessing ultimately comes from God the Father, it is our privilege as natural fathers and mothers and spiritual fathers and mothers to communicate the fullness of this blessing to our children.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

"For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:15-16

ACTION STEPS

Take time right now to speak blessing over your family members.

Bless the wife and mother.

"Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all." Proverbs. 31:28-29

Bless the husband and father.

"The wife must respect her husband." Ephesians 5:33
"Honor your father and mother." Ephesians 6:2

Bless the children.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them." Mark 10:15-16

LESSON SIX

THE UPPER ROOM

“On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 1:4-5

The upper room is the crown jewel of Jesus’ discipleship ministry. When He ascended into heaven, the only thing Christ left behind on earth was the God-encountering upper room prayer gathering.

Jesus established His upper room by giving His disciples a command and a promise.

Command: *“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait...”*

Promise: *“...for the gift my Father promised...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

The disciples obviously understood the command and the promise. *“Then they returned to Jerusalem...When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room (Greek: Huperon) where they were staying.” Act 1:12-13*

“Upper room” is the Greek word *Huperon*. It is an open-air space on a flat-top roof where friends and family would gather at the end of the day to share stories, welcome guests, tell jokes, sip tea, and relax. Jesus and His disciples took advantage of this social space as their private prayer gathering place. Prior to the crucifixion, the disciples met in the upper room for the Passover meal, the Lord’s Supper, foot-washing, and fellowship (Mark 14:15). Following the resurrection, the disciples met in the upper room again (John 20:19). Now they are meeting again in their upper room immediately following the ascension (Acts 1:12-13).

For the early church it was called an upper room because it was literally on the rooftop. For the church today, however, the upper room can be on the back porch, in your office, living room, or basement.

Upper Room – anywhere you can meet privately without distractions to encounter God’s manifest presence, minister to His manifest presence, and from which you can carry His manifest presence into your daily life.

When Christ sent His disciples to their upper room on earth, He went to His upper room in heaven. His upper room, the throne room, is command central for the entire universe.

The axis of power in the universe today is not Wall Street, nor Washington D.C., nor Silicon Valley. It is not the Kremlin in Moscow, nor the Ayatollah, nor the European Union. The axis of greatest power and influence on earth is the upper room in heaven. No question. It is from the upper room in heaven through the upper room on earth that Christ fulfills His purposes. There is no higher honor than to accept God's invitation to join Him in the upper room. Rebuilding upper rooms on earth is the greatest activity we can be involved in to fulfill Christ's purposes in our world today.

THE FIVE UPPER ROOM MIRACLES

These are five distinct miracles associated with the upper room. We do not use the word "miracle" casually; each of the five miracles listed below are only accomplished by God's intervention in the lives of His people. These five miracles are being reproduced all over the world today. Christ will finish His mission on earth the same way He started – through the upper room!

1. The miracle of gathering.

The fact that the early disciples gathered back in the upper room in Jerusalem is nothing short of a miracle. Every instinct within the disciples would have been to leave Jerusalem. Most of their families and children were elsewhere. Their jobs were elsewhere. The same people who killed Jesus were still in power in Jerusalem, so it was not safe to stay there. The Scripture even says, "*Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered*" *Mark 14:27*. But they did not scatter; instead, they **gathered**. The early church gathered in the upper room because they were given a command and a promise. Christians gather today in their upper room all around the world because they too have a command and a promise. It requires a miracle for us to gather in the upper room, just as it did for the early church.

2. The miracle of praying.

The fact that these early disciples gathered for ten days of prayer is definitely a miracle. Keep in mind that only forty days prior, in the Garden

of Gethsemane, they were incapable of praying one hour. Without pre-Pentecost **prayer**, there would be no Pentecost **power**. *"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer."* Acts 1:14 It takes just as much of a miracle to empower the church today to pray.

3. The miracle of receiving.

This third miracle, receiving, is the central miracle of the upper room. When the early church received the Holy Spirit, they received the manifest presence of Christ. *"When the day of Pentecost arrived they were all together in one place...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."* Acts 2:1,4 When Jesus ascended into His upper room in heaven, He received from the Father the Holy Spirit. When the disciples arrived in their upper room on earth, they received the Holy Spirit. *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."* Acts 2:32-33

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4

4. The miracle of ministering.

Once the upper room disciples received the manifest presence of Christ in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they immediately began ministering to the presence of Christ among them. *"Telling in our own tongues the mighty works (Greek: Megaleious) of God."* Acts 2:11 "Mighty works" is the Greek word *megaleious* (used only 1 time in the entire New Testament). It means "magnificent, splendid, wonderful, perfection." The early believers were using words they had never used before to describe things they had never seen before. These early disciples were so blown away by the visitation of God's manifest presence among them, they stood in wide-eyed wonder and proclaimed the mighty works of God. Once we receive God's manifest presence, we want to linger in His presence and declare His praise in high worship.

5. The miracle of harvest.

Once they were filled with God's manifest presence and responded by ministering to His presence, it was as if God changed the spiritual atmosphere. People who had cried out for Christ's crucifixion only forty days earlier are now eagerly listening to the gospel and asking, *"What*

shall we do?" Acts 2:37. Immediately, at least 3,000 repented and were baptized (Acts 2:41). Others continued to be saved daily (Acts 2:47).

God intends every believer to have a nation-impact life.

God intends every church to have a nation-impact ministry.

Today Christ is rebuilding upper rooms all over the world. He is inviting each of us into upper room encounters continuously.

Private upper rooms with just you and Jesus

Family upper rooms

Small group upper rooms

Entire church family upper rooms

Remember: While the upper room in the early church was physically on the rooftop, today it can be any private place where believers gather for the express purpose of receiving Christ's manifest presence, ministering to His presence, and carrying His presence into our daily lives.

ACTION STEPS

Rather than talking to God first, let's talk to each other. Let's get in small groups of 2 to 3 people and answer this question, "What did you just learn about the upper room? What is the difference between the upper room and other prayer meetings?"

After talking with each other for 3 to 5 minutes, pray together. Ask God where He is inviting you to join Him in building an upper room – a private upper room just for you and Jesus, a family upper room, a small group upper room?

If you have learned something from this session about the strategic nature of upper room prayer, consider sharing it with the larger group.

As God works in your life through this curriculum, please share your story with us.



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