



## LEADING A CORPORATE PRAYER MEETING

*The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of prayer, and the priority of all prayer, especially corporate prayer, is to be anointed and led by the Spirit in ways that carry the corporate body into the flow of the Spirit. With that said, there are some practical helps we have learned that facilitate an effective corporate prayer meeting. These helps are not intended to "control" the Holy Spirit, or to be a legalistic straight jacket, but, over the years, we have learned that when they are followed they actually enable a greater flow of the Spirit in a prayer meeting.*

1. **Open with an appropriate Scripture or exhortation** to bring focus and faith to the prayer meeting.
2. **Lead in worship** to draw the hearts of the people away from daily distraction and into the Presence of the Lord.
3. Encourage everyone to start for the first few minutes with **prayers of thanksgiving** and worship, building faith and confidence in God.
4. **Provide a focus for prayer** for a portion or all of the prayer meeting on what it is you are asking of God.
5. **Encourage all present to take part**, as the Holy Spirit inspires them. This is a "corporate" prayer meeting. The more people there are who participate in prayer, the easier it will be to sustain a spirit of prayer and expectancy. Silent prayer can be done in private.
6. Ahead of the prayer meeting, in the early stages of learning corporate prayer, **encourage the more mature Christians to lead out**.
7. **Prayers should be short**. Long prayers make it difficult for the people to stay in a spirit of agreement, which is key to a "corporate" prayer meeting.
8. Encourage each participant to **pray with one focus at a time**, following the theme expressed in preceding prayers and staying under that prayer burden... avoiding pin-ball prayer, which again, makes it hard for others present to stay in spiritual agreement.
9. **Changes in direction should be gradual** and/or directed by leadership. It is a spiritual discipline to listen to the heart and focus of the person who prayed ahead of you and to start your prayer off of something in their prayer that stirred your spirit. A radical change in direction of prayer throws everyone off as they have to adjust to the focus of their prayer burden to accommodate a 180-degree shift in focus.
10. **Keep prayer flowing**. There should not be long periods of silence, which risks killing the spirit of prayer.
11. Prayer should be **offered in a "warmth of spirit"** (Charles Finney) in keeping with the urgency of our need for God to act.
12. Prayer should be **offered in a volume that everyone present can easily hear** so they can be in spiritual agreement. IF more than fifty people are in attendance, it is impossible for those on the periphery of the crowd to hear a prayer offered in a conversation volume... defeating the purpose of the corporate prayer meeting- spiritual agreement.

