

b) Our Needs Are Bowls That Must Be Filled With Prayer

The bowls don't represent the immensity of our need, but the amount of prayer that it takes to get a breakthrough to meet a need

c) Our Authority Must Be Backed Up By Prayer

When we walk in a lifestyle of prayer, we can be confident that we have authority AND the resource of power to back up our authority

d) God Is Often Slow To Answer Because He Wants To Hear Our Voice

e) We Know The Bowl Is Full When We Break Through To Peace And The Burden Lifts

f) God Adds His Fire To Our Full Bowls Of Prayer

Revelation 8:3-5, NIV – “(3) Another angel, who had a golden censer [bowl], came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. (4) The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand. (5) Then the angel took the censer [bowl], filled it with fire from the altar, and hurled it on the earth

**4. We Must Be Willing To Contend In Prayer**

a) Learn To Contend

Luke 22:31-32, NIV – “(31) Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. (32) But I have prayed [contended, competed, wrestled] for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

If Jesus had to contend for the heart condition of one of His own, we must do the same, for friends and family members that are dear to us

b) Don't Criticize and Complain ... Affirm and Contend!

c) Contend Until The Battle Is Won

John 17:15, NIV – “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”

Don't take the lives of those you love for granted - contend, contend!

# DEVELOPING OUR CHURCH VISION

## Part 3 – Extending The Kingdom Through Prayer

David Hibbert – May 30, 2004

### REVIEW

1. Vision Is Rooted In Our Identity
2. Vision Is Formed By Seeing God Correctly
3. Vision Is Released By Reflecting What We See In God, To Our World Around Us
4. The Three Parts Of The Kingdom
  - Revelation Of The King:
  - Rule Of The King:
  - Realm Or Domain Of The King:
5. The Kingdom of God Defined:
  - The Kingdom is who God is (Revelation) expressed (Rule) in a group of people (Realm)

### OUR CORE DISTINCTIVES

Acts 2:42, NIV – “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

1. Devotion to the apostle's teaching
2. Devotion to “the fellowship” – the koinia
  - “Koinia” is a comprehensive word that describes the full sense of culture that the early church had
  - “Koinia” = “holding things in common” = common purpose, common mind, common heart, common approach
  - “Koinia” = partnership, communion, participation, walking together shoulder to shoulder, empowering each other, interdependent in our ministries with each other
3. Devotion to the breaking of bread
4. Devotion to prayer
  - Kingdom Revelation - Devotion to living out kingdom teaching
  - Kingdom Expression - Devotion to living out kingdom community / koinia

## FOUR QUESTIONS THAT HELP TO BIND US TOGETHER

### Who are we?

- We have a common identity – a kingdom people
- We are the people of the King, created in His image and likeness

### Why are we here?

- We have a common purpose – to reflect the kingdom on earth
- We are here to be a domain or realm of the rule of the King

### What are we to do?

- We have a common mission – to extend the kingdom rule
- We are to model heaven on earth in Christian community, so that others would be drawn into that community with us and God

### How are we to do it?

- We have common values – to do the King’s work the King’s way
- We are to embrace and express the values of the kingdom

## OUR COMMON MISSION – TO EXTEND KINGDOM RULE

- Kingdom rule is bringing everything in our live under Christ’s Lordship
- The way we extend kingdom rule, primarily, is through prayer
  - There is work to do, but first there is work to pray
  - And the more we pray, the less we have to do

## 1. Prayer Is Entering Into The Communion Going On Within The Godhead

- a) Prayer Is Intimate Communion
  - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, NIV – “... *The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (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.*”
  - Prayer is tuning us into the communion that goes on in the Godhead
  - 1 Thessalonians 5:17, NIV - “*Pray continually.*”
- b) We Need To Learn The Language Of Communion
- c) Learning To Pray Is Learning To Commune As God Communes
  - We must cultivate such a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit can ring our number any time He wants to

## 2. We Don’t Pray For A Ministry, Prayer Is The Ministry

- a) Jesus Is The WORD Of God
  - At creation, the Father thought it, the Son spoke it, and the Spirit executed it, or carried it out
  - Romans 8:29, NIV – “*For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.*”
  - We are being conformed into the image and likeness of Christ, the 2<sup>nd</sup> person of the Godhead – and His role at creation – was speaking
  - John 1:1-3, NIV – “*(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was with God in the beginning. (3) Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*”

## b) Prayer Is Taking Up The Ministry Of Jesus

- Romans 8:34, NIV – “... *Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.*”
- c) Prayer Is Our Primary Ministry
  - Everything that has real value in the Kingdom, is there because someone prayed it in
  - d) Traditional Ministry Is Simply “Reaping” The Fruit Of Our Prayers
    - What we call ministry is the mop up operation ... receiving what was won in prayer ... reaping the fruit of our prayers

## 3. We Must Pray Until the Bowl Is Full

- a) Prayer Is A Measurable Commodity That Accumulates In Power Each Time It Is Done
  - Revelation 5:8, NIV – “... *the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.*”