

4 Keys to Effective Church and Ministry Prayer - Increasing "spiritual communication"



What difference would we see if the members of our churches and ministries lived daily with on-going Holy Spirit-filled communication with God and others? _____

Prayer Definition: "Prayer involves us in enjoying the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives—our love relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."
 Dr. Alvin VanderGriend

Those who have left the deepest impression on this sin-cursed earth have been men and women of prayer. You will find that PRAYER has been the mighty power that has moved not only God, but man." - Dwight L. Moody

"Prayer is dialog and relationship with God and has the power to change one heart and change an entire nation." - National Day of Prayer Task Force

4 Keys to Effective Prayer: **L.E.A.D - "Prayer Champions" Pray and Lead Others to Pray**

Key #1: L - Leadership - A praying church or ministry requires praying leaders

1. A praying church or ministry **requires praying leaders**
2. "Whenever God calls His people to Himself, **He uses His leaders.**" (Blackaby) We must call our people to prayer and spiritual activity.
3. The **greatest single factor** in mobilizing prayer is the leader himself. We must lead others to pray by praying with them.
4. "The man who mobilizes the church to pray will have the **greatest impact on world evangelization** than anyone in history."
 Andrew Murray

5. "The prayer level of the church/ministry never grows beyond the **personal example and passion of the senior leaders.**" D. Henderson
6. "People **don't drift naturally** toward prayer and evangelism." Leadership is required to keep these ministries on task. Rick Shepherd
7. There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in **united prayer.**" Dr. A.T. Pierson
8. "**Young people in student led prayer bands** have been at the forefront in almost every awakening." J Edwin Orr

Key #2: E - Evaluation - Assess the current state of your organizational prayer ministry

How to Evaluate the Prayer Life of a Congregation Questions by Daniel Henderson¹

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HEIGHT: To what degree is the leadership team modeling prayer, cultivating prayer among their ranks, teaching on prayer, highlighting stories about prayer and training others to lead in prayer? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BREADTH: Are we helping our people understand the need for a prayer culture beyond prayer "activities" as we encourage and highlight prayer as a pervasive reality in all we do as a church?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIDTH: How are we raising up other leaders to provide a broad variety of prayer opportunities that appeal to various interests and that are sustained [by] consistent and competent leadership? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEPTH: Are we encouraging and equipping our people to develop a depth in private prayer that will also be evidenced in marriage, family, work and community relationships?

¹"GIVING OURSELVES TO PRAYER" (An Acts 6:4 Primer for Ministry) Dan R. Crawford, Compiler Chapter 60, pps 401-407. © 2008 America's National Prayer Committee

Growth Levels for a Prayer-Saturated Church

Every church has at least some form of prayer ministry. But no matter where the church is on the spectrum of prayer saturation, it is always possible to move to a new level of prayer. “

Level	Characteristics
1. Foundational	Unified leadership base. Each leader , beginning with the senior pastor and the pastoral staff, must lead the way.
2. Motivational	Congregation must be awakened to the importance of prayer.
3. Preparation	Prayer leaders need to be trained , Identify more potential leaders.
4. Initiation	Begin praying with those who are willing to pray.
5. Ignition	Move beyond a single prayer focus to a multifaceted approach with many opportunities for the church to pray.
6. Expansion	Prayer ministry is broadened . Motivate members to pray more. Training people to pray effectively . Develop multiple entry points for people to get involved in prayer.
7. Invasion	Prayer ministry as mobilized command and communications center. Develop long-range strategies: prayer teams, gatherings, citywide and 24-hour prayer.
8. Saturation	Church becomes a house of prayer. All the leaders take responsibility for casting the prayer vision. Training opportunities are presented at all levels of one's spiritual journey.

Taken from "The Prayer Saturated Church: A Comprehensive Handbook for Prayer Leaders" by Cheryl Sacks. © 2007 by Cheryl Sacks.

Key # 3: A - Apprenticeship – A vibrant prayer life is developed through discipleship. We must be disciplined in prayer and disciple our people in prayer and prayer ministry.

2 Areas of Prayer Discipleship:

Personal – Dependence and Intimacy		Ministry of Prayer	
Prayer	Intercession	Ministry (Gal. 6:2)	Corporate Prayer
Talking with God Depending on God	Praying for others, God's concerns	Touching people through prayer	Praying together for others, God's concerns

“Prayer Share: Every Believer praying. Are you doing your “prayer share”?”

All believers commit to praying their “prayer share”. My “prayer share” list:

- Myself:** My spiritual growth, my leadership roles, my calling, _____
- My Family/close relationships:** _____
- My Pastor/Church/Ministry Leaders** _____
- Ministr(ies) I am involved in or care about:** _____
- My Work/ Areas of Community God places on my heart:** _____
- My City/County and Its Leaders:** _____

Intercessory Prayer - Prayer for others. “Issuing of earnest, urgent, and bold appeals for divine action in behalf of others. Intercession is the overflow of intimacy with God.

Pictures of Intercession from God's Word

Loved by Jesus: Drawing near to Him and hearing what's on His heart. John 13:23

Praying with Jesus: With Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matt 26:38

Key # 4: D - Deployment – Being “on mission with God” requires a vibrant “prayer life.”

Lord, Teach us to Pray – Jesus’s Example

“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

Luke 3:21, 22: **Baptism:** Received **intimacy and affirmation** before starting His ministry.

Luke 6:12, 13: **Before choosing disciples:** All night prayer-received **strength & direction**

Luke 5:15, 16: **Wilderness: Focused and recharged** in God’s presence

Luke 9:28-31: Transfiguration: Experienced the Father’s **presence and approval**

Linking Prayer with Ministry – Following the example of The Book of Acts

Discipleship (2:42): Train members to have an effective prayer life, disciple others in prayer, train their children to pray, etc.

Evangelism (House to House 2:47) Train members to pray those the church is trying to reach, for the lost/those they are witnessing to, for opportunities to witness, for their neighbors, etc.

Ministry (2:43, 3:6) Train members to pray for ministries, train ministry members to pray for those they minister to and for their ministry leaders, etc.

Leadership (1:24, 6:4) Train leaders to lead in prayer, to pray for their ministries, to mobilize people to pray for their ministries, to train those they lead in prayer, etc.

Missions (13:1-3) Train members to discern who to call to missions, pray for missionaries, missions outreaches and events, for local and global mission activity, etc.

Worship (2:43, 47; 3:10) Train members to pray as part of their worship, pray for the worship gatherings, pray for others to worship, pray for worship leaders, etc.

Bold Witness (Community 4:33) Train members to pray for the church to boldly impact the community, for God to open doors of opportunity, etc.

Specific Prayer Ministry Examples

- Every married couple praying together
- Every child being prayed for by his parents
- Every believer praying for their neighbors
- Every ministry has intercessory prayer team
- Every working person praying for their effectiveness at work, boss, and company

Praying Together Guidelines - Use spiritual “brainstorming” approach

1. Praying Together is **different than praying by yourself.**
2. **Designate a Leader/Facilitator.** Follow direction of leader. Focus on the current prayer topic until other direction is given.
3. **The primary source of prayers is God’s word and God’s character.** God has chosen to obligate Himself to fulfill the promises in His Word!
4. **Be sensitive to and respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit**
5. **Pray together** as a group/team, not as individuals
6. Pray **with humility.** You can always pray for truth, wisdom, insight, influence. Do not judge or gossip in prayer.
7. Pray **briefly** enough so that all can participate. You can pray more than once.
8. Pray **loudly** enough so that all can hear, agree and be edified

LEAD Evaluation (1-10) Leadership ___ Evaluation ___ Apprenticeship ___ Deployment ___



Praying for the Lost

Discernment Prayer – Ask, Seek, or Knock?

Prayer Focus: Reaching the lost in the community

Definition: Discern: To perceive or distinguish

**Prayer Focus areas: Pray “we” prayers – Lord help us to
Lord, I sense you are leading us to Please confirm which way we should go**

Who	Where	What
Who do you want us to reach?	Where are the lost you want us to reach?	What are you asking me to do? What are you asking us to do?

5 Most Wanted by GOD Prayer List – Every Lost Person has a name and a story

Pray daily for each person, asking God to draw them to Himself by the Holy Spirit. Pray that God would remove every barrier so that they will have opportunities to hear about & receive God's love.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

PRAY THANKFULLY FOR THE LOST (Believing Prayer) From A Guide To Intercessory Prayer by Rev.W. LaFountain <http://prayertoday.org/prayertraining/2002/step-07.htm>

"I thank you Lord that...

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. You are able to do exceeding abundantly above all I ask or think. | Ephesians 3:20 |
| 2. You are able to save to the uttermost. | Hebrews 7:25 |
| 3. You are not willing that any should perish. | 2 Peter 3:9 |
| 4. You open the eyes of the blind, and deaf ears. | Isaiah 35:5 |
| 5. You have mercy on the sinner. | Titus 3:5/ Lam 3:22 |
| 6. You are still the Savior! | Isaiah 43:3/ Acts 4:12 |
| 7. You draw men to yourself. | John 6:44/ 12:32 |
| 8. You melt the heart of stone. | Jeremiah 23:29 |
| 9. You call men by your grace. | Ephesians 2:8-9 |
| 10. You have chosen those that are yours. | Ephesians 1:4 |
| 11. You convict of sin, righteousness, and judgement. | John 16:8-11 |
| 12. You spare men in your mercy. | Malachi 3:17 |
| 13. You pull men out of the fire. | Jude 1:23 |
| 14. You transform lives. | 2 Cor. 5:17 |
| 15. You reveal yourself. | John 15:26-27 |
| 16. You reveal the thoughts and intents of hearts. | Hebrews 4:12 |
| 17. You loose the captive sinner. | John 8:34,36 |
| 18. You make sin appear exceeding sinful. | Romans 7:13 |
| 19. You reconcile men to yourself. | 2 Cor. 5:18 |
| 20. You deliver men from the power of darkness. | Colossians 1:13 |
| 21. Your Word is not bound! | 2 Tim. 2:9 |
| 22. Your arm is not shortened that it cannot save. | Isaiah. 59:1 |
| 23. All that the Father gives you WILL come to you. | John 6:37 |