

CAPACITY

HOMECELL LEADER DEVELOPMENT COURSE **SESSION EIGHT**

PRAYER - THE POWER FOR OUR PURPOSE

Prayer & Homecell Growth

STUDY STATS *FINDINGS FROM A STUDY OF THE 8 MOST PROMINENT CELL BASED CHURCHES IN THE WORLD (BY JOEL COMISKEY) STATES THAT 2 OF THE TOP 10 FACTORS THAT CAUSES HOMECELL GROWTH RELATES TO THE HOMECELL LEADER'S PRAYER LIFE!

1. The homecell leader's personal devotional time

- There is a direct correlation between the homecell leader's time spent with God and the amount of times their homecell will multiply.
- During his/her personal devotions the leader is transformed, fed and grows in revelation of who God is - learning how to hear God and receive from Him for their own life can be transferred to hearing God for the members and the group.
- A leader who repeatedly demonstrates that God speaks to him gains spiritual authority.
- Jesus demonstrated that prayer was the source of His relationship with the Father and the power & direction for His purpose on earth.

STUDY STATS:

**This is one of the top 3 factors in homecell growth and multiplication.*

**Those who have an average daily devotional time of 30-90 minutes per day multiplied their groups twice as often as those who spent less than 30 minutes per day with the Lord in personal devotion.*

2. The homecell leader's intercession in and outside homecell

- Praying with the homecell members for the people on the 'target' list on the homecell's board.
- Praying for every member for their purpose and needs.
- Praying for the potential new leader.

- Never pray 'Lord, if it is your will, let this homecell be multiplied' ..IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT ALL MEN BE SAVED!!!

STUDY STATS:

**All successful churches also prioritise corporate prayer meetings - because it is 'not by might, not by power, but by the Spirit!'*

LET'S TALK ABOUT PRAYER!

George Muller, evangelist and missionary famously said that we should

'Pray as if we haven't worked, and work as if we haven't prayed'.

- He was explaining the synergy of faith and works and how we accomplish our purpose through spirit-led, spirit-empowered works for the Lord.
- If we are serious about revival in and through our homecells/church, then we need to START with prayer. Prayer should underpin ALL WE DO!

□ Prayer & Authority

- Our Lord expects us to be 'intercessors' for those who do not know Him yet i.e. in our oikos, community, city.
- He is always looking for someone to stand in the gap, and the Bible illustrates to us that it is the heart of God to find someone with HIS heart to stand in the gap between God and (lost) man - because HE PUT THE EARTH UNDER MAN'S AUTHORITY.

Ezekiel 22:30 Amplified Bible

I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for [the sake of] the land, that I would not destroy it, but I found no one [not even one].

- Look at God's heart for OTHERS and His desire that we stand in the gap PERSISTENTLY.
- **When we look at an example of a shamelessly persistent kind of intercession in the Bible, we find that the Lord is LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WILL TAKE THE LEGAL AUTHORITY IN THE SPIRIT FOR THE SALVATION OF AN OIKOS, COMMUNITY, CITY. Abraham was a great example of this!**

Genesis 18:16-33 Amplified Bible

Then the men got up from there, and looked toward Sodom; and Abraham walked with them to send them on the way. The Lord said, "Shall I keep secret from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do, since Abraham is destined to become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be

blessed through him? For I have known (chosen, acknowledged) him [as My own], so that he may teach and command his children and [the sons of] his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing what is righteous and just, so that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has promised him." And the Lord said, "The outcry [of the sin] of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. I will go down now, and see whether they have acted [as vilely and wickedly] as the outcry which has come to Me [indicates]; and if not, I will know." Now the [two] men (angelic beings) turned away from there and went toward Sodom, **but Abraham remained standing before the Lord.** Abraham approached [the Lord] and said, "Will You really sweep away the righteous (those who do right) with the wicked (those who do evil)? Suppose there are fifty righteous [people] within the city; will You really sweep it away and not spare it for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from You to do such a thing—to strike the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right [by executing just and righteous judgment]?" So the Lord said, "If I find within the city of Sodom fifty righteous [people], then I will spare the entire place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Now behold, I who am but dust [in origin] and ashes have decided to speak to the Lord. If five of the fifty righteous are lacking, will You destroy the entire city for lack of five?" And He said, "If I find [at least] forty-five [righteous people] there, I will not destroy it." Abraham spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose [only] forty are found there." And He said, "I will not do it for the sake of the forty [who are righteous]." Then Abraham said [to Him], "Oh, may the Lord not be angry, and I will speak; suppose thirty [righteous people] are found there?" And He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." And he said, "Now behold, I have decided to speak to the Lord [again]. Suppose [only] twenty [righteous people] are found there?" And the Lord said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the twenty." Then Abraham said, "Oh may the Lord not be angry [with me], and I will speak only this once; suppose ten [righteous people] are found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of the ten." As soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham the Lord departed, and Abraham returned to his own place.

- The Lord decides to share his actions with Abraham, because **HE IS ALWAYS LOOKING for someone to stand in the gap. His heart is to show mercy to save people, but He is righteous (a righteous judge) and unrighteousness needs judgement, unless someone will intervene.**
- God is **looking for an intercessor** to stand in the gap and give Him a **legal reason** not to destroy the city, ie to SHOW MERCY.
- Abraham calls on the 'justness' of God and **'persists'** in challenging God (like Moses did when God wanted to destroy the Israelites).
- Abraham persists in his intercession until he gets to 10. Some people think he should have kept on going. **But in Jewish culture of the day 10 righteous men was the smallest number of men that could represent an 'LEGAL assembly' or a 'government' THAT WOULD REPRESENT THE WHOLE..an ekklesia..which is the**

word for church. **What God needed to show mercy was governmental representation for the population. This is the job of the church..to be that governmental representation before God on behalf of their city...we need to carry authority in the spirit..which means we need to take responsibility for our city...this starts in prayer!**

The number 10 in the Bible represents amongst other things the law/government, ie 10 commandments, 10 plagues that judged Egypt etc and also wholeness...so 10 can represent the whole.

- There was NO such legal assembly so the city was judged, but Lot and his daughters were spared because of their tie to Abraham.
- **WILL YOU BE THE ONE WHO TAKES UP YOUR POSITION OF AUTHORITY IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM IN AND FOR YOUR HOMECCELL/CHURCH/ COMMUNITY/CITY??**

Prayer: Key to Revival

Let's watch this clip about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

CLICK HERE

CLICK HERE TO WATCH

- Your homecell should be a birthing place for revival and that will only happen if you are a praying homecell.
- Every homecell leader should be cultivating a spirit of prayer in their homecell.
- As a homecell we catch prayer 'fire' at our church corporate prayer meetings which we then carry into our homecells!

CORPORATE PRAYER/HOMECCELL PRAYER IS A BIRTHING PLACE FOR REVIVAL

- 'WHEN PRAYER DECAYS- REVIVAL DELAYS'
- Every revival in history was born from a group of people praying; starting with the first ever revival at pentecost!

Acts 1:12-14 & 2:1-4

The Upper Room Prayer Meeting

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey. And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip

and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James. **These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication,**^[b] with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord^[a] in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- The disciples were PRAYING when the Spirit was poured out!
- Revival is when the church is set on fire to set their world on fire!
- The early church prayed together regularly in the book of Acts and they GREW; and the fastest growing homecell based churches have regular corporate prayer meetings as a discipline to carry the spirit of prayer
- THE POINT IS THAT SPIRITUAL POWER IS RELEASED IN AND THROUGH US WHEN WE PRAY TOGETHER WITH PURPOSE - SOMETHING HAS TO SHIFT, BREAK OPEN, MOVE, BE BIRTHED IN JESUS NAME!!!!
- WE MUST PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS.
- WE ARE CHANGED/TRANSFORMED IN THE PRAYING.

SOULS ARE BIRTHED WHEN THE HOMECCELL/CHURCH PRAYS!!!

Isaiah 66:8 (KJV)

...for as soon as Zion (the church) travailed, she brought forth her children.

- Let's be honest, not many really pray for the lost in our city or for the church on their own - this is a spiritual disciple of the church corporately.

PRAYER IS VITAL TO CHURCH/HOMECCELL GROWTH & IT IS A KEY DISCIPLINE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

Acts 2:42-44 (NKJV)

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, **and in prayers.** Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common... So continuing daily with one accord in the temple... **And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.**

PRAYER (CORPORATE PRAYER) RELEASES BOLDNESS TO THE CHURCH/HOMECCELL FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Acts 4:23-31 (The Passion Translation)

The Church Prays

As soon as they were released from custody, Peter and John went to the other believers and explained all that had happened with the high priest and the elders. When the believers heard their report, **they raised their voices in unity and prayed...** As they prayed the earth shook beneath them, causing the building they were in to tremble. Each one of them was filled with the Holy Spirit, and they proclaimed the word of God with **unrestrained boldness**.

- A praying homecell will carry a boldness to share the gospel to those in their world!

Prayer: Power for our Purpose

PRAYER IS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH/POWER FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV)

For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.

- Prayer is our distinctive trait, like the heraldic sign on a coat of arms - it signifies the source of our strength.

AGREEMENT IN PRAYER IS POWERFUL & AN EXPONENTIALLY MULTIPLIED AMOUNT OF SPIRITUAL POWER GETS RELEASED WHEN WE PRAY TOGETHER

Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

- Homecell and Corporate Prayers are where we agree together on Kingdom matters! And this is where power is released for the fulfilment of our Kingdom purpose.

Deuteronomy 32:30 (NKJV)

How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their Rock had sold them, And the Lord had surrendered them?

- Homecell and Corporate Prayers are where we take authority over schemes of the evil one to hinder the fulfilment of our Kingdom purpose.

HUMILITY IN PRAYER IS POWERFUL TO CAUSE TRANSFORMATION IN AND US AND THOSE WE HAVE BEEN COMMISSIONED TO REACH

2 Chronicles 7:14 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition

If My people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, pray, seek, crave, and require of necessity My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.

- James 4:6 says that God gives grace to the humble, i.e. those who know they need HIM!
- If we bow to God in prayer, recognising Him as the One we live for, the One we need to fulfil our purpose, the One who we allow to lead us, we will receive GRACE, i.e. supernatural power for transformation in us and those we are reaching.

Prayer: A KEY area of Discipleship

EVERY DISCIPLE NEEDS TO BE TAUGHT TO PRAY AND HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO TEACH OTHERS TO PRAY (ie DISCIPLESHIP!)

- Prayer is probably the most important area of discipleship in every believer's life - we see that from the example of Jesus and His disciples.
- We need to be modelling and teaching real prayer in our homecells and as leaders and disciple-makers we need to prioritise corporate prayer attendance, both to share the prayer burden and to be taught and teach others how to pray and the importance of prayer!
- Homecell and Corporate Prayers are also where we take authority over schemes of the evil one to hinder the fulfilment of our Kingdom purpose.
- The disciples of Jesus recognised His source of strength and power and asked Him to teach them how to pray:

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

Now it came to pass, as He (Jesus) was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."

- The disciples were exposed to new levels of prayer when praying with Jesus and when praying 'corporately':

Luke 9:28-36 (NKJV)

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount

Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening...

- Prayer causes SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION AND THAT IS WHY IT IS VITAL FOR EVERY DISCIPLE TO PRAY; AND FOR EVERY HOMECCELL TO PRIORITISE PRAYER IN HOMECCELL AND CORPORATE PRAYER MEETINGS.

PRAYER (CORPORATE PRAYER) HAS POWER FOR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION

Luke 9:28-36 (The Passion Translation)

Eight days later, Jesus took Peter, Jacob, and John and **climbed a high mountain to pray. As he prayed, his face began to glow until a blinding glory streamed from him. A radiant glory illuminated his entire body. His brightness became so intense that it made his clothing blinding white, as multiple flashes of lightning.**

All at once, two men appeared in glorious splendour: Moses and Elijah. They spoke with Jesus about his soon departure from this world and the things the Father destined him to accomplish in Jerusalem. **Peter and his companions had become very drowsy, but they became fully awake when they saw the glory and splendour of Jesus** standing there and the two men with him. As Moses and Elijah were about to return to heaven, Peter impetuously blurted, "Master, this is amazing to see the three of you together! Why don't we stay here and set up three shelters: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah?" While Peter was still speaking, a radiant cloud of glory formed above them and overshadowed them. As the glory cloud enveloped them, they were struck with fear. **Then the voice of God thundered from within the cloud, "This is my Son, my Beloved One. Listen carefully to all he has to say."**

- As Jesus and his disciples **climbed up a mountain** to pray to God, so we enter into a higher place, **a spiritual place to meet with God** when we go to the place of prayer.
- The disciples were **exposed to new levels of prayer!** This happens when we pray **together!** And we are **spiritually transformed in these prayer meetings!** (We are changed even as we pray for others!)
- This verse is a clear statement of the power of prayer (specifically deepening prayer which we really only will experience from a regular habit of praying together) to spiritually **transform us** and **release God's glory/power in our life.** It is impossible to over emphasise the importance of prayer in the life of a believer.
- We are **'awakened'** to the urgency of the hour in corporate prayer meetings!
- It is a place where **God's voice really becomes clear to us!**
- And God speaks to us AND EMPOWERS US very clearly about and for our purpose in the place of prayer.

Prayer: The POWER of Praying in Tongues

- Prayer is probably the most important area of discipleship in every believer's life - we see that from the example of Jesus and His disciples.
- We need to make sure that a FOUNDATIONAL step in our discipleship process is to baptise new disciples with the Holy Spirit & make sure we help them to activate their spiritual tongue.

(Spiritual) Power for Service/for our Purpose is given to us when we are Baptised with the Holy Spirit

But you will receive **power and ability** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 New King James Version

Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and **began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

- Tongues of FIRE - God of FIRE
- POWER (spiritual power!) comes with God's Presence UPON/IN us
- The POWER is STIRRED,ACTIVATED,RELEASED the more we pray in tongues and that is why Paul said **'I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all' - 1 Corinthians 14:18 (NKJV)**

Our spiritual tongue 'buys back' the power of the tongue for GOOD/for GOD, instead of evil!

Genesis 11:1-9 (NKJV)

The Tower of Babel

Now the whole earth had **one language and one speech**. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "**Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.**" So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased **building the city**. Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The P.O.T.T @ BABEL

The P.O.T.T @ PENTECOST

One language/one speech	One language/one Spirit
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Building a physical structure to heaven	Building a faith structure to God 1 Corinthians 14:4 (NKJV) <i>He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...</i> 1 Corinthians 14:4 The Passion Translation <i>The one who speaks in tongues advances his own spiritual progress,..</i> Jude 20 (NKJV) <i>But you, beloved, building yourselves up (like an edifice) on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,</i>
Contained people in one place	Reach to all cultures/nations & spread to fill the whole earth
Exaltation of self	Glorifying God

James 3:2-6 (TLB)

If anyone can control his tongue, it proves that he has perfect control over himself in every other way. 3 We can make a large horse turn around and go wherever we want by means of a small bit in his mouth. 4 And a tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot wants it to go, even though the winds are strong. 5 So also the tongue is a small thing, but what enormous damage it can do. A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark. 6 And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness, and poisons every part of the body. And the tongue is set on fire by hell itself and can turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster.

Power of the Carnal Tongue	Power of the Spiritual Tongue
Difficult to control	Is surrendered to the control of the Spirit of God
Whatever controls the tongue, controls the whole person	Surrender of the tongue allows the leading of the Spirit of God over the whole person/church
The direction (like horse/ship) of a life is influenced by the tongue, a small but powerful organ	Surrender of the tongue allows the Spirit of God to steer, guide, direct the Church

The carnal tongue is a fire that destroys	The spiritual tongue flows from the fire of God that purifies and consumes and releases spiritual power for LIFE
The carnal tongue can be destructive	The spiritual tongue BUILDS UP

Real Disciples PRAY!

→ Corporate Prayer Meetings

- ◆ As explained throughout the teaching, it is vital to pray TOGETHER for the sake of fulfilling our Kingdom Purpose.
- ◆ Corporate prayer meetings are a KINGDOM MATTER & a necessary spiritual discipline - it is not a church activity that can be chosen from a list of various activities.
- ◆ It is a PRIORITY!
- ◆ A true disciple carries their share of the prayer 'burden' and counts it the highest priority to teach their disciples to pray, by bringing them to prayer meetings.

→ Pre-meeting Prayer Meetings (Homecell & Church)

- ◆ A true disciple carries their share of the prayer 'burden' and counts it the highest priority to teach their disciples to pray, by bringing them to prayer meetings.
- ◆ Every single meeting we have starts with prayer as we commit the meeting to the Lord to do what only He can do. We humble ourselves before the Lord and recognise that He is the One whom we are desiring to experience in the meeting.
- ◆ We lay hands on every seat, prophesying over the person that will be seated there, that they will encounter Jesus and His TRUTH in the meeting?
- ◆ We prepare for encountering the Lord, by pre-meeting prayers. We allow the Lord to use us to bind, loose, birth, declare and generally make a way for Him to move.

→ Prayer in a Homecell Meeting

- ◆ Keep in mind the picture of the clip of the disciples on the day of Pentecost
- ◆ Our prayers in a homecell should call down FIRE from heaven to our meeting!
- ◆ Homecell members are transformed by real prayers in homecells!

- ◆ Always pray for every homecell member in the meeting. Be sensitive for when the Holy Spirit is leading you into a time of ministry in your homecell.
- ◆ Pray for those you are reaching out to/the homecell prayer board/target list.

→ **Personal Prayers/Intercession for members of the Homecell**

→ **The homecell leader's intercession in and outside homecell**

- Praying with the homecell members for the people on the 'target' list on the homecell's board.
- Praying for every member for their purpose and needs.
- Praying for the potential new leader.
- Never pray 'Lord, if it is your will, let this homecell be multiplied'..IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT ALL MEN BE SAVED!!!
- This is the kind of prayer we should be praying for every member:

Ephesians 1:17-19 Amplified Bible

[I always pray] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may grant you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation [that gives you a deep and personal and intimate insight] into the true knowledge of Him [for we know the Father through the Son]. And [I pray] that the eyes of your heart [the very center and core of your being] may be enlightened [flooded with light by the Holy Spirit], so that you will know and cherish the [a]hope [the divine guarantee, the confident expectation] to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints (God's people), and [so that you will begin to know] what the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His [active, spiritual] power is in us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of His mighty strength

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