

## A. The Opportunity

### ► Our Culture Desperately Needs Godly People. (Romans 8:19-24a)

*“The entire universe is standing on tiptoe, yearning to see the unveiling of God’s glorious sons and daughters!” Romans 8:19 The Passion Translation*

### ► Discipling God’s people to pray & act is a vital kingdom priority. (1 Timothy 2:1)

*“First of all, then, I urge that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made in behalf of all people.”*

How can we increase the impact of God’s people in our ministries, businesses and community? We must call them to prayer and spiritual activity!

## B. The Need: Prayer Culture, Leadership, Equipping to Know and Follow God’s Will.

### 1. Leaders Create and Maintain a Culture of Prayer.

► To have praying people, we must have leaders who create a culture of prayer.

► Culture = Cultivate: To promote or improve growth by labor and attention.

### 2. Leaders Model and Lead Their Organizations to Have a Culture of Prayer.

► Every Leader a Praying Leader and Every Leader a Prayer Advocate. (Item 4 below)

### 3. Leaders Provide a Discipleship Process So Every Person Can Be a “Fully-Developed Praying Disciple.” (See Page 2)

► God’s People Respond Positively to Being Disciplined.

### 4. Organizations with praying leaders and praying people have the spiritual “readiness” to know and follow God’s will.

### Prayer Advocate

Every Leader a Praying Leader and Every Leader a Prayer Advocate.

► A Prayer Advocate is a catalyst for prayer wherever they go. We invite every leader to strive to be a Prayer Advocate.

► Prayer Advocates pray, preach, teach, train and disciple in prayer. They promote, participate in, provide places of prayer and produce prayer requests that would make a difference if God were to answer.

► Prayer Advocates Provide a Discipleship Process so Every Person Can Be a “Fully-Developed Praying Disciple.” (See Page 2)

## B. The Need: Prayer Culture, Leadership, Equipping to Know/Follow God's Will. (con't)

### Fully-Developed Praying Disciples Need to be Equipped in 4 Areas of Prayer

#### "House of Prayer" Church

#### Equipping "Fully-Developed" Praying Disciples

##### Personal

##### Corporate

##### Personal Prayer

Love for God and self

*Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me, as His friend*

##### Corporate Prayer

Love for God, His People and others

*Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for others together*

##### Personal Intercession

Love for God and others

*Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me and others*

##### Corporate Intercession

Love for God, His People and others

*Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for us and others together*

**1. Personal Prayer:** Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will as His friend.

**2. Personal Intercession:** Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for himself and others.

**3. Corporate Prayer:** Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for others together.

**4. Corporate Intercession:** Enjoying Asking and Seeking God's will for us and others together.

## C. Why God's People Don't Pray

### 1. God's People Need Leadership and Equipping.

**a. Leadership:** God's People need leaders who can provide the **leadership and modeling** to maintain a **Biblical prayer culture within their organizations**.

**b. Call to Prayer:** God's People need **leaders who call them to prayer** and **make prayer an important priority**.

**c. Life-Giving Biblical Models:** God's People need **life-giving Biblical prayer models and spiritual engagement** to develop a **Biblical lifestyle of prayer**.

**d. Discipleship:** God's People need **leaders who disciple them in prayer, including praying with them and showing them how to pray**.

## D. Why God's People Will Pray

### 1. God's People Need Equipped Prayer Leaders. God Calls Leaders First.

▶ **Have you been disciplined to lead God's people in prayer?**

▶ **Could you disciple God's people to become praying leaders and praying people?**

▶ **Do you need to be disciplined to lead God's people in prayer?**

## D. Why God's People Will Pray (con't)

### 2. Leaders Call God's People to Prayer and Spiritual Activity.

- ▶ "Whenever God calls His people to Himself, **He uses His leaders.**" (Blackaby)
- ▶ "People **don't drift naturally toward prayer and evangelism.**" **Leadership is required to keep these ministries on task.** Dr. Rick Shepherd
- ▶ "Everything **rises and falls on leadership.**" John Maxwell
- ▶ The "**goal of leadership is to produce more leaders.**" Ralph Nader

### 3. Leaders Disciple God's People to be People of Prayer and Action

- ▶ **Train God's people to:** Pray **fervent prayers** from **the promises in God's Word**, for **each other**, their **family and community members** and **in places where we want to see God work.**
- ▶ **Train God's people to:** Pray **during services**, for their **leaders, ministries, missions and missionaries, etc.**

## E. Obstacles to Becoming "Fully-Developed Praying Disciples"

### ▶ 1. Overcoming Hindrances to Biblical Prayer.

- ▶ **Independence:** Living life on our own, apart from God. 1 Peter 2:25
- ▶ **Fear:** Flight, fear, terror. 1 John 4:18
- ▶ **Guilt:** Held in, bound by, liable to a charge or action. Romans 8:1, 34
- ▶ **Shame:** Dishonor, disgrace. Philippians 3:18-19

**Shame:** "Intensely painful feeling or experience. *Believing we are flawed and unworthy of love and belonging. Something we've experienced, done, or failed to do makes us unworthy of connection.*" Brene Brown

### 2. Rejecting False Views of Prayer. Matthew 6:5-7, Luke 18:10-14

**False Views: In order to be heard by God, I must:**

- ▶ **Pray "Right":** Use the **right words, posture, mindset, etc.**
- ▶ **Be "Right":** Have **right church position, training, status or level of spirituality, etc.**

***People who do not pray will always be disoriented to the activity of God.***

*Pastor Mel Blackaby*

## F. Prayer According to God's Word

### 1. Relationship → Prayer → Intimacy with Christ. (Rom 8:15-17)

We enjoy the **privilege of prayer** because of our **relationship with Jesus Christ**. We are **adopted sons, children of God, heirs, and joint heirs with Christ**.

### 2. Partnership → Prayer → Revelation of God's Purposes, Plans, and Ways

▶ **God (Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit) are with me as I pray.** (Matthew 7:11, Hebrews 7:25, Romans 8:26-27)

▶ **The Holy Spirit reveals the mind of Christ to me as I pray.** 1 Corinthians 2:9-16

### 3. God's Will is in His Word

▶ *"Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens."* Ps 119:89

### 4. We Pray According to the Promises in God's Word.

Psalm 119: 1-2, 9-11, 89-90; 2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 4:12, Matthew 7:7, James 4:2, Isaiah 55:8-11

### 5. Pray Like Jesus! Follow His Example from the Wilderness - "It is Written..."

Luke 4:4 *'Man shall not live by bread alone.'* (Deut. 8:3)

Luke 4:8 *'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'* (Deut. 6:13)

Luke 4:12 *'It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'* (Deut. 6:16)

### 6. Prayer Essentials: Leaders Train God's People to Pray and Know God (From *Prayer-Saturated Kids*: Cheryl Sacks and Arlyn Lawrence, pp. 96-107.)

▶ Learn prayer is essential to having a relationship with God.

▶ Learn to Pray God's Word and Hear God's voice.

▶ Learn to Handle disappointment in prayer.

▶ Learn God's attributes.

▶ Learn that God responds to simple faith.

▶ Learn to receive and give the prayer of salvation.

### 7. Prayer-Focused Scripture Passages

▶ Ask, according to His will. I John 5:14-15 **Pray at all times, with all prayer.** Eph 6:18

▶ Ask in His name. John 14:13-14 **Pray always, don't give up.** Luke 18:1

▶ Ask, according to His Word. John 15:7 **Ask, seek, knock.** Matt 7:7

**"Praying the scriptures give us the right vocabulary for prayer."**

Pastor Daniel Henderson