

A. The Opportunity

► Our Culture Desperately Needs Godly Men. (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 men to pray and act is a strategic kingdom priority. (1 Tim 2:8)

"I desire that men pray everywhere, [with holy hands] without wrath and doubting."

► Within men is the DNA of revolutionary impact. (Daniel 11:32b)

"But the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."

Men in our Culture – Our Mission Field

► **Broken Homes:** "As the father goes, so goes the family, and so goes the nation."
Woman is the heart of the home; if her heart is broken, so is the family.

► **Isolation:** Men define themselves by what they do, who they are, and what they own. Men have many acquaintances but may be isolated. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)

► **Health and Substance Abuse:** Alcoholics (67%), Illicit drug use (51%), Alcohol and drug arrests (90%), Homeless (81%), Stress-related heart disease and cancer very high. Suicide 4x rate of women. Life span 10% less than women.

► **Arrests:** Drug abuse (90%), Serious crimes (90%) of arrests, Failed school grades (70%), Juvenile crimes (80%), Suicides (75%), Mental institutions (75%).

► **Negative Impact:** Almost every negative aspect of our culture can be traced to *either something men are doing or something men aren't doing.* (Ex. Pornography, human trafficking, abortion, fatherlessness, divorce, greed, selfishness, etc.)

M.A.N Ministries, "The Crisis in American Males," Photocopy from "Fight on Your Knees," Dr. Mell Winger, © 2002 NavPress, Colorado Springs p. 53

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 men, 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. (Page 2)

3. Leaders Provide a Discipleship Process So Every Man Can Be a "Fully-Developed Praying Disciple."

► Men Respond Positively to Being Disciplined.

Organizations with praying leaders and praying men have the spiritual "readiness" to know and follow God's will.

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

4. Prayer Advocate - Every Leader a Praying Leader and 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 Man Can Be a "Fully-Developed Praying Disciple."

5. 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 <i>Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me, as His friend</i>	Corporate Prayer Love for God, His People and others <i>Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for others together</i>
Personal Intercession Love for God and others <i>Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for me and others</i>	Corporate Intercession Love for God, His People and others <i>Enjoying asking and seeking God's will for us and others together</i>

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. Ministry to Men: Understanding the "Male Context"

1. Male Context (*Why Men Hate Going to Church, David Murrow, 2005, pp. 156-160*)

- a. **Men follow men. Men need male leadership.**
- b. **Men will not lead in areas where they do not feel equipped and competent.**
- c. **Men are looking for men who will lead them to greatness. Men need vision and purpose.**
- d. **Men respond positively to being disciplined.**
- e. **Men are visual and want to conquer territory. Give men a good target to focus on and work towards. Something to accomplish, to be overcome.**
- f. **Invite men to where we want to see God work and see the impact of their prayers and labor.**

D. Why Men Don't Pray

1. Men Need Leadership and Equipping.

- a. Leadership:** Men need leaders who can provide the leadership and modeling to maintain a Biblical prayer culture within their organizations.
- b. Call to Prayer:** Men need leaders who call them to prayer and make prayer an important priority.
- c. Life-Giving Biblical Models:** Men need life-giving Biblical prayer models and spiritual engagement to develop a Biblical lifestyle of prayer.
- d. Discipleship:** Men need leaders who disciple them in prayer, including praying with them and showing them how to pray.

E. Why Men Will Pray

1. God Calls Leaders First. Men Need "Leaders of Men."

Men's Key Spiritual Need (Besides Jesus): Fully-Equipped "Leaders of Men."

- ▶ Have you been **discipled to lead men in prayer**?
- ▶ **Could you disciple men to become praying men**?
- ▶ **Do you need to be discipled to lead men in prayer**?

2. Provide Call to Prayer and Male Leadership

- ▶ "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. Disciple Men to be Men of Prayer and Action

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

"The Church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy [Spirit] does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men, men of prayer." -EM Bounds

F. Hindrances to Biblical Prayer

1. Men Must Overcome 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. Men Must Reject False Views of Prayer. Matthew 6:5-7, Luke 18:10-14

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

G. Biblical Prayer Overview

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. Prayer Essentials: *Prayer-Saturated Kids*: Cheryl Sacks and Arlyn Lawrence, pp. 96-107.

- ▶ Learning that prayer is essential to having a relationship with God.
- ▶ Learning to pray God's Word.
- ▶ Learning to hear God's voice.
- ▶ Learning to handle disappointment in prayer.
- ▶ Learning God's attributes.
- ▶ Learning that God responds to simple faith.
- ▶ Learning to receive and give the prayer of salvation.

4. Biblical Prayer: Attitudes and Attributes to Emphasize

- ▶ **Claim Bible Promises.** John 15:7, Isaiah 55:11, 1 John 5:14-15
- ▶ **Exercise faith toward God:** James 5:13-18 ▶ **Sympathy.** Romans 12:15
- ▶ **Humility:** "Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done" Matthew 6:9-10, James 4:6-10
- ▶ **Joy and Thanksgiving.** Philippians 1:3-6, 4:4, 6-7

H. Praying for Each Other

1. God is looking for Spiritual Ministers. Galatians 6:1

- ▶ Spiritual
- ▶ Restoration
- ▶ Spirit of Gentleness
- ▶ Considering Yourself

2. Discerning between Burdens and Loads. Galatians 6:2, 5

- ▶ **Burden: Boulder:** Too large for one person to bear (v. 2) Greek "baros"
- ▶ **Load: Backpack:** Load one person should bear (v. 5) Greek "Phortion"

3. Skills to Master. Bring the Person to Jesus so He can minister to them.

- ▶ Follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. ▶ Listen attentively to the person and to God.
- ▶ Minister with God's heart and compassion. ▶ Ask for help with serious issues .(suicide, etc.) ▶ Keep ministry to opposite sex safe and pure. ▶ Leave results to God.

4. What do I pray for? "What Do You Want Jesus to do for You?" Matthew 20: 29-34

Ask: "What do you want Jesus to do for you?" Personal prayer partner skills:

- ▶ Serve
- ▶ Listen
- ▶ Compassion
- ▶ Personal
- ▶ Appropriate touch

5. Provide faith for victory, confront obstacles. Luke 5:17-20, 24-26

- ▶ Pray for God to remove obstacles so the person's need can be met.
- ▶ Pray toward God's purposes/the need. Pray against obstacles.

6. Everyone needs prayer for spiritual growth.

Help people seek God and bring their own needs to Him. Each person should seek to glorify God by deepening their relationship with Him.

- ▶ Seek God with all your heart. Deut 4:29-31
- ▶ Seek His presence and strength. Psalm 105:4
- ▶ Keep on being transformed by the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor 3:18

7. Wise Praying: Praying Without Judgment

Pray with humility and without judgment: Pray as if it were you for you! For truth, light, sin to be broken, peace, needs met, wisdom, understanding, growth, influence, etc.

8. Make 'Active' Prayer a Priority. 1 Timothy 2:1

Pray where we want to see God work, where men can conquer territory and see the impact of their prayers and action. Use "prayer walking" to pray on-site for churches, ministries, community and business. Pray in person, by phone, e-mail or social media.

I. Praying with Our Brothers: Linking Our Shields of Faith to Provide Spiritual Support.

1. Emmaus Prayer Walk: Take a Prayer Walk With a Brother in Christ.

"Emmaus" Prayer Walk

They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" **Luke 24:32 NLT**

- ▶ **Pair up with another brother to take an "Emmaus Walk."** (From Luke 24:32)

This is 2 brothers taking a walk with Jesus to pray for each other.

- ▶ **Share names. Take a walk to listen and pray with your brother in Christ.**
- ▶ **Split your time in half. Decide who goes first.**
- ▶ **Say: "God wants you to grow toward spiritual maturity. What are 1-3 specific ways I can pray for you to grow spiritually in the next 3 months?"**
- ▶ **As you walk, man #1 talks and shares prayer requests for his spiritual maturity while man #2 listens.** When man #1 finishes sharing, man #2 prays for his requests.
- ▶ **On the return trip, man #2 talks while man #1 listens. Man #2 then prays for man #1.**

K. Taking Prayer Beyond The Men's Retreat.

Your Invitation! Join the Mt. Zion Men's Prayer Partner Initiative.

- ▶ **Find a man to be your prayer partner.**
- ▶ **Between September 10 and October 10, reach out to your prayer partner at least once a week and ask him:**

"What do you want Jesus to do for you?"

Then pray for each others requests

As we pray the promises of God's Word, God has promised to answer!

*You are trained. You know how to do it! Go for it!
Encourage and Support Your Brothers in Christ!*