

Note: These notes are lessons from corporate prayer gatherings in 2001.

HOW TO SPEAK GOD'S LOVE LANGUAGE

“This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us *in* whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.” (1 John 5:14-15)

LOVE LANGUAGE TIPS:

1. Select a passage to meditate upon.
2. Read the selected passage slowly several times.
3. Read the passage out loud several times.
4. Identify a phrase or word that stands out to you.
5. Empathize with the author's emotions.
6. Add your name or the name of someone you know.

A CASE STUDY: PSALM 42

1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; When shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my food day and night, While *they* say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 4 These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go along with the throng *and* lead them in procession to the house of God, With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. 5 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And *why* have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him *For* the help of His presence. 6 O my God, my soul is in despair within me; Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. 7 Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls; All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me. 8 The LORD will command His lovingkindness in the daytime; And His song will be with me in the night, A prayer to the God of my life. 9 I will say to God my rock, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" 10 As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me, While they say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" 11 Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him, The help of my countenance and my God.

PRAYING PSALM 42:

God is...	Therefore...
My soul's desire (42:1-2)	I will seek after Him
My God (42:3, 11)	I will remember in prayer God's works
My hope and help (42:5)	I will praise Him
Full of lovingkindness (42:8)	I will sing and pray to Him
My rock (42:9)	I will look to Him
The help of my countenance (42:11)	I will look like Him

PAULINE PRAYERS:

Romans 15:13

- Will be filled with all joy and peace in believing.
- Will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:5-6

- May God give perseverance and encouragement.
- May God grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus.
- May God grant that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:17-19

- May God give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
- May the eyes of your heart be enlightened
- May you know what is the hope of His calling
- May you know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
- May you know what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

Philippians 1:9-10

- May your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.
- May you approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

Colossians 1:9-12

- Will be filled with the knowledge of God's will.
- Will live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way.
- Will be fruitful in every good work.
- Will grow in the knowledge of God.
- Will be strengthened in all power.
- Will live a life of continual thanksgiving.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

- In danger (Ps. 91)
- Depressed (Ps. 34, 139)
- Worried (Phil. 4)
- Facing a crisis (Ps. 121)
- Discouraged (Ps. 23, 42; Isa. 40)
- Tempted (Ps. 1; 1 Cor. 10)
- Lonely (Ps. 27)
- Needing courage (Josh. 1)
- Seeking forgiveness (Ps. 32, 51)
- In doubt (Heb. 11)
- Needing assurance (Rom. 8; 1 John 5)
- Thankful (Ps. 136)
- Joyful (Ps. 100)

Read five Psalms and one Proverb a day and make it through these two books twelve times in a year.

HOW TO BUILD A HOUSE OF PRAYER

“Brethren, we shall never see much change for the better in our churches in general till the prayer meeting occupies a higher place in the esteem of Christians.” –Charles Spurgeon

KEYS TO AN EFFECTIVE WEEKLY CORPORATE PRAYER GATHERING:

1. “Don’t expect a big crowd when God is the only attraction” –A.W. Tozer
2. The senior pastor *must* be committed to attending the weekly prayer gathering.
3. The pastoral staff and elders *must* be required to attend the weekly prayer gathering.
4. The pastoral staff must continually keep the vision before the people.
5. The body should be informed that the prayer gathering is the *most important* service.
6. The body should be informed that participation in the prayer gathering *is* serving the church.
7. A Prayer Ministries Director (PMD) must be equipped and empowered.
8. The staff and PMD must regularly encourage the faithful remnant to invite others.
9. The prayer gathering should include children and teens so that they learn how to pray.
10. The prayer gathering should include plenty of praise and worship in song.
11. The prayer gathering should have periods of silence and confession.
12. The prayer gathering should include thanksgiving for answers to prayer.
13. The body should be instructed to agree in prayer (i.e., give some feedback).
14. The body should be encouraged to pray with in a variety of ways.
15. Provide opportunities for the elders and intercessors to pray for people

HOUSE RULES:

1. Come with a heart focused on Christ and prepared to worship.
2. Confess any known sin.
3. Initiate contact with those who you don’t recognize or who are new to the gathering.
4. Bring your Bible... **always** and pray with your eyes open.
5. Be in the sanctuary **no later** than 6:30 (preferably a few minutes earlier).
6. Sit **with** people, not away from people.
7. Remember the prayer ABC’s (Audible, Brief, and Clear).
8. Pray with passion.
9. Stay with the theme(s) of the evening.
10. Focus on Christ, not on those around you.

A BASIC WEEKLY STRUCTURE:

- Welcome
- Worship in song
- A focus on God’s glory (i.e. worship and Word based)
- A focus on ourselves (i.e. confession and preparation)
- A focus on our church (i.e. outreach and inreach)
- A focus on our world (i.e. persecuted church, 10/40 window, missions, etc.)

OTHER PRAYER IDEAS:

- Power House Prayer Meetings (praying during the message)
- Directory praying
- Age group gathering (e.g. youth, college, young marrieds', seasoned saints, etc.)
- Morning monthly prayer vigils
- Concerts of prayer (i.e. a monthly service devoted to prayer)
- Prayer retreats (i.e. a day or weekend)
- Prayer summits (i.e. 3-4 days)
- Prayer partners (one-on-one during the lunch hour or in the morning)
- Prayer shield (prayer team for pastors)
- Prayer walking (e.g. neighborhood, workplace, community, college campus, church campus)
- Small groups (home groups devoted to prayer, i.e. Lighthouses of prayer)
- TeleCare ministry or prayer chain
- Web and e-mail based prayer

Note: It is critical for the intercessors of your church to receive ongoing training. This can happen by recommending various books, distributing articles from magazines like *Pray*, *Discipleship Journal*, and *Leadership*, and hosting an annual prayer conference.

Prayer Quotes:

"I would rather teach one man to pray than ten men to preach." –Charles Spurgeon

"The man who mobilizes the church to pray will have the greatest impact on world evangelization than anyone in history." –Andrew Murray

The Early Church

The Book of Acts:

1:14: "with one mind were continually devoting themselves to **prayer**."

1:24: "And they **prayed** and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which one of these two You have chosen."

2:42: "they were continually devoting to **prayer**."

4:24: "they lifted their voices to God with one accord."

4:31: "And when they had **prayed**, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness."

6:4: "But we will devote ourselves to **prayer** and to the ministry of the word."

6:6: "And these they brought before the apostles; and after **praying**, they laid their hands on them."

13:3: "Then, when they had fasted and **prayed** and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

14:23: "When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having **prayed** with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed."

16:13: "And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be **a place of prayer**; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled."

16:16: "It happened that as we were going to **the place of prayer**, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling."

16:25: "But about midnight Paul and Silas were **praying** and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them."

21:5: "When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and **praying**, we said farewell to one another."

RECOMMENDED READING

Reading about prayer instead of praying is insufficient. But reading about prayer *in addition* to praying can turn an average man or woman of prayer into a fiery and passionate intercessor. God's Word motivates us with these two truths: "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another" (Prov. 27:17). "He who walks with wise men will be wise." (Prov. 13:20a).

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