God's Standard 'My House shall be Called a House of Prayer' Matthew 21:13

Prayer Ministry

- 1. Limited number of people involved.
- 2. Prayer is done by a select few and the responsibility is put on them to pray.
- 3. Little or no regular emphasis about prayer in pastor's teaching on Sundays.
- 4. Little or no training offered on prayer. Classes unavailable.
- 5. Vision for church growth in prayer is limited. Contented with only a few praying.
- 6. Only a few leaders attend prayer meetings with no regular commitment.
- 7. Church groups open meetings with prayer as a main agenda item
- 8. Something lacking in the church atmosphere because prayer is feeble.
- 9. Prayer opportunities are limited for members to have the freedom to pray.
- 10. Prayer ministry staff is not recognized as a viable part of church staff.

House of Prayer

- 1. Entire congregation involved.
- 2. Entire congregation takes ownership for doing their "prayer share."
- 3. Teaching from the pulpit and priority is placed on prayer by the pastor.
- 4. Classes and special opportunities on a regular basis offered on prayer.
- 5. Concept of "prayer group" has grown to a larger vision of "prayer army."
- 6. All leaders, staff and volunteers have a burden for prayer.
- 7. Groups spend time praying together in addition to regular meetings.
- 8. There is a fresh flowing atmosphere of the Holy Spirit due to the whole church praying.
- 9. There is a natural flow of prayer going on throughout the church.
- 10. Paid/or volunteer prayer pastor and staff in place.



- 1. Most members have a strong devotional prayer life and are committed to praying for others.
- 2. Church members have a biblical understanding of who God is and how they can relate personally to Him through prayer.
- 3. Leaders are praying people and set an example of prayer for the congregation.
- 4. Prayer is a way of life throughout the church. Rather than being seen as an isolated program, prayer permeates every ministry within the church and every outreach of the church.
- 5. Corporate prayer meetings are given high priority in the lives of the church leadership and congregation.
- 6. Spending time in the presence of the Lord produces humility, purity, unity, compassion and Christlikeness in the lives of leaders and the congregation.
- 7. God's presence fills His house. Perhaps the single most distinguishing characteristic of a "house of prayer" is that it is filled with the tangible presence of God. A lack of spiritual appetite in the congregation is replaced by spiritual hunger. Unbelievers' hearts are converted by the life-giving messages preached from the pulpit. The spiritual objectives of the church begin to move forward, not so much by human ingenuity and hard work as by the supernatural assistance of God's Holy Spirit. Striving ceases; it often seems more is accomplished with less effort.



A paradigm shift is needed in the minds and hearts of American church leaders if their churches are to become houses of prayer. According to Frank Damazio, pastor of City Bible Church in Portland, Oregon, six areas within the church need to change. Why not make these a matter of prayer?

- **1.** The heart of the senior pastor. Only the senior pastor can cast the vision on Sunday morning to the whole church. No one else has that place of visibility or authority. When the pastor's heart is captured, the whole church is affected. **Pray that the Lord will draw your pastor's heart to the place of prayer as his daily priority.**
- **2.** The heart of the congregation. A house of prayer is made up of living stones--the prayer lives of God's people. Through a pastor's example and prayers, a congregation's heart can be moved to spend more time with the Lord. In fact, it's important to see this happen even before establishing a prayer ministry. **Pray that your pastor will catch a vision for your entire church to become a house of prayer, that his fervent prayer life will be contagious, that the spirit of prayer will permeate the heart of the congregation, and that their hearts will be captured with desire to spend time with Him.**
- **3.** The spiritual atmosphere of the church. When the prayers of God's people focus upon the things which open the heavens over a church, the spiritual atmosphere will change. Damazio asks his congregation to pray over twelve specific goals, some of which are: biblical truth to lead the church, strong prayer and intercession, awesome worship, liberal giving, healing and miracles. **Pray for God's presence to fill your church, that the people will exhibit the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit.**
- **4.** The worship service. When prayer is a priority of the church, it will be visible in the weekend service. When Damazio realized the announcements were taking more time than the prayer time, he made a radical change in the service agenda. Now the church makes as much room for intercession as they do for worship. **Pray that the weekend worship service will make significant time and place for instruction in prayer, modeling of prayer, and opportunities to pray.**
- **5. Intentional prayer mobilization.** Start a prayer ministry--one that ignites the whole church to pray. Then select a pastor of prayer or church prayer coordinator to lead it. Even though the pastor is the church's primary motivator for prayer, it's helpful if someone other than the pastor is given responsibility to lead the prayer ministry. **Pray that the Lord will raise up His choice of a church prayer coordinator and an effective prayer ministry in your church.**
- **6. Outward, not just inward, focus.** In addition to praying for the church, it's important to include an outward focus of prayer. This includes prayer warfare for cities and nations. A house of prayer has a heart for the world. **Pray the Lord will put the whole world inside the heart of your church and that the prayers of your congregation will focus not only upon the needs of the church but those of your community and world.**