

Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV)

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Today, the people of God need breakthroughs in all areas of life

- Personal life, family, business, education, health, emotions, and more
- This world needs breakthroughs by the power of the gospel for salvation, healing, and deliverance
- The church needs breakthroughs to become the true bride of Christ and fulfill its purpose on earth

The key to spiritual breakthrough always has and always will be prayer

- Jesus was, and is passionate for prayer
- The week before He was crucified, He entered Jerusalem
- He went to the Temple which was supposed to be the center of worship and prayer
- Instead He found the Temple had been turned into a marketplace

He was so angered He drove them out and quoted Isaiah

Matthew 21:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And He said to them, “It is written, ‘*My house shall be called a house of prayer,*’ but you have made it a ‘*den of thieves.*’”

After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live within all who believed in Him

- We are now the temple of God
- Individually as well as corporately

2 Corinthians 6:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: *“I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.”*

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? ²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

- As the living temple of God, the church is to be a “house of prayer”
- Do you have the same passion for prayer as Jesus did?

The early church had the same passion for prayer that Jesus did

- Jesus’ followers waited for the “Promise of the Father”, the Holy Spirit – **Acts 1:4**
- They were gathered in an upper room, “with one accord continued steadfastly in prayer” – **Acts 1:14**

After Pentecost the Lord added to the church those who were being saved

Acts 2:42 (NKJV)

⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

- The church asked God for direction before making important decisions – Acts 1:24-26
- They prayed for boldness to testify about Jesus – Acts 4:29-31
- Prayer was a fundamental, central part of their ministry
- As a result, there was much spiritual life and activity in the church

Today the church has put a central focus on activities and programs

- Even though these may be good things they should not be our main emphasis
- The house of God is not meant to be a place of entertainment or a social welfare institution
- Although these activities can take place, they are not the primary reason the church exists

The sad truth is many believers are happy to attend Sunday morning services but not a prayer service

Most Christians only pray when they have a need, and because they don't know how to pray, they depend on the prayers of others

Luke 11:1 (NKJV)

Now it came to pass, as He 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.”

- Jesus proceeded to give them a new model for prayer
- It is important that the church of Jesus Christ be restored to its original purpose and function
- When we don't have a consistent prayer life, we become spiritually weak and lazy

Jesus was full of zeal and power because He was a house of prayer

- God's original intention was for the Church to be a house of prayer
- Our heavenly Father is still calling us to return to this essential role

Isaiah 56:7 (NKJV)

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- Isaiah gives us five keys in being a house of prayer

A House of Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ pray without ceasing

- We are called to carry the presence and power of God with us
- That can only be done when we live a life that is prompted by the Holy Spirit
- This is not something that we can do through casual prayer
- It is something that must be spontaneous and active
- When prayer is not active in the church the presence of God and the word of God become scarce
- Deliverance, healing and miracles should be commonplace
- The only alternative is empty religion, routine and traditions

A House of Offerings

1 Peter 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

- We have all been made priests to offer up sacrifices to God
- We should be a people who give spiritual offerings as well as monetary
- When we live this way, it releases a blessing because of our giving and honoring God

A House of Sacrifice

Matthew 16:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.

- The “*law of sacrifice*” establishes that something must die in order for something else to live
- Every blessing starts with a sacrifice
- You can not reap a blessing without sowing a seed
- Making spiritual sacrifices often involves dying to ourselves
- Our will, our time, our money, our pride, our ambition
- A blessing always follows a sacrifice

Matthew 16:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

- What are you willing to lose?

1 Corinthians 15:31 (NKJV)

³¹ I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.

A House with an Altar

Hebrews 9:22 (NKJV)

²² And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

- An altar has always been a place where God and man could meet
- A place where sacrifices are offered
- A place that would remind us that without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins

In many of our churches the “hyper grace” message has shut down the altar of God

- In the church as a whole the altar has been ruined
- We no longer give a place to offer spiritual offerings and
- Because of this the fire of God is no longer burning
- The altar needs to be a place of to give the sacrifice of praise, worshiping the true God
- Calling the lost to repentance and interceding for our families and friends

A House for all Nations

- We need to put an end to all prejudice and racism
- The house of God is not meant for segregation
- We welcome all races, ethnicities and generations
- Young people, adults, children, elderly, men and women

To become a genuine House of Prayer it will take all of us living with an attitude and spirit of prayer as a state of mind

- Not only praying when you “feel” like it
- Praying continually because we know its our primary calling and function
- This way we will always be in the presence of God
- Christianity is about becoming like Christ
- He always prayed
- Even today He is interceding for us

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

A person who is a House of Prayer meditates continually on God and His word

- Prayer is not always verbal
- However, it does require a specific attitude and frame of mind
- When you are a House of Prayer you will not be guided by your emotions but by the Spirit
- Even when you feel like giving up or are discouraged, you know that God is with you
- Whether you sense Him or not you can be sure He is always there

Colossians 4:2 (NKJV)

² Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

The “westernization” of the church has led to fewer praying churches

- We have been carried away with the western world’s schools or streams of thought
- It’s based on reason, self-improvement and scientific verification
- No matter how smart we get we still need God to intercede on our behalf as we pray His Kingdom come
- We need the supernatural power of God!

Many people either don’t value prayer or know how to pray

- As a result, they live adhering to a mindset that God moves in a way that is “reasonable” to the human mind
- Gods thoughts and ways are above ours

Isaiah 55:8–11 (NKJV)

⁸ “For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹ “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, ¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

There are two principal reasons prayer has been devalued in the modern church

The Spirit of This World

1 John 5:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies *under the sway of* the wicked one.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NKJV)

¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

- The “spirit of this world” is a force that openly opposes the Spirit of God
- It leads you to cultivate unbelieving and sinful behavior
- It is opposed to the idea of a relationship with God, denying His existence, power and capacity to work in the earth

This includes everything that Satan introduces into culture and traditions that cause people to act in a way that is contrary to the will and purpose of God

- It seeks to influence the minds of believers with the intention of keeping them from esteeming what is eternal
- It causes us to live for only things that are temporal
- Those under the influence of this spirit won't value spiritual things including prayer, sacrifice and giving of offerings
- They won't commit to God's original purpose for the church and their lives will not be transformed

Instead, they focus on worldly pleasures and live outside of God's will not relying on His love, grace, wisdom, and power

Hyper-Grace Teaching

Romans 6:1–4 (NKJV)

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? ³ Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

⁴ Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

- Yes, we are saved by grace not by works – **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- However, God's grace is not a license to sin

Those who defend hyper-grace teaching say that everything has already been paid for by Jesus and there is nothing else we need to do in the Christian life

- It promotes a half truth
- It is true that the cross is a complete work
- It is not true that we have no responsibilities or callings to fulfill

The Hyper-Grace message denies the importance of prayer, worship, fasting, giving of offerings and the need to live a sacrificial life

The only way we are going to advance the Kingdom of God is through intercession and the supernatural power of God

Most people don't value prayer until they find themselves in a situation, they can't solve on their own

- Jesus saw prayer as a spiritual necessity
- Equivalent to our physical need for oxygen
- Just as you cannot live without oxygen you cannot live a spiritual life without prayer
- Our motive for prayer should not be need
- Our motive should be our love for God

Luke 18:1, 8 (NKJV)

1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart

8 when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"