



Praying With God Video Course

Session 12: Some Common Hindrances in Corporate Prayer

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'After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly' Acts 4: 31

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'Catch us the foxes, The little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines have tender grapes.'
Song of Solomon 2: 15

When we pray in a group we have come across some common hindrances to the effectiveness of the prayer.



1. **Misplaced emotionalism:** Although we can feel emotional about a person or situation, it is faith that moves the heart of God, not emotion. I John 5: 14, if we pray according to His will, he hears. The main thing we have to pray is the will of God. We have to find this will by searching for His promises or prophetic leading.
2. **'Weird' Behavior:** Weird or inappropriate activity in the prayer meeting can either be the flesh or demonic. The Holy Spirit will not control you, you must control yourself. The leader should be alert to dealing with either of these manifestations.
3. **Speaking out of turn:** Speaking should only occur when the team needs to clarify direction or present a scripture or 'vision' to the entire group. There should be no personal or extraneous conversation during the prayer meeting.
4. **Rabbit Trails :** 'Rabbit trails' are when a pray-er goes off topic and does not follow the flow of the prayer meeting.
5. **Dominating:** The leader or designated person is the one who facilitates the group. Any participant that tries to usurp that position, tell another team participant what to do or attempt to redirect the prayer time is out of alignment with the Holy Spirit and leadership of the group.
6. **Gossip:** Do not disguise gossip and criticism as prayer.
7. **Lack of commitment to the group,** not attending all meetings, being late.
8. **Unbelief.** Where people are questioning the principles of prayer, this can be an impediment.

9. Disunity or Conflict in relationships.
10. Distractions. Either in a venue or room where there are other things going on, mobile phones ringing or people not engaging properly.
11. Wrong thinking and sacred cows.
12. Religious behavior and thinking. For example someone may feel unworthy Religious thinking brings a heaviness and people are not free. For example, they may not want to shout when there is a need, or dance and clap when the Spirit is leading the group to do so. Religion will confine and restrain.
13. Lack of knowledge of the Bible. We need a deep reservoir of the Word within us so that as we pray we can check if what is coming out of the prayer is in line with the Word.
14. Demons and demonic resistance. When you are praying in the spirit, you are releasing light and darkness is often exposed. This may results in demonic manifestation.



Key points

1. There may be hindrances in the group which need to be addressed or laid aside.

Activities



Reflective Questions

1. Can you add to the list any further hindrances that you have experienced in group prayer?
2. Do you recognize any strategies that may be used against your group in this time together.
3. Do you recognize any of these hindrances in your own life? If so, take some time to ask the Lord about this.