

# Having a Meeting With God

*Many of our churches have regularly scheduled special meetings. Yet one of the greatest burdens to pastors is the short-term impact that these meet-ings seem to have in our churches. Often our people are stirred and challenged, yet there seems to be so little lasting change in their lives. Could it be that though we have often had a series of meetings, we have rarely had a meeting with God? When people meet with God, their lives will be changed! Biblically and historically we see that when prayer is a priority, when the Word of God has final authority, and when the Holy Spirit has unhindered freedom, great things have happened in changing the lives of people. Three aspects of a meeting with God will be covered in this material. Though this material is not all-inclusive, it does contain a list of suggestions that can be considered and applied.*

## Preparation

*“Prepare ye the way of the Lord” (Is. 40:3-5)*

1. \_\_\_ Plan the dates and the duration of the meetings. **Dates:** \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_ Determine the emphasis of the meetings. (revival, evangelistic, family, prayer)  
**Theme chosen:** \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_ If possible, plan an advance meeting with the evangelist to share needs, goals, schedules, and theme of the meetings. This would be a number of months in advance of the meetings.
4. \_\_\_ Prayerfully consider giving God the option to extend the meetings longer than originally planned if He so directs to do so. We do not want to be finished if God is not finished.
5. \_\_\_ Plan a pre-crusade Sunday with the evangelist. He can get acquainted with the people and can challenge them with prayer and preparation for the work God is wanting to do in their midst. (obviously this will not always be possible)
6. \_\_\_ Begin putting in the hands of the people various printed materials about prayer, revival, heart searching, and testimonies of God at work in other places. These items will provide both education and inspiration.
7. \_\_\_ Place much emphasis on the ministry of prayer. **Suggestions:**
  - begin a weekly prayer meeting to pray for revival and meet each week until the meetings begin.
  - have a 24 or 48 hour around the clock prayer effort and allow people to sign up for a 15 minute time slot to pray.
  - hold cottage prayer meetings in various homes and locations.
  - plan special days of prayer and fasting in preparing for revival.

8. \_\_\_\_ Show the video, “**The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening**” by J. Edwin Orr.
9. \_\_\_\_ Begin a series of bulletin inserts that deal with various revival subjects.
10. \_\_\_\_ Challenge the people to begin praying each day a **12 noon**.
11. \_\_\_\_ If desired, plan a ministry for children during the meetings so that they can be ministered to directly and parents will then be able to remain undistracted during the preaching times.

**Person in charge:** \_\_\_\_\_

12. \_\_\_\_ Consider scheduling several days of prayer meetings before starting the preaching meetings.
13. \_\_\_\_ Make a commitment from the beginning that the Holy Spirit will be the One in control of every part of the meetings. Follow the Spirit’s direction in every decision including the choice of the speaker right on through the order of each service and every detail involved. Do not in any way limit the Spirit of God.
14. \_\_\_\_ Keep your advertising and promotion limited to a reasonable amount. Remember to promote a meeting with God rather than the guest preacher. If God comes, you will have no trouble getting people to attend your meetings.

**Additional Notes**

## **Presentation**

*“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God” (Eph. 4:30)*

1. \_\_\_\_ Plan a daily meeting with the evangelist and pastoral staff. This time may be used for evaluating, planning and praying for the services.
2. \_\_\_\_ Plan a voluntary pre-service prayer time prior to the start of each service. The auditorium is often a great place to meet.

3. \_\_\_ Designate a special room to be used as a prayer room if folks need a quiet place to go and pray or do business with the Lord in private.
4. \_\_\_ Hymns and choruses to be sung in the meetings should carefully be chosen to follow the theme of the meetings. This can even be done during the daily staff meeting.
5. \_\_\_ Carefully choose special music for each service. Songs should be chosen and well prepared in advance.
6. \_\_\_ As the services progress, include times for sharing and testimonies. Encourage those who share to “ be brief, be specific, and give God the glory”. This time can be used to encourage and challenge others with what God is doing.
7. \_\_\_ Teach the chorus, “**Send Us Now Revival**” by Tom Palmer. Sheet music is available and may be copied as needed.
8. \_\_\_ Include special times of prayer during the services.
9. \_\_\_ Plan a special time after one of the services for the young people to meet with the evangelist. Prepare refreshments and allow time for sharing and getting acquainted.

**When?** \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_ Have prayer cards available so that folks may share special prayer needs throughout the meetings. These can then be prayed for daily.
11. \_\_\_ Message topics must be carefully determined as the Spirit of God shows the real needs of the people.
12. \_\_\_ Keep a display of revival resources and materials available during the crusade to be of additional assistance to the people. This helps to reinforce the preaching ministry.
13. \_\_\_ Encourage the people not to allow the clock to place time limitations on the length of the services.

**Additional Notes**

# Preservation

*“He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it” (Phil. 1:6)*

1. \_\_\_\_ Continue the prayer efforts that were begun during the crusade.
2. \_\_\_\_ Plan a post-crusade Sunday and allow the evangelist to come back and follow-up with further teaching and encouragement. (again this will not always be possible)
3. \_\_\_\_ Cover the material on **“Post Crusade Pressures”** by Jack Palmer.
4. \_\_\_\_ Set up a system of accountability where individuals can continue to encourage and pray for each other.
5. \_\_\_\_ Allow opportunities for testimonies of what God is continuing to do.
6. \_\_\_\_ Continue to use the various materials that were used during the crusade (music, worksheets, checklists, etc.).

\*Keys to preserving the work of God- review, reflect, refresh and reinforce!

## Additional Notes

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\*This material is provided simply as a guide and a list of suggestions. Each situation will be different. We must therefore remain very sensitive to the leading of God’s Spirit in each aspect of the meetings.