

Prayer Encounter

“Encountering God Through Prayer”

❖ An exceptional meeting with God that produces extraordinary results.

An Encounter With God

I. A divine encounter will revive your heart before God.

*Personal revival involves enjoying the relationship and maintaining the fellowship that a person has with God. It is essential to deal with anything that would keep a person from getting closer to God. Praying people will be revived, and revived people will be praying. The steps that must be taken for effective praying, also prepare the way for genuine revival. Sometimes revival will begin in a prayer meeting even before it will begin in a preaching meeting. Without exception, revival always occurs in the context of prayer.

A. Repentance - a willingness to deal with unconfessed sin (having done that which is wrong before God)

*As God's Spirit brings conviction, sin and self must be dealt with through confession in order to experience divine cleansing. (Prov. 28:13, I John 1:7-10)

B. Reconciliation - a willingness to deal with unresolved conflict

*Just as things have been made right with God, so they must be made right with others as forgiveness is sought and is granted which restores human relationships. (Eph. 4:31,32)

C. Responsibility - a willingness to deal with unfulfilled commitment (having not done that which is right before God - disobedience)

*That which God says or has said, must be obeyed totally in order for the fullest measure of God's blessing to be experienced. (James. 1:22-25)

II. A divine encounter will refresh your walk with God.

*It is the daily appointment with God that is the key to experiencing the reality of God in every-day life. During this time each day there will be communication with God which involves God speaking and being spoken to. This "one-on-one" time with God requires desire, dedication, and discipline. It must be a scheduled event on the daily calendar where a special time and place are chosen for meeting with God personally. An organized and structured plan will provide meaningful development of the time.

A. Appointment with God becomes an opportunity, not just an obligation ("get to" instead of "have to")

*Whenever there is a desire to do something, there will be enjoyment in doing it and enthusiasm about doing it which provides the greatest form of motivation and incentive.

B. Knowledge of God becomes intimate, not just intellectual ("knowing God" instead of "knowing about God")

*Knowing about God in the head produces facts, but knowing God on the heart level allows a person to experience the reality of the living God in the life.

C. Satisfaction in God becomes eternal, not just temporal
("impact for a lifetime" instead of "involvement for a moment")

*When God is becoming more real to a person, it eliminates the tendency to be mechanical and it provides a freshness in the daily walk.

III. **A divine encounter will revitalize your prayer to God.**
(to give new life or energy)

*It has been well said that no man will ever be any greater than his prayer life. In the same way, no church will ever be any greater than its prayer ministry. In the ministry of prayer we are seeking to lay hold of what God can do in answer to prayer. When a church is willing to make the prayer meeting and the prayer ministry a top priority, they step out of the realm of what man can do for God and into the realm of what God can do in and through the church. Since every other dimension of church life and ministry depends upon prayer, it is essential that prayer is moved to the forefront of all activity in the church. A praying church will be amazed at what God is accomplishing in answer to prayer.

A. Encouraged by what God has done in answer to prayer (past)

*Focus on the product of prayer

*The history and the testimony of answered prayer provide great encouragement as we see the working of God in the past through answered prayer.

B. Experiencing what God is doing in answer to prayer (present)

*Focus on the practice of prayer

*Rather than just being limited to a certain time, prayer can become the moment by moment of the Christian where constant communication with God is maintained.

C. Envisioning what God can do in answer to prayer (future)

*Focus on the possibilities of prayer

*Human impossibilities can become divine opportunities as by faith we look to the "God-sized" results that are possible through answered prayer.

A Praying Church is a Revived Church!