

**PRAYER FURNACES:
24 HOURS A DAY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID**

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The Holy Spirit is orchestrating a global prayer strategy in these days that will far eclipse any other prayer movement in Church history. Jesus is not coming back to a prayerless Church, but rather to one enjoying mature Bridal partnership with Him in intercession for the great harvest. The Church will complete the Great Commission, reaching to all 262 nations in the power of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 24:14).

There are three primary aspects to the Great Commission: preaching, mercy deeds, and prayer. Historically, the prayer side of the Great Commission has been neglected. This in turn has hindered effectiveness in our preaching. However, all this will change.

A NEW PARADIGM OF ENJOYABLE PRAYER

Isaiah prophesied a new prayer paradigm characterized by 'joy.' The Lord promised, "***I will make you joyful in My house of prayer***" (Isaiah 56:7). The Church will be surprised by joy. God will fill the Church with enjoyable prayer that is refreshing and invigorating because of deep "partnership" in prayer with

the Eternal Intercessor who is our Bridegroom God. If prayer is not enjoyable, it will not be sustained 24 hours a day. Historically, prayer has been hard and therefore greatly neglected.

THE TABERNACLE OF DAVID

The global prayer movement will operate in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David. King David built a special tabernacle in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant (1 Chr. 15:1; 16:1). David organized 4,000 musicians and 288 singers to minister to God before the Ark in shifts that continued 24 hours a day (1 Chr. 6:31-33; 15:16-22; 23:4-6). In fact, David financially released them to worship and pray as their full-time occupation (1 Chr. 9:33; 25:7). Skillful singers who sang the Song of the Lord before the Ark of God became the norm (1 Chr. 25:1, 7; 2 Chr. 29:27). [For more see 1 Chronicles 13; 15-16; 23; 25; 2 Chronicles 29; and Nehemiah 12.]

THE HEAVENLY SYMPHONY

In Revelation 4 – 5, John described the heavenly symphony that continues nonstop in God's presence. No other place in Scripture gives more insight into the beauty that surrounds God's throne. The jasper, carnelian, and

emerald glory are only hints of the splendor of God's beauty being displayed. I like to speak of this as the “beauty realm of God.” Oh, to live fascinated with God's beauty! Oh, to live on earth as lovesick worshipers awestruck with God! The primary desire of David’s life was to behold the beauty realm of the LORD (Ps. 27:4; 145:5). ***The “beauty realm of God” is a vital foundation to “intercessory worship” in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.*** As we feast on God's beauty, our spirit becomes fascinated and exhilarated.

"HARP AND BOWL" INTERCESSORY WORSHIP

“The 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, ***each having a harp, and golden bowls*** full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Rev. 5:8). The heavenly elders came to Jesus with two things: a harp and a bowl. The harp speaks of God's music and worship; the bowl speaks of intercession. This is key to the “enjoyable prayer” Isaiah prophesied. When the “harp” (worship music) comes together with the “bowl” (intercession), a spiritual dynamic occurs. God ordained that the worship music around the throne flow interactively with intercession. The spirit of worship gives wings to prayer. We call this the “***Harp and Bowl model of intercessory worship.***” Imagine non-stop prayer ministries that burn 24 hours a day fueled by love songs to God. King David

valued the prophetic spirit (spirit of inspiration) resting on the singers and musicians in his tabernacle (1 Chr. 25:1-3). So also in our prayer meetings, it is important to learn how the prophetic spirit can flow more freely on the musicians, singers, and intercessors in an interactive relationship with God. David also emphasized responsive singing and antiphonal choirs that answered one another in song (Ezra 3:11; Neh. 11: 23-24).

NIGHT AND DAY PRAYER

Isaiah prophesied that intercession would continue 24 hours a day (Isa. 62:6-7). The first 24-hour intercessory worship ministry in history was led by King David. I believe intercessory worship will continue 24 hours a day in many cities of the earth before the Lord returns. In 1727, a young wealthy German nobleman, Count Zinzendorf, committed his estate in East Germany (named Herrnhut, literally "Watch of the Lord") to 24-hour prayer. This Moravian prayer ministry continued for more than 100 years. Zinzendorf, who led the night and day prayer furnace, also began the first Protestant missionary movement in history. He sent the intercessors out, two by two, to unreached people groups in the earth; and as they were sent out in evangelism, the prayer furnace covered them. It is very significant that the first Protestant missionary

movement married the prayer side of the Great Commission with the preaching side. Count Zinzendorf put the two together.

On May 7, 1999, in Kansas City, we began with 13 hours a day of intercession led by worship teams. Four months later, on September 19, we began our 24-hour schedule. We have 84 prayer meetings a week, each lasting two hours. Every meeting is led by a worship team ideally composed of 7-10 singers and musicians.

At present, we have been continuing 24 hours a day for nearly 3 years. We have approximately 250 people who have raised their own financial support as “intercessory missionaries.” They serve 50 hours a week on our Intercessory Missions Base. Most of them are musicians and singers. Some, like me, are non-singers who just love intercession and evangelism. Essential to the intercessory worship ministry is a core of musicians and singers who participate full-time and receive financial support as commanded by God through King David. Being financially supported gives them the opportunity to go deep in God and learn to flow in the Spirit with team unity.

We have several hundred visitors each week. Many are inspired to go back home to establish a similar ministry in their own city. We have three

training programs for those who want to experience this in an intensive way: the ***Forerunner School of Prayer*** (a three-year full-time Bible school program); the ***IHOP internship*** (a 6-month program for ages 18-25); and ***Fire in the Night*** (a 12-week intensive in the night watch). May the Lord help all those who have a heart for the great harvest to participate in intercessory worship in the spirit of the Tabernacle of David.

?? *For more information on the structure and principles of the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City, please visit their website at www.fotb.com.*