



## THE HOUSE OF PRAYER (Part II)

In part one of The House Of Prayer, we discovered that God has chosen prayer as His way for created man to have intimacy with Creator God. We also learned that God does not need prayer. However, man desperately needs prayer as a gateway to a relationship with his Creator! We saw that God so treasures the prayers of His saints (regenerated souls) that He keeps them in Golden Bowls on His heavenly altar (Rev 8:3-4). The Scriptures in all four gospels show that the Lord Jesus had zeal for His Father's House -- the Temple in Jerusalem -- and that He cleared the money changers and sellers of oxen and sheep from it with a whip (John 2:13-17)! Jesus declared that His Father's House be a House of Prayer for all Nations. Thus, Jesus chose prayer as the top priority for God's Temple!

Today, the Temple does not exist in Jerusalem, and we learned in 1Cor 6:19 that the temple today resides in the regenerated soul (born-from-above believer) and that believers are to be houses of prayer -- both singularly and corporately. Believers (saints) are called by God to be ready to come night and day before His throne of grace in a time of need. *"Let us then with confidence draw near the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace in a time of need"* Heb 4:16. We are certainly living in a very stressful and strange time of need in this year 2020! If it is ever a time for individual and corporate prayer in our churches, the time is now! But I do not see an emboldened call to prayer in the local churches. What I do see is a desire to get back to "normal"! However, I do not believe God called this serious world-wide "time out" for us to go back to a "normal"! He deliberately shut down everything, including church. Remember God is Sovereign! Nothing happens that is not under His COMPLETE CONTROL!

So, Jesus declares prayer as top priority. Furthermore, we are definitely in a time of need. But, WHAT KIND OF PRAYER SHOULD GO OUT FROM BELIEVERS AND CHURCHES IN THIS GREAT TIME OF NEED? The Apostle Paul is a great example of one who lived in a time of great need, turmoil, danger, stress, confusion, and persecution. In the Scriptures, I do not see Paul praying for political change! (However, we do see him treating the government with respect, praying for those in authority and praying for peace.) However, what we do clearly see this great saint being led by the Holy Spirit to pray for is: THE CHURCH -- THE BODY OF CHRIST! At least 9 different times in the Scriptures, Paul's prayers thanked God for the body of Christ! *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy"*- Phil 1:3-4 (also Col 1:3, 1Thes 1:2-3a, 2Thes 1:3, 2Tim 1:3, Philemon 1:4, Rom1:8-10, 1Cor 1:4, Eph 1:16). When we think of the church body, does thankfulness and joy for our brothers and sisters in Christ come to our mind? Has the Holy Spirit drawn us to intercede regularly for the body of Christ and to seek God's grace and abundant spiritual blessings upon His real church?

Two of Paul's great prayers are given to us in the book of Ephesians chapters one and three as the Apostle seeks the Lord in prayer for the obtainment of great intimacy and spiritual insight to manifest itself in the true believers to whom he is ministering. Eph 1:15-20 *"For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might."* Paul is praying for the true saints to have the Holy Spirit impart wisdom, revelation, and knowledge (Greek word for intimate knowledge) of God in Christ which can only come from the Holy Spirit dwelling in the inner man -- the spiritual part of man: soul and spirit and heart! He also is praying for us to understand the calling of God and the power of God towards the true believer, which gives us hope!

The hope and calling for the church body is to be truly holy, righteous, pure (blameless), separated from the world and its belief system, and to personally know the power of God which can do these changes internally in us! Phil 1:9-11 *"And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God"*. Believers are to be in the world but not of the world (Rom12:2). We receive this radical change by regeneration! Then, we continue to be transformed from glory to glory by the power of God as we meet daily with Him in His Word and in prayer and the Holy Spirit enlightens and changes us. NO prayer and NO Bible study equals NO growth in the knowledge, wisdom and character of God! Rather than mature, we become stagnant and stay infants in Christ when we should be already teachers! (Hebrews 5:11-14). In great times of need, Paul felt the church's need to be holy, strong, faithful, and mature Christians in order to meet the constant onslaught of the enemies of God on the people of God. It is then that the Holy church would prevail as they stand firm in Christ against the powers of the evil one! Matt 16:18.....*and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it"*. Are we praying for that kind of radical change in the church? Are we seeking that kind of radical change in our own lives?

Paul's other great prayer for the church in a great time of need has the same theme. It is in Ephesians 3:14-21 *"For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.* Again, we see Paul addressing the inner man being strengthened. The inner man is what was changed in us when we were regenerated. The miraculous inner man change is what is stated in Ezk 36:26-27 *"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."* The inner man was made holy in this amazing process! Jesus, in the Holy Spirit, now dwells in the Christian's inner man! And the believer is called to holiness and maturity and to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God through the power of God that now dwells in them. We can only increase in knowledge and comprehend the love of Christ towards us (which is beyond just human understanding) through the study of God's Word and prayer and by faith asking the indwelling Holy Spirit to teach and reveal to us God's truth! The end result is God, through His sanctification process, makes us more and more in the likeness of His Son Jesus: Holy!

What does the "fullness of God" mean in this prayer? In the Scriptures, we see Jesus as the One the Trinity has chosen to show man the fullness of God. Col 1:19 *"For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him (Jesus)"; John 14:9- Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*; Heb 3:3 *"And He [Jesus] is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature and upholds all things by the word of His power...."*. What Paul is praying for in the 'fullness of God' is for the true believer to have an intimate knowing (found in prayer and the Word) of the fullness of Christ and Life in Him. The church today needs to be praying for the saints to understand what it means to be filled up to all the fullness of God in Christ and to love and be devoted to this Christ who chose and saved them from sin's penalty and power and an eternity in the fires of Hell! We need to pray for the saints that Christ be the very Life of their life and that by faith they walk by the Spirit in love, faithfulness, obedience, holiness, purity and blamelessness. Holiness needs to return to Christ's church now! This honors and glorifies God! We need to pray for the maturity of the saints to grow through the Scriptures in the true knowledge of God, His true Gospel and His Wondrous Christ. Dear and Beloved Saints! PRAY FOR FELLOW SAINTS! IT IS PRIORITY!



**LightHouse of Hope**  
Ministries

Making Disciples Afame for Christ filled with His Light of Hope

A Flame for Christ Ministries dba LightHouse of Hope Ministries / Ray & Tressa Shaw Founders/Directors / [www.AFlameforChrist.org](http://www.AFlameforChrist.org)  
Mailing Address: PO Box 4213, Clarksburg, WV 26302 / Phone: (304) 629-9471 / E-Mail: [TShawAFC@ma.rr.com](mailto:TShawAFC@ma.rr.com)