

20180128 House of Prayer: Part 3 "Wow!"

We have previous weeks touched on the Help prayer and last week the Thanks prayer. This final part in our series we are going to explore the Wow prayer! "Wow is the praise prayer. The prayer where we're finally speechless. When I don't know what else to do I say, 'Wow.' ... This is great.' Wow is the prayer of wonder."

(Acts 4:23-37)

There is only one real problem in the Church of God these days, and that is the prayer life of the Church. And if that is solved every other problem at once finds solution. All our difficulties would melt away if that prayer life were to become vital, powerful and, in a word, revived. For prayer is the very life of the Church. We need not only the Help or the Thanks in our prayer experience, we also need the Wow!

In Acts 4:23-35 there are seven necessary marks of a praying church and praying individual that will lead you into a Wow! Prayer experience:-

1. A Wow experience requires a recognition of the importance of prayer, and therefore there is a spontaneous desire.

After Peter and John had been imprisoned and released they joined the Christians in Jerusalem and reported on all that had happened (verse 23). When the Christians heard Peter's and John's report did they hold a conference? No, they prayed (verse 24), recognising that prayer was fundamental and they all felt the same way about it. Do we recognise the supreme importance of prayer, and have we a spontaneous desire to unite in prayer?

2. A Wow experience requires that the eyes of faith and expectancy are towards the Lord (verse 24).

They turned their eyes away from man and from their problems, to the Lord who could solve every problem, and who is in control of every situation. They were in line with the Psalmist's attitude (Psalm 62:5 Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.).

The eyes of a praying church are upon God who is:-

-The sovereign Lord.

-The self-revealing Lord.

-The seeing Lord.

3. A Wow experience requires an overwhelming desire to obey the Lord's commission to evangelise the world.

See how they prayed (verse 29)! They didn't pray, 'Please help us to be safe from now on' – 'that Peter and John will never have to suffer for their faith again' – 'Lord, don't let it happen again!' – but they prayed, 'Lord, help us to get on with the job of proclaiming the gospel!' In a praying church this will be the overwhelming desire of the members.

4. A Wow experience requires faith to demand miracles.

Where prayer is exercised God breaks in with His supernatural acts, His 'signs and wonders' (verse 30). These Christians prayed that God would stretch out His hand to heal and that He would perform miracles. But some Christians today think the days of miracles are past!

5. A Wow experience requires that the Holy Spirit manifests His presence and power (verse 31).

Prayer is the secret of every Pentecostal outpouring; but notice, we are not considering what happened on the Day of Pentecost: this happened after Pentecost – and it can happen again, and again, and again! Prayer is the secret.

6. A Wow experience requires mighty power in the preaching of the gospel. See what happened after they had prayed (verses 31,33).

7. A Wow experience requires great grace in the lives of God's people.

Verse 33 says, "Much grace was upon them all"; the word 'grace' is the operative word here. It means 'Christ-likeness', and was seen in three ways:-

1. There was the grace of unity.
2. There was the grace of fellowship.
3. There was the grace of liberality.

Thoughts to think about?

Do you see prayer as vital?

Do you have eyes of expectancy?

Are you willing to be 100% in the will and plan of God?

Are you open for the Holy Spirit to work in and through you?

What can you do to increase your "Christ-likeness" during 2018?